

## **Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> April in the Council Chambers of the War Memorial Institute.**

**Members Present:** Cllrs P James, P. Tonks, A. Jones, T. Van Rees, N. Price , S. Jones, P Lambkin

**Visiting Speakers** Dr Walters of Builth Practice

Mr r Davies (Cwmhenog)

Mr T Campbell and Mr S. Hughes(organisers of the Brianne Freeride)

**Observers:** There was one observer .

**In Attendance:** Mrs L E Ball (Clerk and RFO)

Cllr James opened the meeting promptly at 7:00pm welcoming Dr Walters of Builth Practice. He explained that he had been invited to give Council Members an update of the situation regarding Llanwrtyd Branch Surgery.

Dr Walters recapped on the events that occurred since his and Dr Hegedus's visit to the Town Council in February. With the support of the community of Llanwrtyd Wells and the surrounding Communities together with the involvement of local Politicians, progress was made with the Local Powys Teaching Health Board who eventually agreed to take on the lease and the running costs of Llanwrtyd surgery building. During these discussions it was realised that the lease actually runs out in 2016 and not 2015 as originally thought. Therefore the practice will maintain their services in Llanwrtyd until such time as the lease runs out and the Local Health board will then take on the new lease with running costs. Builth practice have it in writing that this will be so but have no guarantee as to how long the LTBH plan to take on the lease for.

Dr Walters outlined the application process for the Sustainability funding from the Welsh Government, due to come on stream in June 2015.He outlined various schemes available from the Welsh Government which could generate income for the Practice but made members aware that this depended on the number of Drs available to implement them. He finished by saying that the future of any future funding would probably be driven by Primary Care .

In summary he was quietly optimistic about the future of Llanwrtyd Surgery and felt the last few months had gone a long way to secure the services within the Community. He thanked the Town Council for their swift action in getting the issue into the public domain and felt this was a catalyst for the powers that be to address the issue.

Cllr James thanked Dr Walters for his input and invited questions from members.

Cllr Van Rees reiterated the support that the Cluster had given in writing to Mr Drakeford and offered their further support, if needed, with the application for the sustainability funding, which was felt to be the lynch pin in securing the long term future of provision.

Dr Walter, thanked Cllr Van Rees for the offer of support of the Cluster and acknowledged their part in writing to the Health Minister .He reiterated that at this point in time there were many unknowns in terms of funding and how the Builth Practice would need to alter their working practices in order to accommodate change but he would keep the Town Council informed of developments.

Cllr James proposed that Dr Walters revisit the Town Council when the lease was due to be taken over by the LTHB. Dr Walters agreed to come and speak to a meeting whenever he was needed. Once again he thanked the Town Council for their support and swift action.

Dr Walters left the meeting at 7:45pm as did the observer.

**Guest Speaker –Mr R Davies re: Brianne Freeride Event**

Cllr James welcomed Mr Davies to the meeting and asked him to outline to the meeting his views on this “Long Skateboarding” event which is due to take place during bank holiday weekend in August.

Mr Davies outlined the ownership of the land which has been in his family for generations. He was given no information last year when this event took place and felt that the event was a nuisance to him. He made the following points:

- No information given to him last year about the Event—he felt that he was overlooked ;
- He felt that the event took place because Powys had decided that it should.
- He objected to the fact that when a meeting was set up to discuss the event Mr Campbell did not attend.
- He felt that the event organisers were using this area because they could cut corners.
- He was concerned about insurance issues should any mishap occur.

- He was very concerned about bales of straw that were left –his livestock were eating this and this could negate payments under the Glastir Scheme.
- He needed to be reassured that adequate insurance was in place for the event and that proper barriers would be used.
- He felt that last year the relevant bodies were not adequately informed of the event and that Carmarthenshire County Council were not informed even though part of the ride was actually in Carmarthenshire.
- He felt the timing of the event would hinder other events that were happening the same weekend. These planned events would cause increased traffic on road used by the skateboarders and he felt that the intermittent closure of the road would cause frustration and delay for those attending these events.

Cllr James thanked Mr Davies for his input and opened the meeting up for questions.

Cllr Lambkin was of the opinion that closures of Public rights of way were not permitted as she had had experience of this during the Man v Horse event.

Cllr Van Rees stated that he felt that unless Mr Davies gave consent for the event then it should not go ahead.

Cllr Lambkin felt strongly that this could create a precedent whereby anyone could come into the area and simply “commandeer” an area for their pecuniary gain without any thought for local residents and their lifestyle. She also enquired as to whether the police should be involved in any road closure but it was pointed out that the Police are no longer involved in Road closures for Community Events

Cllr Price questioned whether the applicant had an adequate traffic management plan in place.

Cllr Rowlands asked Mr Davies if there were any circumstances under which he would be happy for the event to go ahead.

Mr Davies felt there were none and that there were far more suitable sites for the event to take place. Cllr James thanked Mr Davies for his input and informed him that any recommendations made by the Town Council to the authorities would be copied to him and to Carmarthenshire County Council. Mr Davies thanked the meeting for allowing him to air his views. He left the meeting at 20.15pm.

**Guest Speakers –Mr T Campbell and Mr S Hughes (Organisers of the Brianne Freeride)** plus two Observers.

Cllr James welcomed all to the meeting and asked them to outline the rationale for the event.

The two young men had brought their equipment with them and outlined where the event took place and what it entailed. It was a small scale event which they were hoping to develop. Last year the event brought riders from around the world with the winners from Brazil, Ireland and Lithuania. The event brought a lot of media coverage which was publicised in their magazine which they invited members to view.

They outlined the following points;

- The road isn't full closed. They hold the traffic for 5minutes.The event is entirely based on tarmac and not on Mr Davies's land.
- It is professionally run event with full insurance coverage, 10 marshals and two qualified paramedics on site throughout the event. Thus being well prepared for any unforeseen emergencies.
- The straw bales are brought in by lorry approx. 18 in all and are swiftly removed after the event as they are hired bales and need to be returned quickly.
- The people who attend are camped at Mr D Jones's campsite and not on Mr Davies land. They are a fun loving friendly group of people who are responsible and bring trade into the area but are not interested in partying.
- The event is a new environmentally friendly sport and feels this area, with intermittent road closure, is a safe and beautiful environment to skateboard in.
- They informed members that they had responsibly communicated with and resolved issues with Mrs J Brown who was running a horse event at the same time last year.
- Mr Davies had been concerned that no other agencies had been informed. Mr Campbell and Mr Hughes had applied to Powys last year for the road closure and were led to believe that Powys county Council

would inform the agencies but if in future it was their responsibility they would have no issues with doing so.

Cllr James asked why they had chosen this particular place for the event-they informed members that it was a perfect road with a good gradient and hair pin bends to negotiate. It is a beautiful area on a low disruption road and it was within distance for them both to organise.

The issue of Health and Safety was raised and how quickly they could manage a stoppage of skateboarders should emergency vehicles need access. They informed members that they were in contact with one another via radio and used green and red flags to communicate events to riders. They could get everyone off the road within 30 seconds.

Cllr Jones asked if they had organised other events-they said they had organised smaller events in the Elan Valley and that the Long Board society ran small events along forestry paths.

They need to have the roads closed for safety. They were planning for 80 riders this year. The run is approx. 600-700 metres long with two riders setting off at 30sec intervals.

Cllr Lambkin pointed out that Llanwrtyd Wells is a tourist area and many events depended on the goodwill of the local landowners Had they made contact with the local landowners before organising the event/-They replied that they had tried to contact Mr Davies on several occasions but he was not available. But they admitted that organising this event was a huge learning curve for them and were open to taking on board what Councillors suggested for future reference.

Cllr S Jones informed the organisers that during the August bank holiday there were many other events taking place which would increase traffic flow along the particular road they would use. She asked what the possibility was of altering the date of the event to minimum disruption to traffic. The organisers though this may be a possibility.

Cllr Van Rees challenged the organisers about the removal of the straw bales, wanting assurances that they would be off site the same evening and also that the Snack bar would not be situated on Mr Davies's land. The organisers assured members that the snack bar was sited in a nearby layby and was not on Mr Davies's land. The issue of using some other form of barrier was raised to eliminate the threat to livestock. The organisers would go away and consider this.

They were more than willing to have another meeting with all concerned before the event, were it to go ahead.

Cllr James asked what percentage of profit is brought into Llanwrtyd itself. The organisers felt at this early stage in its development that the fact they were attracting people into the area who stayed on a local campsite and spent their money in the local pubs and shops was a contribution to tourism but were accepting of the fact that they needed to work more closely with the Community if they were to garner support for the event. Cllr Van Rees suggested the Epynt training area as a possible future venue but the MOD would make a charge.

The organisers were thanked for their honest and forthright presentation and were told they would receive a letter outlining the Town Council's recommendations.

The Organisers thanked the Town Council for their time and the chance to put their case and left with the observers at 20.45pm.

Cllr Price proposed that they held it a week earlier than the Bank Holiday weekend and that they get consent from Mr Davies .It was stated that Powys have allowed them to use the road in the past.

After much discussion between members it was suggested that consent for the Event be conditional on the organisers meeting with Mr Davies and all other parties involved and that it should be held a week earlier than planned and not during bank holiday weekend.

The Town Council will request a copy of the traffic management plan from Powys County Council and write to inform them of the Town Councils recommendations for the Event. Copies of this letter will be sent to Mr Davies, Mr Campbell and Mr Hughes .

Action; Clerk to write to Powys with recommendations and the above request and write to all parties involved including Carmarthenshire County Council.

## **1 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Mr R Thomas for the meeting together with his letter of resignation which was read to Members. Mr Thomas felt very strongly about the building at Maesbrynar on Ffos road and felt that he had no other alternative than to resign his post.

Cllr Tonks reported that he had had another complaint about the build from another resident and Cllr A. Jones reported that she had received a phone call from Mr J Rogers (the next door neighbour) who was very distressed with the situation.

Discussion ensued and the outcome was to ask the Planning Officer Ms G Bufton if the building does comply with the consent recently given.

Action : Clerk to write to Ms Bufton with the above request.

## **2. Minutes of the last Meeting**

**Matters arising:** Cllr Van Rees proposed that a letter be sent to Mr M Drakeford informing him that Dr Walters had met with the Town Council and that he would have full support with regard to the sustainability application to secure the long term future of Llanwrtyd Wells surgery.

Copies to be sent to Mr Evans at Builth Wells the LHB and to the Drs themselves.

Action : Clerk to write above letter

Cllr James pointed out that under "Visiting speaker"; Neil Delafield" - it should be made clear to him that the permission granted for the endure championships this year was not a licence to hold events each year without consultation with the Town Council. Members agreed that this was politic and requested that a letter be sent to Mr Delafield to this effect.

Action: Clerk to write to Mr Delafield thanking him for the presentation and stating that each time an event is held he needs to consult with the Town Council.

## **3. Finance**

Cllr James brought the attention of members to the issue raised at the last meeting of an honorarium for the extra work the Clerk had done regarding the surgery. It was pointed out via an e-mail from the former Clerk that honorariums are not appropriate and that any extra payments should be made through salary and that appropriate tax and NI should be paid on the sum. Council members agreed to pay any additional hours claimed through the salary scheme.

3.1 The Balance sheet for the end of the financial year was scrutinised. There remain two unrepresented cheques. The final balance was explained with a certain sum within that earmarked for computer update, a donation which has not yet been utilised and a payment to LWParc for the Play Area.

The Clerk informed members that an invoice had been given for work carried out on the Dolwen Field some 18 months ago. Many Councillors remembered the work being carried out but there was no mention of provision for such a large bill anywhere. It was suggested that the minutes be found where the quote was accepted before paying the bill. Cllr Tonks proposed that when the Town Council commission someone to do work of a large scale then a purchase order should be raised which would, in turn, be linked to the accounts. This would keep members aware that this was a sum of money to be accounted for.

This is to be investigated further by the current Clerk.

The balance sheet was proposed as an accurate record by Cllr A Jones and seconded by Cllr Van Rees.

3.2 Budget update for year end and Pavilion Accounts were distributed to all present.

3.3 The end of year receipts and payments and the bank reconciliation were distributed to all present. Members were asked to scrutinise these ready to be discussed at the AGM in May to be approved and signed off ready for the external audit. Members were informed that the internal auditor would have the finances to audit in the forthcoming week.

#### **4. Councillor Vacancies**

Mr J Davies was considered by members for co-option. Cllr Van Rees proposed he be co-opted onto the Town Council. A vote ensued with 8/8 members present in favour of the co-option. Mr J Davies was duly co-opted onto the Llanwrtyd Wells Town Council.

Mrs Pace –Avery was considered by members for co-option. Cllr P Tonks proposed she be co-opted onto the Town Council. A vote ensued with 7/8 members in favour of the co-option., with one abstention. Mrs Pace – Avery was duly co-opted onto Llanwrtyd Wells Town Council.

Action : Clerk to write to both candidates informing them of their appointment and sending them the declaration of interest and a declaration of acceptance forms. Clerk to inform Ms S. Mathews of the appointments and inform her of Mr Thomas's resignation.

#### **5. AGM**

Cllr James asked members to consider the forthcoming AGM and the election of Mayor and Deputy Mayor. All members agreed they would give it some thought.

#### **6. Anti-Social Behaviour**

Cllr Lambkin reported that one of her horses had had its rug removed. She had informed the police of the incident which is a recurring problem.

No further anti-social incidents were brought to the table.

#### **7. Traffic Control**

Cllr Tonks voiced his concerns about the speed of the traffic travelling through Llanwrtyd, particularly the motorbikes. After much discussion it was suggested that the Clerk write to Kirsty Williams regarding the issue and to the Road Safety Partnership requesting information of the number of motorists and bikers that have been reported for speeding. This issue remains a serious concern for the Town Council who will pursue the Placement of VA signs being brought forward. Cllr Van Rees asked to have the letter received from Ms E Hart to be forwarded to him via e-mail.

Action: Clerk to write to Kirsty Williams and to the Road Safety partnership. Cllr Van Rees to pursue the issue with the portfolio holder for Highways Mr. J Brunt.

The Clerk informed members that she had reported the lack of road marking in the centre of the Town after a resident had informed Cllr James that traffic was carrying straight on past the Neuadd thinking this to be the main road.

Cllr S. Jones informed members of the increase in the number of log lorries using the Abergwesyn Road when there are alternative exits from the site where they are collecting from. It was suggested that a letter be written to TilHill in Llandoverly who manage the forest to remind their drivers of this agreed alternative exit.

Action : Clerk to write letter to Tilhill regarding this issue.

#### **8. Feedback from Councillors**

Cllr Lambkin:

- reported that there were two new Dentists in Llandoverly but the practice had lost its NHS status. She informed members that she would be lobbying to get NHS status reinstated and was doing this as an individual patient and not as a Councillor.
- sought approval from members to contact the Farmers Union with a view to investigating a co-operative to market the Freshwater springs in the area. Cllr James advised that as an individual she was at liberty to do this but not as a Councillor.

Cllr A Jones:

- reported that the refuse collectors of the plastic recycling were leaving the doors to the vehicle open and that as a result there was debris being blown out onto the verges along Abergwesyn Road with people being able to identify their own plastic items.

It was suggested contact be made with Powys County council to report the problem-a copy of the contact to be sent to Cllr van Rees so he could follow it up.

Cllr Tonks:

- gave a report from the gardening club informing members that applications grants had been successful and planting of 4 boxes on Irfon Crescent was about to commence. Many of the boxes in town will be refurbished or renewed.
- reported that Mr Garland was applying for grants to obtain large plants for the redesign of the Town Square.
- the Clerk reported difficulty in obtaining the plans that he needed. Any redesign would be put before the Town Council for approval before work commenced.
- reported that Mr Ronicle had kindly delivered the defibrillator and cabinet to his house and that it was now with Cllr James ready to be put in place. He informed members that Mr Ronicle could provide free training for its use and also basic first aid training.

Members were asked to consider an appropriate date for such training.

Cllr Rowlands:

- Informed members that the Bryan Watkins Memorial Walk would be on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May to start at the Memorial Hall at 1.30pm. Mr Howell Evans would lead the walk which will finish at the Pavilion on Dolwen Field. Having consulted with Margaret Watkins the money raised would go to the St. David's Memorial Graveyard. All Councillors agreed this was a fitting recipient.

## **9. Planning**

1. Planning Application number P/2015/0289-(Variation of condition 1 of planning approval p/2009/0296 to extend the time limit for commencement at development land off Station Road, Llanwrtyd Wells) was considered. No objections were raised regarding this planning application.

2. Planning Application p/2015/0303 (Demolition of existing single storey extension and erection of a replacement two storey extension at Dderwen-deg Llanwrtyd Wells. No objections were raised regarding this planning application.

## **10. Twinning.**

No twinning issues were brought to the table.

## **11. Public Toilets**

The Paperwork regarding the transfer of the Public Toilets, sent by Mr. A Knox via e-mail, was forwarded by the Clerk to those Members who are online. Cllr Price noted that there was still no indication of how long the available grant was for and noted that the Title Deeds for the property were still an issue.

Cllr James left the meeting feeling unwell at 9:30pm requesting that Cllr Rowlands take over the Chair.

Cllr P Tonks left the meeting at 9.35pm.

Cllr Rowland took the chair and the discussion of the Public Toilet resumed. It was proposed that a Committee be set up to go through all the documents thoroughly. Cllr Rowlands proposed that the original group that met with Mr Knox form the committee: these were Cllrs James , Price , Rowlands and Van Rees.

The Clerk was asked to co-ordinate with Cllr James to set up a meeting within the next fortnight.

Action : Clerk to liaise with Cllr James regarding a meeting date.

## **12. Dolwen Field**

The Clerk informed members of the quote for cutting the hedge between the children's play area and the skate park, received from Mr Croker .It was felt that cutting would be more appropriate in early Autumn since the birds would be nesting at this time. The Clerk was asked to liaise with Mr Croker with a view to holding the quote until then.

The Clerk requested if it was necessary for the play equipment to be inspected by Powys County Council. Cllr Price suggested speaking with Mr Butcher since much of the equipment is new.

Action: Clerk to Contact Mr Croker re ;hedge cutting.

Clerk to ring Mr Butcher regarding the above.

Cllr Rowlands reported that there was no decision regarding the trees as yet. He was waiting to see if they came into leaf.

Cllr Rowlands asked members if there had been any feedback regarding the fitness track .No feedback had been received from anyone.

### **13. Town Square and Green.**

The Clerk reported difficulty in obtaining plans of the square for Mr Garland who has offered to redesign the planting. Members suggested that he would have to create his own plans from the existing site. Any plans for redesign he does make would be brought before the Town Council for approval.

### **14. Correspondence**

Item 1 on Agenda Letter of Resignation from Cllr R. Thomas

Item 3 on Agenda G-mail fro Mrs P Dryden re: honorarium

Item 4 on Agenda Letters from Mr J Davies and Mrs Pace Avery Re; Councillor Vacancy (revisited).

Item 7 on Agenda 1) Planning application P/2015/0289  
2) Planning application P/2015/0303

Item 12 on Agenda 1) Quote from Mr Croker re: cutting hedge on pay area.  
2) Recycling and Waste Charges from Powys County Council  
3) Annual inspection of Play Area (revisited).

Item 14 on Agenda Letter from Pensions Regulator Re: responsibility of Employer to enrol Employees onto pension scheme.

14.1 Copy of Letter from Mr M Drakeford to Kirsty Williams re: sustainability fund relating to medical practices.

14.2 Letter from Mr R Williams regarding surgery.

14.3 Letter from Powys County Council regarding Community delivery initiative.

14.4 Letter from PCC re: Trade and Waste Recycling charges for Pavilion and Community recycling Group.

14.5 Rateable Value information for Victoria Hall and Abergwesyn Toilets.

14.6 G- mail from One Voice Wales requiring any issues for 2015 annual conference.

14.7 Letter from Elect Mayor of Llandovery inviting Mayor and Consort to Mayoral Civic Service.

14.8 Letter re: meeting of Brecon and Radnor Area Committee Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April

14.9 Letter from Mid Wales Housing inviting Councillors to launch of consultation paper re: shared ownership

14.10 Letter from Mr Ken Skates re : heritage events in area

14.11 Letter from Swansea Building Society (Annual Review and notice of forthcoming AGM)

14.12 Letter from Powys County Council re; General Dispensation –School Modernisation and School Transport Review.

### **15. Miscellaneous**

Cllr Rowlands reported that the Plastic and Metal recycling bins behind Victoria Hall are constantly overflowing. It was suggested that gthe Clerk ring to point this out at County Council level.

Cllr Rowlands reported to members that due to a grant received from ALFW the interior of the Heritage Centre would now be completed .Other funds secured meant that there was a good possibility of the Centre being on target to open in ?

The Clerk informed members that "Miscellaneous" should no longer be an item on the agenda as all issues could be covered under Feedback from Councillors and all items for discussion should be allocated on the agenda. She proposed that forthwith this heading would be taken off the Agenda.

Signed .....

Date.....

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING WHICH WILL BE THE AGM :      WEDNESDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2015**

### **Amendments**

Item 8 Cllr Tonks: requested the following amendment:

"reported that Mr Garland as applying for large plant for the redesign of the Town square"

Changed to;

"reported that Mr garland was applying for grants to obtain large plants for the redesign of the Town Square "