

Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Wednesday 18th November 2015

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

In Attendance ; Mrs L E Ball (Clerk and RFO)

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Cllrs P James, A. Jones, A. Edwards, P. Tonks

2. **Minutes of October Meeting**

The October minutes were considered by members. The Clerk outlined requested amendments. They were proposed as an accurate record by Cllr T. Van Rees and seconded by Cllr S. Jones.

3. **Minutes of the Special Meeting on Tuesday 27th October**

The minutes of the special meeting to discuss the closure of Barclays Bank were considered by members. They were proposed as an accurate record by Cllr J. Davies and seconded by Cllr J. Rowlands.

4. **Report of the meeting regarding the Public Toilets on Tuesday 27th October**

This report was considered by members .It was a report which highlighted the case for funding from the Welsh assembly Government prior to an arranged meeting with a Welsh Assembly minister and the Clerk in the light of the fact that Government Ministers are not allowed to communicate with elected members of Council. As this was not a special meeting as such, merely a report, it was not necessary to have it proposed and seconded.

5. **Bank Update**

Cllr Price opened the table to members asking for any updates or further information received regarding the Bank closure issue.

The Clerk reminded members of the e-mail sent to all Councillors before the meeting with regard the siting of the ATM. It was read to members. Cllr Van Rees indicated that Barclays are entitled to keep the ATM where it is until the lease expires if they so wish.

Cllr Lambkin felt that the letter indicated that no firm decisions had been made.

Cllr Van Rees reminded members of the sites that were visited and much discussion ensued as to the pros and cons of each site. After much debate as to whether further letters should be written it was felt that Mr Davies had indicated that the ATM would remain where it is until a suitable site had been decided upon after Mr Nix's visit. Cllr J. Davies proposed that nothing more should be done at the present time. Cllr Rowlands seconded this motion.

The "Thunderclap" was discussed and what impact it had had. As yet we have no indication of its success. The video went out on Tuesday 17th November and was dependent on whether the media picked it up as to whether it would get air time. It was felt that the timing of events in Llanwrtyd have been overshadowed by the events in Paris and it was felt that our news would probably not get picked up.

The Clerk read a letter from the CEO of Personal Banking (Mr Steven Cooper) in response to the letter that was sent inviting representatives to come to Llanwrtyd and requesting a meeting with Mr McFarlane,

Cllr Rowlands made the following points;

- He felt, that Barclays, who claim they have made contact with those who rely on the branch services to explain he alternatives available, should be challenged on this point.
- .He was of the opinion we should be targeting the smaller banks and suggested HOLT but this is an umbrella branch of Nat West.
- Requested an update on the Credit Union position

Cllr Lambkin commented on the future use of the building should Barclays exit and requested that she write to HSBC to gauge their interest.

A discussion ensued as to the Banks that have already been written to and the telephone conversations that have transpired with them.

Cllr Van Rees updated members on the situation with Credit Union, the Post office and NAT West mobile Banking services. He reported that he had had a meeting at County Hall with Paul Griffiths who said that Credit Union was in the early stages of developing a High Street presence and things would have to go before cabinet before any progress could be made. This would be a lengthy process. He reported that Red Kite Credit Union were not really interested and felt that a meeting should be had with their Directors.

He restated the position with the Post office which has had a positive outcome with the Post Office agreeable to upgrade the existing service to a Local Plus Service. Negotiations with the managers of the Garage are ongoing with regard training and support. Cllr. Van Rees outlined the letter from the Post office which gave a list of services available at "Local Plus" level. He passed this to the Clerk to scan and send to all Councillors.

Action: Clerk to scan and send above letter to all.

Cllr Davies informed members that he had spoken to Charlotte Christie and that, to date, there had been no training.

Cllr Price felt that the security of the Post Office could be a major concern and wondered if the building would be modified. It was stated that at the last meeting Kirsty Williams had stated that there would be no funding available because the garage was not the only retail premises in the Town.

Cllr Davies felt that a working Committee was needed to actually find ways forward with contacting lesser known banks and a survey be done to find out who would be willing to move their accounts from Barclays. Cllr Davies formally proposed this idea and it was seconded by Cllr Pace-Avery.

Cllr Price said he would speak to the Mayor.

Cllr Rowlands requested information and outcomes of the survey that was conducted by the "Save the Bank Action" group. A copy of the survey results was given to Cllr Rowlands to look at and Cllr Davies explained that the findings were not being publicised until Barclays had produced their Impact Statement as our survey might influence their own report.

6. Finance

6.1 The monthly balance sheet was considered by members. The Clerk outlined expenditure and income, making members aware that there had been some expenditure on the Public Toilets and that the first years grant of £3000.00 had been received and paid into the account. The balance sheet was proposed as an accurate record by Cllr J. Davies and seconded by Cllr T. Van Rees

6.2 Public toilet expenditure to date amounts to £428.80.

7. Anti-Social Behaviour

The Clerk reported that a car without wheels, sited in the recycling car park, had been reported. The matter has been brought to the attention of the Police who have spoken to the owners of the car and we are awaiting a response as to the outcome. The car park actually belongs to Powys County Council and therefore the Chair, Cllr Price, suggested contacting them about the vehicle.

Action: clerk to make enquiries with Powys County Council

No other issues were brought to the table.

8. Arwain project –meeting date .

It was suggested that Wednesday 25th for a meeting re: public toilets and Arwain. This was agreed by all with the first meeting at & and the second at about the toilets at 8:00pm.

9. Feedback from Councillors

- Cllr Lambkin outlined a conversation had with Ms Price at Maes y Gwaelod. She informed members that Ms Price would be moving out of Llanwrtyd in the near future. As this was an item under correspondence Cllr Lambkin agreed to defer the issue.

Cllr Lambkin felt that the Remembrance Service March would have been enhanced with some music. Cllr Van Rees agreed to take her comments back to the organising Committee.

The Clerk passed on a message given to her by Cllr A. Jones via A. Edwards that perhaps a letter of thanks needed to be written to Ryan Brown who played the Last Post so well at the service.

This was wholeheartedly agreed to by all members.

Action: Clerk to write to Ryan Brown..

- Cllr Rowlands asked if Go Safe had been contacted. The Clerk reported that to date they hadn't been but would do so this week requesting the latest set of traffic data.

10. Planning

Planning application P/2015/0994 was considered. No objections were raised.

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11. Twinning.

Cllr Davies reported that the Hallowe'en Quiz held at the Neuadd was a success and that proceeds from the evening were going to the First Responders.

The Clerk informed members that messages of sympathy had been sent to the Mayor of Paris's office and to the Mayor of Meriel. Cllr Davies reported that the Twinning Committee had sent messages and Cllr Rowlands had sent a personal message to Mr Delannoy.

12. Public Toilets

Cllr Lambkin formally thanked the Clerk for the business plan to be submitted to the Welsh Government for funding. Updated copies were given to all members. It was agreed that the document be discussed and adjusted where necessary at the agreed meeting. The Clerk reported that the meeting with Mr Rhodri Griffiths from the Welsh Government was very helpful. Cllr Van Rees informed members that he would write to The First Minister thanking him for his support in moving this issue forward.

13. Dolwen Field

Cllr Price reported that he had done an Inspection of the Dolwen Field and that there were no current issues of concern. He commented on the fact that the grass cutting this year had been better and Cllr Lambkin concurred.

14. Town Square and Green

No issues of concern were brought to the table. Cllr Rowlands enquired whether the benches had been removed for the winter. The Clerk has already left message with Chris Dodds but would follow it up. Cllr Price needed them off the Square in order to put up the Christmas Tree on Saturday 28th November.

15. Declarations of Interest.

The Clerk reminded those who had not yet submitted the new forms to do as soon as possible.

16. Christmas

It was reaffirmed that e-mails and cards be sent as appropriate.

The Christmas meal was discussed .Menus were given to members present for the Drovers Restaurant and the Neuadd Arms. To date the Stonecroft and the Bell have not produced their Christmas menu but these would be sent to all s soon as they were available. Members present agreed on the date of Saturday 19th December for the meal.

17. Correspondence

Item 7 on Agenda

Oral feedback from Joanna Kelham regarding an abandoned vehicle in the re-cycling car park

Item 5 on agenda

5.1 g-mail from Gordon Green re meeting with Mr MacFarlane

5.2 g-mail from Adrian Davies re; meeting with CEO Steven Cooper and himself to discuss further support

5.3 G-mail from Adrian Davies re: ATM machine (sent to all Councillors and to Karen Perkins)

Item 10 on Agenda

Planning application P/20150994

Planning application P/2015/0995

Item 13 on Agenda

Christmas menus

Item 16.0 on Agenda

Letter from Maes y Gwaelod

16.1 Letter from Mr John Hather in response to a letter written regarding the Welsh unit at Ysgol Dolafon

16.2 Letter from planning to say they are not sending out paper copies of planning applications it will all be done electronically as of 1st January 2016.

- Cllr Price informed members that the Llanwrtyd Fire station had been put forward for the Best Station Award.
- Cllr Van Rees reported that closure of the Welsh Unit was inevitable since the required number of pupils is 25 and there was no prospect of the school achieving this target.
- Cllr Pace-Avery reminded all present of the Craft Fair on Sunday between 2 and 4pm.

The Chair, Cllr Price, closed the meeting at 20.39pm

Signed.....

Date.....

Date of next Meeting: WEDNESDAY 16th DECEMBER