

RHAYADER TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 17TH JUNE 2014 AT 7.00PM AT THE OLD SCHOOL CWMDAUDDWR

THOSE PRESENT

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

Prior to the meeting commencing Cllr. Price paid tribute to the late Cllr. Ed Narborough, who had diligently served on the Town Council for some 17 years. Ed had was a Councillor who was totally dedicated to the role but was always the voice of reason. He is sadly missed. All stood to hold a minute of silence to respect his memory.

1. APOLOGIES: Cllr. K. Curry.

1a. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cllr. L. Price had represented RTC at the start of Welsh National Tractor Road Run, which attracted some 240 entrants & 60 trailers. She asked Cllr. Stuart to congratulate the Vintage show for staging the event. She had also opened the Pont-ar-Elan Dog Show and presented the prizes. It was exceedingly well attended.

2. MINUTES TO BE AGREED The minutes to be agreed were those for the meeting held on 20th May 2014, the site meeting held at North Street Roundabout on 22nd May & the meeting between the Allotment Sub-committee & ploholders of the Rhayader Allotments. With the exception of a couple of typos they were agreed to be a true records.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

North Street Roundabout: PCC had agreed to do 10 mows and plant the beds with perennials this year. Ian Harris of PCC had also contributed some extra plants.

Cllr. Dark had received an offer from Mr. Steve Higginbotham of Greenfingers Landscaping to plant & maintain the 3 beds on the A470 side of the roundabout with 2 or 3 plantings a year for 2015. Councillors were very pleased to hear of the offer and it was suggested that discrete signage on the beds informing of the input from Greenfingers would seem appropriate. This opened discussion about the 2 unofficial signs that were placed on the roundabout. Cllrs. Humphreys & Dark declared an interest and left the room. It was agreed that the signs concerned greatly detracted from the look of the roundabout. They did not look professional and even after mowing they are still surrounded by tall grass. Cllr. Lloyd informed that the sign for the garage had now been removed, but the Eagles sign never is. It was agreed that no unauthorised signs should be put on the roundabout, especially if RTC was to assume responsibility for its upkeep. It was resolved to write to the Eagles & the Garage informing them of RTC's change in responsibility and request that they permanently remove their sign from the body of the roundabout because to the future only discreet signs indicating sponsorship would be acceptable. **Clerk to write.**

Cllrs. Humphreys & Dark returned to the room. It was agreed to gratefully accept the offer from Greenfields in principal, but in order to be able to move forward with that scenario RTC would need to have a detailed offer in writing. **Cllr. Dark to thank Greenfields & request that a written offer be provided.**

A letter (item 5.7) had been received from Rhayader WI, seeking to adopt a bed on the roundabout and to display their plaque on it. Whilst agreeing in principal to the request Councillors considered that the raised bed by the car park might be a mutually more suitable location for the WI to adopt.

Cllr. Williams to make the suggestion to the WI.

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3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES (CONT).

Cllr. Connelly informed that the cost of producing the Newsletter was £125 per edition. It was resolved that RTC should make a grant of £375. Advert revenue is normally around £60 per edition. It was resolved to make £375 from the Recycling fund available for the next 6 issues. To enable the next edition to go on time, the money should be available before 25th July. **Clerk to make the payment.**

5.1 Caroline John RYMCA: Dolgerddon thermal efficiency: 2 subsequent e-mails had been received, the first (item 5.2) informed that Cllr. Curry had undertaken to raise the matter with PCC & the second (item 5.4) informed that Wales YMCA is planning to cease running all its projects, including management of the Rhayader Youth Club and community resource at Dolgerddon. Cllr C. Evans understood that the YMCA has a 99 year lease with no get-out clause for the client. She had understood that Ms John had informed PCC that RTC was not in a position to assume the role.

Cllr. Price & fellow Councillors attended the launch of the of a poster designed & produced by members of Rhayader Youth Club warning of the dangers of excessive consumption of high energy drinks. Councillors were impressed with the professionalism and quality of the leaflet and the skills demonstrated by the young people in its production. However they were extremely disappointed that despite the organisers informing the press and other media, no organisation was interested enough in the problem to send a representative. The Youth Club volunteered to repaint the Bus Shelter in Dark Lane car park if RTC would pay for the materials. It was resolved to do so.

Cllrs. Walton & W. Davies reported that attendance at the second Junior Dance had shown an improvement. It was resolved that they continue with the project.

Cllr. Dark informed that Rugby Club had agreed to let the Running Club site a container on their premises.

3a: REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORTS

Cllr. Walton said that the School has reservations about the funding available for special needs pupils. He also reported that the toilet situation remained on-going.

Cllr. C. Evans reported on the meeting Orphans about the new web-site to which she & the Clerk had been invited. She was able to show a pictorial mock up of the homepage and reported that in response to criticism by RTC reps the Strap Line will be changed from the proposed ubiquitous term "Rhayader Heart of Wales" to "Rhayader Lakeland of Wales". Developing the community area of the site will be the responsibility of those groups/organisations involved who will need to develop & manage the webpage which they will each be allocated. The Clerk voiced concerns that RTC had passed on the £500 WG website grant to R2K, prior to them receiving the tourism grant from PCC, for just this purpose, but seemingly now to no avail. Cllr. Walton suggested that if RTC will be responsible for the own web page it may be prudent to investigate coverage on the liability insurance.

Cllr. Connelly reported that in order to improve the TIC it is proposed to hire a separate room in the Arches to house it. The cost for the period to 6th September would be £360. R2K & the Elan Valley Centre will each contribute £120. It was resolved that RTC will also pay £120. The situation will be reviewed in August. **It was agreed that Cllr. Connelly should source suitable signage. Clerk to make payment.**

3b. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

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4. AGENDA ITEMS

4.1 Waun Capel Parc.

Cllr. Lloyd had arranged a meeting between the Parc Trust & Steve Geally on site. Councillors fully agreed with him when he suggested that the Parc Trust must change & be more proactive in future to ensure that the Parc is to be restored to the attraction which it used to be. To date work on the Multi-court had not started. Cllr. J. Jones commented that the virtual bog renders a large area unusable and would continue to do so until proper drainage is installed. Councillors heard that considerable comment had been made by residents & on social media about the poor condition of the Parc as a whole. It was resolved to keep the item on future agendas.

4.2 Town improvements.

The new seats from CIS had not yet been received. **Clerk to contact the supplier.**

Cllr. Connelly reported that Ian McPhee painted 6 seats near the Leisure Centre. Cllr. Walton declared an interest & left the room. It was agreed to pay the invoice of £616.25 & seek a fixed quote for 4 more seats.

Cllr. Connelly to seek quotes.

Cllr. Connelly commented that the railings by the Leisure Centre needed to be painted. Whilst it was agreed that the railings were in a very poor state, Councillors were aware that they were the responsibility of PCC& it was resolve that they be asked to take remedial action. **Clerk to contact the Trunk Road Agency.**

Cllr. D. Jones assured Councillors that tree work at Dark Lane car park is in hand.

Cllr. Connelly explained the procedure for completing the Vibrant Towns Health Check. It was agreed that to approach the County Times to feature it in an editorial. **Cllr. Connelly to produce a plan of work for Councillors to follow & circulate it.**

4.3 WW1.

Arrangements for the Commemoration Service are on-going.

4.4 Year Ending Accounts & ancillary documentation.

The Internal Auditor had approved the accounts. Councillors resolved to accept the accounts and submit the appropriate documents to the External Auditor. The Chairman & the Clerk signed the Return to confirm the above acceptance. The Chairman signed the Summary of Income & Expenditure.

Clerk to send the documents for External Audit.

4.5 Citizen of the Year. It was agreed to advertise the event. **Clerk to purchase trophy.**

4.6 Best Kept Garden. It was agreed to ask the owner of Greenfingers Landscaping to judge the competition.

Cllr. Dark to contact Greenfingers Landscaping, Clerk to purchase trophy.

4.7 Public Health White Paper.

A letter (item 5.5) was discussed. It was resolved to take no further action at this point.

4.8 Nursery Advisory Group representative.

The Group wished to have a representative from RTC. It was resolved that Cllr. W. Davies be appointed.

Clerk to inform RDCS.

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4. AGENDA ITEMS (CONT)

4.9 Website Project Holder.

R2K had requested that RTC assume the role of Website Project Holder whilst the website is being redesigned by Orphans. It was resolved that subject to approval from PCC, in principal RTC was prepared to assume the role. **Cllr. Connelly to check with PCC & Clerk to seek the opinion of RTC's auditor.**

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.

5.1 Rhayader Players: Cost of hiring Leisure Centre. Cllrs Price & Dark declare an interest & left the room. Having followed RTC's advice the Players contacted the Leisure Centre who agreed to reduce the room hire cost to £226. It was resolved to make a grants of £226. **Clerk to make the payment.**

Correspondence received after the agenda was issued.

Kirsty Williams AM: seeking a meeting with RTC to discuss current views on a Rhayader By-Pass. It was felt that this meeting should be held as a special meeting in its own right. **Clerk to enquire what would the overall purpose of the meeting & which dates would be suitable to Ms. Williams.**

PCC: Leisure Services Update. Councillors were disappointed that despite undertakings being previously given to involve the Leisure Centre Consultative Committee, in all decisions about the Centre it had not been consulted in this latest development. **Clerk to write to Cllr. Graham Brown.**

Roger Williams MP Speed limits review: concern that no public consultation has taken place. **Clerk to respond.**

Police & Crime Commissioner: Survey. It was suggested that all councillors who were able, should complete the survey on line. **Clerk to write to acknowledge receipt.**

Mr. A. Finch: Complaint against Councillor. This e-mail message had been received on the afternoon of the meeting. Cllrs. D. Jones & J. Stuart left the room whilst the message was discussed. It was resolved that as the message referred to an incident reportedly occurring in the course of the Councillor's employment, it was a matter for his employers to determine, not RTC.

Clerk to inform Mr. Finch of RTC's comment.

6. PLANNING

6.1 P 2014 0461 for Full & **P 2014 0462** for LDC: Erection of a replacement roof to cover waste area enclosed by 3 buildings & boundary wall at Cwmdauddwr Arms, West Street, Rhayader Powys
There were no objections to this application.

6.2 P 2014 0412 for householder & **P 2014 0414** for LBC: Demolition of modern extension, construction of an enclosure to the cellar, reconstruction of chimney, replacement of windows, rebuilding of brick wall & installation of new doors & windows at Greenfields, South Street Rhayader, Powys.
There were no objections to this application.

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6. PLANNING (CONT)

6.3 P 2014 0504 for Householder: Installation of 16 no. 250W roof mounted solar panels at Hidden House, Church Street, Rhayader, Powys.

Cllr. C. Evans declared an interest & left the room.

There were no objections to this application.

P2014 0518 For Erection of decking to rear (retrospective) at 2 Penmaes, Rhayader, Powys.

There were no objections to this application.

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

7. FINANCE

7.1 £11.46 – Office Solutions (Wales) –office supplies. Agreed

£64.75 – RBS – paint & sand paper. Agreed

8. URGENT BUSINESS

It was thought that the timing of the crossing in North Street has been rectified.

The Town Improvement Group requested that its membership be increased.

It was resolved that Cllrs. Walton, Dark & D. Jones should become members.

9. PRESS RELEASE

- Newsletter
- Recycling
- TIC
- Youth Club leaflet

10. BUSINESS FOR NEXT MEETING

1. Waun Capel Parc
2. Town Improvements
3. WW1

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next monthly meeting will be held at 7.00 p.m. on Tuesday 29th July 2014.

The Town Improvement Group will meet at 6.15pm on the same evening.

The meeting closed at 9.50 p.m.

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