

RHAYADER TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 11TH JULY 2017 AT 7.00PM AT THE OLD SCHOOL CWMDAUDDWR

THOSE PRESENT

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

APOLOGIES Cllr. V. Jones Davies, Clerk C. Baker

1a. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Newly Co-opted Councillors: Cllr. A. Davies, Cllr. D. Davies and Cllr. R. Thomas were welcomed by the Chair.

Cllr. Walton thanked Deputy Chairman Cllr. W. Davies for attending the reception to receive Archie, the new RCDS mini-bus.

An invitation had been received from PCC for two Councillors to attend a reception at the Royal Welsh Showground during Show week.

Cllr Walton had been unable to attend the recent Queens Baton Relay meeting. Cllr. Curry gave a summary of the meeting. A follow up leaflet and letter will be sent from the QBR committee. Councillors were invited to attend the next meeting on 9th August 2017. On discussion Members resolved to request that PCC waive parking charges at the Dark Lane car park for the day.

Action: Clerk to request that PCC waive parking charges at Dark Lane Car park for the day on which the Queen's Baton Relay visits Rhayader.

1b. MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION UNDER URGENT BUSINESS

- Overgrown grass and hedges on the cycle track.
- Nomination forms for Citizen of the Year.
- Queen's Baton Relay.
- Cwmdauddwr bridge, ivy and railings.

2. MINUTES TO BE AGREED

The Minutes to be agreed were those for the meeting on 20th June 2017. They were agreed to be a true record.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Over grown hedges: Cllrs Walton and Williams had met with the owners of the overgrown hedges. The hedges have subsequently been cut.

Rhayader sorting Office: Councillors continue to receive concerns from members of the public about the later delivery of post and the times of collections from post boxes. The box collections are not being carried out in accordance with the times displayed on individual boxes.

Action: Clerk to write to Area Manager to express local concerns, to seek clarification of situation and to request that the anomalies be addressed as a matter of urgency.

Freedom Leisure Centre: Councillors were informed that Lucy Wills is to remain as instructor.

Certified as a true record

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3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES (CONT).

Keep clear sign in front of the Library gates:

Cllr Price reported that the 'Keep clear' sign in front of the Library and the railings in front of the Leisure Centre are to be reinstated.

4: REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORTS

Waun Capel Parc Trust: Cllr. Williams reported that the Trust had met in the newly refurbished pavilion. An active group of volunteers have tidied the garden area around the pavilion.

Town Council Assets: Cllr Dark had been able to visit most items on the list of RTC's assets. He had identified areas and items that were in need of cleaning, replacing or refurbishing. Both of the Pounds need to be tidied and the signs improved. Cllr Dark proposed that the pressure washer be hired for a few days again and he asked for help as required.

Rhayader School: Cllr. Walton reported that there will be a leaving party for Rev. Geraint Wathan and Year 6 school leavers.

Cllr. A. Davies reported that interviews had taken place for two Teacher's Assistant posts. There were many applicants, all extremely well qualified. Matters to be discussed at the next School Governor meeting would include car parking, pedestrianisation of some areas and the problem of cars speeding in Bryntirion Lane.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest

6 AGENDA ITEMS

6.1 Declaration of acceptance of office by co-opted Councillors

In the absence of the Clerk, Declaration of Acceptance of Office forms were duly completed in front of Cllr. Narborough (acting as Clerk for this meeting) by the co-opted Councillors who were present. Councillors were reminded that in signing the declaration they thereby also formally adopted the Code of Conduct under section 51 of the Local Government Act 2000.

It was resolved that Cllr. Angela Davies would represent Cwmdauddwr Ward.

6.2 Appointment to vacant offices.

The following appointments were resolved:

Cllr. D. Davies to become a Council Representative to the Smithfield Trust.

Cllr. V. Jones Davies to become a Council Representative to the Waun Capel Parc Trust.

Cllr. A. Davies and Cllr. D. Davies should become members of the Allotment Sub Committee.

Cllr. R. Thomas should become a member of the Public Toilets Sub Committee.

Action: Clerk to ensure that all organisations listed are aware of the identity of RTC's representatives.

It was resolved that the short, medium and long term plans for RTC would be discussed at a later meeting.

6.3 Grass cutting.

Cllrs. Walton and Williams had met with PCC's Adam Christie Rees: they were informed that all cuts are now delayed. Despite requests from RTC to PCC last year that the first cut be made as early in the year as possible to avoid extreme overgrowth this had not been done.

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6. AGENDA ITEMS (CONT)

The grass cutting is now two (2) cuts behind schedule. Due to the present height of the grass and because previously cut grass was not removed, all grassed areas look extremely untidy. Cllr. R. Thomas proposed that RTC should ascertain the component costs of grass cutting and the total expenditure on grass cutting by PCC within the Rhayader 30 mph boundary. This was seconded by Cllr. Stuart and agreed by all.

Action: Clerk to express RTC's concerns about the standard of grass cutting to PCC Portfolio holder, Cllr. Liam Fitzpatrick and also to make a request that RTC be informed of the total annual expenditure by PCC on grass cutting within the Rhayader 30 mph boundary.

6.4 Town Clock. The response from Nathan Davies (item 7.1 on the Agenda) and the proposed schedule of work was discussed. The principle of match funding was agreed. It was resolved that dialogue be maintained with Nathan Davies.

Action: Clerk to inform Mr. Davies of RTC's comments.

6.5 Storage container.

Cllr. Dark had received a quote of £1,750 +VAT for a 20 foot shipping container which had been used for one trip only (single use containers are in better condition than ones which have been used for multiple trips). It was resolved that two (2) further quotes be obtained.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

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

A response had been received from the Groe Trust to RTC's letter requesting access to RTC's mower. The Trust requested that the mower in question be valued by the original vendor with a view to the mower being purchased by the Trust from RTC. Councillors reiterated their request that the mower be returned to RTC in order to determine appropriate further action.

Action: Clerk to reiterate RTC's request to the Groe Trust that the mower be released as requested.

A letter from PCC School Service (item 7.2 on the Agenda) provided an update on the proposal to close the Welsh- Medium Stream at Brecon High School. It was resolved that this be noted.

A letter had been received from Powys Youth Service asking what impact had been made on the local community by the closure of the Youth Club. Councillors were aware that there had been a gradual downgrading and withdrawal of services over the ten years prior to the closure. Over time this had resulted in local volunteer youth groups having to assist in activities for young people. It was reiterated that these groups continue to struggle with insufficient funds and rely on local fundraising efforts and the goodwill of volunteers from the community. **Action:** Clerk to inform respond as above.

Monks Trod update: Councillors recalled that when Mr. Stafford-Tolley addressed them on 12th June 2016 he indicated that he would investigate the possibility of setting up a working group comprising Monks Trod users, which, he indicated, would assist with looking at various ways to improve the state of the Monks Trod with the aim to open the route to more users.

Members had made a number of suggestions, including a seasonal flag system for two wheeled users and the possible use of boardwalks. He had indicated to the Town Council that he would explore these and other options.

Councillors were extremely disappointed therefore that, despite their understanding that a number of actions were agreed at that meeting, to date, over a year later, they had received no feedback on progress regarding this matter nor, in fact any further communication whatsoever.

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7. CORRESPONDENCE (CONT)

It was resolved therefore to request an urgent and thorough update on the issues above and the current situation from Mr. Stafford-Tolley. **Action: Clerk to respond as above**

Urdd National Eisteddfod: Offering to visit and do a short presentation. Councillors noted that there was a very strong proactive local committee which was well supported. It was therefore considered that a presentation to the Council would add no benefit to the writer's cause. **Action: Clerk to respond as above.**

8. PLANNING

P/2017/0119 for Full: Upgrade of existing pitches to gravel hardstandings, replacement of site access road and stone car park and other associated works at Wyeside Caravan Park, Rhayader, Powys.

Councillors agreed that, despite this "upgrade", the original concerns raised by RTC still stand and had still not been addressed. Their original letters and comments therefore remain applicable. It was therefore resolved to recommend that the application be denied.

Action: Clerk to inform PCC of RTC's recommendation and to resend RTC's letter of 24th February 2017 as reference stating that comments therein remain applicable.

P/2017/0725 for Outline: Erection of 4 dwellings and associated parking, and all other associated works(all matters reserved) at Land Adjacent to Shalom, Bryn Gwy, Rhayader, Powys.

There were no objections to this application and Councillors recommended approval.

Action: Clerk to inform PCC of RTC decisions on each Application.

9. FINANCE

There were no outstanding invoices

10. URGENT BUSINESS

Overgrown grass and hedges on the cycle track from Cwmdauddwr to Dolafallen Bridge.

Cllr. W. Davies had received a complaint that both sides of the cycle track from Cwmdauddwr to Dolafallen were extremely overgrown making it difficult to walk or cycle. It was felt that this could be both a falls hazard and a safeguarding issue with diminished visibility. **Action: Clerk to write to PCC.**

Citizen of the Year:

It was resolved that completed Nomination Forms should be returned to the Clerk by 1st August 2017.

Queens Baton Relay: Councillors agreed that it would be appropriate for the Town Council to provide a souvenir of the day for children from Rhayader School. It was resolved that Cllr. Williams and Cllr. Thomas should obtain quotes for suitable pencils or pens to be delivered well before the event. Due to the timing of the event a special meeting will be required to discuss the purchases prior to the August meeting.

Action: Cllrs. Williams and Thomas to bring quotes to the special meeting.

Cwmdauddwr Bridge overgrowth of ivy and painting of railings by Bridge Cottages, Cwmdauddwr:

Cllr. Curry reported that PCC had visited the site but, because the householder was absent, officers were unable to proceed with the inspection. A request had been made to PCC two years previously that the railings above the cottages at the end of the Bridge should be maintained and repainted but nothing had been done to date .

Action: Clerk to write to PCC (copy Cllr Curry) requesting that the railings be attended to and the ivy removed.

Glass on Cwmdauddwr Bridge:

Cllr. Curry informed that over time shards of glass have been deposited on the westerly end of the bridge on the approach to Rhayader. He had asked PCC to investigate.

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11. PRESS RELEASE

- Citizen of the year
- Welcome to the newly co-opted Councillors.
- Weirglodd allotments:4 vacant plots. Rhayader allotments 1 plot
- Monks Trod
- Wyeside Caravan site.

12. BUSINESS FOR NEXT MEETING

- Citizen of the Year
- Assets/Town improvement
- Storage container
- Toilet sub-committee
- Grass cutting

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next monthly meeting will be held at 7.00 p.m. on Tuesday 22nd August 2017.

The meeting closed at 10.05p.m.

Certified as a true record

Chairman Councillor C. Walton

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Date