

RHAYADER TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 22ND SEPTEMBER 2015 AT 7.00PM AT THE OLD SCHOOL CWMDAUDDWR

THOSE PRESENT

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

1. **APOLOGIES:** Cllrs. C. Evans, L. Price, C. Davies & P. Dark

1a. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman had no announcements.

1b. MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION UNDER URGENT BUSINESS

St Harmon Road light, state of repair, grass cutting, Maes-y-Deri sign, trees in car park, Dolgerddon, Rhayader allotments hedge, smelly lorry in Dark Lane car park.

2. MINUTES TO BE AGREED

Minutes to be agreed were those for the meeting on 18th August 2015. They were agreed to be a true record.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Hafan House: Cllr. Curry reported that negotiations were ongoing. Cllr. D. Evans reported that he had requested details from the agents but had no reply. Resolved that the item remain on the agenda.

Pavements in North Street: Councillors were disappointed with the response from Welsh Government & agreed to keep a log of any more pedestrian accidents caused by the uneven surface.

Cllr. Lloyd expressed concern that proposals in the recent correspondence from PCC would not result in an acceptable surface on new graves. It was resolved to contact PCC to request that suitable provision is made to ensure that an acceptable level of respect is demonstrated to the departed and the bereaved. **Clerk to write to PCC.**

Cllr. Walton undertook to continue observations to determine the cause of the problem with the Bridge lights.

It was reported that the 2 abandoned cars on the car park had been removed, presumably by the owner(s). It was also remarked that a vehicle seemed to have been abandoned on the Smithfield. It was agreed that, by default, this was an issue for the Smithfield Trust to deal with. Cllr. J. Jones said he would pursue the matter on behalf of the Trust.

3a. REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORTS

Cllr. Walton reported that changes implemented by the new operators of the Leisure Centre had effectively reduce the time that children spent in the pool during swimming lessons. **Cllr. D. Jones to ensure that the issue is discussed by the Leisure Centre Consultative Committee.**

3b. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following declarations of interest were made: Cllr. Stuart in item 4.8 & Cllr. W. Davies in item 6. Both left the room as appropriate.

Certified as a true record

Date

Chairman Councillor D. Jones

22nd September 2015

4. AGENDA ITEMS

4.1 Toilets

The drain surveys had been received & discussed on site with PCC by Cllr. D. Jones, Cllr. C. Walton & the Clerk. Copies of the reports were provided for Councillors & Cllr. Walton explained the significance of the comments within them. It was resolved that the surveys demonstrated that the drains were in a satisfactory condition and therefore RTC should accept responsibility for public toilet provision at Dark Lane, Cwmdauddwr & the Cemetery from 1st October 2015. Recent discussions with Healthmatic indicated that they would be able & willing to supply consumables as part of the cleaning contact at a price that was within RTC's estimate. It was resolved that this offer be accepted. **Clerk to arrange with Zurich that RTC's insurance policy be extended to include appropriate cover for all three facilities, formally notify PCC of RTC agreement to adopt the toilets & seek a five year agreement for funding. Cllr. D. Jones & Clerk to sign all documents involved. Clerk to inform WG of RTC's intention & request that their offers of assistance be formalised with effect from 1st October. Clerk to formalise the cleaning contract with Healthmatic including supply of consumables & sign the contract on behalf of RTC.**

4.2 Town Clock

A suggestion had been made by an officer of PCC that RTC should consider assuming responsibility for the Clock. Cllr. Walton reported that he had previously discussed the condition of the structure on site with PCC and although some work had been done as a consequence, some had not. It was resolved to hold a meeting on site & report back. **Cllr. D. Jones to arrange a site meeting.**

4.3 Approval of completed annual return.

The external auditor had completed the audit for year ended 31st March 2015 and found "no matters which required a separate additional issues arising report". The Clerk had displayed the appropriate notice as instructed. Councillors formally accepted the auditors decision on the annual return. **Clerk to process.**

4.4 Waun Capel Parc

A letter had been received from the Chairman of the Parc Trust & was read out to the meeting by Cllr. D. Jones. Councillors noted its contents & resolved to send a letter of acknowledgement. **Clerk to write.** It was commented that the grass of the camping field had not been mown nor the hedges cut. It was resolved to write to PCC to request this be done. **Clerk to write.**

4.5 Rubbish Collection

Councillors were informed that the proposed change from 2 to 3 weekly collection must yet go before the PCC Cabinet. If approved it would likely start on 5th October.

4.6 Proposed Council changes

Deferred to October meeting.

4.7 Five Year Plan

As a preliminary measure it was resolved to do a "Walk Round" to assess the current situation. **Cllr. D. Jones to organise.**

The item to be carried over to the October agenda.

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Chairman Councillor D. Jones

22nd September 2015

4. AGENDA ITEMS (CONT)

4.8 Home Support

Cllr. J. Narborough gave a very comprehensive review of Rhayader Home Support & requested that a letter of support be sent to the organisation. Councillors were extremely impressed at the scope of the organisation which offers 24/7, free to user, emergency support to 175 local clients and readily agreed that a letter of support be sent. **Clerk to write.**

5. CORRESPONDENCE

With the exception of those commented on above, all items of correspondence listed on the agenda and received since it was prepared, were noted.

An e-mail received for R2K noted that the data collection element of the Town Health Check funded by the Vibrant Towns project is due to be undertaken in November & they asked if the Town Council would again, take the lead in surveying local and visitor opinions. It was resolved to do so. **Clerk to inform R2K.**

6. PLANNING

6.1 P 2015 0788 Full: Change of use of land to the rear of The Bear to for a site for 8 camping pods. Erection of a single storey extension to The Bear to form a small lounge/kitchen & toilet/shower block for the camping pods at The Bear's Head, East Street, Rhayader, Powys. After much discussion it was resolved that the proposal was inappropriate since it constituted a camping site situated in the middle of Rhayader conservation area. Concern was also expressed about the potential increase of parking requirement the proposal could generate. Councillors recommended refusal of the application.

6.2 P 2015 0716 For householder: Drop kerb at property at 3 Green Gardens, Rhayader, Powys. There were no objections to the proposal & Councillors recommended approval.

P 2015 0858 For demolition of conservatory, erection of rear extension& conversion of garage to living accommodation at Brynfa, 20 Maesmawr, Rhayader Powys. There were no objections to the proposal & Councillors recommended approval.

Clerk to inform PCC of RTC's decisions on the above applications..

7. FINANCE

7.1 £390 - BDO LLP – Audit. Agreed.

8. URGENT BUSINESS

Cllr. Walton had received a request to have a light in St Harmon road turned off. **Cllr. Curry agreed to follow it up.**

Cllr Walton noted that grass had grown up at Maes cottage & the weed required spraying. **Cllr. D. Jones to follow up.**

Concern was expressed that changes to yellow lines which RTC had agreed with PCC had not yet been implemented. Cllr. Curry explained that public consultation must be undertaken prior to any work being done. Cllr. Walton suggested that RTC should request a copy of the itinerary of the proposed alterations prior to work commencing. This was agreed. **Clerk to make the request.**

Cllr. Narborough said that a street name sign had been missing for some time and should be replaced. **Cllr. D. Jones said that he would take steps to have it re-installed.**

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8. URGENT BUSINESS (CONT)

Cllr. Narborough was concerned that the trees In Dark lane car park still had not been removed. **Cllr. D. Jones to follow it up.**

It was reported that the Youth Club had relocated from Dolgerddon, but presently the under 5's & the Guides had no issues there.

Cllr. J. Jones drew attention to the overgrown hedge bordering the Rhayader Allotments with the pavement on the main road as it was greatly overgrown. He offered to lay it. Agreed. **Cllr. J. Jones to process.**

Cllr. Stewart informed that a lorry which is often parked in Dark Lane car park, which he thought may be a fallen stock lorry, was often unacceptably smelly. **Cllr. D. Jones to follow up.**

Councillors were informed that Alex Walton had won the British Schoolboy MX Association Championship. It was resolved to send a letter of congratulations. **Clerk to write a letter of congratulations from RTC.**

9. PRESS RELEASE

- RTC take-over of the toilets
- Alex Walton winning BSMA Senior Championship.

10. BUSINESS FOR NEXT MEETING

1. Toilets.
2. Hafan House.
3. Waun Capel Parc.
4. Proposed Council changes.
5. Five Year Plan.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next monthly meeting will be held at 7.00 p.m. on Tuesday 20th October 2015.

The meeting closed at 9.30p.m.

Certified as a true record

Chairman Councillor D. Jones

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Date