

**Minutes of the Town Council Annual general Meeting held on Wednesday 17th May 2017 in the Council Chambers of the War Memorial Institute.**

**Re-elected Members;** Cllrs P. James , L. Pace-Avery, P. Lambkin, S. Jones, A. Jones, T. Van Rees  
J. Rowlands, J. Davies

**Members Present ;** Cllrs P. James , L. Pace-Avery, P. Lambkin, S. Jones, A. Jones, T. Van Rees

In attendance : Mrs L E Ball -Clerk and RFO to the Council

**1. Apologies for Absence:** Cllrs J Rowlands, J Davies

The Chair explained that the reason for the early start was the issue of the Telecom mast . The Town Council had received e-mails from Mr Bufton regarding the way the Town Council had dealt with this issue and he had been invited to attend the evenings proceedings at 6.30pm

The Clerk informed members that communication from Mr Bufton had been received on Tuesday afternoon and was included as a late item on the correspondence agenda. The letter informed the Council that he would not be attending the meeting. The Chair felt that it was pertinent to discuss the matter in the time allotted at the beginning of the meeting. The Clerk read out Mr Bufton's letter to members. Much discussion ensued as to the role of the Council in responding to planning applications and the timing of them.

It was felt that the Town Council provided an overview with issues of planning and had to balance the needs of the individual with the needs of the whole Community. Overall the need for improved reception of Broadband and mobiles was the rationale for the decision made. However, it was felt that clarification was needed regarding the timing of responses to Powys since the timing of events with this issue led to lack of time for Community response. The Council, on this point find themselves in an invidious position since any application should be responded to within 21days.The point was raised regarding the positioning of the public notice -it should have been at eye level and it was placed very low down and was not easily visible.

The Town Council felt it was necessary to raise the issues of timing and positioning of notices with the planning department and the Clerk was requested to write a letter to the planning authorities outlining their concerns.

It was also requested that a letter be sent to Mr Bufton acknowledging receipt of his letter and outlining the position that the Council often finds itself in with regard to planning issues.

**Action:** Clerk to write the above letters.

**2. Mayoral Address**

Cllr James reflected on his Mayoral year saying that it had been a very busy one which began with meetings with the Local Medical Practice and Mr A. Lawrie of the Powys Teaching Health Board. As a result of meetings held which were productive for all involved , the future of the Surgery and the services provided by Builth Wells Medical Practice were secured for the future.

- The ATM machine had been retained and was currently in the process of being re-housed . The Post Office had been regraded to Post Office Plus, with Charlotte and her team providing excellent services to the residents of Llanwrtyd and beyond. The Red Kite Union was reinstated in Llanwrtyd and the Station continue to provide a drop in facility plus workshops for MIND .
- The Town Council secured funding to refurbish the Public Toilets , which were re-opened on 1<sup>st</sup> May and now have a "state of the art" facility for residents and visitors alike.
- A new fingerpost has been installed on the Town Square and indicated local places of interest to visit .The Mayor thanked the Clerk for all the hard work she had put into the two projects

The Dolwen field project is still ongoing and will be the focus for the working party over the coming months.

He expressed regret that he had not yet met with the committee at Abergwesyn due to changes in the Management Committee but thanked Cllr S. Jones for her input into meetings over the year as a representative of the Abergwesyn Community and hoped that this year would see his attendances at a meeting .

At the last Picnic in the Park it was suggested it should be a biannual event . It was hoped that this would be a good advert for the project at Dolwen Field. The next event is scheduled for next year.

Cllr James thanked Cllr A. Jones for her hard work in organising the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary Celebrations of the opening of the Station . It was an excellent event and was very well attended. The Mayor asked Cllr jones to pass on his congratulations to the Friends of the Station Committee. Cllr Jones thanked the Mayor and informed members that next year was the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of the actual line itself and the Friends of the

Station would be making a huge effort to decorate the station for the event. She thanked the Town Council for their financial support for the day.

The Mayor expressed his disappointment at the lack of headway made on curtailing speeding through the Town despite every effort to communicate with the Welsh Government on the issue. He stated that the Town Council would maintain the pressure to get things done this coming year.

The Mayor went on to thank Cllr Price for his support , as Deputy Mayor, throughout the year and was saddened that he had decided to step down.

He thanked the Clerk for her support throughout the year and felt that the working partnership was a successful one.

He thanked all members of the Council for their support and contributions throughout the year and felt that the team had worked well together.

Cllr T. Van Rees , in response , gave warmest thanks to Cllr James for all his hard work as Mayor recognising that, besides chairing the Council meetings throughout the year, the Mayoral role often entailed representing Llanwrtyd at various functions . Cllr James gives a great deal of his time in promoting the wellbeing of Llanwrtyd whilst running his own business. Cllr Van Rees felt that there should be a press release commenting on a positive year for Llanwrtyd.

Action: Clerk to write press release.

### **3. Finance**

#### **3.1 Formal acceptance of all Financial Reports for year ending**

During discussion of the Financial reports two issues were raised regarding the Asset Register

1. Bromsgrove Hall should no longer be on the asset register as control of it has been handed back to Powys County council.
2. Victoria Hall was not gifted to Llanwrtyd Town Council . It was originally owned by Residual Trustees and handed to the people of Llanwrtyd in perpetuity. It is currently managed by a Committee.

No further issues were raised and the reports were proposed as an accurate record by Cllr T. Van Rees and seconded by Cllr L. Pace-Avery.

#### **3.2 Acceptance of Accounting statement to Auditor**

Full Council accepted the Governance statement for the external auditor and this was duly signed by the chair Cllr P. James. All supporting evidence was also signed by the chair and the audit is now ready to send off.

All members expressed their thanks to the Clerk for preparing all the documentation.

### **4. Election of New Mayor**

Cllr James asked for any interest from the table. There was none forthcoming. He moved onto the election of the Deputy Mayor.

5. **Welcome to Incoming Mayor – As , at this point ,there was no Mayor elected this was not possible.**

#### **6. Election of Deputy Mayor**

Cllr James invited interest in the post of Deputy Mayor. Cllr Pace -Avery offered herself for the role. No other interest was offered and therefore Cllr Van Rees formally proposed that Cllr Pace-Avery be elected as Deputy Mayor. This was seconded by Cllr A. Jones and Cllr Pace Avery was unanimously elected as Deputy Mayor for 2017-2018.

Cllr James then informed members that since there was no other interest in the post of Mayor he would be willing to remain Mayor for another year on the understanding that he would be asking the Deputy to step in more frequently and would guide her through the process of chairing in readiness to take over the Mayoral role next year. Cllr T Van Rees felt that this was an excellent solution and thanked Cllr James for his offer to remain. Members were

asked for a show of hands to verify their acceptance of this proposal. The vote was unanimous and Cllr James was duly re-elected as Mayor for the year 2017-2018.

The first task for the new Mayor was to seek agreement to Co-opt three new members to the Council. This was agreed by members present and the Clerk advised that the co-option notices could go up at the weekend in as many public places as possible. It was hoped that new members could be co-opted at the June meeting.

Acton: Clerk to post co-option notices around Town .

#### **6.1 Appointment to Committees**

It was decided to defer appointments to Committees until there was a full complement of Councillors but the list was looked at in case there was no coverage in some areas. One such area was that of Council representative on the Governing body of Ysgol Dolafon . Cllr Pace -Avery volunteered for this role and was duly appointed.

Cllr Van Rees requested that he be able to give his feedback to members since he had to leave the meeting early to attend another Community Council meeting which had clashed with the Llanwrtyd meeting. The Chair gave him leave to feedback.

**Cllr Van Rees** reported that Powys appear reluctant to do anything about the issue of "Snack Attack" and he had received communication from planning which he would circulate to Cllrs to discuss at the next meeting.

He referred to the development at Maes y Dre and felt angry that the Council , having fought very hard to gain the industrial site , had been robbed of the facility . At this point the Clerk informed members that a letter had been received via e-mail that afternoon from Ms Lesley Griffiths . The letter, which was read to members, outlined the decision making policy of the Inspectorate for Planning Wales and indicated that there were no options available to the Town Council to reverse any decisions. Cllr Van Rees was appalled that there is now no land available in Llanwrtyd for f possible economic development and proposed that a letter be sent to Mr P Morris , the planning Officer dealing with the local development plan stating the case for the Town Council and ask what other sites in Llanwrtyd could be allocated for such use and was there any indication of this in the local development plans.

Action ; Clerk to write the above letter.

#### **Cllr Van Rees informed members**

- that he had had communication with Ms K Probert at planning with regard the proposed development behind Victoria Hall. The planning application is refused on the grounds as stated in the Council's objections of no safe access.
- that the issue of the new vicarage had been debated by the Parsonage board but as yet there was no furtherment of building. It appeared to members that the Church authorities were dragging their feet and this leaves the current Vicar still unable to live within the Community that she serves.
- that the independents still held the majority at Powys County Council , although the conservatives had made many gains. He reported that the election of the Council Leader was imminent.
- that there was to be a meeting on Tuesday at 2;30pm to look at the future of Bethesda Chapel with the possibility of monies available to carry out a feasibility study.

He asked Cllr Pace Aver how the volunteers were settling in at the library and Cllr Pace-Avery informed members that Mrs V Hope was the Co-ordinator for the volunteers and that training was now being done alongside the paid Librarians. There is currently no cleaner in situ.

Cllr Van Rees left the meeting at 8:00pm

The agenda order was resumed.

#### **7. Minutes of the April Meeting**

The minutes of the April meeting were discussed and matters arising from them reported as having been completed. They were proposed as an accurate record by Cllr P. Lambkin , seconded by Cllr A. Jones and signed by the Chair.

#### **8. Balance Sheet for April**

The balance sheet was presented to members by the Clerk . She informed them that a VAT return of £2719.70 and a direct credit of £5834.00 from Powys County Council as our first precept payment. After discussion, the balance sheet was proposed as an accurate record by Cllr P. Lambkin and seconded by Cllr A. Jones.

In addition to the balance sheet a record of expenditure on the public toilets was given to each member present with the total expenditure to date being £16443.37 . At this point the issue of the waterless urinals was discussed as there remains a problem with the supply of these goods. It was decided unanimously to proceed with another company to get these urinals as quickly as possible and to ask Victorian plumbing for a refund of the monies for goods not supplied. This would mean another £216.00 being added to the cost

Action: Clerk to order the above from" Gentworks"

- 8.1 Insurance -the Clerk informed members that we are currently in the second year of a three year contract with WPS. This contract will be reviewed at the end of three years with a view to reducing the cost involved.
- 8.2 Additions to insurance- The Clerk enquired whether the Fingerpost and the contents of the Public Toilets should be reviewed in terms of insurance. The toilets insurance would raise the premium by £40.00 to upgrade from £10,000 to £16,000 . The fingerpost would be a minimal cost but need to be added to the asset register. It was agreed that this should be done

Action: Clerk to action the above

## **9. Anti-Social Behaviour**

There continues to be anti-social behaviour with certain individuals within Llanwrtyd causing distress to neighbours and the public in general. One particularly disturbing occurrence happened on the Square in full view of a family with young children who were visiting the area. The impact on tourism in the Town could be very serious if this continues to happen. It was suggested that the police be invited to the next meeting.

There has also been concern about an individual who appears to be sitting in his car close to the school as the children come out. although this may be quite innocent endeavours will be made to get the number plate of the car and pass it on to the police.

Two people have contacted the Mayor about alcohol misuse and abusive language on the Square and it has been requested that an alcohol ban be put into force by residents of Llanwrtyd .The Council acknowledged that alcohol misuse was becoming an issue within the Town and could have a detrimental effect on those who visit there needed to be a proactive response by residents who should report any anti -social behaviour of this kind to the police. Cllr Jones agreed to put a statement to this effect in the Grapevine magazine. It was also felt that the co-operation of the police in dealing with these matters was vital.

The Clerk read out a letter copied to the Town Council which had been handed in to Powys County Council regarding fly-tipping behind Victoria Hall.

The Clerk read an e-mail received from Powys Recycling in response to an enquiry sent by the Town Council. The letter justified the reduced service of the recycling centres and felt it would not increase fly tipping.

Cllr Jones agreed to contact Powys to get the items removed and to request a sign stating that fly tipping was an illegal act.

Discussion ensued about the possibilities of CCTV and the possibility of putting up a sign indicating that the area was being watched.

Cllr James offered to purchase such a sign for Cllr Jones to put up behind the Hall.

**10. Traffic Calming** -it was felt that this issue should be returned to when there was a full complement of Councillors and the allocation to Committees had taken place.

## **11. Feedback from Councillors**

**Cllr Jones** reported that she was unable to attend the One voice Wales area meeting.

**Cllr Pace-Avery** reiterated that the Library volunteers were up and running. There were still some teething problems with Data Protection and getting online but these will be ironed out.

Cllr James expressed his delight that the Library services had been retained and suggested that the Library be advertised in the Grapevine and that the Council would pay for the advert as a gesture for the Library. He felt that it was essential that the Library is used to its full potential to demonstrate its need.

Action : Cllr Jones to put an advert into the Grapevine.

**Cllr Pace Avery** informed members of a new initiative form Womens Aid called "ASK" which deals with domestic abuse. The Scheme requires ambassadors for the scheme and she agreed to send the Clerk the details to put into the public domain.

**Cllr Lambkin** raised the issue of the house below the old waterworks as she had had been approached as to whether it had planning permission. It was felt that planning had been granted for a building by the previous owners of the land.

**Cllr S. Jones** enquired if there had been any further communication regarding the development at Cym Irfon as there appeared to be work being carried out again on the site. The Clerk had no information but would look into it and report back at the next meeting.

**Cllr James** informed members that Mr Fulford had been in touch requesting a letter of support for a grant. It was felt that the Council would be willing to do this if the plans for the proposal were put before the Community and that to ensure transparency on the Town Councils part there needed to be a public consultation for any proposals as had been promised. It was acknowledged that the letter published by Mr Fulford in the May edition of the Grapevine was well received by residents.

Action: clerk to compose a response to Mr Fulford

## **13. Twinning**

The Clerk reminded members of the table top sale for the Twinning on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May. There were no other issues brought to the table.

## **14.Services**

a) Public Toilets - in the three weeks since it was reopened there has been a steady revenue which is being collected every day. There was a feeling that the men's unit needed finishing as soon as possible and as had been discussed earlier the waterless urinals should be reordered .Bilingual signs are now up on the building.

b) Library -this had been discussed earlier and there were no further issues brought to the table.

c) Dolwen Field-

Cllr James reported that there had been some vandalism on the field with a gate being torn off and a panel that had been painted on the gazebo had been torn off.

Cllr Jones reported that the wire separating the field from the river bank needed tightening and possibly ten or more metres needed replacing with new posts. It was suggested that Mr Evans at Beulah and /or Mike Aberannall be contacted to get a quote for the work.

Action: Clerk to obtain quotes for the work

The issue of the electricity contract was raised by the clerk who had researched through Switch My Business .com the best available prices. The most economical was SSE and it was unanimously decided to accept a three year contract which would include the public toilets as well as the pavilion on Dolwen Field.

Cllr Jones raised the issue of fire extinguisher safety and replacement when necessary. A debate ensued as to whether it was still a legal requirement to have fire extinguishers since modern practice doesn't encourage their use instead the public should simply evacuate the premises with no attempt to fight the blaze. It was decided to seek the fire service's advice on the matter.

Action: Clerk to action this

Cllr James informed members that the festival committee had booked the field for the 5<sup>th</sup> August and there is already a booking for the 8<sup>th</sup> , 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> for the Duke of Edinburgh Award assessors.

Cllr James as, reinstated Mayor for the year, was keen to see the Dolwen Field project make progress. He informed members of a possible funding stream through Tesco supermarket and requested that a date for a meeting of the development Committee for the project to be thought about ready for the next meeting.

The reading of the Electricity meters was raised and Cllr James said that he would do the readings and inform the Clerk.

d) Town Square and Green

After much debate it was resolved to ask the Police if they had a work force that could paint the railings on the Square and write to Powys County Council on two points:

- 1) could we have the existing bollards repainted and
- 2) Why haven't bollards which have been damaged not replace.

Action: Clerk to add request to PC Kelham and write to Powys regarding the bollards.

e) Surgery- Cllr James informed members that the noticeboard inside the surgery had been allocated to the Town Council to display notices. The Dolwen Field project would be the first display and would be done in the very near future. It was suggested that a copy of the minutes be posted on this board and all members agreed that this was a good idea. It was resolved to post minutes on the board in the surgery when the display was done.

f) ATM Machine- It was reported that the ATM on the Square had, once again, been out of action. Cllr James informed members that there had been a repair team out on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May but Cllrs round the table said it was still not working. Concern was raised that there is a major event about to take place and the ATM was needed. Mr Davies of Barclays is aware of the Town Events and it was suggested that an e-mail be sent to him to ensure that the machine is working for the Man v Horse event on the 10<sup>th</sup> June.

15) Training – The issue of training for new Councillors was discussed and it was felt that once the Town Council was once again at full strength.Training should be a regular item on the Agenda. Cllr A. jones suggested that if we could get other local Community Councils to join us then the training could be provided close to home.This was felt to be an excellent idea.

## **16. Correspondence**

Item 6.1 on Agenda

Membership of One Voice Wales and representative for meetings

Item 8.1 on Agenda

Insurance WPS schedule +additions to policy.

Item 14a

e-mail re: Expressions of interest for cleaner at Public toilets

The Clerk informed members that there had been two expressions of interest in the post of "Cleaner for the public toilets. It was requested that a job specification be sent to Cllr Pace-Avery for her perusal since she has experience of construction job specs. They can then be sent out to the interested parties. It was decided that the following three councillors should

be on the interview panel: Cllrs L Pace Avery, P. Lambkin and Cllr P. James and that interviews would take place on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> June at 7:00pm in the Council Chambers.

Item 4c renewal of SSE contract for electricity at the Pavilion

Item 14d e-mail from Bernice Benton re; fingerpost

**Correspondence**

Item 16.1 e-mail from Aled Sion re; attendance at meeting to give talk on Eisteddfod

Item 16.2 e-mail requesting two motions for debate to send to OVW AGM

Item 16.3 e-mail re; Tree Charter

Item 16.4 Model Social Media Policy for consideration

As there were Councillors not present it was decided to defer this to the next meeting

Item 16.5 e-mail re: Taking part in "Battles Over" (lighting of a beacon to commemorate 100 years of Remembrance)

**It was decided that we should be involved with this and Cllr James would make enquiries with the Fire Service**

Item 16.6 e-mail from Mr A Collins in response to queries sent about recycling.

Item 16.7 Copy of letter sent to Powys re: Fly tipping from Mrs C Stokes

**Cllr Jones was to action this with Powys County Council and Cllr James was to provide a sign for the Victoria Hall Committee to put upon the building indicating that the area was being watched**

Item 16.8 e mail enquiry from Mr B Crosby re: a Mr D. Jones

**This was dealt with by Cllr A. Jones who was a relative of Mr Jones**

Item 16.9 e-mail re: Schedule of meetings from Powys Community Health Council

Item 16.10 Letter from Mr N Bufton re; Mast (received on Tuesday afternoon indicating his non -attendance at the meeting. (This will be discussed as the first issue at the meeting which was called for 6:30pm to accommodate Mr Bufton's possible attendance).

**This was dealt with a the beginning of the meeting in the time allotted for discussion with Mr Bufton had he attended.**

Cllr James thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 9.50pm.

Signed.....

Date.....

**Date of next Meeting; WEDNESDAY 21<sup>st</sup> JUNE**

