

RHAYADER TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 20TH MARCH 2018 AT 6.30PM AT THE OLD SCHOOL CWMDAUDDWR

THOSE PRESENT

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

Prior to the meeting Clayton Taylor, Asset Manager Ventient Energy, discussed the change of ownership of Bryntitli Wind Farm, his role as Asset Manager, the extension of life of the Wind Farm and the implications which this may have on funding received by RTC. Cllr. D. Evans expressed concerns that the level of funding per mega watt received by RTC was below the rate received by other bodies locally. Mr. Taylor undertook to look into the issue and report back to RTC. He expressed an interest in how the fund was disbursed by RTC, to which local organisations and to what type of community projects. The Clerk undertook to supply Mr. Taylor with the details for recent years. **Action: Clerk to supply details as above.**

Jude Boutle, Llandrindod Wells Project Officer explained that she had been Llandrindod Champion last year with a remit to promote the town. This had led on to her present role which was to promote “wellness” in the three “Wells” towns (Llandrindod, Builth and Llanwtyd) as well as Rhayder and the Elan Valley with a central brand for all. Whilst it is nominally based on the Cambrian Way (basically the A470 between the Brecon Beacons and Snowdon) acceptable deviation from it will be encouraged. Funding has been applied for to take it forward and PCC are offering match funding. The outcome of the funding bid is expected in May and will provide funding to 2019.

Jude explained that views put forward for the “Six Epic Views” competition should not solely be about the view per se, ideally it would provide added value e.g. it will regenerate a nearby business, encourage overnight stays etc.

1. APOLOGIES: Cllr. J. Jones.

1a. CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman had no announcements to make.

1b. MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION UNDER URGENT BUSINESS

- Dark Lane entrance.
- Glamping Pods at Llwyngwilym.
- Mobile phone coverage in the Elan Valley.

2. MINUTES TO BE AGREED

Minutes to be agreed were those for the meeting on 20th February 2018. They were agreed to be a true record.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Cllr. D. Davies had issued a draft Five Year plan for consideration by Members. It was resolved to discuss it at the April meeting.

Cllr. Dark reported that a padlock had been purchased for the container.

Certified as a true record

Date

Chairman Councillor C. Walton

20th March 2018

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES (CONT).

Subsequent to RTC reporting the problem of water and the state of the verges on the A470 Llangurig Road, Cllr. Stuart had been assured by the TRA that they are fully aware of the problem and are in the process of dealing with it.

The application for funding for the Bike Park is being processed by WG.

4: REPRESENTATIVE’S REPORTS

Cllr. Williams reported on the Parc Trust AGM. Councillors agreed that PCC had done a very good job clearing the undergrowth along the riverbanks and at the Castle. She informed that drainage work had been undertaken on the football area and that lighting was being installed from the gate to the pavilion /muga area. It had been recognised that further signage was required for the muga area and that there was a need to recruit more volunteers to keep the Parc tidy. It was resolved to send a letter of appreciation to the Park Trust.

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

Cllr. Narborough reported on a meeting at R2K. She also informed that Wales Tourism Year 2018 is “Year of the Sea” and the promotional video entitled “Rhayader’s take on a beach party”, to which RTC had contributed funding, is to be made on 8th April. Next year would be nominated as the “Year of Discovery”.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr. Walton declared an interest in items 8.3 and 8.4.

Cllr. D. Evans declared an interest in items 6.7 (7.7) and 8.1.

Cllr. Thomas declared an interest in item 6.7 (7.7)

Cllr. Dark declared an interest in item 8.4

All left the room as appropriate.

6 AGENDA ITEMS

6.1 Collection of RTC assets for storage in the new container.

Cllr. Dark said that now that the container was secure he wanted to ensure that all relevant assets are safely housed in it. He asked to be informed of the whereabouts of any “movable” Council assets to enable him to collect and store them. Ventilation points were built into the container but he would monitor their effectiveness and report back with remedial proposals if considered necessary.

6.2 Data Protection

Cllr. Thomas had prepared and circulated a draft Data Protection Policy. To date he had received no adverse comment from Members. When the content is fully approved by Councillors he will add the logo and branding details in preparation for full Council acceptance.

It was recognised that Councillors and the Clerk would need and benefit from Data Protection training. It was resolved to enquire if OVW had a suitable training module, could a training session be held for the Council at the Old School and at what cost. **Action: Clerk to make enquiries with OVW as above.**

6.3 Council hardware & software

In order to compile a specification against which quotations for supply of a complete suite of hardware & software could be sought the Clerk and the Chair had asked for further advice from Keith Fielding. Keith had provided three options with an indication of the wholesale price of individual components and costings for Microsoft Office 2016 annual subscription or one time purchase. He had also provided comparisons of

Certified as a true record

Date

Chairman Councillor C. Walton

20th March 2018

6. AGENDA ITEMS (CONT)

equipment lifespan and comparable overall costing comparisons for consumables. He had not given an indication of cost for a laptop docking station. Whilst both the Clerk and Keith Fielding were appreciative of Councillors' desire to have a device which would be portable for occasional use, they were both of the opinion that a PC was a better tool for the Clerk's daily role and would remain serviceable for a much longer period. However Councillors remained adamant that they preferred to purchase a laptop combined with a docking station, a separate monitor, a keyboard and mouse. They also agreed that an external hard drive was essential. Cllr. Stuart indicated which items were preferred from the overall specifications. It was resolved that the Clerk and the Chair should seek quotes from three local suppliers for the supply of the complete suite in accordance with Councillor's wishes. If the total price tendered did not exceed £800 the order could be placed, but if it was in excess of £800 the purchase must be referred to the April meeting.

Action: Clerk & Chair to proceed as above.

6.4 Asset Transfer update

A response by e-mail had been received from David Pritchard which indicated that PCC might be in favour of RTC adopting a Town wide approach to developing a CAT. PCC suggested that this might entail a freehold transfer of the Library building with the proviso that the Library would occupy the building without charge, space for community use would only be available outside Library opening hours and RTC would be responsible for maintenance of the building. RTC would also take on the freehold for all three toilets and for the Clock along with an undertaking to invest in that asset. In respect of the Dolgerdden land, RTC could have a lease of the whole site.

Councillors were in favour of reminding PCC exactly what RTC had requested to date and also to indicate that RTC would like to explore the scenario of taking over the Weirglodd in its entirety. In order to consider this option further, RTC would need to be aware of all leases, covenants etc. which are applicable.

It was also agreed to request a meeting with Cllr. Phyl Davies and Cllr. Martin Weal to discuss the whole issue. It was resolved to add Asset Transfers to the April agenda.

Action: Clerk to remind PCC exactly what RTC had requested to date and to invite Cllr Davies and Cllr. Weale to meet RTC at a mutually agreeable time and date.

6.5 Land Registry

Cllr. Narborough suggested that to ensure continuity of ownership RTC should register all its known areas of land etc. with Land Registry. It was resolved that members inform Cllr. Narborough of any areas which they believe are historically under RTC ownership. Cllr. Narborough, in conjunction with the Clerk, to seek evidence of ownership, check with Land Registry to determine if it is already registered and report back seeking authorisation to register it. **Action: Cllr Narborough and the Clerk to investigate as above.**

6.6 Independent Remuneration Panel Wales: Annual Report.

IRPW Annual Report, item 7.2 on the agenda, indicated that due to precept level, RTC is in Group B of Councils which means amongst other things, that provision via the precept should be made for mandated payments for Councillors to the tune of £150 per year. This had not been specifically addressed when setting the precept for 2018 - 2019. Item 34 indicates that, if they so wish, a Councillor can forego any allowance by informing the Proper Officer. RTC already make an annual allowance to the Mayor/Chair which is compliant with the Panel's framework and member resolved to continue with the present arrangement. They did however resolve not to make the permitted payment of £500 to the Deputy Mayor/Chair. It was also resolved to include the Report as an agenda item to the April meeting for further discussion.

Certified as a true record

Date

Chairman Councillor C. Walton

20th March 2018

6. AGENDA ITEMS (CONT)

6.7 Application for Funding

Rhayader 2000 had applied for a grant of £1,430 towards a project which would enable Rhayader and Cwmdauddwr to become the first Google Town in the UK. Councillors were of the opinion that the proposed project would be of great benefit to the Town and resolved to make a grant of the full £1,430 requested from the current Precept. **Action: Clerk to make the payment to R2K.**

6.8 Clock Tower.

Councillors were becoming increasingly concerned about the seemingly endless delays in starting restoration work on the Clock Tower. They were aware that following a meeting in July 2016 PCC had agreed in principal to part fund the work and subsequently agreement was reached with PCC to go forward with the work in accordance with a quotation from Elliott Ryder Conservation. Commencement of the work was presently being delayed due to intervention by Cadw. It was resolved to seek assistance from the Portfolio Holder Cllr. Phyl Davies. **Action: Clerk to contact Cllr. Davies.**

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.

7.8 Friends of Llanidloes High School: Seeking access to RTC Bryntitli funding. Councillors were aware that their policy was to invite applications for Bryntitli funding once each year and that eligibility of claimants was determined when resultant applications are discussed. It was resolved to supply the writer with RTC's related documentation. **Action: Clerk to send documentation to writer.**

8. PLANNING

8.1 P/2018/0210 for Full: Construction of a new agricultural building at Penygarreg Farm, Elan Valley, Rhayader, Powys.

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

Action: Clerk to inform PCC of the Town Council's comments

8.2 P2018 0093 for Outline: Residential development of 20 no. dwellings (all matters reserved) at Bryn Gwy, Rhayader Powys.

Councillors had no objections to the proposal in principal but, as previously stated, they shared local concerns about the safety of egress from the estate where it joins the A470 trunk road. They recommended that consideration be given to improving awareness of the junction by users of the trunk road and improving the sight lines of drivers leaving the estate. **Action: Clerk to inform PCC of the Town Council's comments**

8.3 APP/T6850/A/18/3196001 Appeal: Wyeseid Caravan Park, Rhayader.

After discussion it was resolved that Cllr. C. Evans should write to the Planning Inspectorate (PI) on behalf of the Town Council with focus on the issues on which the appeal was being made. This would not involve any new information but would re-prioritise some of the previous comments in a succinct response.

It was further agreed to ask PCC what efforts they are making in preparation for the appeal to the PI. RTC will also be seeking to further understand PCC's view on the covenant currently in place on the campsite and re-iterate RTC's view that the Council may get some sworn affidavits from persons who knew the benefactor and her wishes for the on-going use of the land. To this end it was resolved to seek a meeting with the Portfolio Holder Cllr. Martin Weale.

Action: Cllr. C. Evans to write letters to the Planning Inspectorate and to PCC as above.

Action: Clerk to arrange a meeting between RTC and Cllr Weale.

Certified as a true record

Date

Chairman Councillor C. Walton

20th March 2018

8. PLANNING (CONT)

8.4 AGRI/2018/0003 for AGRI: Erection of agricultural building for storage of equipment and implements at Llanfadog Uchaf Elan Valley Rhayader Powys.

There were no objections to this proposal and councillors recommended approval.

Action: Clerk to inform PCC of the Town Council's comments

9. FINANCE

There were no outstanding invoices.

10. URGENT BUSINESS

Cllr. Dark reported that he had been advised that an access had been created through the fence of the land behind Ty Collen, Hazelmere Close, into Dark Lane seemingly for a caravan. Members did not recall having sight of a planning application for this access and so it was resolved to contact PCC to seek clarification.

Action: Clerk to seek clarification from PCC Planning and /Tony Caine

Cllr. Dark reported that the "Glamping Pods" at Llwyngwilym were excessively illuminated at night and were also fixed on concrete bases. Councillors understood that the location of the Pods fell under the jurisdiction of St. Harmon Community Council and therefore any complaints should be directed to them.

Cllr. A. Davies expressed concern at the lack of signal coverage for mobile phones in the Elan Valley area especially since there is now no mast and another provider has not been evolved. She understood that the Elan Valley Trust were willing to support any campaign set up to improve the situation. It was resolved to add the issue to the April Agenda.

11. PRESS RELEASE

- Ventient Energy /Bryntitli Windfarm.
- Address by Jude Boutle.
- Town Clock.
- Google filming.

12. BUSINESS FOR NEXT MEETING

1. Mobile masts.
2. Five Year Plan.
3. Councillor remuneration.
4. Asset Transfers.
5. Land Registry.
6. Data Protection.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next monthly meeting will be held at 7.00 p.m. on Tuesday 17th April 2017.

The meeting closed at 10.20 p.m.

Certified as a true record

Chairman Councillor C. Walton

Date