

LLANDRINDOD WELLS TOWN COUNCIL

Remote meeting of the Council took place on Tuesday 16th July 2024 at 6.30pm via Zoom

MEETING OUTCOMES

Present:

Cllr M Morgan, P Smith, Jamie Jones, N Bastow, L Weerdmeester-Price,
D Markinson, Jonathan Jones, K Nicholls, S Deeks-D’Silva, S Sims, R Thomas

1. Apologies

Cllr S Meredudd, W Curzon

2. Declaration of Interest:

Reminder to members. (A Personal Interest is also a prejudicial interest because (under the objective, public perception test in Paragraph 12 (1) of the Members’ Code of Conduct) it would be regarded as so significant that it is likely to prejudice my judgement of the public interest.) (See code of conduct.) (Forms available from Clerk)

TC 112/24a Cllr Jamie Jones

TC 112/24c Cllr Jamie Jones

3. To confirm minutes of the meeting held on 18th June, 2024

Resolved: to defer approval of minutes until next Council meeting.

4. Clerk’s Report

New Planters

The new planters have been received well in town and have definitely brightened up the area.

Tremont Play & Nature Park

We now have a contractor in place for the grounds maintenance on Tremont Park Play and Nature Park. Cutting is now in place and has been done to a high standard.

Unfortunately, it has been identified during site inspections that the path is being dug up to form cycle ramps and stones are now being built up to enhance the ramps. No cycling signs have now been purchased, but it is such a shame to have the new site abused in this way. I would be hopeful that local residents could monitor this situation and advise local children against this.

War Memorial

The Town Council has agreed to fund the professional clean of the War Memorial as previously reported. This will be undertaken, weather permitting shortly.

Temple Chambers

The fence surrounding the Hive will be painted as soon as we have dry spell. The contractor is on board and is ready to start.

HSBC Roundabout

Following a prompt, PCC has now rebuilt the brick surround at the HSBC roundabout. This was done in time for the Carnival.

Station Crescent Public Toilets

A contractor is now in place and will refurbish the toilets following significant incidences of vandalism. These will be refurbished in August.

New Skate Park

The planning application has been submitted and the planning officers have now requested a further report on the site. This is being arranged currently.

Freedom of Information Request

I have received an FOI which will be dealt with within the specified time scales.

Subject Access Request

I have received a Subject Access Request (SAR) which will involve a tremendous amount of work which will be dealt with, time permitting, during the specified time scales.

5. Chair's Report

Thursday 13/6/24 – D-Day Filming Day at the Hotel Metropole

What a special day this was. In remembrance of D-Day 80 The Town Council had agreed to produce a video of local resident's memories of D-Day and WWII which would then be edited by Crossgates Primary School. The video will be shared on the Town Council website once completed. Many thanks to Cllrs Paul Smith, Rob Thomas, Steve Sims, Town Clerk Jane Johnston, Assistant Steven and to everyone who took part in the filming. It was an absolute honour to be able to share your memories. It was a reminder to appreciate what we have today. None of us wanted the day to end.

Thank you to the Hotel Metropole for providing us with the room free of charge as their contribution to the project.

Saturday 15/6/24 – Help for Heroes

I was invited to help Mr Richard Vellacott collect for this important charity at Tesco along with the 1st Llandrindod Wells Scouts. Thank you to everyone who gave so generously, it was also great to have a chat with you all!

Monday 17/6/24 – Public Meeting: Community Shed or Makerspace"

This was held at the Royal British Legion to discuss whether there was a need for this facility in our local community and surrounding areas. This concept is a non-discriminatory evolution of the 'Men's Shed Movement', an 'active social meeting' method of improving well-being. Those who attended were asked to give their thoughts, ideas and suggestions which would be looked at by the organisers following the meeting.

Wednesday 19/6/24 – Twinning Association Committee Meeting

Plans were being finalised for the visit of our twinning guests from Bad Rappenau, Germany and Contrexeville, France. The Mayor from Bad Rappenau would be coming for the visit. They were arriving in time to join in with our Carnival celebrations and a special dinner was to be hosted at our Lakeside Restaurant on the Saturday night. Trips to Tenby and Cardiff were being planned and home-hosting and hotels were to be sorted.

Thursday 27/6/24 – Welsh 2 Day Enduro

Great weather to support the start of the Welsh 2 Day Enduro 2024. I was very pleased to be invited to attend this event for the 2nd year and, of course, I invited Mr Brian Maund to be my Consort again. Brian has been a supporter since the event started back in 1951 and is well known by the organisers and riders so, once again, I was very grateful to have him with me explaining everything. It was great to be part of the excitement and wonderful atmosphere up at our Lake.

Friday 28/6/24 – Welsh 2 Day Enduro

My Consort, Mr Brian Maund and I were so pleased to be asked to present some of the awards at the Welsh 2 Day Enduro Awards Ceremony at the Hotel Metropole.

We received a very warm welcome from the organisers and competitors. We had time to talk with a lot of the competitors and their families and they said such lovely things about our town. So much hard work goes into organising the Welsh Enduro and it is a fantastic event to be held here. Thank you to everyone involved.

Saturday 29/6/24 – Royal British Legion 80 D Day Children’s Fancy Dress Party

Another 80 D Day event town, this time for our local children organised by and held at the Royal British Legion. Thank you to the organisers and those that supported this event. Many thanks to our Vice Chair/Deputy Mayor, Cllr Paul Smith for fully supporting and attending this event and presenting the prizes to the children. Thanks to Cllr Nicholls for attending as Town Council representative.

Tuesday 2/7/24 – Update Meeting with our local PCSO

Since last year, I have been meeting with our PCSO’s to discuss local issues. Topics discussed included the ongoing vandalism of the toilets by the Station and the safety of our children.

Saturday 6/7/24 – Llandrindod Wells Carnival and Twinning Association Dinner

What a wonderful and memorable day! It started with a welcome meeting at the Football Club for our Twinning guests from Bad Rappenau and Contrexeville, where I was presented with a gift from Bad Rappenau by the Mayor. Whilst everyone tried on their costumes for the carnival, I left to pick up my Consort for the day, Marion Sadler, a volunteer at our local Samaritans shop as we had been invited to meet our new Carnival Queen and her attendants to wish them good luck and to enjoy their special day. Following many photos we rushed up to Powys CC Car Park to start judging the floats and the fancy dress with the other judges – Cllr Neil Bastow, the Town Council’s representative on the Carnival Committee and Mrs Margaret Hodges. The judging was difficult as everyone had put so much work into the floats and costumes. Thank you to everyone who took part. Feedback from local residents received – best carnival ever.

At 3pm, it was an honour to crown our beautiful Carnival Queen, Lydia, to thank our wonderful Carnival Committee, especially Mr Michael Gough and to declare the fete open with the help of our Town Cryer and their bell! Our twinning guests were introduced to everyone and came onto the bandstand – they had won a prize for the best walking float which really made their day. Thank you to everyone who had helped with and supported the Carnival – it was another amazing turnout by our town and a day and evening to be remembered.

A Twinning Association dinner was held at the Lakeside Restaurant in the evening – there were 69 guests and it really was a special evening – I tried my best to do a welcome in English, German and French! The food was superb and the weather in the evening was lovely so everyone could enjoy the stunning view. Well done to the Twinning Association Committee for organising such a wonderful evening.

Thank you to my Consort, Marion Sadler for being with me throughout the day and evening.

Sunday 7/7/24 – Builth Wells: Rededication Ceremony of the War Memorial

I was invited as Mayor to represent Llandrindod Wells at the 100th Anniversary of the unveiling and dedication of the Builth Wells and Llanddewi’r Cwm War Memorial. The new benches to mark the occasion are wonderful, a really fitting tribute. I would encourage anyone visiting Builth Wells to go and see them. The event was also attended by the High Sheriff, Mayors of Builth Wells and Rhayader and James Evans MS. The ceremony was led by The Reverend Canon Mark Beaton and was followed by a buffet lunch at The Fountain Inn. My Consort for the service was Mr Hamish Stonebridge, Chairman of the Llandrindod Wells Branch of the Royal British Legion.

Donations have been made this month to:

Help for Heroes
Blood Bikes Wales

Other News

- There continues to be lots of fund-raising events being planned for our community by local volunteer groups who would really value everyone's support for the good causes they work hard to support. Keep checking posters around town and on Facebook.
- Planning for our Festive Lights has started, seems surreal thinking about Christmas but it will soon be here!

6. Public Speaking

None.

7. Correspondence

a) Powys County Council – Town's Grounds Maintenance

Noted.

b) PAVO – Rebuilding Community Foundations – Lakeside Toilets

It was disappointing not to receive the grant, however, the Council agreed to contact Cty Cllr Jake Berriman to ask for a meeting to sort out a way forward. It was suggested that other grants may be available. The Clerk would look into this.

Resolved: to write to Cty Cllr Berriman as above.

c) Oxford Road Field – Football Training

Approach from a gentlemen about the use of the Oxford Road field for football training and matches.

The Clerk had responded asking for some detailed information to support this application. This has not yet been received.

The Clerk had responded to this email to establish some further information to enable the Council to make an informed decision. No response has been received. The Clerk will follow this up. This matter will be deferred until further information is received.

Resolved: to defer this matter until further information is received.

d) Powys Town and Community Councils Climate Event

Resolved: to offer a contribution of £50 in support of this event.

8. Planning Applications

(Applications may be received after the agenda has been published and due to the 21-day response time may be considered at this meeting.)

a) 24/0882/FUL

Grid Reference: E:305555 N: 261196

Proposal: Conversion of former care home into 14 flats and conversion of office building into a dwelling, provision of additional parking and all associated Works - Site Address: Fronheulog And Carisma, Ithon Road, Llandrindod Wells, LD1 6AS

Cllr Jamie Jones declared an interest in this matter and left the room whilst discussions took place

Resolved: no objection. Cllr Weerdmeester-Price voted against this application.

b) 24/0898/REM

Grid Reference: E:306063 N: 261226

Proposal: Section 73 application to vary condition 1 of planning permission 19/0337/FUL to allow for an extension of time - Site Address: Land Of Craig Road, Llandrindod Wells, Powys.

Resolved: no objection

c) 24/0998/TRE

Grid Ref: E: 305535 N: 261202

Proposal: Removal large beech tree within a conservation area - Location: The Presbytery, Ithon Road, Llandrindod Wells LD1 6AS

Cllr Jamie Jones declared an interest in this matter and left the room whilst discussions took place

Resolved: no objection.

9. Applications for Financial Assistance

None.

10. Finances

a) To approve the payments for June 2024

Resolved: the payments were approved and signed.

b) Income/Expenditure to 30.06.24

This was noted.

11. Fireworks – Council Event

Resolved: Clerk to contact Football & Rugby Clubs re event and Round Table/Fire Station to see if they would be available to set off the fireworks. A budget of £1000 to be allocated for this display. The Council will look at other options for future years.

12. Personnel Committee

a) Terms of Reference - Recommended update

Resolved: to approve the amended Terms of Reference

b) Training Policy - Recommended update

Resolved: to approve the amended Training Policy

c) Disciplinary Policy - Recommended update

Resolved: to approve the amended Disciplinary Policy

Cllr Deeks-D'Silva asked if the Clerk holds a record of complaints/disciplinary. She confirmed she did within the Personnel File. This was discussed and it was agreed to remove records from the file in line with the policy timescales.

Resolved: Clerk to remove records.

d) Employment Appeals Policy (New) – Draft

Resolved: to approve the amended Employment Appeals Policy

e) Whistle Blowing Policy (New) - Draft

Resolved: to approve the Whistle Blowing Policy

13. Wind Turbines & Pylons – New Information from Task & Finish Group

Cllr Deeks-D'Silva reported that he had been in discussions with Jenny Chryst of the Re-Think group who will be having a stand at the Royal Welsh Show. He will be arranging a joint meeting with the Task & Finish Group and Rethink after the Royal Welsh Show.

14. County Councillors Reports

a) Cty Cllr J Berriman

Email report as follows:

“Having spoken with Cllr. Pete, there isn't a great deal of specific ward work to bring to your attention.

You will probably be aware that all Powys Councillors have been participating in a series of Sustainable Powys briefings from officers looking at a range of services and facilities and imagining new ways of configuring and delivering what we do based on place-based planning principles and focusing on four core areas, including Llandrindod, and thirteen wider localities.

The aim is to ensure that we make the most of the monies available to us whilst continuing to provide essential services, such as social care, to those most in need. You will appreciate that the public sector spending envelope is not getting any bigger and that we may well see a cash flat settlement next year around which we will need to provide a balanced budget. There are no easy answers or quick fixes and that is why, together with the Powys Teaching Health Board we will continue a shared dialogue with town and community councils and local residents about options going forward. I would certainly encourage you to engage fully with this process, and with this in mind, Pete and I would be happy to meet with you as part of that process.

Last week Powys Council agreed to progress the Replacement Local Development Plan. A revised delivery Agreement has been submitted to, and approved by, the Welsh Government setting a new timetable for the new plan. The next step is to go out to public consultation on the Preferred Strategy, from Mid-August for a 6-week period, and again I hope that the Town Council is able to consider this strategic framework document in the round, along with proposed Candidate Sites for the town and provide challenge and feedback to help improve on the next iteration of the plan.

You will have seen in the press proposals to relocate the town library back to join the Radnorshire Museum at the Town Hall, following the small delivery model in other places, such as Welshpool. This, together with decanting staff up to the Shire Hall, has the potential to free up the Gwalia. This will be placed on the market in mid-July as we seek a sympathetic buyer who will give this iconic building a new lease of life, and a more sustainable future with less cost to the public purse. I am, of course, very conscious of the existing legacy of large underused and vacant buildings in the town, as highlighted in the Town Regeneration Plan, and will ensure that the building, its sale and its future is treated with great sensitivity.

Cllr Deeks-D'Silva asked if the Council had heard anything from PCC regarding the Sustainable Powys Scheme which had recently been approved by the Cabinet. The Clerk had received a letter from PCC allocating a member of the senior leadership team to Llandrindod Wells Town Council which is John Forsey. No further information had been received.

b) Cty Cllr P Roberts

None.

c) Cty Cllr J Ewing

None

15. 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.

16. Confidential Matters (Contractual, Legal or Personnel Related.)

a) **To confirm minutes of the meeting held on 25th June, 2024**

Resolved: Clerk to prepare a transcript of the meeting on this occasion to be presented to the next full Council meeting. The Chair asked members not to keep emailing the Clerk about the completion of this document.

b) **Council Issues Update**

Discussions took place.

c) **Personnel Matters – Employment Appeals Committee**

The Chair left the room for this item and handed over to Vice Chair, Cllr Paul Smith to Chair the remainder of the meeting.

As the Clerk had been made aware that the next item related to her, she had decided to step out of the meeting for items c & d; this was not necessary, however she decided to do this.

Cllr Weerdmeester-Price was appointed as minute taker for these matters.

P.S. approached the Council to appoint a further member to the Appeals Committee. No one came forward.

Resolved: appoint Vice Chair Paul Smith to be our representative to contact One Voice Wales.

d) **Personnel Matters - Complaint**

The Council was informed that a complaint had been received against the Clerk. P.S. will take charge of the investigation in the absence of the Chair.

The Clerk and Chair returned to the meeting. The Chair closed the meeting.