

LLANDRINDOD WELLS TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Remote Meeting held on Tuesday 15th March 2022 at 6.30pm

Present: Cllr L Weerdmeester-Price, W Curzon, Jamie Jones, Jon Jones, M Morgan, K Nicholls, S Sims, S Meredudd, K Brelstaff, K Evans, J Shaw.

Apologies: Cllr S Thomas, B Williams

TC 30/22 **Declaration of Interest**
TC 42/22 a & b Cllr W Curzon

TC 31/22 **Minutes**
The minutes of the meeting held on 15th February 2022 were approved.

TC 32/22 **Clerks' Report**
Public Access Defib – Football/Rugby Club
The Defib is now operational.

Public Access Defib – Samaritans, No 1 High Street – The Gwalia and Albert Hall have been notified of this. Cty Cllr Pete Roberts has agreed with the Portfolio Holder to site the Gwalia Defibrillator on the Automobile Palace.

Princes Avenue Leisure Park

All tree work has been completed and new elements installed. The new target game is being installed on Friday 18th March 2022.

There has been lots of interest in hiring out the site for 2022. However, there are still some dates available for groups. Members are asked to contact local groups to notify them of these opportunities.

Vice Chair Donations

Cllr Curzon has recently made donations to the following from his allowance:

- Bracken Trust
- Samaritans
- Men Shed
- Glenys Bufton
- Llandrindod Silver Band
- Play Radnor
- Hospital League of Friends
- 1st Llandrindod Scouts
- Llandrindod Air Cadets

Ukraine Appeal

The Council continues to support Ashfield Community Enterprise with their appeal to help the people of the Ukraine. They are carrying out wonderful work and thanks go to everyone who has supported the appeal. Thanks to members who have been out to Ashfield and assisted with the sorting and packing of items.

Ashfield would be happy for anyone who wishes to volunteer to contact them and they can agree on suitable times when they need help. 01597 829689.

May 2022 Local Government Elections

Nominations are now open for the above elections. Members are reminded to adhere to the conditions for operation within the pre-election period.

TC 33/22

Chairs Report

The Chair had attended the following engagements:

Presentation of Defibrillator Case to Llandrindod Wells Football and Rugby Clubs members Tony Dudley and Kev Hughes. The Chair was impressed with the facilities on offer and amazed by the amount of work carried out by volunteers.

Fairtrade Fortnight event on Bandstand being run by members of the group raising the profile of Fairtrade. The Chair really enjoyed engaging with the members and discussing the project with a "life sized banana."

The Chair and other female members of the Town Council attended the International Women's Day Art Exhibition at the Radnorshire Museum. He encouraged all members to pop along and visit the exhibition.

The Chair was not available to attend the Twinning Association Male Voice Choir event at the Albert Hall, and thanked the Vice Chair for attending at short notice.

TC 34/22

Public Speaking

None.

TC 35/22

Correspondence

a) Fay Jones MP – Bullying of Clerks Early Days Motion

Response received as follows:

"Please accept my sincere apologies for the delay in response to your previous email, I hope that this email finds you well.

I want to begin by saying that I absolutely condemn any kind of bullying. Nobody should have to deal with bullying, especially not in the workplace.

Councillors are very important, they are the pillars of local democracy and play an important role in ensuring that local communities are able to thrive. The actions of a few Councillors do not by any means reflect the behaviour of the majority but it does highlight areas that could be improved to protect Clerks, and indeed others working within local democracy.

Members of the Government do not, by convention, sign Early Day Motions. However, I will pass on your concerns to my Ministerial Colleagues and continue to monitor any developments in Parliament."

This was noted.

b) Fairtrade Llandrindod – Thanks

Email from group as follows:

“On behalf of the steering group for Llandrindod Wells Fairtrade Town group, I would like to send thanks for your most generous donation to us, of £100, which I believe is given as part of the Mayor's Discretionary Fund. We would like also to thank the Mayor for so generously giving us of his time on the morning of Wednesday February 23rd, at The Bandstand, for his lively interest in the aims of our Fairtrade Town and of Fairtrade more generally, and for his presentation of this gift. We greatly appreciate the ongoing vital support that you as a Town Council offer us as we continue to work to maintain the Fairtrade Status of Llandrindod Wells. Later this year we will be reapplying for Town Fairtrade Status and look forward to approaching you as the Town Council for confirmation of your continuing interest and support.”

c) One Voice Wales – Subscription Renewal - £1083

Resolved: to renew subscription of £1083 on 1st April 2022.

d) Dyfed Powys Police – Graffiti

Response as follows:

“Thank you for bringing this matter to my attention. I understand the impact this type of crime can have on the community and building structures.

I have brought this matter to the attention of our Neighbourhood policing team who are aware of some of the graffiti and have been working to identify the responsible person(s). At this present time those responsible are unknown.

A member of the NPT team will be in contact to discuss further.”

Cllr Brelstaff had brought this matter to attention of the Town Council which seems to be focused within the south of the town.

The Clerk had discussed this matter with the local PCSO's and they are working on identifying the culprit. Although they had advised that no complaints had been received over this matter.

The Clerk felt that if members had concerns over this as residents they should contact the police to register these.

TC 36/22

Planning Applications

a) 22/0379/FUL

Grid Reference: **E:305915 N: 261179**

Proposal: Removal of existing noncompliant fire escape and installation of replacement fire escape to comply with current standards. Installation of a new first-floor access door. Removal of existing storage structure attached to the rear of the property. Alterations to the shop front, including painting, signage and installation of traditional barbers pole.

The Shop front work has already been completed. Site Address: Oaks Barbers (Former Marina Gallery), Middleton Street, Llandrindod Wells, LD1 5ET.

Cllr Meredudd pointed out that once again works had been undertaken within the conservation area without prior permission.

Resolved: no objection.

TC 37/22

Applications for Financial Assistance

a) Ysgol Trefonnen – Walking Bus

Further information was supplied to support this application.

The application was to fund hi vis jackets, publicity materials and staffing costs. As the council is not permitted to fund staffing costs, members agreed to fund the cost of hi vis jackets annotated with Llandrindod Wells Town Council sponsorship as indicated.

Resolved: Clerk to obtain a quotation for the purchase of these from the school and fund this on behalf of the council.

b) Lon Cwm Green – Event Support

Application to support children's activities on this site.

The Chair felt this was a great initiative and proposed a grant of £200.

Resolved: to award a grant of £200.

c) Royal British Legion Club – Children's Jubilee Party

Application towards a children's jubilee party open to all children. Members were fully supportive of this.

Resolved: to award a grant of £250 to be allocated after the end of the current financial year.

TC 38/22

Finances

a) To approve the payments for February 2022

Resolved: accounts were approved.

b) Expenses/Budget to 28.02.22 – for information.

Resolved: received.

TC 39/22

Council Projects

a) Climate Emergency

Cllr Brelstaff updated on PACE projects which are moving forward quickly.

20-minute Community Project Group are planning a meeting with TLT shortly.

Contact has been made with the Green Guide who will be contacting the Clerk about the Climate Change element of the Town Council website.

The County Council Climate Change Officer is no longer in post and it is hoped that this position will be filled as soon as possible.

PACE has now been contacted by the PCC Climate Change Stakeholder Group which is finally operational.

Cllr Brelstaff felt that this group needs achievable objectives and a clear strategy as soon as possible. Cllr Meredudd agreed with this. She had presented some information on this within a recent written report to members.

b) Dental Provision

Cllr Brelstaff reported that Welsh Government and Powys Teaching Health Board are now funding a further NHS Dental Chair within Llandrindod Wells. This is great news and tenders have now been published. He hoped that suitable candidates could be attracted to apply.

Members thanked Cllr Brelstaff for his continued work on this project and Cllr Jamie Jones for bringing this matter to the attention of the Town Council.

Cllr Jamie Jones felt this was great news, however, he wished the council to continue to monitor this situation.

The Chair thanked everyone who had been involved in this project which had achieved a wonderful outcome.

Cllr Brelstaff and the Clerk had prepared a press release which had been agreed by Jane Dodds which will be forwarded to the press following the meeting.

TC 40/22

Policy Review

a) Anti-Harassment & Bullying (Dignity at Work) Policy

The Clerk presented the draft new policy which had been discussed by the Polices Committee.

Resolved: to adopt this policy

b) Expenses & Officers Donations Policy

The Clerk presented the current policy for re-approval.

Resolved: to adopt this policy

c) Memorandum of Understanding

The Clerk presented the current policy for re-approval.

Resolved: to re-adopt this policy

TC 41/22

Rock Park Project

Friends of the Rock Park have brought forward an idea for refurbishment works on the Eye Well and surrounding area within the Rock Park. Steve Gealy of PCC is happy to give his support to these works. The Clerk reminded members of the Rock Park Open Spaces budget which stands at £4500.

The Chair had visited the site with Cllr Meredudd and carried out some clearing work. He identified that works are required on the fence, handrails and steps. He approached the council about allocating a budget of £750 for the works to be carried out from the Rock Park Open Spaces budget.

The Clerk mentioned that the council gardening contractor could visit the site on a regular basis and blow away the leaves to keep the well clear. Cllr Meredudd thought this would be a great idea.

Resolved: to allocate a budget of £750 and liaise with Steve Gealy to obtain quotes for the required works.

TC 42/22 **Resolution – Confidential Matters**

Resolved: that the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 as there would be disclosure to them of confidential information relating to contractual and personnel content.

TC 43/22 **Confidential Matters (Contractual, Legal or Personnel Related.)**

a) Hanging Basket Tenders

Cllr Curzon declared an interest in this matter and left the room whilst discussions took place.

One submission was received from P McKechnie at £2909.38

Resolved: to accept this tender submission.

b) Planter Tenders

Cllr Curzon declared an interest in this matter and left the room whilst discussions took place.

One submission was received from P McKechnie at £1105.00

Resolved: to accept this tender submission.

c) National Pay Award (for information)

The Clerk circulated notification of the National Pay Award for 2021/22 which is backdated to 1st April 2021. This was for information only as a mandatory increase. This was noted.

d) Skate Park Engagement Event

Members of the Skate Park Committee will be arranging an engagement event at the skate ramp on Saturday 23rd April 2022 which will require electricity and have asked to use PALP electricity. The Clerk had advised against this and agreed to bring this to the attention of the council.

Cllr Nicholls, Chair of the Skate Park Committee updated members on the plans for the event and it was agreed that it would not be possible to offer the PALP electricity supply due to health & safety issues. It was agreed to advise the group to use a silent generator, which could be funded from the Skate Park project.

Resolved: to recommend a silent generator for the event to be funded from the Skate Park budget.

e) Platinum Tree Planting

The Clerk had circulated a link to suitable plaques for the Queen's Green Canopy tree planting project. There were 5 options.

Resolved: to purchase 2 stainless steel plaques and spikes at a cost of £43 each plus VAT.