

# RHAYADER TOWN COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 18<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER TUESDAY 2016 AT 7.00PM AT THE OLD SCHOOL CWMDAUDDWR

### THOSE PRESENT

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

1. **APOLOGIES:** Cllrs. C.R. Davies, L. Price and D. Jones. County Cllr. K. Curry.

#### 1a. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cllr. C. Evans was pleased to have been present at the official opening of the new lamb pens and to have unveiled the portrait of Gwyn Jones in recognition of his service as Treasurer to the Rhayader Market Hall and Smithfield Trust for 50 years and of Michael Rowlands of Tynddol, Llangurig a prominent lamb buyer at the market for over thirty years. She gave tribute to Cllrs. J. Humphreys and D.O. Evans for their own long service to the Trust. She was pleased to note that the Trust had invested over £120K of their own money, which also included the installation of solar panels on the roof, in the refurbishment. It was resolved to send a letter of congratulations and thanks to the Trust.

**Action:** Clerk to write to the Trust as above.

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

- Wyeside Caravan Park.
- Planters.
- Bolted bollards in Bridge Street.

#### 2. MINUTES TO BE AGREED

Minutes to be agreed were those for the meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2016. They were agreed to be a true record.

#### 3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

It was noted that the photograph of the presentation of the Best Kept Garden 2016 had at last appeared in the County Times. However no sight of or response from the advertisement for an independent reporter to attend RTC's meetings had been received. **Action:** Cllr. Evans to re-submit the advertisement.

**23<sup>rd</sup> August 2016: Matters Arising, 6.4 Grass Cutting at Rhayader Cemetery:** Cllr. Walton stated that the standard of grass cutting, lack of care and respect at Rhayader Cemetery had become a real issue with people, a fact which was reinforced by Cllr. Lloyd. It was resolved to issue a press release informing that the Councillors shared the public's concerns and is continuing to make representations to PCC and Greenfingers on behalf of local residents. Cllr Walton said that, despite PCC's escalated charges and assurances that appropriate measures are being incorporated, the same faults continue to occur repeatedly. It was further resolved to request that County Cllr. John Powell, Portfolio Member with responsibility for cemeteries and the related officer attend the Town Council's November meeting to discuss the issue. **Action:** Clerk to issue the invitation.

**23<sup>rd</sup> August 2016: Matters Arising, 6.6 Community Plan:** The Chair informed that the next "Collaborative Group" meeting was scheduled for 8<sup>th</sup> November and she would ask to be allocated a "slot" for discussing the formation of a Community Plan. **Action:** Cllr. C. Evans to obtain an agenda item and attend the meeting.

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Chairman Councillor C. Evans

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### 3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES (CONT)

**6.1 Wi-F free Rhayader:** An overview of the results and experiences of the Llandrindod project had been received from Jude Boutle after the agenda had been issued. After discussion it had been resolved to delay further discussion about installing a similar scheme in Rhayader until Superfast has made better internet speeds available throughout the town.

**6.5 Rhayader Community Minibus – request for assistance:** RDCS had expressed thanks to the Town Council for the pledged donation to the Community Minibus Fund. Councillors were aware that the price of minibuses continues to escalate year on year and were concerned that, on present showing, the fund will continue to fall short of the required amount. Also over time, especially in the present financial climate, the initial enthusiasm to support the cause financially can tend to decline if it is not kept in the forefront of public awareness. Councillors were agreed that a photograph of the (token) cheque being presented to RDCS by the Mayor may serve as a spur to re-energise the appeal. It was resolved that, (subject to the agreement of RDCS) the Mayor should organise the photo and press release as a matter of urgency. It was further agreed that Cllr. Williams should liaise with RDCS to set up the photo opportunity with Cllr. C. Evans.

**Action: Cllr. Williams to liaise with RDCS as a matter of urgency and report back to Cllr. C. Evans.**

### 4: REPRESENTATIVE’S REPORTS

Cllr. Humphreys remarked that the public appeared to appreciate the improvement work at the Smithfield.

### 5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

## 6 AGENDA ITEMS

### 6.1 Rhayader Library

The Chair gave a resumé of the joint meeting with representatives of other local Councils facing closure of their branch libraries which she hosted, on 13<sup>th</sup> October. All present agreed that PCC’s proposals were unfairly focusing on the towns with smaller Libraries whilst ignoring the larger towns who were not being asked for any financial contribution to the continuation of the library service in their areas. Legal advice quoted by PCC did not align with that received via One Voice Wales and PCC had not complied with requests for sight of their received advice. The stipulated date of 31<sup>st</sup> October for proposals to be submitted to Powys was considered to be unreasonable, particularly since, in order to comply with that deadline, Councils would need to issue an affirmative statement before discussion of their budget for 2017-2018 which would be inappropriate.

It had been agreed that Cllr. C. Evans send a joint letter to PCC after circulating it for approval to the other Councils. It was also agreed that Cllr. C. Evans should make a formal application under the Freedom of Information Act for sight of the legal advice received by PCC and that a joint Press Release should be made.

It was agreed that RTC should write independently to confirm that in view of the conflicting advice about the legality of Town Council payments towards Library provision it is not possible to provide confirmation of RTC’s commitment by 31<sup>st</sup> October 2016. **Action: Clerk to write to PCC as above.**

Cllr. Stuart expressed disappointment that RTC had not yet issued a request for a Community Asset Transfer of the Library building. It was resolved that this should be done as a matter of urgency – and as delicately as possible given the current situation with the library service review of the provision in Rhayader.

**Cllr. C. Evans to submit an application for a CAT of the Library building as a matter of urgency.**

### 6.2 Waun Capel Parc.

The Clerk had written to Steve Gealy to enquire about PCC’s intentions for the promised refurbishment of the Pavilion. He received a response by telephone stating that it was not PCC’s intention to “lumber” sub-

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## 6. AGENDA ITEMS (CONT)

tenants with the promised repair work. The money is available and he fully intends to use it to do the work before the end of the present financial year. The reason for the holdup was the unexpected finding of asbestos around the windows, a matter which is to be dealt with shortly. He also stated that if or when PCC were to hand the Parc back to the Trust it must be in a proper state of repair.

Since the Agenda had been issued, a response had been received from the Chairman of the Parc Trust, Revd. Wathan to the Clerk's letter seeking to learn if PCC were within their rights to sub-let the Pavilion and if the Trust was aware of PCC's current intentions and time scale for refurbishment of the Pavilion. The letter informed that with the express permission of the Trust, PCC is within its right to sublet parts of the Parc and/or the Pavilion. The Trust believe that PCC will carry out the promised refurbishment and appear to be content with the rate of progress.

Councillors were disappointed that Revd Wathan also indicated in a reference to RTC that : *“For reasons beyond my understanding there is an air of negativity towards the Trust which is disappointing”*. Members were disappointed by the Reverend's comment in that as residents of Rhayader and Cwmdauddwr, the majority of them had a lifelong connection with the Parc and any concerns they have raised were all a result of their desire to see the Parc continue to be available as a superb amenity for present and future generations. It was resolved that the Clerk should respond to the letter to refute the misconception and re-affirm that RTC is very supportive of the aims of the Parc Trust to ensure that the Parc and all of its facilities remain accessible to the town in perpetuity. Any comments were and remain to be, made out of concern for the Parc, its funding and management model and its security to the future, not as a criticism of the Trust or its members. The Council wished to remind the Trust that it is here to support the work of the Trust if and when it is needed. **Action: Clerk to respond to Revd Wathan's letter as above.**

### 6.3 Boundary review.

This item had been carried forward from the September meeting. Overall the Parliamentary membership is changing but it was considered that the changes would cause little ramification to the area local to Rhayader as Radnorshire and Breconshire remain unchanged. Members believe that rurality should be observed.

### 6.4 Remembrance Day

Cllr. Williams gave a resumé of the arrangements made for Remembrance Day and said that those Councillors who had agreed to assist in delivery of collection boxes to businesses should call at Crosfield House between 2pm and 4 pm on 26<sup>th</sup> October.

### 6.5 Forward Planning for future expenditure.

Cllr. Walton suggested that to meet the challenge of potential increases in the financial demands directed at the Town Council to enable present community services to be safeguarded whilst maintaining an ability to carry out desired “improvements” a new, bigger income stream will need to be sourced to prevent unacceptable demands being placed on local ratepayers. He suggested that investing in renewable energy could possibly provide a suitable source of income if the investment was large enough to ensure adequate payback. It was resolved to set up a “Task & Finish Working Group” comprising the Chair, Cllrs. C. Walton, J. Stuart and P. Dark to investigate the feasibility and evaluate the costs and potential “profit” of local community renewables opportunities available to RTC.

**Action: Working Group to research locally accessible community renewables opportunities and report progress at the monthly meetings of the Town Council.**

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## 6. AGENDA ITEMS (CONT)

### 6.6 Town Clock

The Clerk had completed and sent the Recording Form to PCC. Cllr. Walton, Cllr. Lloyd and the Clerk had each been promised by Jimmy Lloyd that he would send his estimate for repair work to the name panels and carvings as a matter of urgency. To date it had not been received.

**Action:** In order to receive the information prior to the November meeting Cllr. Lloyd to contact Jimmy Lloyd and the Clerk to send a written request for the estimate.

### 6.7 Boundary Commission for Wales 2016 review of Boundaries Initial Proposal.

This business was included in item 6.3 above.

**6.8 LDP Consultation on Further Focussed Areas.** The Chair and other members had looked over the available information on the PCC website and found nothing untoward. Members were invited to inform the Chair of any concerns they may have about the information available.

Portfolio Holders Cllrs. C. Walton and M. Lloyd to study the Proposal and bring their findings to the November meeting.

**Action:** Cllrs. Walton and Lloyd to give a report at the November meeting.

### 6.9 Allotment Sub-committee report

The Sub-committee had visited both Allotment Sites on 28<sup>th</sup> September.

Plots on Rhayader Allotments appeared to be well cultivated. The roadside hedge needs attention, but members were informed that Cllr. J. Jones had made arrangements to have it laid during October.

In the main, plots on Weirglodd Allotments were also well cultivated. The raised beds and two other plots were vacant. It had been decided to contact RDCS to ask them if they were aware of anyone who would like a plot but who is unable to physically manage a plot at ground level.

**ACTION:** Clerk to issue a Press Release that two plots are available at the Weirglodd.

## 7. CORRESPONDENCE

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

**7.2 RDCS:** Thanks for donation. Both RDCS and the Town Council were of the opinion that a press/photo release featuring the Mayor making the presentation to RDCS could serve to help with the efforts to continue to raise public awareness of the appeal. **Action:** Clerk to issue the Press Release.

**7.5 PCC:** BT Programme of intended public telephone removals. BT were proposing to remove all the telephone boxes in the Elan Valley. After discussion it was resolved to write to BT to demand that because of the remoteness of the area, the lack of signal and the absence of alternative options in the area, none of the designated boxes should be removed. **Action:** Clerk to write to BT as above.

Requests for funding had been received after the agenda had been issued from Powys Citizens Advice Bureau and RDCS. It was resolved to add both requests to the November agenda.

## 8. PLANNING

**8.1 TREE/2016/0030:** Application to fell a spruce conifer within a conservation area at Water Grist Mill, Water Lane, Rhayader.

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

**ACTION:** Clerk to inform PCC.

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## 8. PLANNING (CONT)

**8.2 TREE/2016/0031:** Removal of 2x fir trees in conservation area at St Brides Churchyard, Cwmdauddwr Rhayader.

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

**ACTION: Clerk to inform PCC.**

**8.3 P/2016/1009:** For Change of use of ground floor from Class A2 financial & professional services to Class A1 retail use, change of use of first floor from residential use class C3 to Class A1 retail use together with erection of a rear single storey extension and installation of ATM at Midland Bank (Former HSBC Building) East Street Rhayader Powys.

After discussion it was resolved to recommend approval of this application. **ACTION: Clerk to inform PCC.**

## LATE PLANNING

**P/2016/0967** Erection of extension to agricultural building at Hirnant, Elan Valley, Rhayader Powys  
Cllr. D.O. Evans declared an interest and left the room.

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

**Action: Clerk to inform PCC.**

## 9. FINANCE

Invoice received after the agenda was issued but agreement to pay the amount was recorded at a previous Council meeting: £86.42 – Office Solutions (Wales) – Printing of Remembrance Booklets. Agreed. **Action: Clerk to make payment.**

## 10. URGENT BUSINESS

**Wyeside Caravan Park:** Cllr. Walton had been informed that at the Wyeside Caravan Park pressure has been put on static van owners to update or remove their accommodation and changes have been proposed to the role of employees by the new management. Councillors agreed that the Town Council could not intercede on matters between PCC/new leaseholder and its staff, but they were concerned that changes had been made near Upper Ffynnon Fair which may affect the common land and the watering rights. It was resolved to write to PCC to seek an update on the progress to date with improvements made by the leaseholder and the long term benefits their investment is expected to bring and additionally to seek confirmation that the access from the A470 near Upper Ffynnon Fair to the River Wye remains Common Land. **Action: Clerk to write as above.**

**Planters:** Now that the plants in the new large containers are starting to die off, Cllr. Williams sought permission to order bulbs to plant in them. Agreed.

**Action: Cllr. Williams to order sufficient bulbs and plant them in the large containers.**

**Bolted Bollards in Bridge Street:** Cllr. Narborough had received complaints that bollards had been bolted in a parking place in Bridge Street. Councillors thought that the bollards may be temporarily installed to preserve road width in connection with scaffolding erected on the opposite side of the street.

**Action: Cllr. Narborough to make enquiries to ascertain if this was the case.**

## 11. PRESS RELEASE

- Allotment availability.
- Minibus award.
- Caravan Park
- Proposed closure of telephone kiosks in the Elan Valley.
- Remembrance Sunday.

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**12. BUSINESS FOR NEXT MEETING**

1. Bus Timetable.
2. Town Clock.
3. Rhayader Library.
4. RDCS application for grant.
5. PCAB application for grant.

**13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next monthly meeting will be held at 7.00 p.m. on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2016.

The meeting closed at 10.05 p.m.

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**Chairman Councillor C. Evans**

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