

RHAYADER TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 24TH OCTOBER 2017 AT 6.30PM AT THE OLD SCHOOL CWMDAUDDWR

THOSE PRESENT

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

Prior to the meeting, Supt. Jon Cummins, Superintendent Powys BCU and PS Kelvin Briggs addressed the Town Council.

Supt. Jon Cummins is the Divisional Commander for the whole area and PS Briggs is directly in charge of policing in the area local to Rhayader. They both stressed importance of the role played by local CPOs. what a bonus they are to a community. The new Rhayader CPO is also new to the area and is on a learning curve.

In the main, the only ongoing issues the police have to deal in the area are 4 x 4 off roaders driving in inappropriate places.

School liaison officers are improving the awareness of technical crimes. The police have a digital cyber crime department and some PCSOs are cyber crime champions. Banks are now proactive to scams. Drugs are a minimal problem in this area and in Rhayader it is very low compared to other local towns. The officers were concerned about the massive amount of vehicles which are parked in the streets on market days, particularly when there is a big sale. It was pointed out to them that the Smithfield is privately owned and it was only due to the generosity of the Smithfield Trust that it was made available for parking free of charge to the Public when it was not required for their core business of livestock marketing or the occasional use of other functions. On such occasions extra free parking is available to the public at the Weirglodd. The officers suggested that the street parking problem may be eased when big sales occur if the extra facilities were advertised in the press and on social media.

County Cllr. Phyl Davies Portfolio Holder, Portfolio Holder for Property and Waste, had arranged to meet the Town Council about the Planning application for the Campsite and RTC's applications for CATs. In the event he had conveyed his apologies saying that circumstances prevented him from attending. However, via Cllr. Curry, he had sent related information. He had also informed the Clerk that he did wish to meet members at the earliest opportunity. It was resolved to invite him at 6pm on either Tuesday 31st October or Tuesday 14th November. **Action: Clerk to issue the invitation.**

1. APOLOGIES: Cllrs. C. Walton, J. Stuart & L. Price.

1a. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair had no announcements to make.

1b. MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION UNDER URGENT BUSINESS

Disabled parking in West Street.

2. MINUTES TO BE AGREED

Minutes to be agreed were those for the meeting on 19th September 2017. They were agreed to be a true record.

Certified as a true record

Chairman Councillor C. Walton

Date

24th October 2017

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Councillors discussed the implications of ongoing planning application P/2017/0119 by the Caravan and Camping Club in respect of the Wyeside Campsite. RTC had not been given the normal 21 days in which to comment on the applicant's latest proposals and neither were the new proposals acceptable to Councillors. It was resolved to write a letter detailing RTC's objections to the latest proposals and recommend that application be refused. **Action: Cllr. C. Evans to prepare a letter for submission to the Planning Officer.**

Old Plaque: The Clerk had spoken with Bryan Lawrence who expressed a wish that it be attached to the old Station door. Subsequently, having been informed of Bryan's suggestion, Mr. D. Jones of PCC undertook to seek approval for the installation.

4: REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORTS

Cllr. Williams reported that the flower boxes at the clock had been replanted turf had been placed on the memorial in preparation for the Memorial Service. She suggested that councillors meet at 10.15 am on Remembrance Day. She also wished to thank the Fire Service for their assistance in fixing the large poppies to the posts.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

6 AGENDA ITEMS

6.1 Storage Container.

Cllr. Dark had obtained 3 prices for shipping containers. The prices reflected the varying amount of usage to which the containers had been put. He undertook to access the containers and make recommendations at the November meeting. **Action: Cllr. Dark to present his recommendation(s) at the November meeting.**

6.2 Five Year Plan/Town Improvements.

Having studied the existing Plan it was resolved that it may be time to formulate a different approach. It was resolved that Cllr. D. Davies should formulate a document for consideration. **Action: Cllr. D. Davies to produce a plan for consideration at the November meeting.**

6.3 Recording of Council Meetings.

To date Cllr. Walton had not been unable to obtain a quotation for a suitable voice recorder. When asked if he considered that the recording the meetings was essential to the producing accurate minutes the Clerk noted that at the 19th June 2012 meeting the structure of Council meeting had been discussed and it had been resolved that "before moving from one topic to the next, any actions and who is responsible for them will be re-iterated" The Clerk had also "sought to record the topic under discussion in only as much detail as absolutely necessary, what was resolved, the action to be carried out and by whom, with the proviso that provision was made to elaborate if it was considered advisable." It had been resolved to adopt these suggestions, but of late more detail had been incorporated and recording meetings would ensure the accuracy of this. He believed that if the present level of content was required by members, a voice recording of meetings would be an essential tool to ensure accuracy, but by reverting to the previously agreed practice accurate minutes could probably be produced without a voice recorder. It was resolved to revert to the previously agreed practice and to monitor its effectiveness.

6.4 Social media.

In the absence of Cllr. Stuart it was resolved to carry this item forward to the November meeting.

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Chairman Councillor C. Walton

24th October 2017

6. AGENDA ITEMS (CONT)

6.5 Cwmdauddwr Bridge lights.

Cllr. Dark reported that he and Cllr Walton had discussed changing the lights under the bridge to LED lights. It was resolved that Cllr. Walton and Cllr. Dark should investigate replacement of the lights.

Action: Cllrs. Walton & Dark to present a report including prices at the November meeting on changing the light to LEDs.

6.6 email/website

Cllr. Thomas reported on his discussions with Keith Fielding about updating RTC's e-mail address and web presence.

Their proposals were that:

- The Council should have its own domain name ending in .gov.wales instead of using the Clerk's own e-mail address as is done at the moment.
- All emails that are sent out will be saved on OneDrive and Councillors can access them from there.
- OneDrive will have 2 super users the Clerk and the Chair who will have a password whereas Councillors will have a read only status.
- The password should be securely held by a solicitor.
- RTC could have a public file on OneDrive with a link to the Rhayader website meaning agendas etc will not have to be uploaded directly on to the website.
- The system will need to be "hosted"

Keith's charge for hosting would be £45-£90 per annum in total. The initial cost of the .gov domain is not included.

It was resolved to accept the recommendations (including the above cost) and that Cllr Thomas should inform Keith Fielding of the Council's decision and work with him to set up the system. R2K should be kept informed with reference to the website.

Action: Cllr. Thomas to work with Keith Fielding to install the system. The Clerk will assist as required.

6.7 Wellness meeting report.

Cllr. Thomas reported on the recent meeting which he and Cllr Walton had attended at the Metropole in Llandrindod Wells. The initiative is to encourage tourism in Mid Wales on the Cambrian Way/ Heart of Wales in the area bounded by the towns of Rhayader, Llandrindod Wells, Builth Wells and Llanwrtyd Wells. It is hoped to attract funding. A further meeting has been arranged with Carad and R2K on 29th November which will be attended by Cllr. Curry and RTC will be represented by Cllrs. Walton and Thomas.

6.8 Acceptance of amended Standing Orders (Clause 28).

The Clerk had amended RTC's Standing Orders as instructed under item 6.1 on the September Agenda. Councillors accepted the amended document.

6.9 The Clock.

The Clerk gave a report about progress towards protective work being carried out on the Clock Tower Memorial. Whilst both RTC, PCC Memorial Project and Kieran Elliot were eager for the project to go ahead it has been subject to several delays due to protracted contact with Cadw and the War Memorial Trust. Having already given their full approval to the project, Councillors were concerned about the ongoing delays and anxious that the project be implemented as a matter of urgency.

Action: Clerk to convey RTC's concerns to PCC requesting the work be commenced as a matter of urgency.

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Chairman Councillor C. Walton

24th October 2017

7. CORRESPONDENCE

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

7.2 PCC: Grass cutting costs in Rhayader & Cwmdauddwr. Councillors were pleased to receive the information but noted that it indicated that the planned number of cuts had not been achieved. It was resolved to ask to be updated when the final cuts have been made and why, if there were then any areas which have not received the planned number of cuts, they had not been done. It was also resolved to request that next year the first cut be carried out and the grass picked up in time for the May Bank Holiday .

Action: Clerk to write as above.

7.7 Independent Review Panel: review of the role of Community Councils – Call for views.

It was resolved to add this item to the November Agenda

7.10 OVW & PCC: Boundary Commission’s Proposals for Parliamentary Constituencies in Wales.

Noted but Councillors expressed concern about the proposed geographical spread.

7.11 Marie Curie nurses in Powys: Request for funding.

It was resolved to donate £100 from the Recycling Account.

Action: Clerk to make the payment as above.

Correspondence received after the Agenda was issued:

Glenda Carter: Seeking support for their application to install WSHP ground works.

It was resolved to discuss this item at the November meeting.

PCC: Winter Service Plan – See Community Involvement.

It was resolved to add this to the Press Release and social media.

Action: Clerk to add the information to the Press Release & Cllr. Stuart add it to social media.

Royal Mail Group: Response .

Councillors were pleased to note that a “full review” of the Rhayader, Cwmdauddwr and the Elan Valley mail handling at Llandrindod Wells Delivery Office had been completed and the “identified improvement areas” had been addressed. However they remained concerned that, basing the operation in Llandrindod instead of Rhayader, inherently reduced the historical job opportunities in Rhayader. It was resolved to request a copy of the review and highlight RTC concerns about the loss of job opportunities.

Action: Clerk to request sight of the review and highlight RTC’s concerns over employment opportunities.

Anonymous letter ref the Bear barrier.

Councillors were agreed that as no sender was indicated, no response could be made.

8. PLANNING

No planning applications had been received

9. FINANCE

There were no outstanding invoices.

10. URGENT BUSINESS

Cllr. W. Davies reported that the road markings for disabled parking bays in west street were extremely worn away and were barely visible. It was resolved to request that PCC renew the markings.

Action: Clerk to contact Tony Caine of PCC to request that the marking be renewed.

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24th October 2017

11. PRESS RELEASE

- Remembrance Service.
- PCC Winter Service Plan advice.

12. BUSINESS FOR NEXT MEETING

- Quarterly Budget Appraisal.
- Freedom of Information Publication Scheme.
- Electronic barrier in East Street.
- Leisure Centre railings.
- Storage container.
- Bryntitli Applications.
- Cwmdauddwr Bridge lights.
- Social media.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next monthly meeting will be held at 7.00 p.m. on Tuesday 21st November 2017.

The meeting closed at 9.50p.m.

Certified as a true record

Chairman Councillor C. Walton

5 of 5

Date