

LLANDRINDOD WELLS TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Hybrid meeting held on Tuesday 16th April, 2024 via Zoom

Present: Cllr M Morgan, W Curzon, K Nicholls, S Deeks-D'Silva, D Markinson, Jamie Jones, P Smith, S Meredudd, Jonathan Jones, L Weerdmeester-Price, S Sims

Apologies: Cllr N Bastow

TC 46/24 Declaration of Interest
None.

TC 47/24 To confirm minutes of the meeting held on 19th March 2024
The minutes were confirmed and signed subject to an amendment.

TC 48/24 Clerk's Report
The Clerk reported that she had received notification from the Public Services Ombudsman on 15th April 2024 that a member of the Council is now being investigated.

A letter has been received from the pupils of Ysgol Cefnlllys thanking the Vice Chair for the donation of Easter Eggs on behalf of the Council in support of the Easter Bingo fund raiser. The school had raised £700 from this.

Cllr Deeks-D'Silva asked the Clerk if she had received any contact from Builth Wells Town Council regarding Thomas Lant. No contact had been received. The Clerk agreed to contact BWTC to discuss this.

Cllr Deeks-D'Silva reported that the ladies toilets at the Lakeside have an out of order notice on the door but the door is not locked. The Clerk had reported this issue to PCC Properties to ask them to once again clear the blockage within the sewerage system last week. She will chase this up urgently.

The Chair asked Cllr Deeks-D'Silva if they could forward their concerns over One Voice Wales stated at the last meeting.

Cllr Deeks-D'Silva said he hadn't realized that the Chair had requested these. Cllr Jamie Jones said he has the same two concerns as Cllr Deeks-D'Silva and the third was confidential and he could not share this. The Chair asked if the Clerk could help at all with this. Cllr Jamie Jones stated that she could not help.

TC 49/24 Chair's Report
As always, there have been many local fund-raising events happening and March was the time to arrange a special thank you to those who give so much of their time freely to help others.

13/3/24 – Rev Pete Letson from the Holy Trinity Church, The High Sheriff for Powys, Mr Reg Cawthorne along with myself organised a Service of Thanksgiving for Volunteers in our community. Thank you to Steph Burton for helping us to advertise the service and to the ladies from the church for ensuring we were all served with lovely refreshments.

I had invited Mrs Dot Richards to be my Consort for the evening, as, unbeknown to her we had organised a High Sheriff's Award to be presented to her during the service along with a bouquet and a special thank you for all the charity work she has done and continues to do for our community.

Many thanks to everyone who took part and attended the service, everyone agreed it was a very special evening. We enjoyed wonderful music and readings, thank you to Mr Hamish Stonebridge (Royal British Legion), Mrs Lorraine Cadwallader-Jones (Deputy Headteacher at Ysgol Cefnlllys), The Bracken Trust Singers, Cantorian, pupils from Ysgol Cefnlllys and Ysgol Trefonnen.

19/3/24 – During the morning, I visited the Cefnlllys School Shop to wish the Friends of Hope House every success with their fund-raising and to give a donation on behalf of the Town Council and residents.

19/3/24 - In the afternoon, I had been invited to the new Elevate Studio premises which now has a new central location and larger premises in Tudor Lane. Owner, Tiff Rising showed me around this ladies only gym and let me try out some of the equipment, explaining that the instructors that I was introduced to, offer a selection of different classes.

26/3/24 – The High Sheriff for Powys, Mr Reg Cawthorne had invited me to accompany him visiting our local charity shops to thank the volunteers for the hard work that they do. We met with Mr David Davies, Branch Manager of Samaritans, Llandrindod Well and had a tour of the building which has been wonderfully restored and decorated inside. We were shown the call centre and one of the volunteers kindly spent time explaining how calls are dealt with. The High Sheriff and myself also visited the Cefnlllys School Shop, The British Red Cross Shop and The Bracken Trust Shop and spent time chatting with the many wonderful volunteers.

26/3/24 - After a quick outfit change, I spent the afternoon doing a joint patrol around town with Josh, one of our local PCSO's. We met with local businesses and residents to discuss any issues that they were having.

03/4/24 - Seed to Feed Competition Winner Presentation outside the Town Hall with Cllr Steve Sims joining me. The winners of our Seed to Feed Competition were Mel and Mark with a wonderful photograph of a Great Spotted Woodpecker feeding. Mel and Mark chose a bug hotel as their prize – well done both.

6/4/24 – I was delighted to accept an invitation to the Wacky Racers Christmas Dinner at the Hotel Commodore to support them in their fund-raising. Well done to the organisers and the hotel for an enjoyable fun-filled evening and a lovely Christmas Dinner! This year the Wacky Racers are busy fund-raising for The Bracken Trust and St Michael's Hospice and I wish them every success.

Donations have been given to:

- Friends of Hope House
- St. Michael's Hospice
- Football goal nets have been purchased for Ysgol Cefnlllys following my visit to the school Senedd last month and listening to the ideas of the Senedd Members of what the children would benefit from during their break time.
- The Vice Chair and myself donated Easter Eggs to Ysgol Cefnlllys and Ysgol Trefonnen.

Other News:

- Dementia Matters in Powys: I was very pleased to hear that additional funding has now been received to ensure that this service remains open and will continue to provide a weekly session for its members (approx. 11 at the current time).

- Residents have been saying well done to the Town Council for taking the time to organise a survey giving residents a chance to voice their opinions regarding the layout of the Lake.
- We are hoping that some better weather will allow further tidying-up work to be voluntarily undertaken by a small team of Town Councillors on the Capel Maeleg site at the Lake.
- Let's hope that the weather will allow the planting to go ahead at the new Tremont Park Nature Area on the 27th of this month.

I would like to thank our Town Clerk, Jane Johnston for all her hard work again this month.

TC 50/24 **Public Speaking**
None.

TC 51/24 **Correspondence**

a) J Senior – Powys Green Guide

This drew the Council's attention to the section of the Powys Green Guide

www.powysgreenguide.cymru

He is aware that Llandrindod Town Council has made a Declaration of Climate Emergency, and that there is a section 'Climate / Nature Emergency' on its web site.

The Powys Green Guide section on Community Council Climate Action now provides the opportunity for councils to publicise their declarations relating to the climate and ecological emergencies and follow-up actions, and compare with those of other councils. This will lead to a valuable data-base for cross-fertilisation of ideas.

He therefore request that Llandrindod Town Council participate in this initiative and include it on the agenda of the next Council meeting.

Resolved: to add information to the Green Guide.

b) Powys County Council – Lake Park Traffic Direction and Road Layout

Response from Cty Cllr Jackie Charlton, Portfolio Holder for a Greener Powys as follows:

“Thank you for your email outlining the concerns of residents, visitors, and the Town Council and for sharing the results of your survey regarding a proposal for the one-way system around the lake. I thank you for taking the time to conduct this survey and I note the results.

As you are aware, this is something that we are looking into, and we will be seeking to undertake a full consultation in due course. Funding is not currently confirmed; however, we are hopeful this will be forthcoming to enable us to progress a plan for the Lake and access.

At this stage I cannot give any assurances to the likely time scales in the absence of confirmed funding. I have copied in Cllr Pete Roberts and Cllr Josie Ewing to this response who are both keen to see the improvements continue around the Lake. I'm also very pleased to see the improvements of late, the focus on making the Lake a wildlife sanctuary and providing greater accessibility. There is some way to go but everyone is focused on the Lake as a local attraction for as many people as possible.”

The Council was grateful for the response, however, it still has concerns over the serious health & safety risks with the current one-way system lay out where there is a danger with lorries, coaches, camper vans and caravans reversing down Princes Avenue when they realise they are not able to go around the Lake or turn in the turning area at the entrance to the footpath to the Lakeside Café.

The Town Council has been discussing this with PCC for approximately 3 years, and this continues to be of serious concern for the Town Council and local residents.

The Council noted the comments about undertaking a full consultation and requested what will the nature of the consultation be, who will be consulted, and what will be the firm time frame? Following the consultation what will be the time frame for implementation of changes?

The Town Council will request that the consultation and implementation is carried out as a matter of urgency.

Resolved: to write back to the Portfolio Holder commenting as above.

c) Cty Cllr J Thorp – Community Council Climate Conference

Email notifying of a group being set up to organise a second Community Council Climate Conference as a follow-up to the Town Council previous joint event with PCC.

The request is for the Clerk to be part of this group. Unfortunately, due to workload it will not be possible for the Clerk to participate.

Cllr Deeks-D'Silva has also been approached directly about being part of the group.

Resolved: to appoint Cllr Deeks-D'Silva to represent the Town Council on this group.

d) Powys County Council – Boarded Up Premises

Response from PCC confirming the Town Council request for Section 215 notice to be issued. The planning authority will be dealing with this matter and will keep the Town Council updated on this matter.

Members had recently noticed that there seems to be some movement within this business which is positive.

e) Llandrindod Wells Football Club – Thanks

Letter of thanks for the Town Council's commitment to the 3G pitch project.

This was noted.

TC 52/24 **Planning Applications**
None

TC 53/24 **Applications for Financial Assistance**
None

TC 54/24 **Finances**

a) To approve the payments for March 2024

Resolved: these were approved and signed.

b) Income/Expenditure to 31.03.24

The Clerk answered some questions on this report.

This was noted.

c) Annual Accounts 2023/24

The Clerk presented the Annual Accounts to the Council for discussion and approval.

The Clerk clarified a few points within the accounts and confirmed she would be issuing a detailed list of Reserves and the Full Budget to all members following the meeting.

Resolved: to approve the Annual Accounts for 2023/24. Cllr Deeks-D'Silva and Cllr Jamie Jones abstained from the vote.

The Chair thanked the Clerk for her work on these.

TC 55/24

Annual Meeting Elections

Cllr Deeks-D'Silva suggested that any member standing for Chair or Vice is to give a short election presentation stating what they have achieved as a councillor for the betterment of Llandrindod Wells and this Council, and if elected, what are their plans for the forthcoming coming year.

Discussions took place and it was agreed following a suggestion from Cllr Curzon that the Council should take a more holistic approach to the whole process for the nomination and election of the Chair and Vice Chair.

Resolved: to discuss this at a future meeting.

TC 56/24

County Councillors Reports

a) Cty Cllr J Berriman

Sent his apologies

b) Cty Cllr P Roberts

None.

c) Cty Cllr J Ewing

Sent her apologies.

TC 57/24

Green Gen Towy Usk

Cllr Jamie Jones and Cllr Deeks -D'Silva attended the recent consultation evening at Penybont, which seemed to be putting forward the idea of wooden pylons. Other members also attended.

Cllr Markinson is leading the Task & Finish Group leading the Public meeting process and he updated members on plans supported by other members and the Clerk. He asked for all members support in attending the meeting.

TC 58/24

Wales Air Ambulance

Cllr Jamie Jones re-iterated the position with the Air Ambulance. It was reported that the 7 Health boards have requested further information on the consultation result.

TC 59/24

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, legal and personnel content.

TC 60/24

Confidential Matters (Contractual, Legal or Personnel Related.)

a) Job Evaluation

The Clerk left the room whilst discussions took place.

Cllr Nicholls took the minutes in place of the Clerk.

The Chair presented a full report to Council on the Job Evaluation process undertaken for the Town Clerk & Responsible Officer role and said that the Town Council is now asked to retrospectively approve engagement in the Job Evaluation process for this role via OVW at a rate of £200 and consider their recommendations.

Resolved: the Council gave retrospective approval of the engagement in the Job Evaluation process for the Town Clerk & RFO role via OVW at a rate of £200 and consider its recommendations. Cllrs S Deeks-D'Silva and Jamie Jones voted against this, and Cllr D Markinson abstained from voting.

Following discussions which included all options on offer to the Council.

Resolved: to adopt the recommendations in the report by One Voice Wales and implement an incremental scale for this role Scale LC3 (points 33-36) with the role moving to point 33 from the date of the evaluation report request and then to point 34 from 1st April 2024 with back pay from October 2024.

b) Skatepark Update

The Clerk gave an update on the project and the increase in costs was approved.

Resolved: to approve the increased project cost.

c) Grass Cutting Tenders

This matter was deferred to the meeting on 22nd April 2024 due to time constraints.

d) Temple Chambers

This matter was deferred to the May meeting due to time constraints.