

RHAYADER TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 26TH JULY 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 J. Jones J. Narborough C. Walton
County Cllr. K. Curry L. Price G. Williams

1. APOLOGIES: Cllr. D. Jones

1a. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair conveyed the sympathy of members to Cllr. Narborough on the sad loss of her Mother Beryl who, until her retirement, had been Clerk to the Town Council for some thirty years as well as having been a very active community member in Rhayader. Members stood in silence as a mark of respect in her memory.

Cllr. C. Evans congratulated Cllr. Stuart as Chairman of Rhayader Carnival Committee on staging (yet another) superb and successful Carnival Week. Her sentiments were echoed by all present.

1b. MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION UNDER URGENT BUSINESS

- Green Waste Containers in Rhayader Car Park (Dealt with under Matters Arising. *Item 6.9*)
- Internal Auditor Fee. (Dealt with under Matters Arising *Item 6.1*)
- Traffic calming in St Harmon Road.
- Proposed ATM at the Spar convenience store

2. MINUTES TO BE AGREED

Minutes to be agreed were those for the meeting on 21st June 2016. They were agreed to be a true record.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

With reference to the address by Mark Stafford - Tolley, Councillors wished to obtain an update on the status of the User Group about which Mark had spoken. Councillors instructed the Clerk to thank the speaker for attending the June meeting, to seek an update for the September meeting and to reiterate RTC's request that two wheeled vehicles be granted access to the Trod in the summer.

ACTION: Clerk to write as above.

Banners continued to appear on the railings by the Leisure Centre and some continued to be displayed for a long period. It was agreed that it would not be desirable to ask for assistance from PCC because that would probably result in the "facility" being lost to all. It was further agreed that for the benefit of all concerned the best scenario would be that banners announcing "events" are in situ for a short period before the event and removed immediately after it been held. Business advertising would be discouraged.

ACTION: Cllr. C. Evans undertook where possible to speak with "advertisers" to seek their co-operation.

Cllr Williams stated that feedback from some traders indicated the new "Free Parking" signs at the Smithfield had increased footfall in their establishments. Cllr. Dark offered to fit wheels to the sign to make

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3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES (CONT).

it easier to move. Councillors were pleased to agree and to pay for any hardware. **ACTION: Cllr. Dark to fit suitable wheels.**

The Clerk had not yet spoken to Cllr. Stuarts's contact in Llandrindod in relation to the potential for free wi-fi in Rhayader. **ACTION: The Clerk to make contact with Jude Boutle, Llandrindod Wells Town Champion as soon as possible.**

It was resolved to add the item to the August Agenda.

6.1 Approval & certification of the Annual Return. The Internal Auditor had requested that, instead of paying him a fee for carrying out the audit, RTC make a donation of the fee amount towards the RDCS Minibus Fund. It was resolved to comply with his wishes and contribute £120. **ACTION: Clerk to make the payment to the RDCS Minibus Fund.**

6.8 Best Kept Garden. Cllr. Davies reported that Dave Holt of Midway Plants has chosen the garden of Graham and Sheila Coates, Coed Ceirios, Bryntirion Lane as the Best Kept Garden 2016. The trophy had been purchased from Welsh Royal Crystal and the perpetual trophy had been received from last year's winners. **ACTION: Cllr. Evans will make arrangements to present it to the winners in their garden.**

6.9 Dark Lane Recycling bank. The Chair, reported that she, other Councillors & the Clerk had met on site with Ian Harries of PCC. PCC are eager to stop the practice of fly tipping on the site as it is becoming increasingly expensive for them to remove and process inappropriate deposited material. Mr. Harries had agreed that the signage is in need of an update. It was resolved to write to Mr. Harries to thank him for meeting with the Council and to reiterate that RTC would welcome the provision of new signs especially one(s) which could be temporarily changed to suit any temporary changes in status / availability if required. Given that the recycling information changes on a periodic basis, it was agreed to seek the provision of a Notice Board as opposed to a pre-written metal sign so that the information could be regularly updated as necessary. **ACTION: Clerk to write to Ian Harries.**

6.11 Coach Park signs: Cllr. Curry reported that he had contacted several people on the issue, all of which had promised to get back to him.

6.12 Publicising meetings: The Clerk had sent the agenda to the additional papers. It was agreed that as no paper was able to send a reporter to the Council's meetings the Town Council should try to recruit someone local to act as a Voluntary Press Officer. **ACTION: Recruitment of Voluntary Press Office to be added to the August agenda.**

4. REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORTS

Remembrance Day Sub Committee: Cllr. Williams reported on the arrangements made for the Remembrance Day Service at the Clock by the Poppy Appeal Sub-committee. The Sub-Committee will not be responsible for any associated church service(s) which would be left to the churches themselves to organise. She showed Councillors a draft of the leaflet prepared by Office Solutions (Wales) and sought sanction to purchase 250 leaflets at a cost of £80. Agreed. **ACTION: Cllr. Williams to purchase.**

It was also agreed to pay the fee of £50 to Cllr. Dark for the hire of his PA system at the event. Cllr. Dark said that he would donate the sum to Rhayader and District Community Support (RDCS) Minibus Appeal. It was resolved that following the event, the Clerk would make the payment to the RDCS Minibus Appeal.

Rhayader Market Hall and Smithfield Trust: It was reported that work was due to start on the improvements to the existing sheep pens at the Smithfield on Monday 1st August and is expected to last for 3 weeks.

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5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr. W. Davies declared an interest in agenda item 8.1 & left the room when appropriate.

6. AGENDA ITEMS

6.1 Rhayader Library.

PCC had responded favourably to the tentative suggestion by RTC that transfer of the building by a CAT may be a manageable option for the Town Council. However PCC reiterated that a 50% contribution to the cost would be essential if the Rhayader Library was to be retained. To reach this proportion, PCC stated that in addition to all the annual running costs of the building, RTC would need to pay the rates and contribute a further £1,700. It was resolved that the Council would **potentially** be prepared to contribute the costs associated with taking over the building (circa £6.7k) but were not favourable to contribute towards the rates and other costs on a percentage basis which could increase as staff costs increase.

The Chair advised that she had spoken with the Clerk to Llanidloes Town Council which was also in discussions with PCC in regard to contributing towards keeping Llanidloes library provision open. She had also spoken with the Mayors of Llandrindod Wells and Newtown and confirmed that those Councils had not be approached for any contribution to the library service. It was clear that not all Councils were being asked to contribute to the Library Service provision and where Councils were being asked, different funding requirements were being sought. This was seen by Councillors to be unfair.

ACTION: The Chair undertook to reply to PCC and to request a meeting with Stuart Macintosh. The Chair to start drafting a Community Asset Transfer Application form in relation to Rhayader Library.

6.2 Rhayader Street Scene.

Cllr. Williams expressed concern that the flower beds on the New Road Roundabout had become infested with weeds and suggested that they should be regularly attended to throughout the growing season. George McManus has weeded the beds in the past but Councillors were unsure whether he would wish to undertake this task on a regular basis. Cllr. C. Davies undertook to ask George about the issue. As an alternative solution Cllr. Williams will contact Pryce Marpole to obtain a price for keeping the beds weed free throughout the year. **ACTION: Cllrs Williams and C. Davies to enquire as above.**

6.3 Community Plan.

An e-mail received from David Evans of R2K stated that there appears to be some support for the proposal to create a Community Plan for Rhayader. It was resolved to inform the writer that RTC is supportive of the proposal and to enquire if and how the existing Rhayader Collaborative Group (a working group of R2K) fits into the proposal and what is the preferred way forward. Councillors felt that the Collaborative Group would be a good sounding board to take the proposal forward. **ACTION: Clerk to enquire as above.**

6.4 Powys War Memorials Project.

Several members, Cllr. Curry and the Clerk had met at the Town Clock with Nathan Davies of PCC who had given a resumé of the project, its aims and the help and grants which are available and undertook to make enquiries about PCC's intentions for maintenance of the structure. Grants for repair and restoration works could be around a maximum of £2700 and £200 for improvement works to war memorial surroundings, both sums requiring a degree of match funding from RTC. Cllr. Williams informed that Carad had information about the memorial and those from the area who fell in WW1. Subsequent to the site meeting she obtained copies and digital information from Carad.

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6. AGENDA ITEMS (CONT)

Councillors were particularly concerned about the condition and protection of the name plaques and resolved to request a survey be performed under the scheme and to seek funding to do restorative work on the plaques. They were informed that names on the plaques also include men from neighbouring Parishes such as St Harmon and Abbeycwmhir. **ACTION: Clerk to liaise with Nathan Davies to obtain a survey and to apply for a grant.**

6.5 Land at Dolgerddon.

As instructed at the June meeting, the Clerk had informed David Micah (PCC) of RTC's interest in acquiring the land at Dolgerddon via a Community Asset Transfer (CAT), but to date had received no response. It was resolved that the Clerk, assisted by Cllrs. Stuart & Walton, should complete application documents for a CAT for the land. **ACTION: Cllr. Stuart, Cllr. Walton and the Clerk to complete a CAT application form for approval by the full Council.**

6.6 Citizen of the Year 2016.

Nominations had been received for 3 people. One form nominated the Carnival Committee which comprises a body of people and therefore by definition is not eligible to be Citizen of the Year. After a vote, of the remaining two nominees, Aubrey Thomas emerged a clear winner. It was resolved to invite Aubrey to the August meeting to receive the trophy. **ACTION: Clerk to make the invitation.**

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.

7.4 Land Registry Wales Office: B104 Notice of a new official plan The Allotment Field. Councillors believed that the extent of the land designated seem to be correct. This being so, the letter indicated that no action was required from the Town Council. In discussion it was reiterated that the hedge bordering the public highway should be layed at the earliest opportunity. **ACTION: Cllr. J. Jones to follow up.** It was also noted that the hedge by the stream needed attention. **ACTION: Allotment Sub-committee to take action.**

7.5 Northhold Group: Possible acquisition of HSBC building & subsequent e-mail requesting that RTC support the company's proposed application for a timed (3 hour) "loading bay" long enough to accommodate large HGVs in front of the ex-Bank in East Street or similar in Caerberbert Lane. Councillors welcomed that they had been contacted by both PCC and the purchaser of the building at an early stage but reiterated their position that street parking in Rhayader's main streets is at a premium and must be protected. Consequently they did not feel that they could support the request but were willing to work with the purchasers of the building wherever they were able. **ACTION: Clerk to inform Northhold Group of RTC's decision.**

7.7 OVW: Fly the Flag for the Commonwealth. The Clerk had obtained a quotation of £32.50 from Flags & Flagpoles for a two yard printed Commonwealth Flag. It was resolved to purchase the flag to be flown on New Road Roundabout in place of the Union Flag for two weeks from 10am on Monday March 13th 2017. Cllr. Stuart agreed to raise the flag at the stated time. **ACTION: Clerk to make the purchase. Cllr. Stuart to raise the flag as agreed.**

7.8 PCC: Tour of Britain Cycle Race. **ACTION: Cllr. C. Evans said that she would organise to display the banner she had received to promote the cycle race for two weeks over the Race.**

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8. PLANNING

8.1 P/2016/0691: for Erection of pair of semi-detached dwellings and associated works at The Bear's Head East Street, Rhayader, Powys. Cllr. W. Davies left the room.

Councillors were fully aware of the site, having visited it at a previous site meeting, and had received written comment on the application (item 7.11) from the owners of a neighbouring property. It would appear that this application would result in increased vehicular usage of the site. Nothing within the application appeared to assess that factor or to address/mitigate the possible hazard identified and commented on by the Town Council in a previous application for the site and which had already been conveyed to the Local Authority. No information is given in the drawings by which Councillors could judge the relative height of the building which is situated on rising ground. Councillors were therefore unsure whether it would be in keeping with the surrounding buildings. For the above reasons the Town Council does not feel that it is in a position to put forward one single view for or against the proposal but would reiterate its previous suggestion that the issue of egress be assessed by the Highways Department. **ACTION: Clerk to inform PCC.**

8.2 P/2016/0686: for Demolition of existing porta-cabin and replacement with new at Army Cadets Building Cwmdauddwr Rhayader Powys. There were no objections to this application & Councillors recommended approval. **ACTION: Clerk to inform PCC.**

8.3 P/2016/0715: for erection of a single wind turbine – 15m to hub, 17.8m to blade tip at Field Nr Pen y Rhiw, Llanwrthwl, Landrindod Wells Powys. There were no objections to this application & Councillors recommended approval. **ACTION: Clerk to inform PCC.**

P/2016/0781 for Change of use of existing dwelling to create an additional dwelling at 89 Brynheulog Rhayader Powys. Cllr. C. Evans declared an interest & left the room. Cllr. Walton took the Chair in her absence. There were no objections to this application & Councillors recommended approval. **ACTION: Clerk to inform PCC.**

9. FINANCE

£119 Welsh Royal Crystal – Trophies. Agreed. **ACTION: Clerk to issue cheque.**

All Reclaimed VAT is paid into the Current A/c. The Clerk sought approval to transfer the £6,729.85 which related to the works undertaken to the public conveniences in Rhayader back into the Toilets A/c from which it had been paid. Agreed. **ACTION: Clerk to arrange the transfer.**

10. URGENT BUSINESS

Cllr. Curry informed that work on the safety “chicane” in St Harmon Road is due to start on 12th September.

He also had received notice from Cashzone that the structural report for a Cashzone ATM is with the Spar’s landlord.

11. PRESS RELEASE

- Need for a Press Officer.
- Citizen of the Year 2016.
- Best Kept Garden 2016.

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12. BUSINESS FOR NEXT MEETING

1. Attendant reporter. / (Voluntary Press Officer)
2. Community Asset Transfers
3. Wi-fi Free Rhayader.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next monthly meeting will be held at 7.00 p.m. on Tuesday 23rd August 2016.

The meeting closed at 9.55p.m.

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