

Minutes of the AGM of Llanwrtyd Wells Town Council held on Wednesday 20th May in the Council Chambers of the War Memorial Institute at 7:00pm.

Members Present: Cllrs. P. James, P. Tonks, A. Jones, L. Pace-Avery, N. Price, J. Rowlands, P. Lambkin, S. Jones, T Van Rees, J. Davies

In attendance : Mrs L E Ball (Clerk and RFO)

1. **Apologies for Absence** : There were no apologies

2. **Mayor's Address.**

Cllr James welcomed Cllr Davies and Cllr Pace-Avery as new members of the Council and hoped they would have a productive, positive experience in their term of office.

He congratulated all Councillors for their hard work throughout the year, for supporting him as Mayor and for working so well together as a team.

He reflected that it had been a busy and at times difficult year with the loss of three Councillors and the proposed Closure of the Surgery but noted that as problems arose they were dealt with professionally and swiftly. In doing so he felt that the Community had recognised the hard work of the Council and the impact that it had in dealing with difficult issues.

3. **Finance**

The end of year financial report was considered and explained by the Clerk (also the RFO). The receipts and payments sheet was proposed as accurate by Cllr Van Rees and seconded by Cllr A. Jones while the bank reconciliation sheet was proposed as accurate by Cllr Price and seconded by Cllr Tonks.

The Annual Governance statement was completed and the accounting statement for the external auditor was discussed and approved. The Annual Audit form was duly signed by the Chair.

4. **Election Of Mayor**

In the light of the fact that The Town Council have been without a Deputy for the last 3months and it would be a difficult role to fulfil for a newcomer without some experience Cllr James offered his services to remain as Mayor and Chair of the Town Council for another year.

Cllr Van Rees thanked Cllr James for his offer and proposed that all Councillors would welcome him maintaining his role as Mayor. This was seconded by Cllr Rowlands and unanimously agreed by all members.

Cllr James formally accepted the position of Mayor for another year.

5. **Election of Deputy Mayor**

Two councillors put their name forward for the position of Deputy Mayor . A ballot ensued and as a result Cllr N. Price was duly elected as Deputy Mayor.

He accepted the position and hoped he would gain valuable experience in the role as he supports the Mayor for the year. Cllr Van Rees thanked both Councillors for putting themselves forward.

5.1 **Appointments to Committees**

Appointments to the various Committees for the year 2015-2016 were revised to include new Members of the Council and to give new experiences to existing Councillors . The revised Committees are attached(Appendix 1) to these minutes and will be put onto the Town Council Website.

6. **Minutes of the April Meeting.**

No issues were raised with regard the April minutes and therefore Cllr Tonks proposed them as an accurate record . This was seconded by Cllr Lambkin.

7. **Balance Sheet for April**

The Clerk highlighted an error in the March balance sheet which has been corrected. (it was a typing error in the amount in the Building Society .All members agreed that this was now in order.

The balance sheet for April was submitted to members by the Clerk. The balance sheet was scrutinised by all members and proposed as an accurate record by Cllr Tonks and seconded by Cllr Rowlands.

Other issues brought up regarding finance.

- 1) Cllr Rowlands reminded members that transferring more money into the reserves had been considered at the last meeting. It was felt that since this meeting was a busy meeting that this issue should be addressed in the June meeting when The Clerk would present the balance sheet together with a breakdown of monies which are earmarked within the budget.
- 2) Cllr Jones requested information on paying a large outstanding bill from 2012. At the last meeting it was requested that the original estimate be sought. The Clerk reported that the estimate had been received and requested instruction as to proceed with payment. It was the consensus of the meeting that the bill is paid forthwith.
- 3) Cllr Tonks proposed that in future for any large works The Town Council should initiate a works order. This would enable the RFO to track any outstanding bills and make appropriate provision within the budget.

Cllr Price will find a sample to adapt for the Town Council.

- 7.1 The Clerk informed members that the Insurance will shortly be ready for renewal. She informed members that if the Town Council were to renew the three year contract with the Insurers a year early then the premium paid would reduce. After much discussion it was unanimously decided to accept the Insurance offer.

Cllr James was keen to assure that all items on the inventory were covered and the issue of the defibrillator was discussed. It was decided that this should be added to the inventory and a comparison made between the Asset Register and the Inventory to ensure parity.

- 7.2 The Clerk also informed members that the Public Toilets could be put onto the Insurance Schedule at a cost of £137.59 but this would not cover any flood damage. This issue is to be further discussed at a meeting to investigate the transfer of the public toilets fixed for Tuesday 9th June at the Council Chambers.

8. Anti-Social Behaviour

The Clerk passed on a message from Mr Dodds the caretaker regarding the repair of posts on Dolwen Field and the subsequent damage to further posts. He wondered if this was the beginning of a spate of vandalism on the Field.

Cllr James observed that overall there had been a reduction of incidents of vandalism throughout the Town and members agreed. No other issues of anti-social behaviour were reported.

9. Traffic Calming

There have been several complaints about the speed of motorbikes through the Town. The Clerk informed members that letters had been written to Kirsty Williams asking for the issue to be taken forward to the Senedd and for some information to be gleaned from the Go Safe partnership regarding the number of vehicles actually fined for speeding. As yet the Town Council has had no response to either letter

Cllr James suggested that Cllr Tonks, as a representative on the Dyfed Powys Police Committee, liaise with regard this issue with a view to accompanying the Go Safe Van.

Cllr Price observed that as much as the speed was an issue the noise issue of roaring bikes was also causing a nuisance to residents.

Cllr Jones observed that there didn't appear to be a reduction in the number of log lorries using the Abergwesyn Road despite a letter being sent to Tilhill Forestry in Llandovery. No response to the letter has been forthcoming.

10. Feedback form Councillors.

10.1 Cllr Van Rees

War Memorial Institute.

- Cllr Van Rees outlined a brief history of the building for new members . Plans have been drawn up and approved by Powys County Council for the refurbishment of the building to include ground floor accommodation for the Town Council and two separate flats on the second floor. Funding for this project now needs to be found and several avenues were discussed. After much debate it was concluded that this issue needs to be a regular item on future agendas and that The Clerk should invite a representative of the Regeneration Group to meeting to discuss possibilities. This is becoming a matter of concern to the few remaining Trustees of the building and they would like a solution to be found within the next eighteen months.
- Green Waste –he reported that there were no further developments in securing this much needed site despite repeated letters to Ms Edwina Hart and Kirsty Williams.
- He proposed that the Town Council write a letter to Roger Williams thanking him for the many years of service and support to the Community in his capacity of MP.
- It was felt that a letter of congratulations also be written to Chris Davies wishing him well in his new post as MP.
- Action : Clerk to write to Roger Williams and Chris Davies

10.2 Bryan Watkins Memorial Walk

Cllr Davies gave his and Mr Davies's apologies for not being able to attend due to a prior engagement in France. Cllr Rowlands reported that the walk had been a great success with between 30 and 40 forty people in attendance. Mr H Evans led the walk which was enjoyed by all. A light tea was served in the pavilion at the end of the walk. The event raised £205.00 which is to be donated to the maintenance of St David's graveyard.

Having consulted with Mrs Watkins Cllr Rowlands reported that there was a wish for the walk to continue in future years and asked if Cllr Davies would be prepared to take on the organisation of the event. Cllr Davies agreed to do this.

Action: Cllr Rowlands to prepare a short report for inclusion in the next issue of Grapevine.

10.3 Gwyneth Rowlands Memorial Concert

Cllr A.J ones reported that the concert had been a resounding success and had raised £700.00 on the night. It is hoped to have a raffle in the near future with Ms P Lowe offering to make a cake to raffle. It is hoped to finally send £1000.00 to Cancer research.t was suggested that a plaque in memory of Gwyneth Rowlands be placed in the memorial garden. Whilst all Councillors thought this to be a good idea but the question of where the plaque would be sited was raised and it was suggested that a protocol be considered for the placement of items in the garden for the future.

10.4 The Clerk read a letter from Ms S Mather

regarding a Celebration in Memory of the Czech children who escaped during the war and stayed at the Abernant Lake Hotel. After much discussion it was decided to write to Ms Mather informing her that Council members would attend any event .

Action : Clerk to write to MS Mather

10.5

The Clerk read a letter from the Rail Network asking the Council to inform the public to exercise caution when crossing the Heart of Wales Line in the light of the increased service. This provoked heated discussion about the fact that the increased service would not affect Llanwrtyd Wells since the Town had been left out of the increased service and as a result people were finding it difficult to access Llanwrtyd Wells. In particular Cllr James highlighted the difficulty for those who wanted to employ people in the Town as employees were having to use four modes of transport to get to work. It was suggested that a letter be written to Edwin

Hart and the HOWLTA Forum voicing these concerns. Suggestions were made about the possibility of a link bus from Llandoverly to Llanwrtyd .

Action: Clerk to write the above letters.

- 10.6 Cllr James Outlined a letter he had received from MR H Evans requesting a supporting letter for grant funding for the restoration of St David's Church. The Clerk having had prior notice of this request read the supporting letter to members who unanimously agreed for it to be sent to Mr Evans asap.

Cllr James outlined a conversation with Mr Garland regarding "Snack Attack" . Mr Garland had requested an update on the progress of the building. The clerk was asked to make contact with Mrs Fourrie with regard the issue and feedback at the next council meeting. It is understood that there is an enforcement order being put in place. Cllr Van Rees is to meet with Mrs Fourie with regard this issue and also feed back.

Cllr Lambkin;

- Reminded members of the coffee morning in Bethesda Chapel run by the Bethesda Sisterhood
- She informed the meeting that she received a "thankyou gift" from the Abergwesyn Committee for her work as their Town Council Representative .
- She reported to members that there had been concern in the Community expressed regarding the resignation of Cllr Thomas and for the health and Welfare Mr J Rogers with regard to the build at Maesbrynnar. She enquired whether the Building Inspector had visited the site.

After much debate it was felt that the Town Council had followed all appropriate procedures and as such had acted within it remit as a Town council. The situation is such that there has been no breach of planning development and planning consent had been carefully granted and implemented by Powys County Council. There was nothing more the Town Council could do.

It was agreed to find out if a building inspection has been done and report back at the next meeting.

Action: Cllr Price to investigate Inspection.

Cllr Tonks

- Reminded members of the offer of defibrillator training in the future and requested whether to go ahead . Cllr James suggested he get some dates ready for the next meeting.
- He informed members of the long standing contribution that Mr P Cook had made to the community and that in November this year he and his family before him will have served the Town for fifty years. The Town Council wholeheartedly acknowledged his contribution to Llanwrtyd over the years.

Cllr Rowlands

- Gave a brief outline of the open day at the Heritage Centre and informed members that the work of the Children at Ysgol Dolafon was on display for those who had not seen it. This was the culmination of a piece of local History work that the Town Council supported with a grant of £100.00.

11. Planning

Planning Application P/2015/0364 for the erection of six dwellings at the vicarage Field Llanwrtyd was discussed.

Cllr Van Rees Declared an interest as a member of the Church Council on which the proposed build will take place and took no further part in the discussion.

It was requested that clarification be sought on the disposal of sewerage from the site.

Action: Clerk to respond to panning application to seek such clarification.

Cllr Lambkin asked if there had been any booking from Green Events for Camping. She informed members that the Man v Horse Event this year will be using the camping facilities Plas Y Cadno. She enquired about the possible building of permanent toilet facilities on the site and whether planning permission would be needed. She was assured by Councillors that any such planning application would come through the Town Council.

12. Twinning

Cllr Davies reported that everything was in place for the Twinning trip to Cesky Krumlov.

Cllr Rowlands reported that the Twinning gift was in hand and that the Town Council would receive the invoice and claim half from the Twinning committee. This was acceptable to all members. It was agreed that the Councillors representing the Town Council would present the gift to our counterparts in Cesky Krumlov.

13. Services

Riverside Toilets

Cllr Price outlined the points made at the working party meeting with himself, Mrs Ball and Cllr Rowlands in attendance.

Cllr Van Rees gave his apologies for not attending the meeting whilst Cllr Tonks voiced that he had not had an invitation to the meeting. This was due to the fact that he was not in attendance when the meeting was arranged. He requested to attend any further meetings since he was in the original party that met with Mr Knox. Apologies were given to Cllr Tonks for his omission and he was given assurance that he would be included in meetings in the future.

The following points were made :

- The Town Council are now in possession of the licence agreement which is a temporary agreement for operational responsibility for the Public toilets.
- The Town Council are in possession of the grant application document which will release funding for operations.
- These two documents will take effect from the 1st July.
- This is the beginning of the process of transfer of ownership which could take up to 9mths to complete.
- It was felt that another meeting should be held in the very near future to look at this document in greater detail.
- The issue of landownership is still an issue of contention.
- It was suggested that the Public toilets are open from April to the end of October and closed during the winter months.

The next meeting date was agreed as Tuesday 9th June to be held in the Council Chambers.

Cllr Rowlands reported that he had spoken to Mr B McCloughlin regarding volunteering to clean the premises and had received a positive response. This triggered the need for adequate training for Mr McCloughlin as soon as possible.

Action : Clerk to write to Mr Knox with a request to provide training.

The Clerk reported that the Insurance premium would increase by £ £137.59 to include the Public Toilets on the Insurance Schedule but this did not include flood cover as technically the building falls geographically within a flood plain.

14. Dolwen Field

Cllr Jones reported that fencing at the far end of the field adjacent to the path needed attention and that the drain at the front of the pavilion was blocked.

Cllr Price reported that he had recently done an Inspection of the Field and several issues needed attention.

- Gate post on toddler area needs repair
- Palings needed repair
- Pavilion had no hand towels.
- Outside pillar tap is cracked

He requested that the Clerk set up a meeting with the Caretaker Mr Dodds to discuss work that needs to be done.

Action : Clerk to contact Mr Dodds to arrange above meeting.

Mr Dodds (on behalf of a friend) put forward the idea of a car boot sale to be held on Dolwen Field. This was brought before the Council by the Clerk and considered by members. As a result of the ruling of no vehicles on The Dolwen Field the request was declined but the suggestion was made to contact The School with a view to it being held on the yard.

15. Town Square and Green.

Cllr Rowlands informed members that there would be no entry into the Wales in Bloom Competition again this year.

The issue of planting by Mr Garland was raised and Cllr Tonks assured that whatever was proposed would be submitted to the Council for approval. It was suggested that an invitation be sent to Mr Garland to attend a meeting with representative Councillors at the Council Chambers to discuss his proposal which could then be taken to full Council for approval.

16. Correspondence

Item 7.1 on Agenda a) G-mail from WPS re; Renewal of contract for insurance

b) Additional premium for inclusion of Public Toilets in Insurance

Item 10.4 on Agenda G-mail to Cllr James from Sheila Mather regarding Abernant Lake Celebration in memory of the Czech children who came to live in Llanwrtyd during the war.

Item 10.5 G-mail from Jordon Pepperall regarding vigilance on Heart of Wales Line due to increased services.

Item 10.6 G-mails received from Cllr Van Rees from Mr D Thomas regarding collection of waste at Berthllwyd .

Item 10.7 G-mail to Cllr James from Mr H Evans regarding a letter of support for the application of grant funding for St David's Church

Item 11.0 Planning application p/2015/0364 for six dwellings at the Vicarage Field.

Item 13.0 Copies of new licence agreement and Grant application for the transfer of the public Toilets.(sent via e-mail)

Item 14.00 Verbal request from Mr Johnson of Cilmery via Chris Dodds for permission to use Dolwen Field for a car boot sale.

Item 16.00 G-mail From Mr I mills regarding the Brianne Freeride.

Item 16.1 **A copy of the letter to Mr Lawrie from Builth Medical Practice**

Action; Clerk to send copy of letter to Cllr Van Rees

Item 16.2 Letter from Ms j Price of Maes y Gwaelod re; ongoing issues with Powys County Council and issue with Llanwrtyd Town Council.

The Clerk read the above letter which addressed an ongoing dispute regarding noise disturbance. The issue has been dealt with at Town Council level and the issue is now in the hands of Powys County Council .

Cllr Van Rees declared an interest and took no further part in the discussion.

The meeting closed at 10.05 and the items below were not addressed.

Item 16.3 Letter from the Wales Ombudsman re; code of conduct

Item 16.4 G-mail from HMRC regarding the abolition of the paper driving licence.

Item 16.5 Letter from Mr Gaukroger regarding the rates bill.

Item 16.6 Letter from the National library for Wales regarding the UK Web Archive Copyright Licence

Item 16.7 G-mail from Mr J Granville regarding the landfill community fund (SITA TRUST)

Item 16.8 Howlta Spring newsletter and conformation of our membership

Item 16.9 Letter from Welsh Government -Natural Resources Wales Bulletin April 2015

Item 16.10 Impact report from Fields in Trust.

Item 16.11 Shared Home Ownership Consultation Paper.

Signed.....

Date.....

Date of next Meeting; Wednesday 17th June

Amendments:

Cllr P Lambkin; At Item 11 she requested the following amendment from:

“She informed members that in future Green Events will be using the camping facilities Plas Y Cadno” .

To ;

“She informed members that the Man V horse Event this year will be using the camping facilities at Plas y Cadno”

,