

RHAYADER TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 21ST MARCH 2017 AT 6.30PM AT THE OLD SCHOOL CWMDAUDDWR

THOSE PRESENT

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

Prior to the meeting the awards from Rhayader Town Council's Bryntitli Fund which were determined at the February meeting were presented to representatives of the recipient organisations.

Alan Samuel and Clive Powell representing Rhayader and District Sports and Recreation Association then apprised the Town Council of the current situation of their Association's project to construct a Bike Park on the land at the Weirglodd by the Rugby Club. They showed a short video of the facility at Nant yr Arian, Ceredigion. Unlike that hilly site, the ground at Rhayader was flat but different levels would be created to enhance the user experience.

Cllr. Dark said that Steve Rowland had offered to do the preparatory groundwork free of charge.

An application is to be made for a grant from the Rural Community Development Fund for 80% of the cost which would probably require about £20K match funding.

Clive said that it was anticipated that the application for funding would be made by July and the project would go ahead within eight weeks of the funding being awarded. At present the only assistance which they required was assistance with compiling the application. He informed the meeting that the Bike Park at Hereford was open 24/7 with no supervision. Councillors agreed with Clive and Alan that the finished product would enhance the image and appeal of Rhayader for mountain biking.

1. **APOLOGIES:** Cllrs. M. Lloyd & D. Jones.

1a. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cllr. C. Evans commented that the Round The Lakes Race had been very successful yet again.

1b. MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION UNDER URGENT BUSINESS

- The Tabernacle wall (Bridge Street).
- Letter of congratulations.
- Seat in St Harmon Road
- Wales Remembers 2018

2. MINUTES TO BE AGREED

Minutes to be agreed were those for the meeting on 21st February 2017. They were agreed to be a true record.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

6.2 Town Improvements (21st Feb. 2017): Cllr. Dark reported that he had tested an area of paving and found that pressure washing was an effective way to clean it. He suggested that the Town Council should hire an "industrial" size pressure washer to enable a group Councillors to undertake a clean-up of the identified area.

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3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES (CONT)

This was agreed in principal.

Action: Cllr. Dark to bring quotations for hiring a suitable machine to the April meeting.

Cllr Walton reported that the glass for the triangular notice board was now available and that he would be fitting it in the next few weeks. **Action: Cllr. Walton to fit the glass into the notice board.**

6.5 Town Clock Memorial: The Clerk reported that Lottie O’Leary, a stonemason, had agreed to come to look at the Clock. He was awaiting her call to fix a date. Cllr. Curry reported that Nathan Davies had spoken to him about an accredited War Memorial restorer. The Clerk agreed to obtain the man’s contact details from Nathan and to contact the restorer. **Action: Clerk to contact the restorer**

Cllr. Dark suggested that a lot of memorials carried bronze name panels rather than stone and, over time this appeared to be more resistant to the elements than stone. It was agreed that Cllr. Dark should seek estimates for replacing all the stone name panels with bronze ones.

Action: Cllr. Dark to obtain quotes for replicating the name panels in bronze.

6.6 Community Asset Transfers:

Despite assurances from Harry Travis of PCC that he would provide an update about the CAT for Dolgerddon, the Clerk had received none. **Action; Clerk to press for a response.**

Since the agenda had been issued, a response about the Library CAT had been received from David Pritchard PCC which suggested that there was adequate accommodation accessible for community groups in Rhayader and inferred that no more was required. Councillors robustly refuted this suggestion, stating that it was a totally wrong assessment of the situation. It was resolved to inform the writer of the true situation, the absolute need to provide more community accessible space and RTC’s plans for creating such a facility at the Library. It was also resolved to issue a press release to highlight RTC’s eagerness to acquire the Library building via a CAT for community use and Councillor’s aspirations for the project.

Actions: Cllr. C. Evans to respond to Mr. Pritchard refuting his assessment of the situation and emphasising the real need for the Library to be used to address the long term shortfall. The Clerk to issue a Press release as above.

Some Councillors had been contacted as there were concerns that the access road to Dolgerddon Hall from East Street and from Dark Lane was being used as a public highway by users thinking it offered a ‘short cut’. The County Councillor agreed to ascertain the status of the road and make investigations as necessary..

Action: Cllr. Curry to investigate the matter.

Councillors had noticed that there were still three caravans parked at the Weirglodd despite assurances by the owner of one of them that one would be moved and the Clerks letter to PCC to ask for removal of the others. It was resolved that PCC be asked to expedite removal of the caravans and the known owner informed of this action. **Action: Clerk to write to PCC and to the known Caravan owner.**

4. REPRESENTATIVE’S REPORTS

Rhayader Collaborative Meeting: Cllr. C. Evans and Cllr. Walton had attended the recent Collaborative Committee meeting held on 7th March and acquainted members of RTC’s short, medium and long term goals. Other organisations had not yet agreed their own positions and agreed to do so prior to the next meeting.

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4. REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORTS (CONT)

Public Toilets Sub Committee Meeting: A meeting about the refurbishment of Cwmdauddwr and the Cemetery Toilets had been held the previous evening and draft minutes had been produced but not yet issued. Therefore Cllr. Price, as S/C Chair, gave a resumé of the meeting so that Councillors were aware of progress. She explained that Cllr. Walton and the Clerk previously met with the Architect to open the three sealed bids submitted by local contractors to carry out the refurbishments. Acting on the advice of the Architect, a cost breakdown was requested and had been received from the lowest bidder. The S/C had identified some points requiring further clarification which had subsequently been sent to the Architect. Subject to a satisfactory response the S/C felt it would be able to soon be in a position to place an order so that the Cwmdauddwr facility could be refurbished before the summer followed by the Cemetery facility. Traditionally VAT is claimed back via the Council's Current Account. Consequently the S/C sought agreement that the subsequent VAT element of the work would be paid and claimed via the Current Account not the Toilets Account. This was agreed in principal by Councillors. It was further agreed that the S/C should take appropriate measures to enable the order to be placed. The Minutes will be presented at the April meeting of the Town Council. **Action: Sub-committee to take appropriate measures to enable the order to be placed.**

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr. W. Davies declared an interest in planning Application P/2017/0263 which had been received after the Agenda had been issued and left the room as appropriate.

6. AGENDA ITEMS

6.1 Wyeside Caravan and Camping Site

Councillors were in complete agreement that the proposed alterations to the Camping Field were not within the spirit of the traditional usage of the site, nor of the covenant which was attached to the site when it had been gifted by the original owner. They were also perturbed that people were struggling to book in advance and feared that would have an adverse effect on their decision to make Rhayader their preferred holiday destination. Members were also concerned that despite assurances by PCC in the past, vehicular access to the Pavilion could be lost. The Town Council was eager to work with the Caravan and Camping Club to achieve a mutually acceptable and beneficial solution for the Camping Field. It was resolved to invite Nathan Goodyear, Commercial Development Manager of the Caravan and Camping Club to meet with Councillors to discuss the issue. **Action: Clerk to issue the invitation.**

6.2 Town Improvements

The Clerk had sourced several different styles of cycle stands on the internet and circulated the information to councillors before the meeting. After discussion it was resolved to purchase six (6) galvanised steel, bolt down, Sheffield cycle stands from ESE Direct Ltd. The exact locations for installation would be determined after receipt of the stands. **Action: Clerk to order six cycle stands as above.**

6.3 Welcome to Rhayader Signs

Councillors were in receipt of information obtained by Cllr. Lloyd from CIS Street Furniture which gave illustrations of different styles of signs and a quotation for supply and delivery. The illustrations provided were all for English towns, but it was acknowledged that more wording would be required for Welcome to Rhayader because they would also need to carry the message in Welsh. It was resolved to send a sketch of the required wording to CIS to ensure that the signs for which they quoted are capable of carrying the bi-lingual inscription. **Action: Clerk to contact CIS as above.**

Tony Caine of PCC had provided information about the licences required to erect the town signs along with the associated procedures and costs. He also indicated that RTC may find it more convenient and/or economical to use PCC's "gang" to erect them. He also asked which sign RTC had suggested was

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6. AGENDA ITEMS (CONT)

“dilapidated”. Cllr. Walton confirmed that both the one in St Harmon Road and the one on the A44 approach to Rhayader look worn. **Action: Clerk to inform Mr. Caine about the signs at both locations.**

6.4 Reimbursement of costs to Members.

Item 7.3 on the Agenda: the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales Annual Report contained the Panel’s Determinations 44 to 51 on payments to members of Town and Community Councils, any or all of which can be adopted by a Town Council.

Councillors resolved to adopt Determination 48 (Travel cost mileage reimbursement rates).

It was noted that as the Town Council already had a process in place to provide an annual allowance to the Mayor it had, by default, adopted Determination 46 (Civic allowance). The Council resolved not to adopt any of the other allowances.

6.5 Quarterly Budget Appraisal.

The Clerk had prepared and distributed a document to all members prior to the meeting which showed the current and anticipated spend to 24th March 2017 against the Precept, to enable Councillors to monitor current usage .

Councillors agreed that to date, in most areas spend was on target and recognised that for various reasons some anticipated spending would now not take place until after the end of the current financial year. It was agreed to accept the document and to take action to ensure that appropriate effort is placed on Town improvements during the remaining period of the year.

6.6 Audit for year ending 31st March 2017

The Auditor General for Wales had supplied an information pack for the Annual Audit year ended 31st March 2017 (Item 7.7 on the Agenda). **Action: Clerk to advertise the Audit as instructed and prepare documentation for the internal and external Auditors in line with the guidance contained in the pack.**

6.7 Queen’s Commonwealth Baton Relay

Councillors were informed that PCC was co-ordinating movement of the Baton within the County and it was scheduled to be in Rhayader for about an hour between 9.50 am and 10.50 am on September 7th 2017.

Rhayader was to be the only public street event for the Baton in Powys. The envisaged route was from ET James’ Garage in East Street, around the Town Clock and up North Street. Councillors were also informed that the Rhayader Collaborative Committee were organising associated events in Rhayader and that the Smithfield will be available for public use on the day. Cllr. Curry suggested that it should be “kid friendly” because that will virtually ensure that parents will attend. Councillors were asked to consider people to nominate for the privilege of carrying the Queen’s baton as it passed through Powys.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

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

8. PLANNING

The following applications were received after the Agenda had been issued:

P/2017/ 0263 for Householder: Erection of a two storey extension and associated works at Y Fiaren, 44 Maesmawr, Rhayader, Powys.

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

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8. PLANNING (CONT)

P/2017/0288 for Full: Change of use from residential unit (C3) to office use (B1) at Agents House, Elan Valley, Rhayader, Powys.

Cllr. D. Evans declared an interest and left the room.

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

P/2017/0284 for Advertisement: Consent to display various illuminated & non-illuminated signs at Co-op, East Street, Rhayader, Powys (formerly HSBC bank)

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

Action: Clerk to inform PCC of RTC's recommendation for each application considered..

9. FINANCE

There were no outstanding invoices

10. URGENT BUSINESS

The Tabernacle wall.

Cllr. Dark informed members that he had received comments from members of the public concerned about the safety of the boundary wall between the Tabernacle Chapel and the pavement in Bridge Street. It is apparently, increasingly showing signs of cracks. If this massive structure is in fact unstable, it would present a huge potential hazard to pedestrians, road users and perhaps even to the buildings above. It was resolved to write to Mike Bennet, as Treasurer to the Tabernacle Chapel, to seek assurances that the structure is in fact stable or if it is not to ask what measure are to be put in place to manage the potential danger to the public.

Action: Clerk to write to Mr. Bennet as above.

Letter of congratulations.

Cllr. Walton informed Councillors that Eleri Davies of Llwyncwttta Farm, a pupil in year 6 Welsh Stream of Rhayader Church in Wales Primary School had won the Piano Solo – Year 6 and under, in the Cylch Y Llannau Urdd Eisteddfod at Llandrindod Wells. Eleri then went on to win the Cup for the Overall Best Performance of the Day. It was suggested that a letter of congratulations be sent to Eleri from the Town Council. Councillors heartily agreed to do so. **Action: Clerk to send a letter as above.**

Seat in St Harmon Road

Cllr. Narborough reported that the seat in St Harmon Road near the top of the car park had broken slats. Cllr. Dark said that he had some slats left over from previous repairs and he would repair it. Councillors thanked him for his offer. **Action: Cllr. Dark to repair the seat.**

Wales Remembers 2018

Cllr. Williams asked if the Poppy Appeal Sub/Committee could take responsibility for overseeing local events arranged in connection with above the event. This was agreed. **Action: Cllr. Williams to arrange for this to be done.**

It was remarked that the parking sign near Leila's Seat at the junction from Bridge street to the Drill Hall had become obscured by vegetation from the plant bed and needed to be cut back to encourage use of the parking facility. Cllr J. Jones undertook to contact the Dolymynach Trust who had previously agreed to maintain the plant bed. **Cllr. J. Jones to ask the Dolymynach Trust to take remedial action.**

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11. PRESS RELEASE

- The urgency for the Campsite to open.
- Library CAT
- The Queen's Baton Relay

12. BUSINESS FOR NEXT MEETING

1. Riverside Walk

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next monthly meeting will be held at 7.00 p.m. on Tuesday 18th April 2017.

The meeting closed at 9.50 p.m.

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Date