

RHAYADER TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 14TH OCTOBER 2014 AT 7.00PM AT THE OLD SCHOOL CWMDAUDDWR

THOSE PRESENT

Chairman Councillor L. Price
Councillors P. Dark C. Evans J. Humphreys J. Jones J. Stuart
W. Davies D.O. Evans D. Jones J. Narborough C. Walton
County Cllr. K. Curry G. Williams

APOLOGIES: Cllrs. C. Davies & M. Lloyd.

The Chair congratulated Cllr. Jane Narborough on her appointment as a member of the Town Council and welcomed her to this, her first meeting.

The meeting had been convened as a result of letters received from PCC entitled “Future Provision of Public Toilets” which informed that the PCC Cabinet had approved the report on Local Environment Service Public Convenience Provision submitted by the Portfolio Holder Cllr. J. Powell.

It further informed that it was considered that the toilets in Rhayader & Cwmdauddwr fell into Category 3a whereby the Cabinet have agreed that further discussions regarding the level of grant offered to take over operation should be held.

Councillors were agreed that RTC would doubtlessly be able to provide the day to day running of the toilets much cheaper than PCC but remained very concerned that PCC continued to stipulate that organisations opting to operate the toilets would be liable for the full costs of repair, insurance, testing etc and the facilities would be subject to rates. It was considered that such an arrangement would necessitate a large increase in the Precept requirement with a corresponding demand on the ratepayers of Rhayader & Cwmdauddwr to finance toilet facilities for which the vast majority of users are not residents.

Cllr Curry expressed concern that Rhayader, along with all Town Councils in Powys, was not being given the full picture and it was highly conceivable that in the near future PCC will seek to devolve many other services and facilities to Town Councils or discontinue them. Such a scenario would put an unfair burden of cost on Town Councils which would not be shared by nearby Community Councils of areas which also benefit from those facilities.

In view of the location, the availability of the adjacent excellent parking facility and the obligation of the Trunk Road Agency to ensure that toilets are available along its routes, it was resolved to enquire what assistance they are prepared to offer to prevent the closure of the Dark Lane toilets. **Clerk to write.**

After much debate it was resolved to produce an estimate of costs to run all 3 toilet blocks in order to determine what would be an acceptable level of grant which could be used in future discussions. **Cllr. Stuart & the Clerk to produce an estimate.**

It was further resolved to seek a meeting, to be held when the above estimates are available, with the Portfolio Holder together with appropriate officer(s) for further discussions about keeping the service provision open in Rhayader & Cwmdauddwr. **Clerk to seek the meeting.**

The meeting closed at 8 p.m.

Certified as a true record

Date

Chairman Councillor L. Price