

Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Wednesday 16th November in the Council Chambers of the War Memorial Institute

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

Visiting speaker: Mr W. Fulford of Loftwen

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

1. **Apologies for Absence** ; Cllr A. Edwards

2. **Declarations of Interest** There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes of the October Meeting.

The October minutes were duly considered by members. There were no issues arising and there were proposed as an accurate record by Cllr. P. Tonks and seconded by Cllr T. Van Rees.

4. Finance.

The October balance sheet was considered by Members. The Clerk outlined income and expenditure with £290.00 unrepresented monies of made up of £20.00 for Pavilion hire and a Direct Credit from HMRC for a VAT return. After due consideration, the October balance sheet was deemed an accurate record -proposed by Cllr L. Pace-Avery and seconded by Cllr A. Jones.

5. Anti-social Behaviour.

- Cllr James informed members of the progress being made with the vandalised gazebo on Dolwen Field. The gazebo has been painted internally and when the weather improves the perpetrators have offered to paint the outside and do some creative art work on the sides. This was agreed between the Police liaison officers and Cllr James. The sum of £16.00 has been received from one of the perpetrators. The other monies are currently being held by the police.

Action: Clerk to contact the PCSOMs Kelham and request that the money be sent to the Clerk to bank.

- Cllr Pace-Avery informed members that once again the issue of dog fouling at Ty Cae Mawr and around Town was causing annoyance.

Cllr James informed members that he had been approached by a resident of riverside who was angry at the article in the Grapevine which suggested that the issues at Riverside had been resolved, saying that it was not the case. Residents are still having issues of access due to blockage of the highway by gardening paraphernalia. It was pointed out to the complainant that a letter to the Town Council would trigger further action. To date no such letter has been received.

Cllr Price arrived at 7;10pm

The issue of Riverside was debated at some length. It was felt that since Powys are responsible for the highway it should be their responsibility to sort the issue out. Cllr James asked the table how to take the matter forward. The general feeling of members was that the issue should be treated even handedly for all and if some residents had put up fences to demarcate their property this could also be construed as obstruction of the highway.

It was resolved to write to Mr B. Campbell informing him that the issue has not be resolved and await his response.

Action ; Clerk to make contact with Mr Campbell via e-mail to inform him of the situation.

Mr Fulford arrived at the meeting at 7:23pm

Cllr James welcomed Mr Fulford to the meeting and invited him to introduce himself and the Loftwen project to members.

Mr Fulford outlined the fact that the purchase of Loftwen and all it entailed was a family project and as such they wished it to be a legacy project. He voiced that the people of Llanwrtyd Wells had made them feel very welcome and

discovering the countryside, being based in London, has been inspiring. The project is very much in its infancy with much of the current work being fact finding however he did outline four principles which they were working towards;

- Diversity of usage
- Continuous cover forestry
- Share farming
- Sustainability of wildlife

The aim of the project is to create a working and sustainable venture with the emphasis on understanding the culture of the people of Llanwrtyd and the culture of the landscape. The barns and cottages would be renovated for holiday lets, the land let for grazing of sheep and cattle and the mountainside used to create a forest for long term harvesting to be enjoyed as part of the experience of staying at Loftwen. Cllr James thanked Mr Fulford for his input and opened the discussion to for councillors to ask questions.

The issue of rights of way for horses and walkers was raised. Mr Fulford assured members that all rights of way would be maintained and where possible enhanced.

There was some reservation that a well-known forestry company had been invited to plant trees and only when full plans were available would those fears be allayed.

Mr Fulford accepted this and told members that when plans were ready then he would gladly come back to Council with them. Cllr Van Rees pointed out that the town Council would be involved through the planning application process and if Natural Resources Wales were involved the Town Council would, as a matter of course, be consulted.

Cllr James asked Councillors to introduce themselves to Mr Fulford so he had some points of contact. Many Councillors were able to offer Mr Fulford some useful, relevant contacts to pursue.

Cllr James thanked Mr Fulford for his attendance at the meeting and looked forward to further dialogue in the future.

Mr Fulford thanked the Council for their welcome and left the meeting at 7:55pm.

The agenda was resumed.

6. Traffic Calming

Cllr Tonks informed members that he had had contact with PCSO Jo Kelham with a view to start things moving with engaging volunteers for the CARS project and getting all the documentation put in place.

He informed members that he had recently attended a CARS meeting in Sennybridge where the new Police and Crime Commissioner, Mr Dafydd Llewelyn, had been the guest speaker. Mr Llewelyn's approach is to utilise funds more effectively to combat speed in the area and to ensure that the messages which go out from the press promote safe riding - and that whilst they promote the roads of Powys as good to ride they also need to emphasise that Dyfed Powys Police are keen to control speed and care about the safety of all both riders and residents within Communities. He wanted regular meetings with Communities as he was keen to broker their support in this issue. Cllr Tonks felt it was a worthwhile and informative meeting and he would keep members updated on the project and any future meetings he attends.

Cllr James thanked Cllr Tonks for his input and for taking on this role to combat speeding through the Town and looked forward to further updates.

The Clerk informed members that acknowledgment had been received in response to a letter sent from the Town Council to Mr K. Skates regarding the installation of VA signs.

Cllr Lambkin raised the issue of speeding on Station Road and requested a letter be sent to Highways with a view to installing speed monitors.

Action ; Clerk to make above enquiries.

Cllr S. Jones highlighted a new gating system that she had seen and enquired if this was possible in Llanwrtyd.

7. Feedback from Councillors

Cllr Pace -Avery informed members that she had attended a course where the trainer provided defibrillator training. It was proposed that she and Cllr Tonks pursue this avenue and report back to council at the December meeting

Action; Cllr Pace-Avery and Cllr Tonks to pursue defibrillator training.

Snack Attack

The Clerk informed members that a letter had been written to Mr J. Powell with copy to Mr P Griffiths regarding this issue . To date no reply had been received. The officer in charge of this case is currently on leave. Cllr Van Rees informed members he would request a meeting with the powers that be. Cllr Rowlands offered photographs of the Shop which clearly show the building as it was and how it has changed up to the present time .It was proposed by Cllr Lambkin that these photographs together with an article be sent to the Brecon and Radnor newspaper. This was felt to be a good idea by members.

Action; Cllr Rowlands to send photos and with help from Cllr Lambkin write an article to send to the B& R.

Memorial Head Stone

Cllr James brought the issue of a petition, which was circulating, to the attention of members. The wording of the petition was unfortunate in that it omitted to say that it was Powys County Council and not the Town Council requesting the removal of the Celtic cross headstone. The Town Council have , in fact, been proactive in requesting discretion in this matter and sent a letter to Mr J Powell , Cabinet member , at Powys county Council. The response to this letter points out that the County Council is not able to exercise discretion in this matter as it would set a precedent.

Surgery

Cllr James reminded members of the meeting with Mr A. Powell and members of Builth Wells Medical Practice Practice on Wednesday 23rd November at the Medical Centre. After some discussion, a delegation of Cllrs was arrived at with Cllrs T. Van Rees, P.Tonks, J. Davies, and P.James to attend. The Clerk to make a note of some of the issues raised to take to the meeting.

- More information needed on how to book online appointments.
- It would be useful to know which Doctors will be on duty at Llanwrtyd
- The current consulting room was never meant to be used for consultations but was originally designed for chiroprapist.

Renewable Energy

Mr R Stevens arrived at 8:30pm at the invitation of Cllr Van Rees since Mr Stevens had attended a meeting regarding this issue the night before. Cllr James acknowledged that he was able to speak to the meeting.

Cllr Lambkin produced an article written in the Band R newspaper on the morning of Wednesday 16th November. It outlined the current situation regarding the Proposed changes to the Powys Local Development Plan giving the views of the Campaign for the protection of rural Wales. The proposed changes would open the door to allow wind and solar turbines to be situated across large swathes of Powys in areas of outstanding natural beauty.. Cllrs were given an up to date map showing the areas which could be affected (a copy of this is attached as appendix1).Cllrs were concerned about the speed at which these proposals were being pushed through and were concerned about the lack of public consultation about an issue that could affect a great many people in the area. Mr Stevens informed members of a meeting he had attended at which a county Planning officer spoke. He was of the opinion that the whole thing was a rubber stamp exercise, that the infrastructure currently in existence would not support the project and that it was pressure from the Welsh Government causing this to be actioned because they want to be a world leader in the percentage of renewable energy being produced.

Cllr Van Rees proposed that a formal letter of objection be sent to Powys..

After much debate, Cllr James asked for a vote as to whether a letter of objection be sent to Powys. The motion was carried by a majority vote of nine to one.

Action : Clerk to write a letter of objection to Powys and submit it by Monday 21st November before 5:00pm

Cllr James thanked Cllr. Rowlands for keeping members up to date.

Cllr S. Jones voiced that she was not receiving e-mails and gave the Clerk permission to forward her telephone e-mail address

Action: clerk to send members Cllr Jones's e-mail address.

Cllr Rowlands informed members of an e-mail received from Lady Milena Grenfell Baines regarding a Memorial for the parents of those children who were sent away to England to safety during the Second World War. It involves the history of Llanwrtyd Wells and will involve a camera crew coming to do some filming in January 2017. There was also a request for a donation to the funds.

Action; This to be brought up at the next meeting.

Feedback from Cllrs (cont.)

Cllr Lambkin reported that once again the ATM had been out of action. She informed members that she had rung the appropriate number and reported the incidents. On the morning of Wednesday 16th it was again non-operational. The comment was made that it seemed that as soon as we have a pending event in Town with many visitors the ATM machine doesn't work. Is this a cynical ploy to show a reduction in users.

It was suggested that a letter be sent to Mr K. Skates, with copies to Kirsty AM and Chris Davies MP voicing the frustration of the Town with regard to the ATM machine.

Action; Clerk to write letter as above.

Cllr Rowlands informed members of the lack of light between Ty Cae Mawr and the Station. The lampposts are in place but no lights attached. His wife has written to Powys to seek clarification of the matter.

Cllr Tonks reported that the alley from Ffos Road through to Bryn Awelon was also very dark and dangerous in the winter. This is the responsibility of the Wales and Mid West Housing Association.

He also informed members that members of the public had questioned why Llanwrtyd Wells didn't have poppies on lampposts as other towns had done. Cllr A. Jones responded that this would require volunteers to put them up and take them down. If those volunteers could be found then they could be ordered next year.

Cllr A. Jones reported to members that the pavements were becoming wet and slippery due to fallen leaves. She requested that Powys be contacted with a view to doing a clean-up of the pavement on Llandoverly Road.

Action; Clerk to report the above to Powys.

8. Planning

There were no planning issues brought to the table.

9. Twinning

The Clerk read out an E-mail from the new contact at Cesky Krumlov, Kamila Zemanova who replaces Zuzannah Krapkova. She is keen to develop links and asked about student and work exchanges.

Action: Clerk to forward e-mail to the chair of the Twinning committee.

Cllr Davies informed members that the Twinning was currently quite quiet but that fund raising events were still happening. He informed members that both Towns would hopefully contribute to the Christmas tree festival by sending decorations for the tree.

10. Library

Cllr Van Rees informed members that he has spoken to Mr Macintosh of the Library Service and had said that Llanwrtyd could find 5 hours volunteer time if the Library Service provide the 50% funding for 5hrs. This would enable the Library to remain open for 10hrs. It was proposed that a letter be written to Mr Macintosh to this effect and ask for written confirmation that the use of volunteers does not contravene employment law and that appropriate /insurance would be in place for volunteer workers.

Action; Clerk to write above letter.

Cllr Pace -Avery observed that we would soon run out of volunteers and that the same people were volunteering for different roles within the Community. It was felt that some new volunteers be recruited. Cllr James acknowledged this as a very valid comment and asked Cllr Pace -Avery to compose an article to be put into the Grapevine asking for more volunteers to come forward.

Action; Cllr Pace Avery to write an article, re; volunteers, for the Grapevine.

11. Public Toilets

Cllr James informed members that there had been two Bill of Quantities submitted and that after careful consideration a contractor had been appointed to carry out the refurbishment of the Public Toilets. It is hoped that he will start towards the end of December or early January and is confident of finishing the project on time. Cllr James will be the point of contact for the project. Having considered the schedules and the costings at great length it was decided to modify the design and not include the showers at this stage although the piping would be installed should they be required at a future date. Members were happy with this decision. He also informed members that rather than steel doors there would be solid wooden doors with coin operated locks. Cllrs looked forward to the opening. Enquiries were made as to what the shower space would be used for whether signage would be erected as part of the refurbishment. Cllr James responded that the shower spaces would be used for storage and bilingual signage had been factored into refurbishment.

12. Dolwen Field

The Clerk informed members that the Town Council had not been shortlisted for an award for Best Field Day Ward through the Fields in Trust .

The Clerk informed members that a quote for grass cutting for 2017 had been submitted by Mr A. Croker. The issue of grass cutting was briefly discussed with Cllr Price proposing that the Council think about tendering for next year and should be an item on the agenda at January's meeting.

13. Town Square and Green

Cllr Price informed members that the Christmas lights had arrived and all necessary paperwork was in hand . He requested that a cheque be raised for the putting up and taking down of the lights and sent to Powys County Council. The tree would be erected in the last week of November/first week of December.

Action ; Clerk to make contact with Mr L Williams and get the cheque sent off.

Fingerpost- The Clerk informed members that the bid for funds for the fingerpost had been successful and that £775.00 had been granted through the Community Regeneration and Development Fund Capital grant. This is to be used by the end of February. Discussions ensued as to the type of fingerpost needed and funding for the remaining cost . It was suggested that sponsorship be sought from event organisers and other bodies.

Action; Clerk to write to Green Event, Manor Adventure, WAG, Charcroft electronics and bring response back to the table in December whilst costing out a hexagonal fingerpost.

The Clerk informed members that a request had been made to find out about "Possessory Title" of the Town Square and Green and that that the forms received were technical legal documents. Cllr Van Rees offered to have a look at them.

Co-Responder Vehicle

Cllr James brought to the attention of the table of the concern being voiced that the co-responder vehicle was still not in situ in Llanwrtyd Wells Fire Station. Despite the unveiling and blessing in Llanwrtyd the vehicle is being used across Wales for demonstration. The Town Council were promised written confirmation of the fact that the responder vehicle belonged to Llanwrtyd after the Community had raised over £22,000 to purchase it. Cllr James had spoken to the Station Master and he reported that the vehicle still needed advertising flashes attached and that they were still waiting for the internal radio to be fitted.

This situation was deemed to be unacceptable and concerns were voiced as to what would happen if there was an incident and the co-responder vehicle was not available -questions would be asked in the Community.

It was requested that a letter be written to the Mid-Wales and West Fire Service enquiring where this vehicle was, when it was being put in place in Llanwrtyd, how many miles has the vehicle logged to date and for the promised letter of ownership to materialise. A copy of the letter to be sent to Mr Amor the Fire Station Officer in charge.

Action: Clerk to write above letter and send.

14. Correspondence

The correspondence agenda was not addressed since time had run out. Most items on the correspondence agenda had been dealt with through the meeting with three items not being addressed which will be carried forward to the December meeting.

Cllr James closed the meeting at 10.04pm.

Signed.....

Date.....