

RHAYADER TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 21ST OCTOBER 2014 AT 6.30PM AT THE OLD SCHOOL CWMDAUDDWR

THOSE PRESENT

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

Prior to the meeting Mr. Ieuan Joyce Chairman of the Elan Valley Trust & Ms. Eluned Lewis, the Trust's Project Officer for their Heritage Lottery Fund bid addressed the Council. Their visit was in response to the request by RTC to send a representative to their meetings.

Mr. Joyce explained that the Trust is 25 years "old" within a 999 year lease. He gave an overview of the Trust's membership, its objectives and activities.

In view of the presence now occupied by the Trust in the area, Mr. Joyce agreed that it would be ideal if there were a dedicated representative of the Town Council in addition to those Councillors who attended as Trustees. He explained how Trustees are currently appointed (Powys, Dyfed, various national statutory bodies including Dŵr Cymru) and that appointing bodies take on responsibility for liability in the event of the worst happening. Trustees, rather than being representatives of these organisations are there to promote the best interests of the charity and the achievement of the Trust's charitable objectives. However the Trust is currently in the process of changing the way they are constituted to reduce liability risks in such a way that it will be possible to remove the restriction on the number of appointing bodies and be able to appoint Trustees from a wider pool.

He indicated that the Trust's income was now stable which gave more opportunity to fulfil its charitable objectives.

Ms. Lewis was appointed to oversee the Trust's heritage Lottery Fund bid. She outlined the objectives and benefits which would accrue to a successful bid and explained the current position and the way forward.

Mr. Joyce said that they would also welcome related input, particularly suggested projects, from other people and organisations.

Cllr. J. Jones was concerned that there still remained some 20 properties on the Estate who had no electricity other than generators. Mr. Joyce explained that they in the process of electrifying as many of those as possible & recruiting an electrical consultant to determine what systems would be most suited and make best economic sense for which homesteads. The overall process is expected to take a year or two to complete.

Cllr Dark enquired what were the future plans to re-open a vehicular link with Ceredigion. Mr. Joyce said they would welcome suggestions as to how & where this should be done, but throughout they must consider the aim which is implicit upon the Trust to maintain the area for the "quiet enjoyment" of the public.

In answer to a query from Cllr. C. Evans, Mr. Lewis said that they had some "holiday" properties for hire were looking at the possibility of increasing this, maybe with other types of accommodation.

Cllr. C. Evans also raised the ever growing problem of vegetation encroachment. Mr. Lewis said that Ed Parsons will be addressing those sort of problems in the Landscape Project.

Cllr. J. Jones suggested that Dolymynach – the unfinished dam - had virtually disappeared and due to its historical significance would be an ideal subject for refurbishment. Mr. Lewis agreed & said that this was being considered.

After the visitors left, it was confirmed that Cllr. Walton would attend the meeting on 5th Nov

1. **APOLOGIES:** There were no apologies – all Members were present.

Certified as a true record

Date

Chairman Councillor L. Price

21st October 2014

1a. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cllr. L. Price wished to congratulate Dilwyn & Molly Thomas who had, over time, raised in excess of £30,000 for charity. Resolved to send a letter of congratulations. **Clerk to write.**
She had recently represented the Town Council at the 30th Anniversary Service for the St. Michaels Hospice in Hereford Cathedral.

1b. MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION UNDER URGENT BUSINESS

- Allotments.
- Remembrance Day Service.

2. **MINUTES TO BE AGREED** The minutes to be agreed were those for the meeting held on 16th September 2014 & the special meeting held 14th October. They were agreed to be a true record.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

From 16th September:

4.5 Dolgerddon. Cllr. Curry gave an update on the present situation. There are some 80 years remaining on the current lease so the administrators are obliged to advertise it as being available for suitable organisations on the open market. The value has been set at between £75K and £100K. A business case will be submitted by RDCS for approval by PCC, but further development must await the outcome of this advertising. Tenants are "safe" at the moment but the administrators are trying to fill the vacancy which has occurred for a cleaner.

5.1 PCC: Wyaside Camping & Caravan site. Cllr. C. Davies undertook to gather the information and give it to the Clerk who would pass it to PCC. **Cllr. Davies to collect the information & Clerk to contact PCC.**

5.2 PCC: Road marking correspondence. Cllr. Price had received a letter and photographs from the people who had requested that PCC extend the double yellow lines across the area directly in front of the Bear. Cllr. W. Davis declared an interest and left the room. The letter explained that the request had been that the lines should only be in front of the Spice Cottage to allow better view of traffic in East Street to drivers leaving the car park, not to extend as far as The Mount. Cllr. Price to meet the writer to fully assess the request.
Cllr. Price to determine exact proposal and report back.

From 14th October:

Considerable discussion took place about the implications of RTC assuming responsibility for the 3 toilet blocks. A tentative estimate had been produced but still needed more work before it could be considered a reliable working document. However it was resolved to be an adequate basis on which to seek a meeting with the Portfolio Holder and appropriate officer(s) for further discussions about keeping the service provision open in Rhayader & Cwmduddwr. **Clerk to seek the meeting.**

3a: REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORTS

Cllrs. Walton & Curry gave information about progress towards the new crossing to serve Bryntirion School. It was also stated that a start of work on the new toilets was imminent.

Cllr. J. Jones had been questioned by ITN about Roger Williams MP and Kirsty Williams AM. He had replied that, over time, they had both been very helpful to RTC on several matters.

Cllr. Dark reported that R2K & Orphans were still consulting about the logo and strapline to be used on the new website. He also reported several inconsistencies and shortfalls had been noted with regards to the Fingerposts around Town. General discussion about signage then took place.

3b. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr. Humphreys declared an interest in item 4.4 and left the room as appropriate.

Certified as a true record

Date

Chairman Councillor L. Price

21st October 2014

4. AGENDA ITEMS

4.1 Business Survey.

The Clerk had retrieved the paperwork & supporting information from Jackie Connolly. Cllr Dark informed the Council that R2K wished to resume control of the Bench Marking project. Concern was expressed that R2K may not have the “manpower” to complete the Survey in the stipulated period. It was suggested that in the event of a shortfall, perhaps some assistance from Councillors could be given. It was resolved to inform R2K that if they wish to manage the project, RTC will accept their decision. RTC has already prepared Business Survey blanks and compiled the list of Businesses ready for the Survey to be carried out. These will be made available to R2K when required. **Cllr. Dark to inform R2K as above.**

4.2 Waun Capel Parc.

Cllr. Williams gave a report on her discussions with Steve Geally who had said that a new legal document is being prepared for the courts, the bank will be cut next year by using contractors and the will be cleared. Cllr. Narborough thanked Cllr. Williams for her efforts on behalf of the Parc Trust. Cllr. Curry reported that the tarmac is complete and the lines etc will be painted within the next 4 weeks. A cash machine will be provided. The Trust will need to determine the level of fees and whether it is installed inside or outside the building. Steve Geally will include the drainage on his budget proposals for next year and refurbishment of the Pavilion will be the subject of a Capital Bid next year. Andrew Mills will be doing the tree-work in the near future.

4.3 Sports Development.

Cllr. C. Evans reported that she & Cllr. Walton had met with Elin Wozencraft the Community Sports Development Officer. An open meeting has been arranged at the Leisure Centre on the “Benefits of a Sporting Organisation”. It was resolved to send a copy of the invitation to the press in order to attain a wider coverage. **Cllr. C. Evans to forward details to the Clerk for release to the press.**

4.4 North Street roundabout.

Cllr. Narborough said that at weekends another sign for the Eagle is placed on the pavement in such a position that it blocks the view of drivers wishing to join the main road. Resolved to ask them to move the sign further back to give an adequate line of sight. **Clerk to write.**

Councillors were aware that PCC do not intend to maintain the roundabout to the future and anticipated that RTC will be asked to take on this role. It was resolved to revisit the issue of signage and maintenance when they are aware of all aspects such as changes are known.

4.5 Red Kites.

Cllr. Dark had requested this item to be added to the Agenda as a result of complaints he had received about the vast number of kites daily visiting Rhayader due to the feeding station. Councillors recognised that the kite population had vastly increased over the years but they did not possess the expertise to judge if the “artificial” feeding regime was good or bad for the birds, but it was remarked that this operation brought visitors to Rhayader. It was resolved that this was not an issue in which RTC should become involved & that to the future, people wishing to comment on kites should be advised to contact the RSPB.

4.6 Approval & acceptance of Annual Return year ending 31st March 2014.

Councillors formally approved and accepted the completed audit.

Clerk to advise the External Auditor.

Certified as a true record

Chairman Councillor L. Price

3 of 4

Date

21st October 2014

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.

Correspondence received since the agenda was prepared:

Citizens Advice Bureau: Appeal for donation. It was resolved to make a donation of £50. **Clerk to process.**

6. PLANNING

6.1 P 2014 0934 For Householder: Construction of garden wall around the southern boundary of curtilage of listed building (resubmission) at Greenfields, South Street, Rhayader, Powys.

6.2 P 2014 0939 For LBC: Construction of garden wall around the southern boundary of curtilage of listed building (resubmission) at Greenfields, South Street, Rhayader, Powys.

There were no objections to either application. **Clerk to advise PCC of RTC's comments.**

7. FINANCE

7.1 £354 BDO LLP – audit fee. Agreed. **Clerk to make payment.**

8. URGENT BUSINESS

- Allotments.

The Rhayader Allotments still await connection to be made by Welsh Water. It was resolved to defer preparing new plots there because several plots are again available at the Weirglodd Allotments.

Councillors were advised that efforts should be made to source a grazier to start in March, but if anyone wish to use the ground in the interim this should be considered.

- Remembrance Day Service

British Legion branch in Rhayader have traditionally organised the Remembrance Day Service at the Clock. Because the Rhayader branch no longer exists, Cllr. Williams proposed that this year and to the future, RTC assume the role of organiser. It was resolved to do so via a sub-committee comprising Cllrs. G. Williams, L. Price, J. Stuart, J. Narborough & P. Dark.

Cllr Stuart remarked that in the past, although spaces had been designated for local organisation, no such provision had been made for young ex-servicemen and nor indeed service personnel who attended the service. It was agreed that this shortfall would be addressed.

Councillors were pleased to learn that Jerome Paterson wished to lay a wreath at this year's service.

Cllr Walton said that at present the posts and chain were down, there was an ingress of water through the stonework and the name plaques continued to deteriorate. **Clerk to contact Nick Deardon.**

9. PRESS RELEASE

- Advertising allotments
- Health survey support for RTC to R2K

10. BUSINESS FOR NEXT MEETING

1. Bryntitli
2. Sports development.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next monthly meeting will be held at 7.00 p.m. on Tuesday 18th November 2014.

The meeting closed at 9.00p.m.

Certified as a true record

Chairman Councillor L. Price

Date