

# RHAYADER TOWN COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2014 AT 7.00PM AT THE OLD SCHOOL CWMDAUDDWR

### THOSE PRESENT

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

1. **APOLOGIES:** Cllr. C. Davies & Cllr. C. Evans.

### 1a. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cllr. L. Price gave a resumé of the functions at which she had represented the Council in the last month.

### 1b. MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION UNDER URGENT BUSINESS

Cllr. J. Jones: Pont ar Elan Bridge.

Cllr. C. Walton: Culverts in Rhayader

### 2. MINUTES TO BE AGREED

The minutes to be agreed were those for the meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2014. They were agreed to be a true record.

### 3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Page :1 **5.2 PCC: Road marking correspondence.** Cllr. Price reported that PCC will not be changing the road markings by the Bear.

Page 1: **Planning:** Cllr. Lloyd reported that Ellie Jones will install the bench by Bryngwy bus stop as soon as weather conditions are more appropriate.

Page 1: **4.1 Business Survey** The completed surveys had been returned to R2K for processing. It was noted that there was a marked reluctance shown by some members of the business community to take part.

Page 2: **3a: REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORTS** Cllr. Curry reported that the recent survey on crossing St Harmon Road indicated that some traffic was considered to be travelling too fast. In January PCC officers will make recommendations regarding signage & traffic Calming measures.

Page 2: **4.2 Sports development** Cllr. Walton reported that the November meeting had been well attended and at the next meeting, arranged for 27<sup>th</sup> January 2015, a committee will be set up.

Page 4: **8. URGENT BUSINESS** Cllr. D. Jones reported on investigation it had been decided that the bin lorry need not go there in future.

### 3a: REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORTS

Cllr. J. Jones advised that Dolymynach House will be official opened on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2015.

### 3b. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllrs. C. Walton & D. Evans declared an interest in items 5.7 & 6.1 and left the room when appropriate.

Certified as a true record .....

Date .....

Chairman Councillor L. Price

18<sup>th</sup> December 2014

#### **4. AGENDA ITEMS**

##### **4.1 Toilets.**

After initial message, no further response had yet been had from Edwina Hart about whether WG/TRA is willing to take any responsibility for Dark Lane Toilets. **Clerk to pursue.**

Councillors were fully aware that PCC expect a serious expression of commitment by local councils to be made in January with regard to transfer of public toilet provision to prevent closure. It was also realised that as well as the anticipated financial impact involved, there remained many practical issues to resolve for RTC to be able to manage them efficiently and within budget. It was resolved to delay any submission until January, when a more accurate assessment may be possible.

Cllr. Lloyd reported that although he had relayed the slabs by the Cemetery toilets, they still remained locked and inaccessible. **Clerk to contact PCC.**

##### **4.2 Signage issues.**

Cllr. Dark reported on the proposals for additional signage compiled by R2K. They suggest that information provided for visitors needs to be rationalised and increased to cover all facilities attractions etc. Better signage was needed to assist HGV divers passing through the town to do so safely and with the least amount of disruption. A message from R2K (Item 5) gave further information.

Cllr. Curry was arranging a meeting with appropriate PCC officers, R2K & RTC's representative

##### **4.3 Sound equipment.**

Cllr. Dark had obtained a quotation for sound equipment which would be suitable for use at functions arranged by RTC. After discussion it was resolved that, given the present level of commitment to such functions, it would be better to hire equipment when required rather than purchase it outright.

##### **4.4 Bus Times & Bus Stops.**

Cllr. Narborough highlighted various anomalies and problems which have arisen as the result of the drastic reduction of bus services in Rhayader. Buses no longer run on many routes but the bus stops remain, time tables are still displayed & people can still be seen patiently waiting for buses which never arrive. There are incidents of the kerbs being raised at some stops despite the service having already been withdrawn. She suggested that if the stops are to remain without imminent restoration of the service, the timetables should be replaced by notices advising that a bus service is no longer available at these stops. Other advisory notices should be posted locally, in the press and on the internet. **Clerk to advise PCC.**

##### **4.5 Grant Application.**

A application had been received (Agenda item 5.12) from Rhayader Primary School for funding of £450 build a greenhouse from recycled plastic bottles. The project will have ongoing advantages for present and future pupils even after the construction is complete. It was resolved to make the requested grant of £450 from the Bryntitli fund since the application met the aims of the fund on so many levels. It was also resolved that a condition be attached to the grant requiring that, on completion of the project, an appropriate press release should be issued which highlighted that funding had been provided by RTC and the providers of the Bryntitli Fund. **Clerk to arrange payment.**

#### **5. CORRESPONDENCE**

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

**Certified as a true record** .....

**Date** .....

**Chairman Councillor L. Price**

18<sup>th</sup> December 2014

## 5. CORRESPONDENCE (CONT)

**5.4 PCC:** Rhayader Town Council precept requirement 2015/16. To be discussed at first meeting in January.

**5.5 PCC:** Community Delivery. Councillors were concerned that the majority of services identified by PCC as suitable for devolvement to Community Councils were those which they presently supplied to Rhayader. It was agreed that PCC were putting a totally inappropriate amount of “spin” on the benefits to the local community of service devolution without explaining the resultant level of extra costs which would devolve locally as a consequence.

It was also remarked that such a change would mean that people residing in neighbouring village communities could avail themselves of the benefits without contributing to the increased costs.

Knighton Town Council had invited expressions of interest from local Councils to arrange to meet with the leader of PCC. It was resolved request that RTC be included. **Clerk to contact Knighton TC.**

It was resolved to issue a press release voicing RTC’s concerns with PCC’s “vision” for Community Delivery & to write a strongly worded response to PCC. **Clerk to issue Press release & write to PCC.**

Councillors had kindly been given sight of a letter from Builth Wells TC which was directed at all their ratepayers informing them of the potential scale of the proposed devolution of services and in particular the potential cost to ratepayers in the event of BWTC assuming responsibility for the toilets. It also asked for feedback & comment on all aspects of acceptance or rejection of service devolution.

It was consider that such a letter should be devised for Rhayader. **Clerk to prepare.**

**5.6 PCC:** Devolving outdoor facilities to the community – 3 Rhayader play areas. It was resolved that RTC is not interested in taking on the management & control of the play areas. **Clerk to inform PCC.**

**5.9 Jeremy Patterson PCC:** Strong communities in the green heart of Wales. This item was taken into consideration whilst discussing item 5.5 above.

**5.11 Stroke Association:** Appeal for funding. Resolved to donate £100 from the Recycling Fund. **Clerk to arrange payment.**

## 6. PLANNING

**6.1 P 2014 1139 Full:** change of use & conversion of redundant agricultural building to residential use & associated works at Elan Oak Barn, Elan Valley, Rhayader Powys.

The owners of Llanfadog Uchaf had provided RTC with sight of a copy of their letter to PCC objecting to this application (Agenda item 5.7)

The Clerk was aware of the footpath and reported that he had contacted the Rights of Way Officers to express concern that no reference to it had been made in the application even though “ecological items” had been addressed. He was assure that preservation of the ROW would be covered within the planning process. After consideration of both items it was resolved to recommend approval of the application provided that the public footpath was protected and that all ecological issue in the survey be fully addressed.

**6.2 P 2014 1152 Full:** Installation of a wind turbine (48.01m to blade tip & 30.52 to hub height) including hard standing & installation of equipment cabinet (grid ref 287065 281620) at Land at Ty Mawr, Pantmawr, Llanidloes, Powys. Noted.

### APPLICATIONS RECEIVED SINCE THE AGENDA WAS ISSUED:

**TREE 2014 0043 TREE:** three ash trees to be removed & replaced with shrub species within Conservation Area at Elan Valley lodge Car Park, Elan Village, Rhayader.

Cllr D. Evans declared an interest and left the room. There were no objections to the application.

Certified as a true record .....

Date .....

Chairman Councillor L. Price

18<sup>th</sup> December 2014

## 6. PLANNING (CONT)

**P 2014 1188** Full: Change of use of 2 four bed houses and 1 self contained annex to 1 four bed house (to be kept as previous with new window and french door) and 2 two bedroom self contained flats and 1 bed self contained annex with the addition of 3 new roof lights. Creation of new access to parking bays at Afonwy House, Bridge Street, Rhayader, Powys.

Cllr. Price declared an interest and left the room. Councillors were agreed that the proposal would greatly enhance the site which had bordered on dereliction for years. It was resolved to recommend approval and state that it was considered an excellent development which would greatly enhance the area.

## CONSULTATION

**P 2014 1102** Full: Construct & operate 6 wind turbines with a maximum tip height of 100m & maximum hub height of 59 m together with ancillary development comprising substation, control building new & upgraded access points & tracks, new alternative recreation track, hardstanding & temporary compound & associated works at Blaen y Glyn, Llangurig, Llanidloes, Powys. Noted

Clerk to advise PCC of RTC's comments on all the above applications.

## 7. FINANCE

7.1 £11.94 - OS (W) – Box of Paper

7.2 £1,383.51- Zurich Municipal – Insurance premium.

£71.05 - Midway Plants – Pants & Compost, July & September.

Clerk to arrange payments.

## 8. URGENT BUSINESS

Cllr. Jones made the observation that because two pavements had been incorporated across the new Pont-ar-Elan Bridge, the carriageway appears surprisingly narrow.

Cllr. Walton reported that in recent storms, culverts in several roads had been overwhelmed. Clerk to ask Bryan Davies of PCC to ensure that all street culverts remain unblocked.

## 9. PRESS RELEASE

- RTC's concerns about PCC service delivery devolution plans.
- Christmas greetings from RTC
- Sports association meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2015

## 10. BUSINESS FOR NEXT MEETING

1. Rhayader Town Council Precept requirement for 2015/16.
2. Street lighting in Church Street.
3. Parking in Church Street.

## 11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held at 7.00 p.m. on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2015.

The next monthly meeting will be held at 7.00 p.m. on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2015

The meeting closed at 8.30 p.m.

Certified as a true record .....

Chairman Councillor L. Price

Date .....