

RHAYADER TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 21ST APRIL 2015 AT 7.00PM AT THE OLD SCHOOL CWMDAUDDWR

THOSE PRESENT

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

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

1a. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cllr. L. Price said that the magnificent turnout at the recent National Vintage Car Rally had brought many people to Rhayader. The fundraising event for the Air Ambulance had been very successful.

1b. MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION UNDER URGENT BUSINESS

- Caban car park.
- Condition of the streets in Rhayader.
- Grass cutting.
- White Paper on Local Government.
- Leisure Centre dances.
- Pont ar Elan.

2. MINUTES TO BE AGREED

The minutes to be agreed were those for the meetings held on 24th March 2015 & 15th April 2015. They were agreed to be true records.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Flower boxes & beds: It had been decided to retain all the beds presently on the island. Cllr. C. Davies said that when he asked George McManus if he was still willing to maintain them he understood there were only to be 3 beds. He would need to recheck to ensure that George is agreeable to do so.

4.3 Freedom of information: The work is ongoing.

Town Clock: Cllr. Walton had taken steps to solve the problem caused by bird entry. However he reported that the fabric of the building needed work to render it watertight. **Cllr Walton to brief the Clerk with what is required & Clerk to inform Nick Deardon of PCC.**

Matters arising from the meeting on 16th April 2015 are recorded in item 4.2 below.

3a: REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORTS

Cllr. Walton reported the presents situation with teaching assistants.

3b. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

Certified as a true record

Chairman Councillor L. Price

Date

21st April 2015

4. AGENDA ITEMS

4.1 Toilets

Today the Clerk had met at Dark Lane toilets with Welsh Government officers Rhodri Griffiths, Head of Transport Policy Planning & Partnership and Julia Williams Transport Policy. They had sought the meeting on their Minister's instructions after prolonged discourse about the usage of those toilets by the travelling public. They were pleased to note that as well as car parking space, the site provided lorry parking facility with overnight parking, local buses & school buses used the shelter on a daily basis and there was plenty of room for coaches to park. They were pleased that the facilities were close to local shops, cafés etc.

They emphasised that their interest was in these toilets only (not Cwmdauddwr & the Cemetery) because of their location and the service they provided to the travelling public, the trunk road in particular.

They seemed pleasantly surprised that RTC did not wish to make a charge for usage. They seemed satisfied that the basics were there but suggested that they were in need of a "facelift" to bring them to an acceptable level to be considered for funding. They were very keen that baby changing facilities be provided even if a toilet space is lost as a result.

They requested that RTC provide them with an estimate of costs to carry out the update outlined above so that they can make a business case to put to the Minister, with a view to securing some funding for that aspect. It was suggested that if WG was to provide funding towards running the toilets it would probably be a grant rather than WG take them over. It was stressed that the decision would be made by the Minister. It was agreed that at the Working Group & the Clerk would meet at the Toilets at 5pm the next day to discuss preparing a quote as a matter of urgency.

Some background information had been received from PCC (see item 5.1 on the agenda) and information on the drains was promised.

It was reiterated that RTC had, in principal, agreed to take on the toilets when a mutually acceptable agreement is reached with PCC. To this end, invitations to submit a tender for the service had been advertised & 3 tenders had been received. It was generally agreed that at that point in time when final agreement is reached with PCC it would be prudent for RTC to already have an organisation ready to carry out the cleaning. It was resolved to decide which of the firms offering a tender should be selected. The resultant offer would be conditional on RTC actually taking over the toilets and would start on that date. Councillors resolved that the selection should be held in private and a visitor left the room whilst this was carried out. Tenders had been received from Thompson Direct Ltd, Healthmatic and &H&A Pest Control & Cleaning Services. In the event it was resolved the tender from Healthmatic be selected.

Clerk to inform Healthmatic that their offer had been successful subject to RTC taking over the toilets from PCC. Clerk to thank Thompson Direct Ltd and H&A for their offers.

4.2 Caravan Site

Cllr. Dark reported that he had rang Colliers about disposal of the Caravan Site. He was informed that it is now only on offer as a 50 year lease. Previously it had been up for sale but they had now been advised that to only offer it as a lease.

The implications of the strip of common land through the site were discussed.

Cllr. C. Evans believed that RTC should re-iterate to PCC that it unanimously opposed to the sale of the Site. There should be further dialogue on what is the best way forward for the local community.

It was resolved to add the issue to the May meeting.

4.3 Volunteers Day

Cllr. Price explained that although she had not held a Civic Service in her year of office, she had arranged with the Vicar to make a donation towards the Volunteers Day in June. Councillors applauded her decision.

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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.

5.3 PCC: Community Delivery Initiative. In addition to this letter, Cllr Evans & the Clerk had attended a consultation session with representatives of OVW & WG on the “Reforming Local Government” White Paper. Both Documents purport to give more “power to the people” at local government level. However it was remarked that the proposals appeared to do exactly the opposite & in fact would likely result in LESS power rather than more. Cllr. C. Evans recommended that RTC make a response of its own to the White Paper prior to the closing date. It was agreed that Cllr. Evans should respond on behalf of RTC. **Cllr Evans to respond.**

A response from Dolymynach Community Trust had been received after the Agenda was issued. It informed that the Trust had met to discuss RTC’s complaint and indicated that it had been suggested to Mr. Lewis he write a letter of apology to the Mayor. However Mr. Lewis indicated that he would not apologise. Councillors were disappointed by the refusal by Mr. Lewis, but resolved that a letter of thanks be sent to the Trust for their recommendation. **Clerk to write.**

6. PLANNING

6.1 P 2015 0292 Full: Erection of a single storey extension (engineering machine shop) to existing premises and formation of additional parking spaces at Compact Orbital Gears Ltd. Brynberth Industrial Estate Rhayader, Powys. There were no objections to this application.

6.2 P 2014 1076 Outline of 5 dwellings (3x2 bed & 2x3 bed) and associate access work at Commodore Yard, East Street, Rhayader, Powys LD6 5EN. (amended description & plans). There were no objections to this application.

Clerk to inform PCC of RTC’s comments on the above 2 applications.

Mynydd y Gwynt Wind Farm – request to allow further time & notification of the examination timetable. Noted.

7. FINANCE £150 – PCC- Hire of Main Hall. Cllrs. Walton & W. Davies believed the invoice should only be £125. **Cllr. Davies to check with PCC. Clerk to make payment after clarification.**

8. URGENT BUSINESS

Caban car park: Cllr Price drew Councillors attention to the appalling condition of the surface of the car park at Caban Coch. It was resolved to write to Ed Parsons to request that it be improved. **Clerk to write.**

Condition of the streets in Rhayader: Councillors were disappointed about the fall-off in the level of street cleaning and general level of untidiness. Whereas PCC regularly swept roads & pavements this was seldom seen of late. Cllr Walton suggested that Councillors should compile a list of neglected items. **Clerk to write to PCC about the drop-off in the level of street cleaning.**

Cllr. Williams had spoken with Steve Geally who informed her that the grass was due to be cut in Rhayader & he had funding to do to do some work on the Pavilion & the courts.

Councillors wondered if the Pavilion would revert to the Parc Trust after the work was completed.

Councillors thanked Cllr. Walton for cutting the Roundabout.

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8. URGENT BUSINESS (CONT)

Cllrs. W. Davies & Walton reported that the recent junior disco was very popular but the senior event was a failure due to a total lack of attendance. This was a terrible disappointment particularly since the DJ, who had given his time for free, brought a really impressive amount of equipment and put on a very professional show.

Both Councillors agreed that this and their previous efforts to induce teenagers to stay in Rhayader for discos had met with little or no success. It was time to re-think the next step. To that end they will engage in discussion with young people via the Youth Club etc. to assess the best way forward. Accordingly, planned events had been cancelled.

Cllr. Curry had received PCC's latest proposal for traffic calming in St Harmon Road which he will circulate.

Cllr. J. Jones had been informed that there was a slope into the river at Pont ar Elan which could be an extreme hazard to children. **Cllr. Jones to look at it & then contact Ed Parsons to take appropriate action.**

Cllr. Dark said that for quite a while no member of the Press had attended Council meetings. He that in conversation with Dave Francis who expressed an interest in attending meetings and reporting to the paper as appropriate. It was agreed to invite him to the next monthly meeting. **Cllr. Dark to invite Mr. Francis.**

9. PRESS RELEASE

- Condition of the streets in Rhayader.
- The Caravan Site.
- Sporting Association meeting 5th May.
- Dances.

10. BUSINESS FOR NEXT MEETING

1. Toilets
2. Caravan Site.
3. Level of street care.
4. Sports Hall Fund.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The AGM will be held at 7.00pm on Tuesday 12th May 2015

The next monthly meeting will be held at 7.00 p.m. on Tuesday 19th May 2015.

The meeting closed at 9.45p.m.

Certified as a true record

Chairman Councillor L. Price

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Date