

RHAYADER TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 18TH APRIL 2017 AT 7.00PM AT THE OLD SCHOOL CWMDAUDDWR

THOSE PRESENT

Chairman Councillor C. Evans
Councillors P. Dark D.O. Evans J. Humphreys J. Narborough C. Walton
C.R. Davies J. Jones G. Williams
Observer: County Cllr. K. Curry

1. **APOLOGIES:** Cllrs. D. Jones, L. Price, J. Stuart, W. Davies & M. Lloyd.

1a. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

On behalf of the Town Council, Cllr. C. Evans expressed thanks to retiring members Cllr. J. Humphreys, Cllr. C. Davies, Cllr. D. Jones and Cllr. M. Lloyd for all the many years service they had given to the Council and all the sterling work which they had done over those years. They and their invaluable knowledge of the Council and the Town would be sorely missed. Her sentiments were endorsed by all present.

Cllr. C. Evans reported that she on behalf of Rhayader Town Council and Cllr. Curry and Cllr David Evans along with representatives of motorsport organisations in Powys took part in a discussion with PCC about various procedural and costs issues relating to the staging of motorsport events which crossed the rights of way network. PCC were going to draft up how the new processes and charges under a new regime would compare with the past.

Cllr Evans had attended the blessing of the new fire engine at Rhayader Fire Station and had also opened the Rhayader and District Community Support Spring Celebrations at The Arches in West Street.

1b. MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION UNDER URGENT

- Vacant seats on the Town Council.
- Visit by the Lord Mayor of Birmingham.

2. MINUTES TO BE AGREED

Minutes to be agreed were those for the meeting on 21st March 2017. They were agreed to be a true record.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

6.2 Town Improvements (21st Feb. 2017): All present thanked Cllr. Dark for the excellent work he had done over several days pressure washing several areas of the Town. He had also arranged for the trees by the Leisure Centre to be professionally trimmed back by Andrew Mills at no cost to the Town Council. Cllr. Dark suggested that locations still remained which would similarly benefit from the process and suggested that he should hire the machine again in a few weeks. Councillors were pleased to accept his offer.

Councillors thanked Cllr. Walton for fitting the new glass into the triangular notice board. He commented that although they could now be seen, the information boards within it were no longer fully up to date.

Certified as a true record
Chairman Councillor C. Evans

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3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES (CONT).

6.5 Town Clock Memorial: The Clerk reported that he had met with Lottie and Tim O’Leary the previous Wednesday to get their opinion on what renovation / protective work would be best to preserve the carvings, the name panels and other softer stone features. They undertook to provide details of their recommended approach and their quotation for the associated cost. The Clerk had arranged a meeting at the Clock the following day with Kieran Elliot of Elliot Ryder Conservation, an Accredited Conservator of whom PCC had informed him.

Cllr. Dark was awaiting a quotation for bronze name panels

Cllr. Curry had determined that the access road to Dolgerddon Hall from East Street and from Dark Lane was not a Public Right of Way, it was owned by PCC Corporate property and the road is tied in with the surrounding land.

Cllr. Dark reported that the caravan with the known owner had been removed from the Weirglodd. The Clerk reported that PCC had not yet responded to RTC request that the caravans be remove, but Cllr. D. Jones had undertaken to provide contact detail for the officer who deals with vehicle removal.

6.1 Wyeside Caravan and Camping Site: Cllr. C. Evans reported on the recent meeting at the Campsite between herself, Cllr. Curry and the Clerk and Nathan Goodyear, Caravan and Camping Club Commercial Development Manager of the for UK Club Sites. It appeared that the Club had not been made aware by PCC of any covenants attached to the Camping Field, but they were aware of the vehicular access to the Pavilion. The Club needed to operate the site on a commercial basis, but they stressed that it was in their own interest to work with the Town for mutual benefit. Nathan expressed a readiness to liaise with RTC and welcomed the chance to share the Town Council’s historic knowledge . He had informed that the Site was officially open from that day. It was resolved to extend an invitation for him to address the Town Council at a future date. **Action: Clerk to extend the invitation to address the Council (on hold until instructed to carry out the action).**

4: REPRESENTATIVE’S REPORTS

There were no Representative’s Reports.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

6 AGENDA ITEMS

6.1 Riverside Walk.

After discussing how to manage the vegetation growth along the Riverside Walk throughout the growing season it was resolved that Cllr. Williams would own the task and would ask Pryce Marpole if he would undertake the work commencing in July. **ACTION: Cllr. Williams to discuss the work required and get a price from Pryce Marpole for consideration by the Council.**

6.2 CATs.

In response to RTC’s request for a Community Asset Transfer of the whole package of land at Dolgerddon, PCC had now indicated that they were willing to transfer the small are of land near East Street but not the remainder of the land. However Councillors recalled that PCC had previously stated that they would be willing to transfer all the land if RTC agreed to include the Clock Tower.

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6. AGENDA ITEMS (CONT)

It was agreed that on the strength of that previous offer RTC wished to investigate the principal of a possible combination of the whole piece of land at Dolgerddon along with another asset and would be welcome the opportunity to discuss the idea further.

Action: Clerk to inform PCC that they wished to discuss the principle of combining the transfer of the whole piece of land along with another asset.

Councillors were very disappointed at PCC's response to RTC's request for Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) to be attached to seventeen trees on the land at Dolgerddon, PCC had stated that it was "not expedient to make the trees in question the subject of a Tree Preservation Order". They indicated that as they were all situated in the Rhayader Conservation Area and therefore under the "protection" of PCC this obviated the need for TPOs. In PCC's guidance these facts do not negate the need for TPOs. It was not for the Planning Authority to act as both judge and jury on the application and as such the Council resolved to appeal the decision and ask for it to be reconsidered in full.

Action: Clerk to inform PCC of RTC's request.

Cllr. C. Evans said that PCC also seemed reluctant to move forward with the CAT for the Library. She would be soon be responding to David Pritchard. **Action: Cllr. Evans to respond to Mr. Pritchard.**

6.3 Rhayader Cemetery.

Cllr. Dark drew the attention of Councillors to the condition of the Cemetery. He believed that the standard of upkeep and maintenance was appalling and was not conducted with the care and respect which should be paid to a cemetery and the bereaved members of the Community. Councillors recalled the assurances made only a few months ago by PCC that the contractors involved would urgently receive appropriate training and their performance monitored to ensure the Cemetery was managed in a proper and adequate manner. They were appalled that the standard had not yet reached an acceptable standard. It was agreed that the Clerk should urgently

write to Cllr. John Powell, the Portfolio Holder, to inform him of the position and to seek an urgent meeting with him at the cemetery to discuss the management and standard of upkeep of the Cemetery in detail.

Action: Clerk to apprise Cllr. Powell of RT's concerns and to seek a meeting with him as a matter of urgency.

6.4 Town improvements.

RTC had taken delivery of six bike stands and two benches.

It was resolved that two (2) bike stands would be installed at each of the following locations: Dark Lane Toilets, outside of the wall by the Smithfield Toilets and on the tarmac area close to where the Cwmdauddwr Christmas Tree is erected, near the Cwmdauddwr Toilets. Cllr Dark volunteered to install all six bike stands.

Action: Cllr Dark to install the bike stands as above.

At the previous meeting it had been agreed that one of the new benches would be sited by the wall opposite New Road Roundabout nearer to the St Harmon Road junction and the other (with the landowner's permission) would be sited near Lions Courtyard on West Street. **Action: The Clerk to ensure that Cllr. Lloyd had obtained the relevant permission from the landowner and then ask Ellie Jones to install the benches as above.**

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6. AGENDA ITEMS (CONT)

6.5 Acceptance of Public Toilets Sub-Committee minutes.

The minutes had been agreed by the Public Toilets Sub Committee to be a true record. The full Council agreed to formally accept them.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

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

7.9 Cae Post Ltd: Recycling plastic film.

Councillors recognised the public's need for a facility to dispose of plastic film and also, as a result of the withdrawal by PCC of plastic and aluminium waste disposal facility at Dark Lane, the need for an alternative facility for those categories. They were aware of the rise of fly-tipping of such waste at Dark Lane and of virtual fly tipping at local charity shops.

It was resolved to find out further details about the plastic film service offered by Cae Post and also if they offered similar service(s) for other sorts of plastic and aluminium.

Action: Clerk to seek further detail's from Cae Post.

7.11 OVW/ WG: The Good Councillor Guide.

Councillors were advised to acquaint themselves with the contents of the document.

It was noted that PCC were no longer offering New Councillor Induction Training but OVW had also provided details of their induction training

7.12 Tim Davies, Freedom Leisure Centre: Management structure changes.

Councillors expressed regret that Tim would be leaving and resolved to write a letter of appreciation for the many years service which he had given as Manager and to wish him all the best for the future. **Action: Clerk to write to convey thanks and best wishes to Tim.**

Councillors were concerned to hear that the exercise classes at the Leisure Centre were in doubt due to Freedom Leisure's decision not to reinstate the licence necessary to allow the playing of recorded music. Councillors wished to seek clarification of how the suggested changes, including licence implications, would impact on a third party hirer wishing to run a community or private function in the Community Hall such as for birthday parties, exercise classes and the St John's Charity Ball and to formally reiterate RTC's request to have some form of User committee for the Rhayader Leisure Centre and Community Hall.

Action: Clerk to write to Gwyn Owen of Freedom Leisure as above.

7.13 PCC: Queens Baton relay Batonbearers, call for nominations.

It was resolved that Cllr. Williams would submit any nominations received to PCC.

Action: Cllr. Williams to co-ordinate and submit any nominations received.

7.15 Dyfed –Powys Police: Change in policing Structure.

Clerk to thank him for his letter of introduction and to advise him that Councillors would welcome him to update them at a future meeting of the Town Council. **Action; Clerk to write as above.**

8. PLANNING

No new Planning applications have been received.

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Chairman Councillor C. Evans

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9. FINANCE

There are no outstanding invoices

10. URGENT BUSINESS

Vacant seats on the Town Council.

As a consequence of the uncontested election and four Councillors standing down there it would be necessary to co-opt four new members. It was agreed that this issue should be discussed at the AGM.

10. URGENT BUSINESS (CONT)

Visit by the Lord Mayor of Birmingham.

Councillors were reminded of visit to the area by the Lord Mayor of Birmingham on 5th May 2017 commencing with a reception at CARAD. Lowri Hopkins, Elan Links Project Officer, had enquired about the protocol with reference to the Town Council. It was resolved that the Chair would discuss the issue with Eluned Lewis of the Elan Links Project. **Action: Chair to discuss the occasion with Eluned.**

11. PRESS RELEASE

- St Harmon Road Traffic Calming update.
- RTC welcome opening of the Campsite.
- Library update.

12. BUSINESS FOR NEXT MEETING

No business was proposed for the May meeting.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Cllr. D. Evans suggested that as RTC had combined the two meetings in January, the AGM and the May meeting should be combined. The Clerk was unsure if this was permissible or practical. It was resolved that the Clerk should seek advice from OVW and then discuss the issue with the Chair and Vice Chair.

If the meetings are not held on the same evening they will be held as below:

The AGM will be held at 7pm on Tuesday 9th May 2017

The next monthly meeting will be held at 7.00 p.m. on Tuesday 23rd May 2017.

The meeting closed at 9.55p.m.

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Chairman Councillor C. Evans

Date