

RHAYADER TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 12TH JANUARY 2016 AT 7.30PM AT THE OLD SCHOOL CWMDAUDDWR

THOSE PRESENT

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

1. **APOLOGIES:** Cllrs. P. Dark, M. Lloyd & W. Davies.

2. AGENDA ITEMS

As the outcome of item 2.2 would affect discussion of item 2.1 it was agreed to discuss item 2.2 first.

2.1 Precept Rhayader Town Council 2016/2017

After discussion of the Council's commitments and anticipated costs, it was resolved that the Precept value should be set at £33,500. Councillors were pleased to note that this was a reduction from the present level of Precept.

The resultant breakdown was:

General Admin	£210	Groe	£1,000
Rent	£600	Xmas Lights	£1,000
Clerk's Salary	£10,000	Cwmdauddwr Community Centre	£500
Mayor's Allowance	£1,175	Community Hall at Leisure Centre	£500
Insurance	£1,830	One Voice Wales	£250
Auditor	£400	EV Social Club Bonfire & Fireworks	£300
Carnival	£1,000	Carad upkeep of Museum	£1,000
Churchyard Upkeep	£400	Toilets	£3,500
Project Group	£5,000	Unallocated Funds	£4,835
		TOTAL	£33,500

Clerk to inform PCC of RTC's requirement for the Precept for 2016/2017.

2.2 Clerk's salary.

The Clerk left the meeting for the duration of this item. It was agreed that over time & particularly of late, the role of the Clerk had greatly widened and additional duties had resulted in a considerable increase in the working hours required. It was resolved to raise the Clerk's salary to £10,000 per annum.

3. PLANNING

3.1 P 2015 1039: For proposed extension to existing play area and associated fencing and erection of new storage shed at Elan Valley Visitor Centre, Elan Valley, Rhayader, Powys. There were no objections to this application & Councillors recommended approval. Clerk to inform PCC of the Council's comment.

4. FINANCE

4.1 £1830.88 – Zurich Municipal – insurance renewal. Agreed. Clerk to make payment.

Certified as a true record **Date**

Chairman Councillor D. Jones

12th January 2016

5. URGENT BUSINESS

Monks Trod closure extension.

PCC had asked if RTC had any objections to extending the current Monks Trod, Elan Valley - Temporary Prohibition of Driving Order by application to the Welsh Government for a further 6 months beyond 14th February 2016.

Councillors agreed that the Monk's Trod should be preserved and felt that the County Council should make better efforts to improve the upkeep of the track.

They fully agreed that it should remain closed to four wheeled vehicles for the foreseeable future.

However they believed that the route is capable of sustaining two wheeled transport during the summer months and should be opened to 2 wheeled transport annually between the 1st April and 30th September.

Clerk to inform PCC of RTC's comments.

Meeting at HSBC 11am 13th January 2016.

Councillors were reminded of the meeting with HSBC management which had been arranged for the following day.

It was agreed that RTC's position was that if HSBC refused to reverse its decision to close the Rhayader branch, every effort should be made by the Bank to maintain a 24 hour accessible ATM in the town, preferably in the present position.

Councillors are well aware that for some, "alternative ways of banking" are available but for some, those methods are not e.g. people disadvantaged by age and/or disability, no access to a computer or the internet nor possessing the skills or ability required to bank on line. Others who may be capable and able may not feel internet or telephone banking is desirable or practical.

Councillors welcomed the news that the Post Office will offer enhanced services for HSBC customers but were concerned that those may not completely cover the "in bank facilities" which are available to customers, particularly in the business sector. It was agreed that further information be sought about the full range of services which will be available.

British Empire Medallists

Councillors were extremely pleased to have learnt that Alan Lewis & Roger Bright had been awarded British Empire Medals in the new Year honours. It was agreed that both were fully deserving of the honour.

Clerk to convey the Town Council's congratulations to Mr Lewis & Mr. Bright.

The meeting closed at 9.45 p.m.

Certified as a true record

Chairman Councillor D. Jones

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Date