

## **Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2015**

**Visiting speaker** : Mr P Garland sent his apologies to the meeting . He was unable to attend due to pressures of work in Nottingham and couldn't get back to Llanwrtyd Wells.

**Present** : Cllrs N. Price, L. Pace-Avery, P. Tonks, J. Davies, T. Van Rees

In Attendance: Lyn E Ball (Clerk and RFO )

It was decided by Cllr Price (Deputy Mayor and Chair ) that since the meeting was quorate it should proceed.

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Cllrs P. James, S. Jones, A. Jones, A. Edwards, P. Lambkin, J. Rowlands

2. **Minutes of the July meeting .**

The minutes of the July meeting were considered and proposed as accurate by Cllr Van Rees and seconded by Cllr J. Davies.

3. **Minutes of the Special meeting held on the 11<sup>th</sup> August regarding Bank Closure**

The minutes of the special meeting were considered and proposed as accurate by Cllr T. Van Rees and seconded by Cllr. P. Tonks..

4. **Bank update and Way Forward**

Cllr Van Rees outlined the correspondence he had had with Ms C. Myers (Local director of Barclays Bank)

The issue of whether the Post Office in the garage could be updated was raised but Cllr Van Rees informed the meeting that the Post Office in Llanwrtyd Wells is not a salaried Post Office and could therefore not be upgraded to provide banking facilities.

Questions were raised about the viability of a retained ATM machine and how it would work in practical terms.

The Clerk outlined responses received from the Head of Barclays Bank, The Treasury and the Post Office.

Cllr Price outlined the motion of having a public meeting as soon as possible to take this issue forward as the responses received were not helpful in any way. The date of Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September was suggested and agreed by all members providing Victoria Hall was available on that date.

Action: Clerk to contact Jenny Curtis re: availability of the Hall as she holds the booking diary whilst Cllr Jones is away.

Discussion ensued s to the viability of inviting another bank to take over the premises. Cllr Van Rees raised the issue of the lease and its expiry date. Cllr Price said he would inform Cllr James with a view to finding out about the lease.

Cllr Price informed members of the letters that Gordon Green had written which included letters to:

David Cameron

National assembly for Wales

Boris Johnson

Minister for Economy Science and Transport

Visit Wales QED centre

Mr D. Edwards (HOWLTA)

HRH Prince of Wales

Much discussion ensued about the ATM machine and how it would work in practical terms. It was suggested that the Clerk write to Mr A. Davies regarding the ATM to find out what exactly was being proposed/

Action. Clerk to write to Mr Davies.

## 5. **Finance**

5.1 The July and August balance sheets were presented to members. The Clerk informed members of a £119.38 rebate from WPS Insurance.

The July balance sheet was proposed as an accurate record by Cllr Van Rees and seconded by Cllr L. Pace-Avery.

The August balance sheet was proposed as an accurate record by Cllr Tonks and seconded by Cllr J. Davies.

5.2 Budget update –The Clerk distributed the Budget update sheet to members but as there were so few Cllrs in attendance it was decided to address this at the next meeting. In the meantime Cllrs would have the opportunity to scrutinise the figures.

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

No issues of anti-social behaviour were brought to the table.

## 7. **Traffic Control**

Cllr Tonks updated members on his liaisons with the traffic police. There are still issues pending with the Minister of Transport Ms E. Hart. Cllr Tonks is still gathering information about traffic data. There remains a problem with speed through the Town and it was suggested that a letter be written to Mr. Williams regarding the installation of VA signs since some time ago we were told that the VA signs available were “doing the rounds” and we would get a chance to have them for a limited time. It was also suggested that a letter be written to the Chief Superintendent of Brecon Police asking him to add weight to our case for permanent VA signs outlining the co-operation there has been between Police Officers and Town Councillors with regard to the issue, and in the light of Ms E Hart’s letter which suggests installation of VA signs within the next two years.

Action: Clerk to write the above letters.

The Clerk read a letter from a member of the public who had received a fine for speeding through the Town. The letter, although it acknowledged the fine as legitimate, cited the vehicles parked along Lfon Crescent as a major problem in the Town and a contributory factor in accelerating out of the area to avoid a collision.

The general feeling of members was that although the parking could be hazardous at times it actually aided the slowing of traffic through the High Street.

## 8. **Arwain**

The Clerk outlined the Rural Community Development Fund. Cllr Davies suggested that a bus stop opposite the existing one would be something we could apply for with this grant should we decide to apply. This item was deferred to the next meeting when further suggestions could be forthcoming and a project put together. The closing date for applications is the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2016.

## 9. **Feedback from Councillors**

Cllr Pace-Avery-

- informed members that Cllr James had asked her to put an article into the Grapevine. This had appeared in the September issue and had been well received by the public. She suggested that Cllrs take it in turn to write such an article. This to be revisited at the next meeting.

Cllr Tonks-

- informed members that there was a meeting at the Greyhound Hotel in Builth on 27<sup>th</sup> September where Mr Ronicle and Mr G. Powell would be talking about defibrillator training. Cllr Tonks said he would attend this meeting and that he was in correspondence with Mr Powell with regard training.
- He informed members that he had had contact with the PCSOs for the area who were keen to re-establish the “cuppa with a copper “and to attend a Council Meeting. It was suggested that the Clerk e-mail the officers and invite them to the October meeting.

Cllr Van Rees

- Outlined the financial position of Powys County Council and the cuts that would need to be made over the next three years and the implications of those cuts for local Councils.
- He informed members that the issues of drainage etc. had been resolved on the Glebe Field and that the Parochial Council hoped that the new Vicarage would be finished by June/July 2016.

- He informed members that he had been in touch with Mrs Fourie at the planning office regarding Snack Attack. The enforcement notice is to be served within the next week.
- He reported that he had had communication from Mr H Evans regarding the “Penry Lloyd” obelisk at Victoria Wells requesting clarification of ownership. After some discussion it came to light that the obelisk was neither the property of the Town Council nor the property of the owners of Victoria Wells and as far as anyone could remember had never been cleaned or renovated in any way.

#### **10. Planning.**

No planning issues were brought to the table.

#### **11. Twinning**

Cllr Davies reported that 11 visitors from Meriel were visiting Llanwrtyd for the Four Days Walks. He took the opportunity to remind members that the official Twinning Visit was due to take place next year and that the Twinning Committee runs under the auspices of the Town Council and made a plea for hosts to accommodate the visitors as they had struggled to find host families for the visitors this weekend. Work is ongoing to find funding for the visit next year. He informed members of the quiz night to be held on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> at the Neuadd Arms.

Cllr Price reported that he had attended an event at the Abernant Lake Hotel organised by Mrs Mather. She had requested a contact from the Twinning Committee to have some information about the Czech Twinning.

The Clerk agreed to scan Mrs Mathers e-mail address to Cllr Davies to pass on to the Chair Bryn Davies.

#### **12. Public Toilets**

The Clerk outlined all correspondence received regarding the toilets and updated members on where we stand regarding their management. At the present time the Town Council are responsible for the running of the Toilets and have been granted licence to do so by Powys County Council whilst official transfer documents are drawn up. The Grant agreement to release funds has currently not been signed because the Town council were investigating financial support from the Welsh Government.

The Clerk informed members that the streams of funding were totally independent.

Mr Brian McGloughlin is currently cleaning the toilets on a voluntary basis and is opening and closing the site. He has incurred some expense which has not been reimbursed as yet.

Cllr Van Rees had also written much correspondence regarding this issue requesting parity of treatment with Builth , Rhayader and Erwood.

A letter from the Welsh Government requested a meeting to discuss public facilities but on further investigation the meeting would only take place with the Clerk and not elected members.

After much discussion Cllr Price suggested that a management committee might need to be set up to manage the Toilets.

Cllr Price proposed that the Grant Agreement be signed and sent back to Powys in order to release funding. This was seconded by Cllr Van Rees and all members agreed that this should be done.

Action: Cllr Price to look over the agreement with the Clerk with a view to sending them back to the relevant authorities.

#### **13. Dolwen Field**

The Clerk reminded members of the quote received from Mr Croker for cutting the hedge between the skate park and the play area. He was also asked to give a quote for the hedge running into Dolwen Field. It was felt that the cutting could be delayed until early Spring and that a schedule of work should be created to go out to tender..

**Action:** Clerk to write to Mr Croker to inform him of the Council's decision.

The Clerk informed members of the outstanding debt of Red Kite Events and of the efforts made to recoup this money which amounts to £175.00. Further efforts had been made this week and if the money was not forthcoming then further action would be considered.

#### **14. Town Square and Green.**

No issue were brought to the table .

Mr Garland had been in contact with Cllr Tonks with a view to a meeting with a few selected Councillors who could then report back to full Council.

#### **15. Declaration of Interest Forms.**

The Clerk reminded members of the need to return them –to date there have only been three returned.

#### **16. Correspondence**

Item 4.0 on agenda: **Bank Closure**

- Card from Maureen Jones re: Meeting with Barclays on 11<sup>th</sup> August
- Letter from the Treasury in response to Town Council's Letter
- E-mail from Col Van Rees : copies of correspondence sent to Mr Davies and Ian McFarlane Chairman of Barclays.
- Letter from Post office acknowledging Town Council Letter
- Letter from Barclays in response to Town Council letter to Head Office.
- E-mail from Rob Christie

Item 7.0 on agenda:

Letter from Mr R. Davies regarding speed camera van on Llandoverly Road.

Item 8.0 on agenda: Arwain Project (community Development Fund)

Item 12.0 on agenda:

**Public Toilets**

- E-mail- copies of letters sent from Cllr Van Rees to First Minister.
- Letter from Edwina Hart
- E-mail from Kirsty Williams
- E-mail from Ashely Davies in relation to the public Health Bill and Public Toilets
- E- mail from Gareth Richards(Energy Management Officer at Powys) providing details of utilities at toilets.
- E-mail from Nicky Davies at Powys regarding the Grant Agreement and water meter reading.
- E-mail from Julia Williams (Welsh Gov) to arrange a meeting to discuss public facilities in the Town.

Item 16.0 on agenda:

Letter from Ombudsman regarding Code of Conduct Complaint.

The Clerk informed members that the complaints made against former Councillors R Thomas and L Haines had not been upheld feeling there was no case to answer. The letter received by the Town Council was a copy which had been sent to both former members and the complainant.

16.1 Letter from environment regarding vermin at Ty Cae Mawr

16.2 **HOWLTA ;**

- summer newsletter
- letter re; viability of HOWLTA
- renewal of membership and raffle tickets

16.3 E-mail from Fields in Trust –Deed of Dedication query

16.4 e-mail from One Voice Wales outlining conference date.

- Letter from One Voice Wales outlining nine motions from various Councils to be put to Conference.

16.5 e-mail from Howell Evans to Cllr Van Rees re; Penry Lloyd obelisk at Victoria Wells.

16.6 letter from Welsh Gov.- Consultation on Wellbeing of Future Generations (7<sup>th</sup>Sept -16<sup>th</sup> Nov)

16.7 Letter regarding AGM of Powys Teaching Health Board.(Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> Sept)

16.8 e-mail regarding consultation on three weekly bin collection (closed on 31<sup>st</sup> August).

Cllr Price brought to the attention of members the salary review of the Clerk. The Clerk had written a letter putting the case for a review and had outlined various financial scenarios to aid in the decision making process. Members felt that this was an issue to be discussed with a full complement of Councillors and the matter was deferred until the October meeting when it would be included on the Agenda.

The Clerk read a letter which had been picked up in the Council Chambers before the meeting.

The letter outlined concerns about the activity area on Ty-Cae Mawr requesting that the Town Council finance the upkeep of the area since it has ,to date, been tended by local people on a voluntary basis.

The piece of land in question is not owned by the Town Council and therefore no responsibility lies with the Town Council for its maintenance.

Action: Clerk to write to resident outlining the Town Council's position and suggesting they make contact with the landowner with their concerns.

Issues deferred:

- Clarification of minutes to be published in the grapevine
- Clerk's salary review
- Arwain community Development Fund
- Cllrs article in Grapevine

Signed .....

Date.....

Date of Next Meeting : **WEDNESDAY 21<sup>st</sup> OCTOBER**