

RHAYADER TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 18TH AUGUST 2015 AT 7.00PM AT THE OLD SCHOOL CWMDAUDDWR

THOSE PRESENT

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

Before the meeting began the Chairman welcomed Shirley Jones and members of her family and presented her with the Citizen of the Year 2015 trophy.

1. APOLOGIES: Cllr. D. Evans.

1a. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cllr. D. Jones had represented RTC at the Rhayader Tractor run, the official opening of the new Pont-ar-Elan bridge, Mr. & Mrs Davies 60th anniversary, the Vintage Tractor "Travelling Wales" south to north in aid of charity and the garden fete in aid of the Community Support minibus. Prior to the meeting tonight, along with Cllr. C. Evans, he had visited 11 Elan Village where he had presented the owners, Mr. & Mrs. Hussey, with the trophy for the Best Kept Garden of the Year 2015. It was resolved to send a letter of thanks to George McManus for being this years judge. **Clerk to write.**

1b. MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION UNDER URGENT BUSINESS

Service cuts by PCC & exit from Caravan Site.

2. MINUTES TO BE AGREED

Minutes to be agreed were those for the meeting on 28th July 2015. They were agreed to be a true record.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Hafan House: Cllr. Narborough reported that she had spoken with the dentist who was pleased to learn of the Council's interest & said that he certainly had no wish to move from the Hafan building and was exploring his options. Councillors felt that it was in the best interest of the area if the dental surgery remained in situ. Cllr Curry to make discreet enquiries about progress.

Pavements in North Street: Cllr. Price reported that Brian Price said the pavements were the responsibility of the Trunk road Agency and RTC would need to contact them direct. **Clerk to write.**

3a: REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORTS

Cllrs. Walton & C. Evans reported that there had been disappointingly poor attendance at the last meeting of the Sporting Association which seemed to demonstrate an apparent lack of enthusiasm and willingness to participate by local sporting clubs. It had been resolved to assume the new name of Rhayader Sports & Recreation Association to indicate the aim was to encompass a wider sphere of activities rather than just field and court based sport. The next meeting was scheduled for 7pm on 7th October at the Football Club and Councillors were urged to encourage attendance at every opportunity.

3b. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr. Price declared an interest in item 5.7 & left the room as appropriate.

Certified as a true record

Date

Chairman Councillor D. Jones

18th August 2015

4. AGENDA ITEMS

4.1 Toilets

Notes from the recent meeting of the Public Toilets Working Group at which actions were placed on the Clerk were circulated. The Clerk informed the meeting of the outcome of those actions as follows:

- PCC indicated that although the drain survey had been done, the report had not been received to date but RTC would be informed as soon as it is.
- The Cemetery toilets had been closed & the Clerk informed PCC that RTC would only take on the toilets as a package of 3 fully functional units. PCC said they had been closed due to a leak. If & when RTC commit to taking responsibility for running them, the leak will be repaired at no cost to RTC & the toilets reopened.
- The Clerk had contacted Dilwyns and was assured by Peter Wilcox-Jones that he was willing to act on the Town Council's behalf.
- The Clerk had contacted Zurich who confirmed that the insurance quotes given remained valid and would be applied pro-rata for the remaining period of the year
- The Clerk had set up a meeting with Healthmatic to determine the details of the refurbishment quotation at WG request and also to discuss the detail of the cleaning contract and consumables supply.

The Clerk also informed that WG had confirmed that although their offers of grants for running and refurbishment (to be undertaken in the current financial year) were made in an e-mail they were firm offers, being subject only to a detailed breakdown of refurbishment costs which made up the quote and the running cost grant would be subject to the refurbishment being undertaken.

The Working Group recommended that subject to the drain survey being acceptable, all the facilities being functional the grants from PCC being made firm & the solicitor recommending that the agreements were safe PCC should be informed that RTC were agreeable to assume responsibility for the toilets on 1st October. It was resolved to do so.

4.2 Council Projects & Funding.

Cllr. C. Evans remarked that grant money is available & RTC should consider what areas could be improved by accessing funding. Which areas in urgent need of improvement were discussed at length. The Parc was considered to be the most pressing case. Councillors were particularly concerned about the increasing deterioration of this once magnificent facility. It was suggested that RTC should seek to work with the Parc Trust to ensure that the work is done. Cllr. C. Davies & the Clerk compile a list of areas in particular need of attention. Concern was expressed about the surface of the new court. It was resolved to write to Steve Geally voicing RTC's concerns of the area, particularly the new court, & copy to the Parc Trust & the Vicar. **Clerk to write.**

It was also resolved that the Town Improvement Group should take the issue forward starting with walking the town to determine what other areas need attention & to inspect RTC's street furniture.

4.3 Re-certification of Annual Return

The Clerk explained that he had made an error whilst filling in the return for year ending 31st March 2015. In consultation with the Internal & External Auditors he had corrected the error and certified the change it by re-signing it. Prior to returning the document to the External Auditor, subject to the Council's approval, it must be re-signed by the Chair. He also informed that the Auditor intended to issue "an unqualified certificate and report that there were no other matters which we (sic) wish to draw to the attention of the Council". It was resolved to re-approve the Return and it was duly re-signed by the Chair. **Clerk to process.**

4.4 Rhayader Cemetery. In Cllr. Lloyd's absence this item was deferred until the September meeting.

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18th August 2015

4. AGENDA ITEMS (CONT)

4.5 Refuse Collection.

A letter had been received from PCC (item 5.6) proposing that rubbish (i.e. wheelie bins) should be collected at 3 weekly intervals, which they believed would increase recycling & thereby reduce landfill. Comments already received indicated that the public were not in favour of extending the period of emptying wheelie bins. There was great concern that the already growing problem of fly-tipping will escalate greatly if the proposal is adopted. It was also feared that PCC would subsequently increase the collection period again to the future. People were encouraged to take part in the consultation.

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.

5.4 WG: Small Scale Project Funding. Cllr. C. Evans urged members to read this information.

5.5 WG: Rural Community Development Fund . Cllr. C. Evans urged members to read this information.

5.7 Rhys Thomas: Application for Funding. Cllr. Price left the room. Councillors showed interest in the proposed signage but were mindful that the application had been jointly made by 3 related individuals, not a local organisation. On these grounds it was resolved that it would be inappropriate to make a grant. **Clerk to inform applicant(s) of RTC's decision.**

LATE CORRESPONDENCE

Mrs. S. Henderson: Service cut. Councillors were aware that the dial-a-ride service played an important role, especially to those in similar predicaments to Mrs. Henderson. Although there were Community Bus & other transport services operated by RDCS, a decision by PCC to discontinue the service would have a very negative effect on the lifestyle of disadvantaged residents of Rhayader & Cwmdauddwr. It was resolved to pass the letter to PCC and also to reply to Mrs. Henderson. **Clerk to process.**

OVW: Letter from WG - Cap on councillor numbers. It was resolved to add this to the September Agenda.

6. PLANNING No items received for discussion.

7. FINANCE There were no outstanding invoices.

8. URGENT BUSINESS

Cllr. Price reported that she had received a complaint that the camera standard by the entrance to the Campsite restricted the view to the left of drivers leaving the Site. Cllr. C. Davies remarked that their view to the right was also restricted by the bend in the road. It was agreed therefore that little could or would be done if this complaint were passed to the TRA.

Cllr. C. Evans commented that the lights on the bridge were on during daylight hours. Cllr. Stuart understood that it was caused by the mechanical timing mechanism being periodically affected by freezing conditions which over time altered the time the lights are switched. Cllr Walton offered to examine the timer & report back with recommendations. **Cllr Walton to inspect & report back.**

Cllr. Price commented that it was a shame that St. Brides Church was no longer illuminated. It was resolved to write to the Vicar. **Clerk to write.**

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9. PRESS RELEASE

- Meeting of Rhayader Sports & Recreation Association.

10. BUSINESS FOR NEXT MEETING

1. Toilets
2. Waun Capel Parc.
3. Proposed Council changes.
4. Rubbish collection.
5. Five Year Plan.
6. Rhayader Cemetery

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next monthly meeting will be held at 7.00 p.m. on Tuesday 22nd September 2015.

The meeting closed at 9.30p.m.

Certified as a true record

Chairman Councillor D. Jones

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Date