

## **Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2014 in the Council Chambers of the War Memorial Institute.**

**Present:** Cllrs : P. James, N. Price, T Van Rees, R. Thomas, J Rowlands, P. Lambkin, P. Tonks

In attendance: Mrs LE Ball (Clerk and RFO)

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Cllrs: S. Jones, A. Jones, L. Haines
2. **Minutes of the Last Meeting:** Cllr James noted the amendments and the Clerk explained the issue of camping fees. All agreed that this was acceptable. The minutes were subsequently proposed as accurate by Cllr P Tonks and seconded by Cllr R. Thomas

### **3. Finance**

The Clerk outlined the current financial situation and explained income and expenditure. In particular it was pointed out that monies had been transferred back into the Building Society and that a part of the final payment for the Play Parc had been made. The balance sheet was proposed as accurate by Cllr J Rowlands and seconded by Cllr T Van Rees.

### **4. Anti-Social Behaviour**

4.1 Cllr James had informed all Cllrs via e-mail of the multi-disciplinary meeting held with the resident at Riverside regarding vehicular access. He outlined the proposed action to be taken and hoped the matter was now resolved satisfactorily.

4.2 There was no article regarding Dog fouling in the November Grapevine. The Clerk is to contact Cllr A. Jones with a view to it being put into the December issue. The Clerk informed members of the costs of dog fouling bins which range in price enormously from £84.00-£294.00. Cllr Lambkin queried whose responsibility it would be to empty the bins if the Council did purchase them.

After much discussion it was proposed by Cllr Van Rees to write to Powys County Council requesting installation of another bin (that takes normal waste and dog waste) near the station after clarification has been sought from Cllr A. Jones as to the ownership of the existing bin at the station.

Cllr Rowlands informed the meeting that the recycling area behind the Victoria hall was in a bad state with rubbish being dumped on the ground. Also the bottle banks have been replaced at such an angle that it is impossible for bottles to be put in them. Cllr Price proposed a letter be written to the Hall Committee to investigate and if they feel fly tipping is happening then the Committee should report it to Powys County Council.

Cllr Price informed the meeting that three Christmas bulbs had already gone missing even before the lights have been switched on. Cllr James proposed a small piece be put in the grapevine encouraging people to look after the Town.

#### **Action :**

- Clerk to clarify ownership of bin at station and write requesting another one from Powys County Council.
- Clerk to write a small piece for inclusion in the December Grapevine.

### **5. Traffic Calming**

The issue of the road Traffic Speed Limit review was discussed. Cllr Tonks had put several valid points together for the meeting which were discussed in detail . It was proposed that his comments be formally included in the return . Cllr James thanked him for his efforts in putting the response together.

Cllr Rowland informed the meeting that the speed strips on Ffos Road had been removed and requested some data feedback from the County Council.

Cllr Tonks informed the meeting that the barrier on the main Trunk Road had been repaired again and commented that this seemed to be an accident black spot with vehicles regularly coming off the road there. Cllr Van Rees offered to bring the issue to the attention of the Trefllys Community Council.

#### **Action :**

- Clerk to use comments provided by Cllr Tonks and send questionnaire to the appropriate body.

- Clerk to write to Powys County Council requesting feedback of data.

## 6. **Feedback from Councillors**

Cllr Lambkin asked if the blocked drains at Brynhynog Road had been addressed. The Clerk informed the meeting that Powys County Council had been informed and they were to send an inspector out to look at the problem.

Cllr Lambkin reported that, at Tae Cae Mawr, the gap between the pavement and the speed bumps was causing problems as a pedestrian had almost fallen between the gap at night time. The issue of adequate lighting was discussed and Cllr Price informed the meeting that we could request Low Energy LED lights to be put in. Cllr Thomas offered to find out which lights were off and which were on and report back to the Clerk who if necessary would make contact with Mr L Davies at Powys County Council.

Cllr Lambkin reported that she had been approached by the resident of the caravan in the Neuadd Car park to say he was aware that it was an issue for Powys County Council and he would tidy the place up.

Cllr Van Rees informed the meeting that the new picture framers currently situated at the station buildings would be temporarily housed in the billiard rooms of the Institute whilst remedial work was done to address "damp" issues at the station. He had consulted the trustees and they were in agreement.

Cllr Van Rees informed the meeting that the remembrance service was well attended at Llangmarch and thanked those who had attended. He also informed Members that the Poppy Appeal coffee morning had raised £620.00.

Cllr Thomas informed the meeting that he had had positive and negative feedback with regard the pavilion facilities over the Real Ale Wobble weekend. Generally people felt that the facility was an excellent resource, the negative was that there was insufficient toilet paper throughout the weekend. This came as a surprise as usually the cleaner would inform the Clerk if any was needed and it would be supplied. Clerk to speak to Cleaner to investigate issue. Cllr James brought up the issue of self-locking toilet roll holders to prohibit rolls "going missing"

Cllr Price informed the meeting that the Old Landfill Site was part owned by Powys County Council and Network Rail and that Powys was trying to buy themselves out of the lease.

He also brought up the issue of "snack attack" and informed the meeting, that under section 215 of the Planning Act which dealt with the aesthetic look of a property and the impact it has on the surrounding environment, that we could write to the planning authorities requesting that something be done about the property in question.

Cllr Van Rees seconded this proposal.

Action; Clerk to write to the planning department with regard the "Snack Attack" issue and send an e-mail copy to Cllr Van Rees.

## 7. **Planning**

Cllr James began by making it clear that any comments made at this point were not of a personal nature but went on to impress on all Councillors the need to act within the given Code of Conduct at all times.

He reiterated that at a meeting of the Council on the 17<sup>th</sup> September he had twice, specifically asked a member if he had an interest to declare with regard a planning issue at the table. The given response was negative.

He informed the meeting that there had been two letters of complaint from the residents who had applied for planning permission calling into question the conduct of two Member Councillors with regard the application. The Clerk read both letters to the meeting.

Cllr Van Rees informed the meeting that the complainants had made contact with him in a Constituent/ County Councillor capacity and that he had spoken to planning for this application to be looked at as a matter of urgency.

Cllr James informed the meeting that the only way forward, to address the complainant's issues, was to proceed with the Council's "Formal Complaints Procedure" which would be fair and transparent to all parties. He requested that a subcommittee be formed to deal with the issues and called for members to come forward for such a committee. Cllr Rowlands and Cllr Price offered to form the subcommittee together with Cllr James.

Cllr Price requested that the Clerk seek further advice from Powys County Council and One Voice Wales to ensure correctness of procedure.

At this point Cllr Van Rees declared an interest and could therefore not be included in proceedings.

A meeting of the subcommittee was convened for Monday the 24<sup>th</sup> November at 5.30pm in the Council Chambers.

The complainants would be written to:

- acknowledge receipt of both letters ,  
to inform them that both letters had been addressed at the Council meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup> November
- Inform them that the Town Council had no legal remit to deal with this issue
- inform them of their right to proceed with the Complaint through the “Public Services Ombudsman for Wales” should they so wish.

No other planning issues were brought to the table.

#### **8. Twinning**

The Clerk read a letter from the Secretary of the Twinning Association, Mrs H. Davies, requesting funding for the exchange trips between Meriel and Cesky Krumlov. Cllr Rowlands pointed out that funds had been allocated within this year’s budget and that the amount allocated should be paid .Cllr Van Rees proposed supporting the need for funding and Cllr James seconded this proposal. Cllr Van Rees suggested that if young people were going it would be worth approaching the “Stanley Bligh Memorial Fund” at Powys County Council and the “Pritchard Fund” at the high School and for Primary aged pupils then the “Margaret Jones Fund”.

Cllr Rowlands thanked Cllr Van Rees for this information and said he would pass it on to the Twinning Association should young people wish to go in the future.

Action; Clerk to respond to the Twinning association thanking them for such a lucid letter and offering the Council’s support.

#### **9. Public Toilets.**

The Clerk read the response from Mr Prys-Jones with regard the toilets. Whilst there is no money available from the County Council for refurbishment he acknowledged there may be a cost to the Council for refurbishment and offered the possibility of an extended period of financial assistance should the Council wish. The Clerk informed the meeting that Mr Knox had made contact offering to have a site meeting in Llanwrtyd to look at the toilets. It was felt that this would be beneficial.

Cllr Van Rees voiced that he felt the sum given of £3000.00 to maintain the facility was inadequate.

Cllr Price informed the meeting that he had made contact with building control and they had intimated that as long as the structure of the building was not altered in any way then like for like refurbishment could go ahead. Cllr Rowlands revisited the idea of tendering for refurbishment but it was pointed out that before it went out to tender a specification should be drawn up of the likely works needed. Cllr Price offered to put together a rough spec for the works.

Action; Clerk to respond to Mr Knox with a date for a site meeting on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> November.

Cllr Price to put a rough spec together for refurbishment.

#### **10. Dolwen Field**

10.1 Play Area.-The Clerk requested that the final payment be made to Mr D Stevenson from “Adventure Playground Wales” with regard the work done on the park. She also passed on to the Council Mr Stevenson’s apologies that the project had not been completed within the scheduled time but this was due to family illness. The Council now has copies of the guarantees and the ROSPA report and now considers that the handover from Contractor to Council is complete. The final payment was proposed by Cllr Price and seconded by Cllr Tonks. Cllr James requested that the Council’s thoughts for the family were to be passed on to Mr Stevenson at this difficult time.

Action; Clerk to send final payment and letter to Mr Stevenson.

10.2 Pavilion- No major issues reported.

Cllr Price requested that the New Terms and Conditions for the Pavilion use be sent out to all event organisers now that there were no more events planned for the remainder of the year. Cllr James informed the meeting that over the weekend the entrance to the field was blocked by parked cars and that there were two camper vans on the field. He requested that the need to keep access to the field open at all times be added to the terms and conditions as a matter of urgency and that when the terms and conditions are sent to make it clear that there should be some monitoring of campers done during an event to ensure safety and smooth running.

#### **11. Town Square and Green**

Cllr Rowlands reported to members that the Bryan Watkins memorial plaque placed in the memorial gardens under the Rowan tree was in a bad state due to weather damage. He requested that the Council fund a second more substantial weatherproof plaque to have the same inscription. He had communicated with Mrs Watkins who was in agreement for a replacement. Cllr James felt it appropriate for the Council to fund such a project and this was seconded by Cllr Van Rees.

Cllr Rowlands queried why the flags, put up for the Wales Alternative Games, were still up. Cllr Price, having already spoken to a WAG committee member with no result, offered to contact Mr Brown about removing the flags before the Christmas lights go on.

The Clerk informed the meeting that Mr Croker had completed the grass cutting for the year and had submitted his invoice for works done. Cllr Rowlands requested that the Town Green have one more cut, current weather permitting, before winter.

Action : Clerk to contact Mr Croker to request one more cut.

#### **12. Landfill Site**

The Clerk outlined the conversation had with Mr D Jones from Powys County Council . He confirmed what Cllr Price had found out , that the site is jointly owned by Powys and Network rail and also that no Contaminated Land Assessment had been carried out and only when such an assessment had been carried out could consideration be given to another future use.

Action ; Clerk to write passing on this information to Mr G Green, who originally requested it.

#### **13. Correspondence**

Item 4.1 G-mail forwarded to all Councillors from Cllr. James regarding Access to Riverside.

Item 4.2 Costings for Dog Fouling bins

Item 5 Letter from Dept. For Economy, Science and Transport with regard to Trunk Road Speed Limit.

Item 7 Letters from Mrs K Price re; planning application

Item 8 Letter from the Secretary of the Twinning Association requesting a grant.

Item 9.1 G-mail from Alastair Knox re; public toilets

Item 9.1 G-mail from Mr Prys-Jones with regard the Public Toilets.

Item 12.1 G-mail from Mr D. Jones with regard the Development of the Landfill site.

Item 13.0 Letter from Mr S. Amor in response to the request for information about acquiring a second defibrillator.

Cllr Tonks reported that the defibrillator in the TIC wasn't working. He suggested inviting Mr Amor to a meeting to talk to the Council about training in defibrillator use should the Council Decide to have another one and to also talk about the situation with "First Responders". After much discussion it was felt that an

awareness drive should be launched via the Grapevine to gauge those who would be willing to have training in its use and to inform people of the points of access to a defibrillator in Llanwrtyd. Cllr Price felt it was a good idea to have one placed in Victoria Hall.

Action ; Clerk to invite Mr Amor to the January meeting and to contact Buihth Friends to accept the defibrillator subject to cost.

Item 13.1 Letter requesting funding support for the Eisteddfod 2015 being held in Caerphilly.

Item 13.2 Letter from Julie Price with regard to dog noise at Maes y Gwaelod.

At this point Cllr Lambkin and Cllr Van Rees declared an interest and left the meeting.

The Clerk read out the letter. Cllr James reported that Mrs Price had been in contact with him regarding noise nuisance and that she had pursued several avenues of complaint through Environmental Health, the Police and the Planning Department at County Hall with no success. Cllr James suggested to Mrs Price that she contact the surrounding residents which might add weight to her case Mrs Price intimated that this support was not forthcoming. Cllr James himself visited local residents and found that no one else found it a problem. After due consideration it was felt that the Town Council should send a copy of the letter received by the Town Council from Mrs Price to the relevant departments at Powys County Council and await a response. In the meantime the Clerk will draft a letter to Mrs Price acknowledging her letter and explain the Town Council's course of action.

Cllrs Lambkin and Van Rees re-joined the meeting.

Item 13.3 Letter from Citizen's Advice Bureau requesting financial assistance.

Item 13.4 St David's hospice –Care Review 2014

Item 13.5 Letter from Powys County Council with regard Branch Library Consultation decision

Item 13.6 G-mail from Dyfed Powys Police Commissioners Office re; New monthly Update

It was resolved to forward details of relevant Councillors to the Police so they could get regular updates and report back to Council Members.

Item 14.0 G-mail for Ian Harris in response to follow up queries.

## **14. Miscellaneous**

### **14.1 Feedback fro Ian Harris regarding ongoing issues**

The Clerk read G mail from Mr Harris regarding the following:

- Japanese knotweed-the Council have treated all areas within their remit any knotweed found on Private land is the landowners responsibility
- Maintenance of footbridge over the Irfon-this was in hand and would be dealt with when necessary resources were available
- Signs in Abergwesyn –the Councils concerns have been passed to the traffic section and hopefully will be sorted soon.

### **14.2 Christmas Meal**

Cllr James declared an interest and left the meeting. Menus were discussed but as not all establishments in Llanwrtyd were represented It was decided to collect menus and send to all with a view to choosing.

Cllr James re-joined the meeting and a date for the event was discussed. Everyone agreed on Saturday the 20<sup>th</sup> December.

14.3 Corporate Christmas Card

The Clerk circulated the Card design and all agreed it was suitable to send to those that we sent to last year.

Cllr Tonks asked about the Culvert that runs through under the Neuadd Arms whether a cover had been put on

Clerk to write to Mr Harris regarding this issue.

Cllr Lambkin requested contact with Mr Harris regarding a tree root which is running under the Abergwesyn Road causing a “hump” in the road.

Cllr Rowlands outlined the continuing work being done with the Heritage centre. He reported that leakage at the front wall had finally been solved by M J Bolton. He invited all those who were interested to the AGM on the 28<sup>th</sup> November at 7:00pm in the Centre. He informed the meeting that they had recently secured a Grant of £30,000 from the Military Community Covenant and thanked Cllr Van Rees for his support with their application. They wait to see if two more substantial bids have been successful.

Cllr James reported that the cousin of the late Gwyneth Rowlands had given a gift of a stained glass window to be bequeathed to the Heritage Centre in Ms Rowland’s Memory .Cllr J Rowlands accepted the gift on behalf of the Heritage Centre.

Cllr J Rowlands requested that the Council have some feedback from Ysgol Dolafon with regard the use of the Grant award to them for their World War One Project. Cllr Van Rees, in his capacity of Governor at the school, agreed to request such feedback ready for the next meeting.

Signed.....

Date.....

Date of next meeting : Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December

### **Addendum**

#### **Reference Item 7 on the Agenda:**

Cllr James requested that this be inserted at the end of Item 7. However in an e-mail from Mr R. Thomas it was pointed out that this was not part of the meeting and should therefore not be included in the actual minutes..

It has therefore been inserted them as an addendum.

**INFORMATION SUBSEQUENT TO THE MEETING** : After seeking further advice the Town Council were informed that as the complaint had been made against two individual members of the Council as opposed to the "Town Council" as a body, then the matter had to be dealt with by the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales if the complainant so wished.

### **Amendments.**

Cllr Rowlands requested the following amendments:

At 4.2. "with rubbish being dumped anywhere but in the receptacles "

Changed to; "with rubbish being dumped on the ground"

At miscellaneous : correct spelling of "Boulton" to "Bolton" and in the same paragraph insert "Community " in front of Military Covenant.