

RHAYADER TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 22ND MARCH 2016 AT 6.30PM AT THE OLD SCHOOL CWMDAUDDWR

THOSE PRESENT

Chairman Councillor D. Jones
Councillors P. Dark C. Evans J. Humphreys J. Narborough J. Stuart
W. Davies D.O. Evans J. Jones G. Williams
County Cllr. K. Curry

1. **APOLOGIES:** Cllrs. M. Lloyd, L. Price, C. Walton & C.R. Davies.

1a. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman had represented RTC at the diamond Wedding celebrations of Mr. & Mrs. Davies, officiated at the opening of the new public defibrillator service & presented the awards at the Rhayader & Elan Valley Angling Association Annual Dinner.

1b. MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION UNDER URGENT BUSINESS

- Street parking.

2. MINUTES TO BE AGREED

Minutes to be agreed were those for the meetings held on 16th February 2016 & 24th February 2016. They were agreed to be true records.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

16th February:

Replacement bin: The Clerk had ordered the bin, delivery was expected in 4 weeks.

4.1 TOR for Town Improvement Sub-committee: The Clerk provided copies a draft Terms Of Reference. It was resolved to discuss their suitability at the April meeting. **Councillors to study the document beforehand.**

4.5 Land at Dolgerddon:

The Clerk had identified the process which RTC would need to follow if they sought preservation orders for any of the trees.

In light of the e-mail messages from PCC, it was resolved to inform them that RTC strongly urge that the land should not be offered for sale until all avenues have been exhausted. **Clerk to acquaint PCC with RTC's comment.**

Cllrs. C. Evans & J. Jones joined the meeting.

Councillors welcomed Kay Thomas, Leslie Fisher & Liza Griffiths of PCC who joined the meeting to discuss Rhayader Library as it is now and how the service might be provided to the future.

Councillors were informed of the full scope of the traditional library services and the interaction being fostered with the Rhayader School to encourage pupil's interest and encourage membership of the Library.

They were also informed of the PCC "non-library" services which could be accessed at the branch.

Kay Thomas indicated that the main reason for their visit was to encourage discussion about alternative ways of delivering the service which would prove better for the local population and also save on the cost to PCC of its delivery. Their present thinking/aspiration is that PCC would continue to manage the building but the

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local community would deliver, or share the cost of delivery of the service. Crickhowell was cited as an example of how this could be made to work.

At Rhayader the present annual cost of service delivery is £24K which comprised staffing, training, gas, water, sundries & cleaning.

Cllr. Dark asked if the Library moved or closed down would PCC sell the land?

It was emphasised that at present the aim is for the Rhayader Library to remain, although alternative locations had not yet been ruled out.

Some Councillors suggested that having recently raised the value of the Precept to enable the Town to retain its public toilets, another major hike so soon would be unacceptable.

Cllr. Stuart suggested that what would be required was to arrange a “Friends of the Library” initiative. To assess whether such a scheme could be viable in the long term, community engagement needed to be initiated as a matter of urgency.

After the visitors left it was suggested that in order to fully appreciate what was involved a scoping exercise needs to be undertaken. As an initial step, RTC should visit the Library one evening before meeting at the Council Chamber for further discussions. A visit to meet with the organisers providing library delivery at Crickhowell should be arranged. Having discussed the information gathered an open meeting with the local Community should be arranged.

3a: REPRESENTATIVE’S REPORTS

Cllr. Williams reported that the MUGA & tennis courts at Waun Capel Parc are being used on a regular basis. No adverse comments have been received about the court surface or the height of the fence. The Trust has arranged that the trees & ground cover will be sympathetically managed. Work is due to start on the pavilion in May.

Cllr. Dark reported that R2k had initiated a scheme to encourage local businesses to display hanging baskets.

Cllr. Stuart said that the Rhayader & District Vintage Show Committee had changed its name to Rhayader Vintage Club.

3b. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr. J. Jones anticipated that he would need to declare an interest in part of item 4.3.

4. AGENDA ITEMS

4.1 Roads in Rhayader.

Cllr. W. Davies said that he & Cllr. Lloyd had looked at the state of road surfaces in Rhayader & Cwmdauddwr and reported that the following areas were in a particularly bad state of repair:

- Dark Lane in front of Crosfield House.
- The length of Hoel y Brenin from St Harmon road to Brynheulog Estate.
- St. Harmon road in front of the Leisure Centre.
- Church Street by North Street Roundabout.
- There are potholes in the top road of Maes y Brennin.
- Llawrllan estate in general.

Cllr Stuart said that such faults could be reported via the PCC website. It was resolved that the Clerk should report the points highlighted above to PCC and via a press release, encourage the public to use the link when they become aware of problems with the roads. **Clerk to report faults & issue press release.**

4.2 Disabled parking west Street/East Street.

Cllr. Curry reported that PCC will go ahead with all the road markings (including the latest amendments) which had been agreed with RTC. However, in light of the recent closure of HSBC they wished to check

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whether RTC still wished to change the disabled parking bays in East Street & West Street. It was resolved that closure of the Bank had negated the need for the change & that disabled parking facilities should remain as they presently are. **Cllr. Curry to inform PCC of RTC's comments.**

4.3 Toilets update.

The Clerk reported that apart from minor issues which were due to be corrected in the next few days, all internal work had been completed and he had applied for payment of the WG grant.

The Public Toilet Sub-committee had identified work which needed to be carried out to the exterior of the building to complete the overall refurbishment of the facility and had sought 2 quotes to put before the Town Council.

Cllr. J. Jones declared an interest & left the room. It was noted that no visitors were present.

Quotes had been received from Messrs Davies & Jones & P. Walden.

After discussion about the scope of the work, several Councillors agreed to carry out the work themselves at no cost if RTC provided the materials. It was agreed to accept this public spirited offer provided that the work could be carried out in the near future. **Public Toilet Sub-committee to organise & manage the external refurbishment.**

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 PCC/Freedom Leisure: Wye Lounge. Councillors were disappointed that their suggestions about the location of the planned fitness suite and retention of the Wye Lounge had been discounted by the Company and PCC. They were also surprised and disappointed that PCC Portfolio Holder Cllr Brown had disbanded the Leisure Centre Consultative Committee. **Clerk to convey RTC's comments to Cllr. Brown.**

5.2 Cardtronics UK: 24 hr accessible cash machine. The firm expressed its intention to install a 24 hour accessible cash machine at the Spar. The writer had reiterated their intention by phone today to the Clerk.

5.3 Mr & Mrs. R. Newton: Pedestrian Crossing at the Smithfield. Councillors were shocked to learn of the "near misses" experienced by the writer. However in the main they had not experienced of the problem in person. It was therefore resolved to forward the letter to the neighbourhood police with a request that they look into the situation. **Clerk to forward the letter .**

5.4 PCC: Street Naming. Councillors were of the opinion that the name Dolgerddon is over used in the vicinity of the development and yet another allusion to it could increase the likelihood of confusion. They rejected the suggested name in favour of Cwrt Cae Teg, Fairfield Court.

Clerk to advise PCC of RTC preference

5.11 CSP Schools Service: Consultation on Nantmel School closure proposal. Councillors welcomed the extension of the consultation period. Cllr. C. Evans proposed that RTC should go on record as objecting to the closure by responding to consultation and also send a letter to the Head of Schools Service. It was resolved to adopt this approach. **Clerk to respond accordingly.**

5.12 Welsh Salmon & Trout Angling Association: Request for funding. Councillors did not consider that this request met their criteria for funding as it was from a national organisation on behalf of an individual & would have no residual tangible benefit to the local community.

It was therefore resolved not to make an award. **Clerk to inform the applicant of RTC's decision.**

5.13 Teenage Cancer Trust Wales: Request for funding. It was resolved to make a grant of £50 from the Recycling Account. **Clerk to process payment.**

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5.15 Macmillan Cancer Support: Request for funding. It was resolved to make a grant of £50 from the Recycling Account. **Clerk to process payment.**

St Harmon Road traffic calming: Cllr. Curry reported that PCC had stated that, subject to no adverse budget changes, the scheme should go ahead next year, but noted that the route of the Tour Of Britain Cycle Race is shown as coming down St Harmon Road into Rhayader, so they thought that it would be better to leave construction till after the event. However Councillors felt strongly that there should be no delay in putting this road safety scheme in place and believed that the event should not be allowed to delay the start of the work. **Cllr. Curry to inform PCC of RTC's comment.**

David Evans of R2K had asked for an opportunity to brief Councillors on the current situation. **Clerk to invite Mr. Evans to the AGM.**

Tower Mint Ltd: Offer for sale of Commemorative Medals for 90th Birthday of HM Queen Elizabeth II. It was resolved to present a medal to all the pupils at Bryntirion School. **Clerk to purchase sufficient medals.**

6. PLANNING

No planning Applications have been received.

7. FINANCE

£883.29 – Broxap Ltd – Cast iron litter bin. **Clerk to process payment.**

£27,936 – Healthmatic Ltd – Refurbishment of Dark Lane Toilets. **Clerk to process payment.**

£50 – PO Ltd (For PCC) – Weirglodd lease rental. **Clerk to process payment.**

8. URGENT BUSINESS

RDCS Cllr Curry informed that RDCS were going to apply for a road closure for West Street for the Queen's birthday celebrations. Some Councillors felt that it was better to hold events in the Smithfield rather than cause unnecessary congestion in the streets. The clerk was instructed to send a message of support for any event which RDCS wished to arrange and ask what assistance they may like from RTC. **Clerk to write.**

9. PRESS RELEASE

Encourage use by the public of PCC website to report road needing repair.

The MUGA is now fully functional & available for use

Encourage support to resist closure of Nantmel School.

10. BUSINESS FOR NEXT MEETING

No new business was proposed

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next monthly meeting will be held at 6.30 p.m. on Tuesday 19th April 2016.

The meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.

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