

RHAYADER TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 16TH FEBRUARY 2016 AT 7.30PM AT THE OLD SCHOOL CWMDAUDDWR

THOSE PRESENT

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

1. APOLOGIES: Cllr. J. Narborough

1a. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman had no announcements to make.

1b. MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION UNDER URGENT BUSINESS

Replacement of broken bin.

2. MINUTES TO BE AGREED

Minutes to be agreed were those for the meetings held on 12th January 2016 & 19th January 2016. They were agreed to be a true record.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

12th January: Cllr. Walton was disappointed that PCC had not replied to RTC's letter & had pushed ahead with securing an extension whilst apparently ignoring it. The issue was discussed further under "Correspondence received after the agenda was issued" (see item 5. Below)

3a: REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORTS

Cllr. Williams informed that she had attended the recent meeting of the Health Focus Group. She reported that big improvements are planned at Llandrindod Wells Hospital. Rhayader Surgery has launched a new website: rhayadersurgery.org.uk, prescriptions can be ordered on line, an "e-consultation" has been initiated whereby minor problems can be reported by e mail and a doctor will give advice. Jane Jones is the practice manager and a lady doctor has joined the practice who works 2days a week. Emergency defibrillators will be installed on the walls of the Old School & the Air Ambulance shop.

Cllr. Walton reported that he had met with PCC at the Clock to discuss the rotten timber & the absence of power which had resulted in the Clock not being illuminated. PCC undertook to effect repairs.

Cllr. Curry reported that from the 1st April the Caravan & Camping Club will start a 50 year lease at Rhayader's Wyeside Caravan & Camping Site.

Councillors still wished to pursue the issue of guaranteed access through the site to the strip of land by Upper Ffynnon Fair but it was resolved to wait until after the transfer of the Campsite was completed before contacting the Caravan & Camping Club.

3b. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AGENDA ITEMS

Cllr. Walton declared an interest in item 5.5 & left the room as appropriate.

Certified as a true record

Date

Chairman Councillor D. Jones

16th February 2016

4. AGENDA ITEMS

4.1. Starting times for meetings.

Cllr. C. Davies proposed that starting time monthly meeting should revert to 7.00 p.m. but retain the same starting time & programme for Sub-committee meetings. It was resolved to adopt this suggestion. It was further agreed that in the TOR's for Sub-committees the frequency of meetings should be amended to: ... "ideally meet four times per year (*if applicable*)".

It was agreed that the Project/Town Improvement Group should become a Sub-committee.

Clerk to prepare TOR.

4.2 Standing Orders

The Clerk had prepared an updated draft of the Council's Standing Orders. It was resolved that with minor alterations, the document should be adopted. **Clerk to amend the document as instructed.**

4.3 Financial Regulations

The Clerk had prepared a draft Financial Regulations document. It was resolved that with minor alterations the document should be adopted. **Clerk to amend the document as instructed.**

4.4 OVW membership

It was resolved to renew RTC's membership of One Voice Wales for the coming year. **Clerk to process.**

4.5 Land at Dolgerddon.

Cllr. Curry had received information that PCC wished to sell a piece of land attached to Dolgerddon which they had classified surplus to requirements. Councillors were concerned that this was yet another example that PCC were trying to sell off all the historic assets of the Town which did not provide them with an income without having prior consultation with the Town Council & the local community. Two letters of protest had been received from nearby residents, one of which offered a feasible scenario which would enable the area to remain as it is if RTC were able to secure the land by way of a Community Asset Transfer. It was resolved to seek an urgent meeting on site with David Micah of PCC to discuss this issue and PCC's process for disposal of assets which are surplus to requirement. **Clerk to request a site meeting as above.** It was resolved seek tree preservation orders on the trees within the land. **Clerk to pursue.**

4.6 Leisure Centre Wye Lounge.

Councillors were concerned at proposals by Freedom Leisure to change the Wye Lounge from an area which can be hired for community use, into a fitness suite. Whilst being sympathetic to the Company's aim to develop the Leisure Centre to a higher standard and its need to maintain viability, Councillors did not believe that this should be achieved at the cost of the traditional local community's facilities. They believed that if feasible, the fitness suite should be located on the balcony & the Wye Lounge retained. They were aware that it has been suggested that, in its present form, the balcony would need to be strengthened. They believed that a professional assessment should be made to determine if the balcony would need to be reinforced to support the fitness suite, if so how that could be achieved and at what cost. In principal Councillors were willing to contribute towards the cost of such an assessment. It was resolved to write to Gwyn Owen at Freedom Leisure to express RTC's concerns about the proposed closure of the Wye Lounge and their comments about locating the gym on the balcony, requesting a response within seven days. **Clerk to write as above.**

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Chairman Councillor D. Jones

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4 AGENDA ITEMS (CONT)

4.7 Change in planning consultation by PCC.

PCC have ceased to supply paper versions of Planning Applications & now only notify RTC of new applications via e-mail. To view details of an application the PCC website must be accessed. The Clerk proposed that he would forward the notification e-mail to Councillors but also produce and/purchase prints of a suitable size for circulation to Councillors. It was agreed to trial the proposal.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

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

5.3 R2K: Town Guide. R2K requested that RTC become fund holders for this project. Councillors were not opposed in principal to the request but resolved seek advice from the internal auditor on whether it would be appropriate to agree to the change & respond in line with his advice. **Clerk to consult with the auditor & respond to R2K in line with his advice.**

5.4 . Bracken Trust: Protest to PCC

Councillors were very supportive of the Trust on this issue. They were appalled that apparently PCC did not carry out an impact assessment to ascertain the effect the increased cost of such closures would have on local charitable organisations before they were implemented. It was resolved to write to Cllr John Brunt, Portfolio Holder for Highways to express RTC's alarm & to seek an explanation why no such assessment is carried out as a matter of routine prior to making changes. **Clerk to write.**

Correspondence received after the agenda was issued.

As the current licences to operate the toilets are due to expire on 31st March, PCC had asked if RTC wished to continue operate on licence or change to longer term leases. It was resolved to continue operate on leases. **Clerk to inform PCC**

Councillors welcomed a message received via Cllr. Curry & Kirsty Williams AM from Cardtronics.UK which informed that they had plans to install a further ATM at the Spar. They anticipated that this would be 24 hour accessible although the message did not state this categorically. It was resolved to inform Cardtronics.UK that RTC welcome the company's intention to install the new machine but to reiterate that the Town needs it to be 24 hour accessible. **Clerk to inform Cardtronics.UK**

Monks Trod closure extension: PCC had sent notification that they had applied to extended the period of closure of the Monks Trod until 14th August 2016. Although PCC had acknowledge receipt of RTC's letter of 13th January, no further response had been received and extension of the closure indicated that PCC had not addressed its content. It was resolved to express RTC's disappointment that no response to the suggestion had been received from PCC and to invite Mr. Stafford-Tolley to the June or July meeting to discuss the matter. **Clerk to write**

Rhayader Players wrote to inform that they were urgently trying to find storage for costumes & ask if Councillors were aware of any available storage. Nothing suitable was known to Councillors but it was agreed that they would keep the requirement in mind.

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6. PLANNING

DEED 2016 0001 for Deed of Variation request to Section 106 Agreement attached to planning permission P/2009/0321 (affordable housing provision) at Old Builders Supplies Depot Cae Glas Rhayader Powys.

Whilst noting there undoubtedly is a shortage of affordable properties available in the area, Councillors did not feel they were suitably qualified to comment on this application.

P 2016 0175 for Erection of timber carport, completely retrospective at 19 Penmaes, Rhayader Powys.

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

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

7. FINANCE

7.1 £312 ONE Voice Wales membership renewal. Agreed.

£257.40 - One Stop Promotions Ltd – replacement flags. Agreed.

The Clerk sought authorisation to make the Churchyard payments of 8 x £50. Agreed.

Clerk to process payments as above.

8. URGENT BUSINESS

Councillors were saddened at the recent death of Donald Jones who will be greatly missed. It was resolved to send condolences to his sister Mrs. Pat Rowlands. **Clerk to write.**

A quote of £1500 for a “like for like” replacement for the broken cast iron bin was greatly in excess of the figure offered by the Council’s insurers. It was resolved make an insurance claim for the broken bin and to put the money towards the purchase a substitute bin BX 2306 from Broxap at a cost of £649 plus delivery & VAT, any outstanding amount to be drawn from RTC’s current account. **Clerk to arrange the purchase.**

It was reported that Steve Geally had informed that work on the Pavilion in the Parc would start after work had finished at Knighton

9. PRESS RELEASE

Closure of the Wye Lounge

10. BUSINESS FOR NEXT MEETING

No new business was proposed,.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next monthly meeting will be held at 7.00 p.m. on Tuesday 22nd March 2016.

The meeting closed at 10.45 p.m.

Certified as a true record

Chairman Councillor D. Jones

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Date