

# RHAYADER TOWN COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> AUGUST 2017 AT 6.30PM AT THE OLD SCHOOL CWMDAUDDWR

### THOSE PRESENT

Chairman Councillor C. Walton  
Councillors P. Dark W. Davies V. Jones Davies J. Stuart R. Thomas  
A. Davies D.O. Evans J. Jones G. Williams  
D. Davies C. Evans J. Narborough  
Observer: County Cllr. K. Curry

Prior to the meeting Kathryn Harries, Community Investment Officer, Jenny Cowley Renewables Developer, and Ashleigh, all of Innogy Renewables UK Ltd, addressed the Council regarding extending the lifetime of Bryntitli Wind Farm. There are no plans at present to upgrade the existing turbines because there is no grid capacity available to accommodate increased output. Kathryn also indicated that payments from Bryntitli which are split between Rhayader & St Harmon would be increased.

#### 1. APOLOGIES: Cllr. L. Price.

Cllr. C. Evans, Cllr. D.O. Evans and County Cllr. K. Curry joined the meeting after having represented RTC at a meeting with PCC about Regeneration in Powys (see late correspondence below).

#### 1a. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair thanked Vice Chair Cllr. W. Davies for ably deputising for him at the Mini Rally and the Tractor Run. Cllr Walton had enjoyed attending the Vintage Show and all of Carnival week. He was pleased to welcome Cllr. Veronica Jones Davies to her first meeting.

#### 1b. MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION UNDER URGENT BUSINESS

- Brynberth Trading Estate.
- Boats.
- Recording Council meetings.

#### 2. MINUTES TO BE AGREED

Minutes to be agreed were those for the meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2017. They were agreed to be a true record.

#### 3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

##### Rhayader Sorting Office:

Despite further reassurances from Royal Mail that postal services are back to normal, Councillors were informed that in some areas, particularly in the Elan Valley, people are still experiencing a disrupted service when compared to that which they enjoyed prior to the closure of Rhayader Sorting Office and also that undelivered parcels cannot be collected at Rhayader. It was resolved to once again contact Royal Mail (at national and at local level) refuting the claim that services are back to normal and requesting that measures are put in place to address the shortfall. **Action: Clerk to write to Royal Mail as above.**

##### RTC Mower

Cllr. Walton had discussed the return of the Council's mower with Jimmy Lloyd, Chair of the Groe Trust, who had agreed to take action to resolve the issue.

Certified as a true record .....

Date .....

Chairman Councillor C. Walton

22<sup>nd</sup> August 2017

### 3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES (CONT).

#### Monks Trod

For the benefit of those Members who had recently joined the Council, Cllrs. Walton and Stuart gave a resumé of the present situation “on the ground” and of RTC’s discussions to date with PCC about the accessibility and condition of the Monks Trod. Whilst Councillors found the latest update from Mark Stafford Tolley (received since the Agenda was issued) of interest, it gave no indication of progress towards the admission of two wheeled motorised transport on the Trod nor of further consideration about setting up a working group comprising Monks Trod users..

It was resolved to send a copy of RTC’s letters of 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2016 and 26<sup>th</sup> July 2017 to PCC Portfolio Holder Cllr. Liam Fitzpatrick along with a request for his support in to the formation of the suggested users group and achieving a successful outcome which will restore reasonable access to the Monks Trod.

**Action: Clerk to contact the Portfolio Holder as above.**

It was reported that the recent problem of glass fragments found at the junction into Station Road had virtually ceased. However it was resolved to suggest to PCC that a sign be erected to advise that this was not an entry for HGV’s to the Council Depot and to indicate where the entrance is.

**Action: Clerk to contact PCC as above.**

### 4: REPRESENTATIVE’S REPORTS

Cllr. Williams reported that the Parc Trust had been informed that PCC has agreed to pay for the drainage work required on the football field and a “snagging list” is being compiled for the Pavilion after its recent refurbishment.

On behalf of the Poppy Appeal Sub-committee, Cllr. Williams reported that the Llandrindod branch of the British Legion ad now taken over poppy ordering on behalf of Rhayader.

Cllr. Williams gave a Health Focus Group update. She understood that the Surgery’s “Tele medical” scheme seemed to be working well.

### 5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr. Stuart declared an interest in item 6.1 and left the room as appropriate.

### 6 AGENDA ITEMS

#### 6.1 Citizen of the Year

Nine nomination forms had been received. Four persons were nominated. One nominee was the Rhayader Fire Service. Whilst Councillors are very appreciative of the role which is played by the Fire Service in the Town and the neighbourhood, by definition the award is for the Citizen of the Year, not a group so they reluctantly had to exclude this nomination. It was interesting to note that a total of six different people nominated the same person. After consideration of the merits of the three remaining nominees was decided that the award for Citizen of the Year 2017 should go to James Stuart for his tireless and valued work in the community and particularly his work over the years as a member and for the last several years as Chairman of the Carnival Committee. It was resolved to inform James of his success and to present the award to him at the September meeting of the Town Council.

#### 6.2 Assets/Town improvement.

Cllrs. Dark & Walton agreed to install the cycle racks at their earliest opportunity.

**Action: Cllrs. Dark & Walton to install cycle racks.**

Certified as a true record .....

Date .....

Chairman Councillor C. Walton

22<sup>nd</sup> August 2017

## 6. AGENDA ITEMS (CONT)

### 6.3 Storage container.

Due to circumstances beyond his control Cllr. Dark had been unable to obtain further quotations to date. He will make further enquiries as soon as he is able.

### 6.4 Toilet Sub-committee report

The Sub-committee had met on 17<sup>th</sup> August and Council members had been provided with a copy of the minutes. The Sub Committee's decision to go ahead with the refurbishment of Cwmdauddwr toilets to the previously agreed standard as soon as possible but defer work at the Cemetery till next year and to change the specification level there to refurbishing the existing two toilets by replacing the sanitary ware to modern standards and redecorating to an acceptable level was endorsed by the Town Council.

### 6.5 Grass cutting.

Councillors were disappointed that despite writing to the Portfolio Holder, Cllr. Liam Fitzpatrick, in July they had had no response to their request for sight of the current component costs of grass cutting and of the total overall expenditure on grass cutting by PCC within the boundaries of the 30mph limits in Rhayader and Cwmdauddwr. They also noticed that some areas had been missed out when grass cutting and weed spraying were carried out, in particular grass cutting had been missed at the entrance to the Weirglodd and weeds on Brynheulog steps had not been sprayed. It was resolved to write a letter of complaint to Brian Price and the Portfolio Holder. **Action: Clerk to write as above.**

### 6.6 Plastic film recycling.

Following the verbal refusal by PCC to grant permission to site a Cae Post bin at Dark Lane car park, it was resolved to ask the Smithfield Trust for permission to site a bin on their land. It was also decided to challenge the verbal decision by the PCC officer to ask the Portfolio Holder to overturn that decision.

**Action: Clerk to write to Portfolio Holder Cllr. Liam Fitzpatrick as above and to seek permission from the Smithfield Trust to site a bin on their property.**

### 6.7 Quarterly Budget Appraisal.

The Clerk had provided members with copies of the Cumulative Fund Balance Sheet a 22.08.17. For the benefit of new Members, the details of the Precept, how and when it was fixed and how spending against it is monitored were explained. Members were content with the current spend against the Precept. The origin and other historical details of the Holding Account and why it had been "ring fenced" were reiterated for the benefit of members.

### 6.8 Queen's Baton Relay.

Cllr. Curry gave a report on the status of arrangements for the event. He informed that there will be several batons and baton bearers. Peter Cox had choreographed the event which would involve the Dragon.

### 6.9 Travel Act Integrated Network Map and Existing Route Map – Consultation.

Councillors were extremely concerned that despite meeting the stated criteria, Rhayader was not included in the list of nominated towns. Cllr Curry informed that he and Kirsty Williams had written to the Welsh Government about the omission. It was resolved that RTC write to WG to strongly oppose this exclusion and to ask RDCS for a letter of support to have Rhayader added to the network map.

**Action: Clerk to contact WG and RDCS as above.**

**Certified as a true record .....**

**Date .....**

**Chairman Councillor C. Walton**

22<sup>nd</sup> August 2017

## 6. AGENDA ITEMS (CONT)

### 6.10 Five Year Plan

Cllr. C. Evans is working on an update of the Plan and will circulate it to Members when complete.

**Action: Cllr. C. Evans to complete and circulate the update.**

## 7. CORRESPONDENCE

### 7.2 Royal Mail: Postal services in Rhayader.

There are still problems in rural locations. Cllr A. Davies will supply information to the Clerk after contacting neighbours.

### 7.3 Miss E. Parry: Request for Pedestrian Crossings

Councillors fully understood how the ever increasing volume of traffic passing through Rhayader combined with the lack of designated pedestrian crossing points could give considerable cause for concern to Miss Parry and many other pedestrians. They were however aware of the apparent reluctance of PCC and the Welsh Government/Trunk Road Agency to introduce more pedestrian crossings in the Town. It was resolved to advise Miss Parry that whilst Councillors appreciated the situation, PCC appeared to be reluctant to install pedestrian crossings. **Action: Clerk to reply to Miss Parry as above.**

### 7.4 Chris Davies MP: Invitation to visit the Palace of Westminster.

Councillors were pleased to receive the invitation but considered that the present time was not convenient. However they would if possible like to take up the offer at a later date.

**Action: Clerk to thank Mr Davies for his kind offer but ask if it could take place at a later date**

### 7.5 Camping and Caravan Club: Restatement of their position and grass cutting.

It was resolved to thank the sender for the message but explain that in view of the impending planning meeting the Council was not in a position to comment.

**Action: Clerk to respond as above.**

Late correspondence: OVW: Heritage Impact Statements in Wales – reminder

**Action: Cllr. C. Evans to study the document and feedback to the Clerk.**

Late correspondence: PCC: Meeting invitation - Regeneration in Powys. Cllr. C. Evans reported that the meeting had been convened at short notice by the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Planning, County Councillor Martin Weale. Lots of initiatives were discussed but no particular outcomes were reached. A further meeting is to be held in October.

## 8. PLANNING

**8.1 P2017 0764** For Section 73 application for variation of condition no. 6 and condition no's. 11-18 of planning permission R4297/D at Bryn Titli Wind Farm North of Rhayader South of Llangurig Powys  
There were no objections to this proposal and Councillors recommended approval.

**Action: Clerk to inform PCC of RTC's comment**

## 9. FINANCE

There are no outstanding invoices.

Certified as a true record .....

Chairman Councillor C. Walton

Date .....

22<sup>nd</sup> August 2017

**10. URGENT BUSINESS**

**Brynberth Trading Estate.**

Cllr. W. Davies had received a complaint that the trees in Brynberth Business Park had grown to such an extent that they were blocking the street lighting. Councillors noted that this was an issue for PCC to deal with, not RTC. Problems with street lighting can be reported online. It was resolved that Cllr. Davies should therefore advise the complainant to report the problem to PCC.

Action: Cllr. W. Davies to advise the complainant to report the problem to PCC via their website.

**Boats.**

Cllr. Dark reported that there are now 2 boats on trailers parked on the road by Brynheulog/Dark Lane. Their masts are lowered and would seem to present a potential hazard to other road users. It was resolved that Cllr. Dark should consult PCC website to seek advice on this issue and take appropriate action based on his findings.

Action: Cllr. Dark to seek advice from PCC website and act accordingly.

**Recording Council meetings.**

It had been suggested that, particularly in view of the Clerk's temporary inability to attend meeting to take minutes, that to assist in ensuring the accuracy of the minutes Council meetings should be recorded and the minutes compiled from the recording as well as any notes taken. After the minutes had been approved by Council to be a true record of the meeting the sonic record would be deleted.

The Clerk had consulted One Voice Wales about the legality of such a procedure and had been informed that there was no legal reason that this procedure should not be adopted. He was further advised that this proposal should be formally discussed as an Agenda item and if it was agreed to use this procedure the decision to do so should be recorded in the minutes of the meeting in which the decision was made. It was resolved to add the proposal as an item to the September meeting.

**11. PRESS RELEASE**

- Citizen of the Year 2017.
- Queens Baton Relay.
- Available Allotments.

**12. BUSINESS FOR NEXT MEETING**

- e-mails
- recording of Council meetings.
- Plastic Film recycling.

**13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next monthly meeting will be held at 7.00 p.m. on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2017.

The meeting closed at 9.50p.m.

Certified as a true record .....

Chairman Councillor C. Walton

Date .....