

# RHAYADER TOWN COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> AUGUST 2016 AT 7.00PM AT THE OLD SCHOOL CWMDAUDDWR

### THOSE PRESENT

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

The award for Citizen of the Year 2016 was presented to Mr. Aubrey Thomas. Councillors agreed with the many who had nominated him that Aubrey Had given so much of his time and effort, far above and beyond that required by his employers, to ensure that the appearance of the town was maintained at the highest possible level.

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

### 1a. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair reported that she had presented the Best Kept Garden 2016 trophy to Mr. & Mrs. Graham Coates of Coed Ceirios, Bryntirion Lane and that she would issue a Press Release to the local papers.

**ACTION: Clerk to write to Dave Holt of Midway Plants to thank him for judging the competition this year. Cllr. C. Evans to write a press release regarding the award for inclusion in the local media.**

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

- East Street Pavement.
- Pont-ar-Elan Bridge.
- Insurance for "Have-a-Go Sports Day"

### 2. MINUTES TO BE AGREED

Minutes to be agreed were those for the meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> July 2016. They were agreed to be a true record.

### 3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Councillors were disappointed that the long term banners were still on the railings by the Leisure Centre. Efforts would continue to get them removed.

Cllr. Curry reported that the banners advertising the "Have a Go Sports Day" were in production and will be displayed as soon as possible.

Cllr. Curry reported that Cashzone had still not been able to reach agreement with the Spar's landlord, but they have now got two other possibilities. Councillors expressed dismay that despite the original expectations that a 24 hour accessible ATM would be in place at the Spar in April, installation had still not yet happened in August nor was a finite timescale being offered. This was causing real cash flow problems to businesses and the public at large. Cllr. Dark suggested that if a suitable site, combined with permission from the owner, could be found for a freestanding ATM Cashzone would be able to supply it in a very short time. **ACTION: Cllr. Dark to source a site(s), approach the owner(s) and circulate proposal(s) to Councillors.**

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Date .....

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

**6.4 Powys War Memorials Project.** Cllr. Lloyd had requested a quotation from Jimmy Lloyd to remove a piece of the stonework suffering from erosion damage on the north side of the Clock and replace it with a new piece engraved with the original names.

PCC had not informed the Clerk whether any condition surveys of the Town Clock had been carried out by themselves. **ACTION: Clerk ask PCC how we might secure a grant for a survey.**

Cllr. Dark had fitted wheels to the Free Parking sign at the Smithfield. Councillors thanked Cllr. Dark and remarked how much easier it was to move the sign. It was suggested that the wording be replicated on the blank side of the sign. It was agreed that this should be done.

**Cllr. D. Evans to arrange for the extra inscription to be made.**

### **4: REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORTS**

Rhayader Market hall and Smithfield Trust: Cllr. Humphreys reported that work is well underway on the improvements at the Smithfield which include replacing and extending the external sheep pens. It is likely to be complete in a couple of weeks.

Cllr. D. Evans reported that at the Leisure Centre, conversion of the Wye Lounge is on target. Despite his initial objections, he now felt that it will result in being a first class facility. Cllr. Dark said that people from other towns are now coming to use the Leisure Centre.

Cllr. Williams said that Greenfingers had cut the bank in the Parc three times this year which is a big improvement on PCC's past performance.

Cllr. J. Jones reported that he visited the Folk Camp which was sited at Noyadd Farm for four weeks and found it to be very good. He believed that it had brought quite some trade into Rhayader. A visitor to Rhayader had remarked to Cllr. Walton that he was surprised how busy Rhayader was on Sunday.

### **5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **6 AGENDA ITEMS**

#### **6.1 Attendant reporter / (Voluntary Press Officer)**

Councillors were agreed that it would be of benefit if somebody could be persuaded to fulfil the role of providing an in an independent account of Council discussions and resolutions which would have the added advantage of reaching the public earlier than the approved minutes being publicised on the website. It was resolved to publish an invitation in the local papers for applications.

**ACTION: Clerk/Mayor to draft out an invitation to apply.**

#### **6.2 Community Asset Transfers**

The Clerk and Cllr. Stuart had prepared an Expression of Interest Form for a Community Asset Transfer (CAT) for Land at Dolgerddon. After circulation to Councillors it had been deemed acceptable to them and was duly submitted to PCC's Valuation Team. No response had been received to date.

#### **6.3 Wi-fi Free Rhayader.**

Information about the Llandrindod Wells scheme had been received. After discussion about the potential benefits, the feasibility of operating a similar scheme with regard to considering the present internet speeds

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## 6. AGENDA ITEMS (CONT)

available in Rhayader and current developments in internet access, it was resolved that Cllr. Walton should take the lead on this issue. **ACTION: Cllr. Walton to prepare a report for the September meeting.**

### 6.4 Grass Cutting at Rhayader Cemetery.

Numerous reports had been received by Councillors about the poor standard of grass cutting at Rhayader Cemetery. Machinery had been driven over graves and grass cuttings had been sprayed over gravestones and flowers. No attempt seemed to have been made to rectify the situation, families visiting graves had to remove the grass cuttings and had washed the memorial stones. Councillors were incensed at the disrespect shown by operatives and the lack of management which permitted this standard of workmanship in a cemetery. **ACTION: Clerk to write to the Portfolio Holder and the Officer responsible for the service and request a response prior to the September meeting.**

### 6.5 Rhayader Library.

Councillors remained supportive of the scenario that RTC should take responsibility for the Library building and assist in keeping the Rhayader Library open but were dubious about signing up to an open ended agreement to fund 50% of the residual cost in perpetuity, particularly since over time, the maintenance costs may escalate by an unknown amount. They were also mindful of the fact that people from other local communities used Rhayader Library. Whilst this should be regarded as a good thing because it increased the footfall, it was also noted that PCC demanded no contribution to the Library running costs from those communities to share the burden, whereas, through their rates, Rhayader ratepayers were contributing to things not situated in Rhayader. It was understood that Llanidloes and Hay are also considering how they could assist in supporting the Library Service in their towns, which may include taking on their Library buildings. It was agreed that further discussions were needed with Stuart Macintosh and Kay Thomas to run parallel with completing an Expression of Interest (EOI) for a Community Asset Transfer (CAT) for the Library building. **Action: Cllr. C. Evans to contact Llanidloes and Hay Councils and PCC and also prepare the EOI for submission.**

### 6.6 Community Plan.

Via R2K, the Town Council was in receipt of Community Plans prepared by Builth, Newtown and Hay on Wye. Whilst acknowledging the comprehensiveness of the plans, Councillors considered that they were over verbose and suggested that a more streamlined document, along the lines of their own Five Year plan, would be more appropriate for Rhayader at the present time. They were, however, content in principal that the Town Council should assume responsibility for managing the process to prepare a plan for Rhayader. Cllr. Stuart suggested that this task could well fall into the remit of the Town Improvement Sub-Committee. The Chair suggested that as an initial move the Vice Chair and herself should enter discussions with R2K. This approach was agreed.

**Action: Cllr. C. Evans to contact R2K.**

## 7. CORRESPONDENCE

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

**7.3 RDCS: Community minibus.** Councillors noted the offer from Alyson Thomas to address the Council about their Transport Scheme and also her suggestion that RTC might wish to make a donation towards the replacement Minibus Fund. It was agreed to decline Alyson's offer, given Cllr. Williams' comprehensive update on the subject, but Councillors were minded in principal to make a donation. It was resolved to determine the value and source of a donation at the September meeting. **ACTION: Clerk to thank Alyson for her offer to address the Town Council, but to decline it.**

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## 7. CORRESPONDENCE (CONT)

Elin Wozencraft had enquired whether RTC would agree to cover the public liability insurance for the forthcoming Rhayader Have-a-Go Sports Day organised by the Rhayader and District Sports and Recreation Association. The Clerk had spoken with RTC's insurance providers who were agreeable to provide the cover under the existing policy providing that the Council had an adequate risk assessment in place. It was suggested that in her position of Community Sports Development Officer, Elin Wozencraft would be well placed to do a risk assessment for the event. Cllr. Curry offered to ask Elin to do this task. Councillors agreed to provide the insurance cover on the condition that Elin provided them with an acceptable risk assessment. **ACTION: Cllr. Curry to obtain a Risk Assessment for the event, on receipt of which, the Clerk to arrange cover with Zurich.**

## 8. PLANNING

No Planning applications had been received.

## 9. FINANCE

**9.1** £80 – Pryce Marpole – Flower bed weeding & grass cutting. Agreed. **ACTION: Clerk to make payment.**

**9.2** £80 – George McManus – Heather Garden maintenance. Agreed. **ACTION: Clerk to make payment.**

£130 – Neil Gough – Make & supply Free Parking sign. Agreed. **ACTION: Clerk to make payment.**

## 10. URGENT BUSINESS

A leg on the Council's planter by the Leisure Centre had been broken. Cllr. Dark volunteered to repair it. **ACTION: Cllr. Dark to repair the leg.**

Cllr. Walton reported that the pavement in East Street near to the Post Office is in a bad state of repair and presents a danger to pedestrians. **ACTION: Clerk to contact PCC.**

Cllr. Walton reported that Mr. Newton, whose letter was passed to the police for action by RTC after it was discussed at the March meeting, had enlisted the help of Kirsty Williams AM in an attempt to resolve the issue.

Cllr. Dark had received a complaint that there was considerable sheep excrement on the footpath at Pont-ar-Elan Bridge. It was agreed that since sheep had free range of the area little could be done to prevent this occurring.

## 11. PRESS RELEASE

- Best Kept Garden result
- Call for an Attendant reporter / (Voluntary Press Officer)

## 12. BUSINESS FOR NEXT MEETING

1. Clock Tower grant.
2. Wi-Fi free Rhayader.
3. Cash point.
4. Quarterly approval of Checksheet.

## 13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next monthly meeting will be held at 7.00 p.m. on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2016.

The meeting closed at 9.05 p.m.

Certified as a true record .....

Chairman Councillor C. Evans

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Date .....