

Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Wednesday 17th April 2019 in the Council Chambers of the War Memorial Institute

Present: Cllrs L. Pace-Avery, A. Jones, A. Edwards, P. Lambkin, S. Jones, J. Rowlands, P. James, M. Pigott

In Attendance : Mrs LE Ball (Clerk and RFO)

Visiting Speaker : Mr D. Wyn Jones did not attend.

Cllr pace-Avery opened the meeting at 7:00pm and began by acknowledging the sad passing of Mr John Price , a stalwart of the community and a long serving trustee of the Institute.

1. **Apologies for Absence :** Cllrs T. Van Rees , R. Hughes, J. Davies
2. **Declarations of interest :** There were no declarations of interest brought to the table
3. **Minutes of the March meeting and matters arising-** the minutes of the March meeting were duly considered and discussed . After due consideration the minutes were proposed as an accurate record by Cllr J. Rowlands and seconded by Cllr A. Jones.

Matters arising

- the Clerk read an e-mail from the Clerk of Llandovery in response to a letter sent by the Town Council offering support regarding the closure of the bank in Llandovery.
- Cllr Pace-Avery read a letter of complaint that had been sent to all Councillors, . The letter contained six questions related to the co-option of Councillors and requested that each question be dealt with individually by the Council. Members addressed each issue in turn and requested that the Clerk send the responses to the complainant within seven days, as requested. Each councillor also requested a copy of the letter .

Action : Clerk to send responses to the complainant and send copy to all Councillors.

4. Finance

4.1 to consider the end of year balance sheet for Account Number 1-The end of year balance sheet was duly considered and discussed. The clerk explained income and expenditure and highlighted the un-presented cheques . After one minor adjustment the end of year balance sheet was proposed as an accurate record by Cllr S Jones and seconded by Cllr P. James.

- to consider the end of year balance sheet for Account Number 2-The Clerk presented the end of year balance sheet for Account number two. After due consideration the Balance sheet for Acc No 2 was proposed as an accurate record by Cllr A. Jones and seconded by Cllr P. James

4.2 to consider the Bank reconciliation for a Account number 1 and Account number two.

Account number 1 – The Clerk presented the bank reconciliation for the end of the financial year in readiness for the external audit. After due consideration and questioning by members the Bank reconciliation for Account number one was proposed as an accurate record by Cllr M. Pigott and seconded by Cllr A. Jones.

Account number 2 – The Clerk will re-present the Bank reconciliation for Account number 2 at the next meeting.

4.3 to consider the Audit statement for 2018-2019 -The Clerk presented the Audit statement to members which agreed with the Bank reconciliation. After due consideration and questioning by members the Audit statement was proposed as an accurate record by Cllr A. Jones and seconded by Cllr J. Rowlands.

4.4 To address the Annual Governance Statement – members addressed each section of the Governance statement and it was duly completed.

5. Appointment of new Clerk update -Cllr Pace-Avery updated members on the meeting which she and Cllr Lambkin attended on the 27th March. They updated the job description to reflect GDPR and the job specification. It was decided to offer the post at Salary point 18-22. An advert will be placed in the May Grapevine and the closing date for applications will be 24th May. It is hoped to hold interviews on Wednesday 5th June in the evening.

6. **Traffic Calming** -there were no issues to report . The “Speedwatch” volunteers continue to do their work and it was felt tht a letter of thanks from the Town council would be appropriate.

Action: Clerk to write the above letter of thanks to Mr M. Perrit .

7. Feedback from Councillors

Cllr A. Jones reported that

- a resident was still experiencing problems with noisy neighbours. The situation is being monitored by the Police but Cllr James also expressed concern that the resident in question was being intimidated. It was felt that the Council monitor the situation and in the meantime invite the Wales and West Housing placement manager to the June Council meeting

Action: Clerk to invite Mr Carpenter to the June meeting.

- that the sign for the Dolycoed Road had still not been reinstated and it was still causing problems for delivery drivers.

Action: Clerk to revisit this issue with Powys County Council

Cllr Edwards expressed concerns

- about the black bins on the pavement along Irfon Crescent which were out all the time. The clerk informed members that she had received an e-mail from a resident regarding the same issue. Cllr Edwards felt that it was illegal for the bins to be out other than on collection days and requested that Powys be contacted to remedy the problem. The problem has been ongoing for some time and is causing obstruction on the pavement for pedestrians.

Action ; Clerk to contact Powys regarding the above.

Cllr Rowlands reported

- that the wooden bridge repairs have still not been carried out despite money having been set aside in last years Council budget to do the job. He requested that an update be sought from Powys County council.

Action ; Clerk to e-mail Mr S. Smith at Llangammarch depot to get an update .

That the wall, where the culvert enters the river Irfon below the Town Square and Green, had partly collapsed around the entry pipe leaving a hole big enough for a child to climb into. A discussion ensued as to who would be responsible for its repair.

Action: Clerk to make enquiries at Powys county Council as to who would be responsible.

Cllr Lambkin reported that

- there had been a problem with the locks at the public toilets. The issue has been resolved by the Caretaker Mr Dodds and the lock was now working well.
- that there had been a leak in the public toilets and the plumber had been contacted to rectify the problem. The issue will be dealt with next week.
- she enquired whether a letter had been sent to Mr P. Cook regarding the opening and closing of the public toilets.

Action: Clerk to send above letter.

Cllr S. Jones reported

- that she had been stopped by a car travelling along the Abergwesyn Road (a visitor to the area)who was visibly shaken after a large tree had hurtled down the bank and across the road in front of him.

The Clerk informed members that a letter had been written to the contractors Tilhill in Llandoverly but, as yet, no response had been received.

Cllr Edwards suggested that we write requesting a copy of their risk assessment and Cllr Jones gave the Clerk the name and address of the operations manager.

Action: Clerk to write to Mrs S. Lilley-Owen requesting an explanation and a copy of the risk assessment. This is the second “near miss” in the last two months. Cllrs are very concerned about the safety of residents and visitors in the area.

Cllr Pigott reported that

the Roman road in the Crychan forest between ,Llanwrtyd and Cynhordy, was being devastated by 4x4 vehicles. This is an ancient track and Cllr Pigott felt that it was a “Rights of Way” issue. He has taken photographs of the site and will be sending his concerns to Powys County Council rights of way department. Cllr S. Jones gave Cllr Pigott the contact at Powys.

Cllr P. James

- thanked the Clerk for ensuring the trees that continue to get into the river and block the bridge get removed.
- he reported that Mrs Gilchrist at Carlton Riverside was having problems with other residents in the area using her bins at the back of the premises often leaving no room for her own waste. It was suggested that the issue of bins on Irfon Crescent and this issue be discusses with Powys to see what can be done.
- He requested that a card of condolence be sent to Jean Michelle in Meriel after the sad loss of his granddaughter Khady.

Cllr Pace-Avery reported that

- she had had a meeting with PCSO Jo Kelham and her colleague – they are keeping pressure on known offenders in the area. Cllr Pace Avery relayed the Council’s concerns with regard parking in the Town

but was told that there was little that the Police could do. It needed residents to complain to Powys County Council. They would look at the issue of Station Road parking, particularly at the junction point, when they were in the area and would monitor the situation.

- With regard to CCTV the Police cannot offer advice on what to purchase but did direct Cllr Pace-Avery to a website which covered all aspects of CCTV installation and gave templates of relevant documents and protocols. Unfortunately, there was no financial help available to install such a system. Cllr Pace-Avery had sent the link for this website to all Cllrs.

8. Anti-social Behaviour- Cllr P James reported that certain residents were parading around the square between 6am and 9am. One was wearing a hospital gown and shoes were being thrown at passing cars. There is concern that they will cause an accident.

Action: Cllr Pace-Avery will report this incident to the PCSO.

9. Website - Cllr Rowlands explained that the steering group had commissioned a company in Llandoverly to set up the website. This would cost £900.00. At the meeting in March the Town Council pledged that they would support the website but felt that the amount of £450.00 being asked for was excessive. Cllr Rowlands was requested to take this back to the steering group and so no exact amount of money was pledged by members at this time. The request was once again made at this meeting.

Much discussion ensued regarding contributions from businesses within the Town and Cllr Rowlands informed members that businesses had been approached with the result that, to date, £350.00 had been pledged. There was a strong feeling that a "Town" website was imperative in order to attract visitors, but it was unclear as to who would have ownership of the site. Cllr Pigott was to maintain the site. After much discussion Cllr Lambkin proposed that a donation of £150.00 made towards the cost of the website and a show of hands was called for. There was one abstention. All other members were in favour of the proposal. The motion was carried.

Action: Clerk to issue a cheque for £150.00.

Cllr Rowlands informed members that the website would be completed by the 31st May and would be officially launched soon after this date.

10. Planning- planning application 19/0200/FUL for the erection of a holiday let at the Abernant Lake was considered. The planning notice had been sent to all Cllrs prior to the meeting. Cllr Van Rees indicated that he, as a County Councillor, would be calling this application in for consideration before the full planning committee.

11. Twinning -Cllr Pace-Avery informed members that the trip to the Czech Republic was gathering pace and that a team was due to come to Llanwrtyd for the Man v Horse race.

12. Councillor Training-Cllr Pace-Avery informed members that she had spoken to One Voice Wales regarding Councillor training and felt it could be beneficial to have bespoke training in Llanwrtyd and possibly share training with other local councils thus reducing costs. Members felt that this was an idea worth pursuing.

13. Services

a) Public Toilets -this was addressed under "Feedback from Councillors by Cllr Lambkin.

b) Library – the Clerk read an e-mail from County Councillor R Powell inviting members to a meeting on Wednesday 8th May at Antur Gwy, Builth Wells, to consider alternative ways of funding and delivering library services in Powys.

c) Surgery -Cllr Pace Avery reported back to members about the meeting held with the Builth Wells Medical Practice. In attendance were Dr Arthur, Practice Manager Ms J. Stephens, Cllrs L.Pace-Avery, J Rowlands, P. Lambkin, and J. Davies. The following points were reported back by Cllr Pace-Avery:

- The lease on the rooms that the Practice use in the building has not yet been officially signed
- Llanwrtyd surgery is costing the Practice more than they envisaged
- Dr's consulting rooms are to move back to where they were originally once new flooring has been laid and the medical equipment is restored to the various rooms.
- There are two days when the practice sent a district nurse to Llanwrtyd
- The issue of long waits for a phone response is because there is only one phone line into Builth Surgery at the present time. This is under review into but may take some time.
- The door was left open for further meetings with the suggestion of once every six months.

Members welcomed the opportunity for future meetings, and it was suggested that a representative from the Health Board be invited to attend the next meeting.

d) Dolwen Field-

- the Clerk informed members that the cost of getting a lease from the Town Council for the Dolwen Field Development committee would be in the region of £600-800. It was suggested that Powys County Council be approached with a view to getting such a lease.

- Cllr Pace-Avery informed members that the Charity shop event in Llandrindod was the week of the 13th July and not the week of July 1st as originally thought.
 - Cllr Pigott informed members that the collection of goods for the shop was going extremely well with people giving very generously. He informed members that were still waiting to hear about the planning application.
- e) Town Square and Green-
- the Clerk read out an e-mail from Mr Croker which accepted the terms of the agreement to cut the grass on Dolwen Field and the Town Square. All relevant insurance documents had been received and photocopied.
 - Cllr Rowlands enquired as to whether the Gardening Club had applied for a grant this year and if not, he requested that the money be used for the Wales in Bloom project. Much discussion ensued. It was felt that the gardening club would apply for the money to replenish the flower boxes around Town. The decision of allocating this money was deferred until the next meeting.
- f) Civic Reception-the Civic Reception for the Llanwrtyd Fire Service will take place on Tuesday 30th April at 8:0pm in the Victoria Hall . Representatives of Powys County Council , The Mid Wales and West Fire Service , local Community Councils and all organisations within Llanwrtyd have been invited. Dress code is smart but informal.

14. Correspondence

Item 3 on Agenda

- e -mail from the Clerk of Llandovery regarding the bank closure.
- Letter from Mr Delafield regarding the Town Council

Item 10 on Agenda

Planning application 19/0200/FUL erection of a holiday let at Abernant Lake.

Item 13a on Agenda

This was passed to Cllr lambkin

Letter from "Switchsafe" regarding Legionella testing

Item 13b on Agenda

This was dealt with during the meeting at item 13b

e-mail from Rachel Powell- invitation to a meeting on Wednesday 8th May to discuss Library Provision.

Item 13d on Agenda

e-mail from Giles Van Rees re; lease for Dolwen Field

Item 13d/e

e-mail from Anthony Croker -acceptance of grass cutting

Item 14.1

e-mail from Mr D Cain regarding bins on the pavement along Irfon Crescent

Action

Clerk to respond to Mr Cain outlining action to be taken by Council

Item 14.2

copy of an e-mail sent by Mrs C. Stokes regarding the increase in Council tax

copy e-mail from Mrs P. Dryden regarding Council Tax

Cllr A. Jones informed members that a party from Bromsgrove would be coming to stay at the Abernant to celebrate the 80th anniversary of their initial stay. They were expected to arrive on the 29th September and would have a programme of events during their stay.

Signed.....

Date.....

DATE OF NEXT MEETING (AGM)

WEDNESDAY 15th MAY

