

RHAYADER TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 20TH MAY 2014 AT 7.00PM AT THE OLD SCHOOL CWMDAUDDWR

THOSE PRESENT

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

Cllr. Price welcomed Cllr. Dark to his first meeting and congratulated him on being selected to become a member of the Town Council by co-option.

Cllr. Dark signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

1. **APOLOGIES:** Cllrs. M. Lloyd & J. Stuart.

1a. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cllr. L. Price reported that she had represented RTC at the Builth Wells Civic Service.

2. **MINUTES TO BE AGREED** The minutes to be agreed were those for the meeting held on 22nd April 2014 & the AGM held on 6th May 2014. They were agreed to be a true record.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

AGM: Cllr. W. Davies asked to be replaced as a Portfolio Member for Welsh Language since he did not speak Welsh. It was resolved that Cllr. Dark, who does speak Welsh, should replace Cllr. Davies.

April 22nd 2014 meeting:

4.3 St Bride's Churchyard tree & Cwmdauddwr Pound. Cllr. J. Jones reported that he had got a lock.

8 Urgent business: The Clerk's letters to Orange had been passed to EE for a response.

4.2 Town improvements: Cllr Walton reported that Richard Shaw has volunteered to make the planters etc at no charge. Councillors were most grateful for his generosity. Whilst the planters on the approach roads would definitely be required the situation at the North Street Island was still somewhat fluid. A meeting with Steve Geally of PCC had been arranged to take place there at 5.30pm on Thursday 22nd May. It was agreed that the Town Improvement Group would meet afterwards.

4.3 Allotments report.: Plots had been offered to 5 people who had previously rented from the Show Committee. To date only Roger Powell had replied (item 5.2) who, although he paid the rental, had issues with the Tenancy Agreement and had asked that consideration be given to provision of water. It was resolved that the Allotment Sub-committee would seek to meet with the plottolders to explain the Agreement & discuss any other issues at 6.30pm on Tuesday 27th May 2014.

The previous grazier, Paul Jones, had subsequently made alternative arrangements. It was resolved to seek another grazier & to draw up a suitable agreement for letting the grazing. It was suggested that Cllr. D. Evans would have appropriate experience to prepare an agreement for approval by the Council. **Cllr. D. Evans to draw up an appropriate agreement for consideration by the Council.**

4.4 Accounts: The Clerk reported that the Allotment Account with HSBC was now open, and the Show committees cheque had been deposited. The Weirglodd rentals had yet to be transferred.

Certified as a true record

Date

Chairman Councillor L. Price

20th May 2014

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES (CONT)

5.1 Vintage Show Committee: A letter of thanks, accepting the terms specified on the grant had been received since the agenda was issued.

5.2PCC: Dog Fouling Group scoping review: Cllr Curry reported that PCC would meet on 4th June. An e-mail (item 5.10) had been received from David Evans of Wye Lodge in which he described a particularly bad incidence of litter & human excrement on the Riverside walk. It was resolved that Cllr. Curry would bring this message to the attention of the above group.

Brynheulog road repairs: Ian Harris of PCC had provided a list of planned road works to be carried out in the present financial year. He was aware of the need for repairs at Brynheulog and was seeking funding.

3a: REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORTS

Cllr. Connelly reported that the Chair of R2K is stepping down and a replacement will be installed. She also reported that the TIC at the Arches is being rearranged and a rota system initiated to run it.

Cllr. Walton reported that funding is available at the School to do the work required on the toilets.

3b. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr. Price & Cllr. Dark declared an interest in item 5.11 and left the room as appropriate.

4. AGENDA ITEMS

4.1 Waun Capel Parc.

In the absence of Cllr Lloyd it was resolved to defer the item to the June meeting.

Cllr. Curry reported that work on the Tennis Courts will start on 9th June at the latest.

It was understood that grass cutting would only be cut 10 times a year. The anticipated effect that reduced grass maintenance could have on the appearance of Rhayader Cemetery gave concern to Councillors.

Cllr C. Evans joined the meeting at 7.35pm.

4.2 Town improvements.

Cllr. Connelly reported that Ian McPhee had undertaken to paint several seats within the next 2 weeks. It was suggested that the work on the benches should be a rolling programme. She agreed to circulate the list of benches which she had compiled for comment. **Councillors to bring comments to June meeting.**

She also reported that there was only sufficient funding to produce one more issue of the Newsletter. It was resolved that in principal RTC would fund the next 4 editions to provide time for further funding to be sourced elsewhere. **Cllr Connelly to determine prices etc. & report back by the June meeting.**

She reported that a "pop-up shop" will open in the Lion Royal shop. She also explained the procedure for the "health checks" associated with the Vibrant Towns project and what would be expected of Councillors. It was resolved that Councillors would carry out the process when required.

With regard to the trees by the Dark Lane toilets, Cllr. D. Jones thought that they posed a threat to the fabric of the building & undertook to investigate. Work on the inside of the building is due to be undertaken. It was agreed that more publicity should be pursued for the various aspects of RTC's role in the Community. The Chair & the Clerk had been in contact with Barry Jones, the new County Times reporter for Rhayader. He is based in Welshpool and will probably not be attending RTC meetings, but will be pleased to include news from RTC at all times. It was resolved that a new permanent item be added as an ongoing part of the agenda, namely "Press Release". The content for this will be decided during each meeting & sent to the County Times by the Clerk.

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20th May 2014

4.3 Adopt- a Site Agreement.

It was resolved to adopt the agreement. Cllr Price & the Clerk signed the document for return to PCC.

4.4 Funding Policy.

It was generally agreed that in the main, RTC's documented criteria & procedure was fit for purpose, but some aspects were not fully covered, particularly the use of the application form & follow-up after grants are made. The issue of supporting "national" events was discussed. It was felt that if these are held in or around Rhayader they bring benefit to the town. It was suggested that "underwriting" events may on occasion, be a more proper way of supporting them than actually giving a grant. It was resolved to revisit the documentation, including the application form to investigate if / what alterations may be beneficial.

Clerk to investigate in conjunction with Finance & Assets Sub-committee.

4.5 Councillor response to e-mails.

After discussion it was agreed that whilst e-mails are an excellent tool for distribution & communication they are not appropriate for making decisions. The decision process must take place at properly arranged meetings by those in attendance & subject to the meeting being quorate.

4.6 WW1.

Cllr. Williams reported that the Commemoration Service will be held on the 3rd August at the Town Clock. Some Councillors expressed concern that this venue in August could cause much traffic congestion.

On behalf of RTC, Cllrs. G. Williams & W. Davies to liaise with other the bodies involved.

4.7 Year Ending accounts & ancillary documentation.

The Clerk reported that the documentation was still with the Internal Auditor. Defer to next meeting.

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

5.1 Caroline John RYMCA: Dolgerddon thermal efficiency. This second letter confirmed Councillors belief that financing remedial work and improvements to Dolgerddon was an issue between the YMCA & PCC. It was resolved that RTC were unable to assist. **Clerk to inform Ms. John.**

5.2 Roger Powell: Allotment plot rental. To date this was the only response to the invitations to rent a plot. It was resolved to meet the potential plottolders to explain the agreement and discuss other matters

5.4 PCC: Planting of North Street island. Councillors were disappointed that in response to their enquiry, PCC had indicated that due to budget restraints, it was unlikely that the island would be planted up for the foreseeable future. However subsequently, at his request, a site meeting had been arranged with Steve Geally & RTC on Thursday 22nd May at 5.30pm to discuss what may be offered.

5.11 Rhayader Players: Request for financial assistance. Cllrs. Price & Dark left the room & Cllr. D. Jones took the Chair. The Players wished to arrange a free WW1 Centenary Anniversary concert. They sought assistance from RTC with the cost of the hire of the Leisure Centre. It was resolved that before RTC discuss the matter further, in view of the occasion and the aims of the Players they be advised to approach PCC to ask that the fee be waived or substantially reduced. **Clerk to make the suggestion & be ask to be informed of response.**

6. PLANNING No Planning Applications have been received.

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20th May 2014

7. **FINANCE** George McManus: £65 – Heather garden maintenance. Agreed.

8. **URGENT BUSINESS**

Cllr. Walton reported that an Act is being considered in Parliament which seeks to de-regulate highways for road races. If this Act becomes Law, it would be possible in essence for a road race to be organised in the Elan Valley.

Cllrs. Walton & W. Davies reported that the Primary School section of the Junior Dance which they had recently organised at the Rugby Club was well attended, but due to an unfortunate last minute YFC event taking place on the same evening, the Secondary School section was not. However Councillors were fully supportive of their intention to hold a similar dance on 6th June.

Cllr. Dark reported that the Running Club were keen to source & purchase a small unit/container to safely house their equipment and a location to site it. It was suggested that they approach the Rugby Club for a site.

It was resolved to issue Press Release comprising the following items:

- Details of the next Junior Dance.
- Location of the Tourist Information Point & due recognition to the generous support of RDCS and volunteers.
- Litter & dog fouling on the Riverside walk and the town in general.
- Recycling Banks usage and their added benefit to Rhayader & Cwmdauddwr.
- WW1 Commemoration Service on Sunday 3rd August.

9. **BUSINESS FOR NEXT MEETING**

1. Waun Capel Parc.
2. Town improvements.
3. WW1.
4. Year Ending accounts & ancillary documentation.

10. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next monthly meeting will be held at 7.00 p.m. on Tuesday 17th June 2014.

The meeting closed at 9.25 p.m.

Certified as a true record

Chairman Councillor L. Price

4 of 4

Date