

RHAYADER TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 24TH MAY 2016 AT 7.00PM AT THE OLD SCHOOL CWMDAUDDWR

THOSE PRESENT

Chairman	Councillor C. Evans				
Councillors	P. Dark	W. Davies	D.O. Evans	J. Jones	C. Walton
	C.R. Davies	D. Jones	J. Humphreys	J. Narborough	G. Williams

1. **APOLOGIES:** Cllr. L. Price, J. Stuart, M. Lloyd & County Cllr. K. Curry.

1a. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair had no announcements to make

1b. MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION UNDER URGENT BUSINESS

30 mph sign – Bryntirion Lane.

Parking opposite Hoel-y-Brennin junction with Dark Lane.

2. MINUTES TO BE AGREED

Minutes to be agreed were those for the 2016 AGM and the meeting on 19th May 2016. They were agreed to be true records.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising from the AGM.

Matters arising from the meeting on 19th April:

1a. Chairman's Announcements: Cllr. D. Jones reported that the Queen's 90th birthday commemorative coins purchased by Rhayader Town Council were duly presented to the pupils at Rhayader Primary School by the Cllr D Jones (Mayor), Cllr C Evans (Vice Chairman) and Cllr C Walton (School Governor).

4.1 Toilets: The Clerk reported that the final layout of the Town Council plaques had not yet been approved by the Toilets Sub-committee, hence he had not yet placed the order. **Sub-committee to arrange that the design is finalised & Clerk to order three plaques.**

Urgent business: Overgrown Hedge in Church Street. No response had been received to date to the Council's letter to the owner of the hedge. **Clerk to contact the owner again.**

Cllr. Walton reported that it had been possible to continue the Pre-school Breakfast Club but without the services of a paid cook at a cost to parents of £1 per child.

Councillors were extremely disappointed at the very poor standard of grass cutting recently undertaken by PCC. They had refused to remove the huge quantity of residual "hay" which was left where it fell. Under the hay in places the grass had not been cut, merely flattened and in others it had been scalped, leaving bare patches of soil. In some areas no grass cutting had been done at all. Councillors feared that if left to PCC, the outstanding areas would not be cut before the Bank Holiday despite the Town Council's previous requests for them to be cut. It was also resolved that RTC should consider clearing cut grass from the mown areas. **Clerk to contact Brian Price to enquire if the outstanding areas will be cut and request the promised cutting schedule. Cllr. Williams to contact Green Fingers to arrange a meeting with Councillors.**

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3a: REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS

Waun Capel Parc Trust: Cllr. Williams gave a report from the Parc Trust. Work is due to start on the Pavilion in five weeks time. The Scouts have expressed an interest in using the pavilion as their “Scout Hut” and the Parc Trust have been asked to approve this use. Whilst in principal shared usage would seem to be a reasonable way forward, Rhayader Bowls Club raised money in the 1980s to extend the Pavilion and were given a ninety nine year lease at a peppercorn rent and PCC legal department has been approached for a copy of that agreement.

Whilst this is an issue for the Parc Trust to resolve, Councillors stated a willingness to assist where possible.

Rhayader and District Sports and Recreation Association: Cllr. Walton suggested that the RDSRA may be able to assist in the proper upkeep of the Parc facility. He also reported that they were exploring the possibility of a training track for runners and were arranging an event in September but support had been poor so far. Cllr. Dark said that they were exploring all avenues for funding.

Rhayader Market Hall and Smithfield Trust: Cllr. D. Evans reported on the improvements planned by the Smithfield Trust including increasing the number of pens, installing solar panels & painting the fence.

3b. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

4. AGENDA ITEMS

4.1 High Schools Consultation.

Councillors expressed concerns about the future of both Llandrindod and Builth Wells High Schools. Cllr. Williams stated that an increasing number of pupils from this area are attending Hereford for their chosen subjects. Cllr. C. Evans believed that the closure of Llandrindod high School would prove disastrous for the area. Councillors were informed that on the 16th June PCC will hold a special meeting to determine the way forward. Councillors were requested to complete the consultation as individuals and it was resolved that RTC should also submit a response as a body. After discussion it was agreed that Cllr. C. Evans will compile a response coving the Council’s concerns etc. which should be submitted on behalf of the town Council. **Cllr. C. Evans and the Clerk to collaborate to ensure the Town Council’s views are submitted.**

4.2 Traffic in West Street.

Cllr. Dark remarked that of late there has been a massive increase in traffic using West Street, not just cars but lorries and coaches. Councillors had noted the increase and would continue to monitor the situation.

4.3 Rhayader Library.

The Chair thanked those who attended the meeting with Stuart Mackintosh and Kay Thomas of PCC Library Service. PCC are looking for some form of contribution from RTC to reduce the cost (currently running at £24K per annum) of running the Rhayader Library and want to have a firm commitment in place by September 2016 or they would need to re-consider the provision of the service in Rhayader in the future. Discussions were open and frank, but RTC felt that they would be hard pressed to meet the specified deadline with so short a notice. Overall it was considered that it had been a good and useful meeting in that it was possible to discuss several scenarios face to face with PCC.

Councillors were adamant that Rhayader Library should remain open and were resolved to do whatever they were able to achieve this aim. Cllr. C. Evans believed that the best scenario for RTC may be to secure the building by way of a CAT. Councillors generally agreed with this statement since they believed that they would be able to run and maintain the building more cheaply than the figures supplied by PCC. However to

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4 AGENDA ITEMS (CONT)

further this approach RTC would need to have PPC's agreement to a CAT. Councillors would need to know if PCC expected any further commitment and if so this would need to be the subject of further negotiation. It was resolved to add the issue to the agenda for the June meeting and in the meantime Councillors should inform Cllr. C. Evans of any question or comments they may have and what information they would like from PCC.

4.4 Provision of "Free Parking" sign at Rhayader Smithfield.

Cllr. D. Evans believed that the availability of free parking at the Smithfield was a huge asset to Rhayader and a unique selling point, of which every advantage should be taken. As such he proposed that RTC should provide a portable sign announcing Free Parking which could be put in place by the entrance on days when there is no Market or other event taking place. He had obtained a quote locally to supply a suitable sign for £130. Councillors agreed with the proposition and resolved to make the purchase using funds allocated to the Town Improvement Sub-committee. **Cllr. D. Evans to order the portable sign.**

5. CORRESPONDENCE

With the exception of those commented on below, all items of correspondence listed on the agenda and received since it was prepared were noted.

5.2 Clerks & Councils Direct: May issue. Cllr. C. Evans reported that Llandrindod Wells was now "wi-fi free" in the town centre. It was resolved to investigate what would be involved to achieve this status in Rhayader. **Clerk to contact Clerk to Llandrindod Town Council.**

5.4 OVW: Wellbeing of future generations. **If Councillors have not already read it they were urged to do so.**

Rural Community Development Fund (RCDF) EOI window open until 30th June 2016. **Councillors were urged to read it again.**

6. PLANNING

Application received after the Agenda was issued:

P 2016 0529 for Extension to care home plus demolition and alterations to some existing buildings at Crosfield House Dark Lane Rhayader Powys.

There were no objections to this proposal & Councillors recommended approval. **Clerk to inform PCC.**

7. FINANCE

£100 – George McManus – gardening. Agreed.

8. URGENT BUSINESS

Cllr. Walton reported that the 30mph sign in Bryntirion Lane is being repeatedly struck by vehicles which has resulted in it facing the wrong direction. **Clerk to inform PCC.**

Cllr. Dark had received complaints that a horsebox and a boat on a trailer have been parked opposite the junction of Hoel-y-Brennin for quite some time and they are restricting the view of drivers needing to pass them. **Clerk to seek guidance from the police.**

Cllr. J. Jones reported that near the bend of the river by the Riverside Walk the bank has been badly undercut and he was concerned that it might collapse if children play on it. **Clerk to report the problem to PCC or Natural Resources Wales.**

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9. PRESS RELEASE

- Grass cutting concerns.
- Llandrindod Wells High School Consultation.
- Rhayader Library.
- Free parking in Smithfield.

10. BUSINESS FOR NEXT MEETING

1. Approval & certification of the Annual Return.
2. Rhayader Library
3. Rhayader street scene.
4. R2K funding.
5. Community Plan.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next monthly meeting will be held at 6.30 p.m. on Tuesday 21st June 2016.

The meeting closed at 8.40p.m.

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Date