

LLANDRINDOD WELLS TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Remote Meeting held on Tuesday 6th February 2023 at 7.00pm

Present: Cllr L Weerdmeester-Price, W Curzon, Jamie Jones, Jon Jones, S Deeks-D’Silva, S Sims, S Meredudd, J Shaw, B Williams

Apologies: Cllr M Morgan, J Hawker, K Nicholls

TC 15/23 Declaration of Interest
None

TC 16/23 Minutes
The minutes of the meeting held on 17th January 2023 were approved.

TC 17/23 Public Speaking
None.

TC 18/24 Written Notice of Motion
Received written notice of motion signed by 6 members of the Town Council in accordance with Section 7a of Council Standing Orders:

“With reference to the above, we the undersigned members of Llandrindod Wells Town Council to revisit the decision made by full Council meeting held on 15th November 2022 under minute reference TC 153/22 regarding the formation of an Events Committee as outlined in Standing Order 7a.”

“A resolution shall not be reversed within six months except either by a special motion, which requires written notice by at least 5 councillors to be given to the Proper Officer in accordance with standing order 9, or by a motion moved in pursuance of the recommendation of a committee or a sub-committee.”

TC 19/24 Events Committee
The Clerk had received an email from Cllr Hawker who was unable to attend. The Chair read this out to the Council.

Cllr Deeks-D’Silva had issues with more than half of the Council being on this Committee, which could result in a majority in membership presenting ideas to full Council. He was also unhappy about delegated spending powers being given for such a large budget (£58,851). He felt the Council must safeguard its processes, particularly in view of previous issues. He felt this matter had already driven a wedge between a business and the Council which was noticeable with the 3 recent discontented meetings. It has had an effect on harmony and the working of the Council.

Cllr Curzon thanked the Chair for reading out Cllr Hawker’s email. He commented that everyone had accepted the concept of an Events Committee, but had not given it the correct consideration and felt it was all rushed.

Cllr Williams had no concerns over any particular members with regard to this, but felt that because of the shadow of the history of issues with the Council, he feels nervous making significant decisions without scrutiny. He would not be happy with the Committee having delegated spending powers and would also wish the Council to approve all events.

He would also like to see the Committee of no more than 5 members. The Town Council should also set a standard not to clash with other events within the town.

The Clerk felt the Council must operate with openness and transparency at all times and reminding members of the previous perceived issues with regards to finances, every attempt must be made to protect the Council as a corporate body, its members and staff.

Cllr Sims agreed with what had been said and would not support delegated spending powers and would wish to see no more than 5 members on any Committee.

Cllr Meredudd also wished the Council to consider the delegated spending and reduce the Committee numbers significantly.

Cllr Shaw felt that there may be issues with personalities which could make this Committee difficult to operate.

Cllr Jon Jones felt in the cold light of day 7 members is too many to form a Committee and more scrutiny is needed with regard to the budget and any delegated powers. He felt the Council should go back to the drawing board.

The Chair was not against an Events Committee but in hindsight would reduce the membership and significantly reduce the budget allocated.

Cllr Jamie Jones stated that this Committee was set up with the best intentions, however, conflict has been raised and the Council must be wary of public perception.

Cllr Deeks-D'Silva reminded members of the commitment required to arrange and facilitate events and the hard work involved.

Cllr Curzon was mindful that all members must be aware of possible conflict of interests and public perception.

All members confirmed they would not be happy with this Committee having more than 5 members. They would also not wish to award delegated spending powers.

Cllr Williams proposed that the Council have an Events Committee with up to 5 members with no delegated budget and event approval by full Council. This was voted on - 6 against, 3 in favour. The motion fell.

Cllr Curzon proposed that the Council dissolve the Events Committee and to reinstate the Festive Lights Committee. Where the Council feel appropriate other events will be referred to a Task & Finish Group - 6 in favour, 2 against, 1 abstention

Resolved: “To dissolve the Events Committee and to reinstate the Festive Lights Committee. Where the Council feel appropriate other events will be referred to a Task & Finish Group.”

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and participating in this meeting.