

RHAYADER TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 22ND APRIL 2014 AT 6.30PM AT THE OLD SCHOOL CWMDAUDDWR

THOSE PRESENT

Chairman Councillor J. Stuart
Councillors J. Connelly W. Davies J. Humphreys J. Jones C. Walton
C.R. Davies C. Evans D. Jones M. Lloyd
County Cllr. K. Curry

Prior to the meeting Ms Vanessa Garwood of PCC gave an update on the Vibrant Towns Project which she explained originated as the High Street Project. The basic objective of the scheme was to “rejuvenate” towns though-out Powys which are in decline. Rhayader & Newtown were judged to be good examples of small towns & large towns sharing the same basic problems and were chosen as centres for the pilot project. Funding in the region of £25K will be used in Rhayader and will be channelled through R2K as the contact organisation. Areas to be addressed, amongst others, are the Town & small businesses websites, encouragement of new/potential businesses to take “Meanwhile Use” & “Pop-up Shops” in empty shops. Town “Health Checks” and Benchmarking will be set up to evaluate & quantify performance. Ms. Garwood provided Councillors with more detailed information in the form of handouts.

1. **APOLOGIES:** Cllr. L. Price, G. Williams & D. Evans.

1a. CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cllr. J. Stuart reported that he had enjoyed attending the High Sherriff’s Declaration. He informed that the collection at his Civic Service had amounted to £227 which he would raise to £250 and £50 would be donated to each of 5 local causes.

2. **MINUTES TO BE AGREED** The minutes to be agreed were those for the meeting held on 18th March 2014. It was resolve that there were two errors, namely on page 2, item 3a, reference to Cllr. Connolly’s status report for benches & picnic tables had been omitted & on page 3, item 4.7, the solicitor’s were H Vaughan Vaughan. With these corrections they were agreed to be a true record. **Clerk to amend accordingly.**

Notes from the Allotment Sub-committee site meeting on 1st April 2014 & the RTC site meeting on 8th April were agreed to be true records.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

5.2 Cllr. Graham Brown/Rhayader Leisure Centre: Cllr. C. Evans reported that she will continue efforts to arrange a meeting.

4.2WRhayader & Cwmdauddwr toilets: Seemingly as a result of RTC request for remedial work the Cemetery toilets were closed by PCC, but subsequently after RTC’s protest the male toilets were re-opened.

4.3 St Bride’s Churchyard tree & Cwmdauddwr Pound. The wall & gate post have now been repaired. Cllr. J. Jones offered to sort out the lock.

8 Urgent business: No reply had yet been received from Orange. There were reports of an “echo” on mobile phones in & around the Elan Valley & Cwmdauddwr. **Clerk to write Orange/EE.**

Cllr. C. Evans stated that as the R2K number no longer exists, care should be taken to ensure that to the future it does not appear on any information published etc.

Certified as a true record

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3a: REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORTS

Cllr. Connelly reported that R2K would not be merging with RDCS at present. They have formed a sub-group which is dealing with the new website.

3b. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr. Curry declared an interest in all planning issues & Cllr. Stuart declared an interest in item 5.1 Both left the room as appropriate.

4. AGENDA ITEMS

4.1 Waun Capel Parc.

Cllr. Lloyd reported that the Parc Trust Secretary had not received a reply from PCC.

Cllr. C. Davis informed that the Bowling Club would be assuming responsibility for the greens once PCC had "sorted out" the finances.

Cllr. Curry reported that it is envisaged that work will go ahead with the multi-court facility & be completed by the end of May. Funding for remedial work on the building is still being pursued.

4.2 Town improvements.

Cllr. Walton had discussed the Council's mower with John Rees. They considered that the machine was suitable to cut the Riverside Walk & other places around Town. Cllr Walton will cut the Riverside Walk in the near future. It was agreed that the Brambles near the Rugby Club end of the Walk would need to be cut by machine but it was suggested that until that could be done the area by the notice board should be cut using hand loppers. **Cllr Stuart to arrange.** Eli Jones had agreed to view the path where it was diverted into the Rugby ground & give the Clerk an estimate the cost of putting down some stone to improve the surface.

Councillors were informed that David Price had use his own mower to cut the North Street Island prior to Easter. It was resolved to send him a letter of appreciation. **Clerk to write.**

Before RTC initiated any work on the Island beds it was agreed to enquire of PCC when the flower beds would be planted in order to verify whether or not they would be planted by PCC. **Clerk to write.**

Cllrs. Stuart & Walton to progress fabrication of planters & bed edges.

Cllr. C. Davies reported that plants of a type which need less watering would be available by mid May.

Cllr. Connelly suggested that despite the work she had initiated on Dark Lane corner further work was require to give an acceptable appearance to the area. **Cllr Connelly to scope the work required.**

Whilst seeking quotes for painting the benches, Cllr Connelly had been asked to clarify whether the wooden slats needed to be fully treated on the underside. It was resolved not to require that benches are removed from the ground fixings but nevertheless the underside must be cleaned and the finish applied as well as possible. Cllr. Connelly informed that she had indicated that Councillors would carry out the Health Checks associated with the Vibrant Towns Project when appropriate.

Councillors were informed that the proposal to relocate the Tourist Information Point from the Arches to CARAD had been dropped in the face of the solid opposition of the volunteers who presently run it.

The windows of the Spar were mentioned & Cllr. W. Davies declared an interest, but it was decided to defer further the matter until detailed discussions about the town centre take place as part of the Vibrant Towns Project.

4.3 Allotments report.

As a consequence of the site visit to the Rhayader Allotments it was resolved: to offer the people who rented plots from the Show Committee the chance to rent plots from RTC at a rate of £30 per annum and in accordance with the Council's Rhayader Allotments Tenancy Agreement. **Clerk to write.**

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4. AGENDA ITEMS (CONT)

RTC would investigate the cost of supplying mains water to the site connected to a trough rather than a tap. **Cllr. Walton to investigate costs, procedures etc.**

It was resolved to let the remainder of the site for grazing on a 6 monthly basis at a rate of £120. **Clerk initially contact Paul Jones.**

4.4 Accounts.

It was resolved that until a better investment becomes available the Reserve & Maintenance funds & the Sports Hall funds should remain with NatWest.

It was resolved to open a new account with HSBC for all Allotment monies. After the Agenda had been issued the Horticultural Show Committee wrote to finalise the transfer of its assets to RTC and enclosed a cheque for £3020.35. It was resolved to deposit this cheque in the new account along with plot rentals from the Rhayader Allotments and to transfer rents collect this year for the Weirglodd Allotments into this account. **Clerk to make arrangements.**

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 Vintage Show Committee: Items for funding. This information was given as a response to RTC's enquiry regarding Welsh National Tractor Road Run. It was resolved to donate £100 for the Welcome banner at the field entrance & £400 for the hire of the marquee, provided that both items carried reference that they were paid for by RTC. **Clerk to make payment subject to the above condition.**

5.2 PCC: Dog Fouling Group scoping review. **Cllr. Curry to discuss with PCC.**

5.5 Roger Williams MP: Call to nominate local good cause. Resolved to nominate RDCS. **Clerk to make the nomination.**

5.8 Rhayader YMCA: Request for grant to improve energy efficiency. Councillors were pleased to note the initiative shown by YMCA, but questioned whether the issue of improvement of thermal efficiency of the building should not be more properly be addressed by PCC as the freeholder of the premises rather than by Rhayader YMCA. They also wondered if the Green Deal Scheme would be applicable to the building. **Clerk to put the above points to the applicant.**

An invitation to sign a revised agreement for the Recycling site at Dark Lane had been received from PCC after the agenda was issued. There was no mention of the Cwmdauddwr site. It was resolved that before they could make a decision, the Clerk should circulate the agreement to Councillors so that they were fully and also draw the attention of PCC to the omission. **Clerk to take the above actions.**

6. PLANNING

6.1 VAR 2014 0015 for VAR: Discharge of section 106 agreement attached to application PR/ 4049/04 to remove the requirement for housing to meet local need at Site adjacent to Cae James, Rhayader, Powys. There were no objections to this application.

6.2 P 2014 0305 Full: Installation of domestic grid connected hydro electricity plant at Rhydoldog House, Cwmdauddwr, Rhayader, Powys.

There were no objections to this application.

Clerk to inform PCC of RTC's comments on these applications.

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7. **FINANCE** There were no outstanding invoices.

8. **URGENT BUSINESS**

Cllr. Connelly commented that she had seen the Recycling site looking untidy. Cllr. D. Jones said that the site is cleared regularly & so this must have been due to unfortunate timing.

Cllr. Lloyd reported that the road surface at Brynheulog is in a bad state of repair. **Clerk make a request to Toby Everard of PCC that appropriate remedial work be undertaken.**

9. **BUSINESS FOR NEXT MEETING**

1. Waun Capel Parc.
2. Town improvements.

10. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The AGM will be held at 7.00pm on Tuesday 6th May 2014

The next monthly meeting will be held at 7.00 p.m. on Tuesday 20th May 2014.

The meeting closed at 9.25p.m.

Certified as a true record

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Date