

RHAYADER TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 19TH JUNE 2018 AT 6.30PM AT THE OLD SCHOOL CWMDAUDDWR

THOSE PRESENT

Chairman Councillor W. Davies
Councillors P. Dark D. Davies C. Evans J. Stuart. R. Thomas
A. Davies D.O. Evans V. Jones Davies J. Narborough C. Walton
L. Price G. Williams
Observer: County Cllr. K. Curry

Before the meeting, Heather Ransom Ambulance Operations Manager (Powys) and DCFO Rob Quin MAWW Fire spoke with Councillors about First Responder action in Rhayader. Cllr. Thomas left the room. The visitors explained that response to callouts was dependant on both the type of incident and the level of training of the potential responders. This criteria was applied to both St John and the Fire Service. Rhayader St. John are actively pursuing recruitment. It was explained that relatively few incidents of cardiac arrest occur across Powys but that did amount to approximately 2 per day. They agreed that it was very desirable that more members of the public are encouraged to trained in the use of defibrillators. The effect of the level of mobile phone coverage in some areas on response was discussed. Brecon Mountain Rescue are also involved with falls etc in the Elan Valley. Councillors were pleased to learn from Mr. Quin that they have some access to drones for aerial survey. RTC were promised to be kept updated by the Ambulance Service on the situation with the St. John status.

1. APOLOGIES: Cllr. J. Jones.

1a. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cllr. W. Davies thanked Cllr. Stuart for deputising for him at the Pont ar Elan Show.

1b. MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION UNDER URGENT BUSINESS

- Dog fouling on New Road Island.
- Bryntitli meeting
- Allotments
- Toilets
- Speed limits
- St. Harmon Road

2. MINUTES TO BE AGREED

Minutes to be agreed were those for the meeting held on 22nd May 2018. They were agreed to be a true record.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Councillors were disappointed that although David Pritchard had supplied some costings incurred by PCC in the previous year on the assets which they wish to transfer to RTC, to date he had not provided information concerning parking near the Dental Practice and the existence of a covenant on the land.

Action: Clerk to pursue a response from Mr. Pritchard

Certified as a true record
Chairman Councillor W. Davies

Date

18th June 2018

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES (CONT).

Cllr. Thomas had researched signs and had as a consequence formed the opinion that cast aluminium signs provided the best visual impression combined with quality and durability. The prices he had been quoted from other companies were on par with those RTC had received from CIS and he concluded therefore that no advantage would be gained by not using the supplier in whom RTC had confidence. It was tentatively agreed that instead of a changeable strap line a permanent, succinct message/catchphrase extolling the Town should be incorporated. Cllr Thomas had received several suggestions to date. It was resolved that Cllr. Stuart should also seek suggestions via social media and bring them to the next meeting.

Action: Cllr. Stuart to seek suggestions on social media and bring to the July meeting.

It was resolved to contact TRA to ask if they were willing to contribute to the cost of the new signs.

Action: Clerk to contact TRA as above.

Councillors were disappointed not to have received a response from Mark Stafford-Tolley which addressed the issues which they had raised. **Action: Clerk to resend the letter and seek an urgent response.**

After discussion it was resolved to authorise R2K to order a reprint to be paid for by RTC.

Cllr. Stuart wished to comment on the appearance of the Wyeside Caravan Park. Cllr. Walton declared an interest & left the room. Cllr. Stuart commented that from the road the appearance of the Caravan Site had been greatly improved of late and the site now appeared to be getting busier. Other Councillors commented that the site still appeared to be less busy than it was prior to the changeover from PCC management.

4: REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORTS

Cllr. D. Davies reported on the current status of projects being pursued by the Sports Association and their aspirations for the future. He also reported on the position with the proposed 3G Sports Facility.

Cllr. C. Evans reported on the recent meeting at the Leisure Centre, in particular that there was agreement that a group should be formed to have periodic liaison with the management and staff of the Leisure Centre. Cllr. Walton was eager to pursue the viability of an outdoor gym somewhere in the Town. It was resolved to discuss the scenario on the July Agenda.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr. D. Evans declared an interest in items 8.1 and 8.2

Cllr. Thomas declared an interest in item 6.3

Cllr. W. Davies declared an interest in items 6.9 & 7.1

All left the room as appropriate.

6 AGENDA ITEMS

6.1 Approval & Certification of the Annual Return.

The Clerk informed Members that the completed Annual Return, which he now submitted for their approval, had been approved and signed by the Internal Auditor. Councillors resolved to approve the Return and it was signed by the Chairman.

Action: Clerk to submit Annual Return and supporting documentation to External Auditor

6.2 Approval of 5 Year Plan.

Cllr. D. Davies had completed the document entitled Rhayader Town Council Development Plan 2018 – 2023 and circulated it to Members. There was agreement that it was a well prepared document which fully covered the Town Council's agreed objectives. It was resolved therefore to approve the Plan and adopt it in its entirety.

Certified as a true record

Date

Chairman Councillor W. Davies

18th June 2018

6. AGENDA ITEMS (CONT)

6.3 First Responders

In light of the discussion with the guest speakers (see above) it was resolved that no action by RTC was required. As a consequence it was agreed that there was no reason for Cllr. Rhys to leave the room.

6.4 Recruitment of Clerk update.

A member of the public attending the meeting left the room for the duration of this item. Formal applications had been received from five of the eleven people who had submitted an expression of interest. It was resolved that an interview panel comprising the Chair, Cllrs. C. Walton, A. Davies, D. Davies, J. Narborough, C. Evans and R. Thomas, would meet at the conclusion of this meeting to form a shortlist of applicants who they decide should be interviewed in person to determine their suitability for the post. After the interviewing process the panel is authorised to offer the position to the person of their choice.

6.5 Citizen of the Year.

It was resolved that the Clerk should advertise for nominations to be received for selection by members at the July meeting and order the trophy from Welsh Royal Crystal.

Action: Clerk to advertise for nominations and purchase the trophy

6.6 Best Kept Garden.

Cllr Williams reported that Dave Holt of Midway Nursery would be willing to be judge again this year. It was agreed that Cllr. Williams should arrange the judging and the Clerk should order the trophy from Welsh Royal Crystal. **Actions: Cllr Williams to organise the judging. Clerk to purchase the trophy.**

6.7 Asset Transfers.

Although Mr. Pritchard had supplied some details of costings of the assets comprising the “Town Wide” transfer proposed by PCC, Councillors were disappointed that despite his promise to do so, he had not yet provided any information about the land near the Dental Practice.

Action: Clerk to pursue a response from David Pritchard.

After discussion it was resolved to convene a special meeting to discuss all issues concerning assets.

In readiness for that meeting Cllr Walton suggested that details of all costs incurred by PCC at the Weirglodd be requested. It was agreed to ask for the costs to be provided within two weeks.

Action: Clerk to request details as above.

6.8 Income Stream.

It was agreed to discuss this item at the special meeting.

6.8 Standing Orders.

Councillors had been given sight of NALC Model Standing Orders 2018 (item 7.4 on the agenda) which were in effect updated guidelines for Standing Orders. Whilst RTC’s Standing Orders are a shorter document than the new Model, they contained all the detail from previous guidelines which had been considered relevant to the Town Council. It was resolved that Councillors should review RTC’s current Standing Orders with a view to deciding if they needed to be updated to include any further detail from the new guidelines which is pertinent to RTC.

Action: Councillors to bring their findings to the July meeting

6.9 Parking in East Street.

In response to the letter about inappropriate unloading which was sent to three businesses in East Street, to date only one had replied (item 7.1 on the agenda). The writer sought to meet with the Town Council to discuss the issue of receiving deliveries. It was resolved to invite the writer (and if a response is received, a representative from the other 2 businesses) to meet with Members on site in East Street at around 3.15pm on a weekday of his choice. **Action: Clerk to issue the invitation(s)**

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6. AGENDA ITEMS (CONT)

6.10 Grass cutting.

Councillors were agreed that the overall quality of the grass cutting service in Rhayader was generally well below an acceptable standard. It was agreed to arrange a walk round, possibly over several evenings, to assess the overall requirement and the present standards being achieved. Where scheduled cuts have been missed PCC should be requested to arrange for extra cuts to be added to the programme of work during the current year. It was also resolved to investigate the scenario of RTC taking charge of all the grass cutting involved. In order to consider this proposal RTC would require a definitive map(s) showing all the areas to be cut, PCC's programme for cutting and what finance assistance PCC would offer RTC.

Action: Chair to arrange a walk round. Clerk to ask PCC for maps, the cutting programme details of all missed cuts and when they will be implemented and what financial assistance PCC would offer if RTC carried out grass cutting in Rhayader & Cwmdaiddwr.

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 issued were noted.

7.5 PCC: Consultation on Home to School /College Transport Policy. Cllr. A. Davies gave a resumé of the document. It was resolved that she should respond to the consultation on behalf of the Town Council.

Action: Cllr. A. Davies to respond on behalf of RTC.

PCC (Derek Price) : Maes-y-deri parking & St Harmon Rd crossing options 1–3 & Speed reduction Measures

After discussion it was resolved to endorse Mr. Price's recommendation that the "splitter island would be the best and safest option. **Action: Clerk to inform PCC of RTC decision.**

Cllrs. P. Dark, D. Davies and R. Thomas declared an interest in the Maes-y-deri parking proposal and left the room. It was agreed that the proposal would give a workable solution to the existing problem.

Action: Clerk to inform PCC of RTC decision.

8. PLANNING

8.1 P/2018/0234 for Full: Construction of a Hydro Electric Scheme, to include the erection of a Powerhouse, Transformer and Intake, and all associated works at the River Claerwen, Elan Valley, Rhayader, Powys. Councillors were in general agreement about the local benefits which would accrue due to this application and recommended that it be permitted with the following provisos:

- Local access will be preserved during construction
- All farms, homesteads etc in the surrounding area and valleys not already connected to a mains electricity supply will have access to the new supply
- Financial benefit will accrue to the local community as a planning obligation under section 106.

Action: Clerk to inform PCC of RTC's comments

8.2 P/2018/0599 for House: Conversion of adjoining building to provide an extension to the dwelling at Botalog Cwmystwyth Aberystwyth Powys,

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

Action: Clerk to inform PCC of RTC's comments

9. FINANCE There were no outstanding invoices.

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10. URGENT BUSINESS

Dog fouling on New Road Island.

Cllr. Williams was concerned about how the island was being used by dog owners as a “dog toilet”. The incidence of dog fouling is disgusting as well as a danger to public health. Cllr. Dark informed that suitable notices can be obtained from RBS. It was resolved to display notices on the island and monitor the situation,
Action: Cllr. Dark to obtain a number of signs from RBS and install them on the island.

Bryntitli meeting.

It was agreed to seek to arrange to meet the Chair and other members of St. Harmon CC at the Tri Town meeting on 4th July to discuss a joint position on wind farm community benefits.

Action: Clerk to contact the Chair of St. Harmon CC

Allotments

Cllr. Stuart reported that one of the water tanks at the Weirglodd Allotments was overflowing.

Toilets

Cllr. Walton reported that Aubrey Thomas had temporarily removed the soap dispensers from Cwmdauddwr toilets because they were being misused by vandals

Speed limits

Concerns were expressed about excessive speeds in South Street and roads in the Elan valley. It was resolved to add these matters to the July agenda.

Cllr. Thomas informed that the police were going to inform PCC about the removal of lead from the roof at the Cemetery. It was resolved to write to PCC about the lead and the guttering

Action: Clerk to write to PCC as above.

Cllr. Walton suggested that the Toilet Sub-Committee should meet in the near future to discuss refurbishment of the Cemetery toilets. **Action: Cllr. Price to convene a meeting of the Toilet Sub-Committee as above.**

11. PRESS RELEASE

- Citizen of the Year.
- St John looking for recruits.
- Garden of the Year.

12. BUSINESS FOR NEXT MEETING

1. Quarterly Budget Appraisal
2. Speed limits
3. Outdoor Gym

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next monthly meeting will be held at 6.30 p.m. on Tuesday 10th July 2018.

The meeting closed at 9.40 p.m.

Certified as a true record

Chairman Councillor W. Davies

Date