

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 21ST JUNE 2016 AT 6.30PM
AT THE OLD SCHOOL CWMDAUDDWR**

THOSE PRESENT

Chairman In the absence of Cllr. C. Evans, Deputy Chairman Cllr. C. Walton took the Chair
Councillors P. Dark W. Davies J. Humphreys M. Lloyd J. Stuart
C.R. Davies D.O. Evans D. Jones J. Narborough C. Walton
J. Jones L. Price G. Williams
County Cllr. K. Curry

Before the meeting Mr. Mark Stafford-Tolley, Countryside Access Officer, Powys County Council addressed the Council. Mark outlined his overall area of responsibility before turning to the reason for his visit – to discuss the Monk’s Trod. In principal he would favour access to be granted to the Trod if it could be sustainable but his budget is massively inadequate to allow the Trod to be reinstated to a standard which would enable four wheeled vehicles to use it. It is a bridle way and should only be reinstated to a bridleway standard. Due to its remoteness and sensitive location the only way to transport materials would be by helicopter which would incur prohibitive costs. His workforce largely comprises volunteers and he actively promotes recruitment of more volunteers. He acknowledged that RTC had suggested access be allowed for two wheel vehicles in the summer and is exploring solutions which will facilitate this whilst protecting the environment and complying with the associated laws. He is seeking sensible and affordable solutions to put in a report for approval by the Committee and would welcome suggestions from Councillors, potential user groups members of the public etc.

Cllr. J. Jones joined the meeting at 7.15 pm.

1. APOLOGIES: Cllr. C. Evans.

1a. CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman had no announcements.

1b. MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION UNDER URGENT BUSINESS

- Skip by Maes-y-Deri.
- Cwmdauddwr Green.
- Banners by the Leisure Centre.
- Sports Association Cheque.
- New solicitor’s office opening.
- Elan Valley Trail vegetation.

2. MINUTES TO BE AGREED

Minutes to be agreed were those for the meeting on 24th May 2016. They were agreed to be a true record.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Cllrs. Williams & Walton had met with Mr. Higginbottom of Green Fingers to discuss the standard of grass cutting in the Town. They had been informed that after a late start this year, Greenfingers will catch up in order to get back on schedule. They intend to spray the edges of grassed areas in winter so that they become “tidy” and will make an early start next year and will use a mulching mower. However the number of cuts

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3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES (CONT).

in a year will be in line with their contract with PCC. Cllr. Williams informed Councillors that Cllr. Walton had again mowed the North Street roundabout.

Cllr. Walton understood that Newtown Council were considering managing the grass cutting in their area themselves rather than it being done via PCC. It was agreed that RTC should investigate using a similar strategy.

The Clerk had been advised by the Clerk to Llandrindod Town Council to contact Jennie Thomas of PCC for information about Rhayader becoming “wi-fi free”. To date he had received no response. Cllr. Stuart said that he knew of someone else who would be able to provide information and would pass their contact details to the Clerk. **Cllr. Stuart to provide the contact details to the Clerk.**

The “Free Parking” sign was ordered by Cllr D. Evans and is now in use at the Smithfield on days when there is no Market. Councillors were of the opinion that it was encouraging usage by motorists.

It was reported that since being informed of the problem by RTC, PCC had now altered the 20/30mph sign in Bryntirion Lane to prevent it being struck by passing vehicles.

4: REPRESENTATIVE’S REPORTS

Cllr. Walton reported that the School budget was to be cut yet again and the School & the Governors will be announcing soon how they propose to manage the changes.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr. D. Evans declared an interest in item 8.1 and left the room when appropriate.

6 AGENDA ITEMS

6.1 Approval & certification of the Annual Return.

The Clerk reported that the Internal Auditor had now approved the accounts and associated documentation (which Councillors had adopted, subject to his approval, at the AGM). The Annual Return had subsequently been completed and also approved by him & signed by the Clerk as RFO. Councillors approved the return and it was signed by the Chairman. **Clerk to send the Return & related documents to the External Auditor.**

6.2 Rhayader Library

PCC had requested a general outline proposal in writing from RTC. Councillors re-affirmed their resolve to retain the Library in its present location, their willingness to investigate the implications of acquiring the building via a CAT and to determine from PCC the overall commitment which they are seeking. It was resolved, in response to PCC’s latest request, to inform them that RTC is continuing to review all options, which may involve requesting transfer of the Building by way of a CAT. **Clerk to reply as above.**

6.3 Rhayader street scene.

In light of the absence of Cllr. C. Evans, it was resolved to defer this item to the July meeting.

6.4 R2K funding.

Correspondence Item 7.1 sought to change the use of £750 awarded by the Council from the Bryntitli Fund to R2K in December 2015 to cover the anticipated printing costs of the Newsletter during 2016. They wished to use the grant to design and develop an electronic Newsletter and distribution list, to create a Newsletter template for on-going use and print a small number of Newsletters for distribution through a central location in Rhayader. It was resolved to approve the change with the proviso that the number of copies printed of

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6. AGENDA ITEMS (CONT)

each issue is equal to 50% of that which were previously printed and that they are distributed via multiple locations in Rhayader.

R2K also made two other enquiries:

Firstly, has RTC considered their request to include £1,000 for R2K's running costs in the Precept. It was resolved to inform R2K that the request for funding via the Precept would be considered in January 2017 when the new Precept was set.

Secondly, is RTC willing to sponsor the creation of a Community Plan. It was agreed that the request was too vague and more details would be required before an answer could be given. **Clerk to inform R2K of RTC's decisions.**

6.5 Community Plan.

In light of the absence of Cllr. C. Evans, it was resolved to defer this item to the July meeting.

6.6 Dolgerddon.

A message from David Micah, Commercial Property Manager, PCC, requested that RTC submit a marked up plan showing the extent of the surplus land in which the Council has an interest in acquiring via a CAT. It was resolved to express an interest in acquiring the land via a CAT. **Clerk to send RTC's expression of interest.**

6.7 Citizen of the Year

It was resolved to hold the competition for 2016 to be judged at the July meeting. **The Clerk to advertise for nominations and purchase the trophy from Welsh Royal Crystal.**

6.8 Best Kept Garden.

It was resolved to hold the competition for Best Kept Garden 2016 and to invite the proprietors of Midway Plants to select the garden which they judge to be best in Rhayader & Cwmduddwr. Cllr. C. Davies agreed to ask Midway Plants to be judge and explain how the competition was run last year. **Cllr. C. Davies to contact Midway Plants. The Clerk to purchase the trophy from Welsh Royal Crystal.**

6.9 Dark Lane Recycling bank.

Cllr. Williams expressed concerns about the habitual fly-tipping of material at the Recycling Bank at Dark Lane car park. Whilst agreeing that PCC appear to do their best to keep the area tidy, it does not satisfactorily control the situation, particularly at weekends when inappropriate material is habitually left on the ground. Her concern was shared by all present. It was resolved to contact to PCC in an effort to eradicate the problem. **Clerk to contact Ian Harris of PCC.**

6.10 The Somme Commemoration.

Cllr. Williams showed the wreath to be laid at the Clock on behalf of the Town Council in commemoration of those who fell at the Somme. Councillors agreed to share the cost personally.

6.11 Coach Park signs.

Cllr. D. Evans expressed concerns at the lack of directional signs for Coach parking. Councillors agreed that as a dedicated parking area existed, coaches should be encouraged to stop in Rhayader. Cllr. Curry agreed to follow up the issue. **Cllr. Curry to contact PCC.**

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6. AGENDA ITEMS (CONT)

6.12 Publicising meetings.

Cllr. D. Evans suggested that in addition to displaying the agenda on notice boards in each ward and posting it on the website the Council should routinely give notice of the meetings to the three local papers and local organisations. This was agreed. **Clerk to implement.**

Cllr. Stuart suggested that notification should be put on Facebook and volunteered to do so if Councillors agreed. This was agreed. **Cllr. Stuart to implement.**

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 prepared were noted.

7.4 Gwernyfed High School Governors: Proposed school closures.

It was resolved to acknowledge this message and confirm that all Councillors had seen it. **Clerk to implement.**

PCC: Powys War Memorials Project. It was resolved to contact the writer to discuss renovation of the name plaques on the Memorial. **Clerk to pursue.**

8. PLANNING

8.1 P 2016 0579 for Alterations to dwelling to provide access to the rear garden area at 4 North Street, Rhayader, Powys. Cllr. D. Evans left the room. There were no objections to this proposal & Councillors recommended approval. **Clerk to inform PCC.**

Planning received after the agenda was issued:

P 2016 0622 for Extension to existing bungalow at Pant Perthog, Bryntirion Lane Rhayader, Powys. There were no objections to this proposal & Councillors recommended approval. **Clerk to inform PCC.**

9. FINANCE

Invoices received after the agenda was issued.

£170.05 - Midway Plants – Perennial & bedding plants for new boxes plus compost & fertilizer. Agreed. **Clerk to make payment.**

£99.63 - Midway Plants –Bedding plants, for existing boxes. **Clerk to make payment.**

£35 – OVW – Place booked for Training (Cancelled outside of the allotted period). **Clerk to make payment.**

10. URGENT BUSINESS

Cllr. C. Davies reported that there was a full skip by the garages at Maes-y-Deri which had been there for a considerable time. According to the inscription on the skip it was the property of Simon Price. It was resolved to contact the firm and request that it be moved. **Clerk to make the request.**

Cllr. Dark expressed concern about the number of advertisements which are displayed on the railings by the Leisure Centre as they detracted from the appearance of the area and some were out of date. There was considerable agreement on this issue but from experience, seeking assistance from PCC would result in all advertising being removed. It was agreed that this would not be a good result, so other than encouraging removal out of date advertisements it was decided to take no immediate action but to monitor the area to the future.

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10. URGENT BUSINESS (CONT)

Cllr. Curry reported that, after a long delay, Rhayader & District Sports & Recreation Association had been able to open a bank account. Unfortunately due to the delay, the grant cheque to the value of £495 from the Bryntitli Fund had become out of date. He requested that a replacement check be issued. It was resolved that on receipt of the original cheque a replacement cheque should be issued. **Clerk to arrange.**

Cllr. Curry drew Councillors attention to the invitation from Milwyn Jenkin & Jenkins Solicitors to attend the opening of their new office in West Street.

Cllr. J. Jones reported that vegetation is encroaching on to the Elan Valley Trail/Cycle track to an unacceptable degree and needs to be cut back. **Clerk to contact Brian Price of PCC.**

11. PRESS RELEASE

- Fly tipping at Dark Lane.

12. BUSINESS FOR NEXT MEETING

1. Rhayader Library.
2. Rhayader Street Scene.
3. Community Plan

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next monthly meeting will be held at 7.00 p.m. on Tuesday 26th July 2016.

The meeting closed at 8.50 p.m.

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