

LLANDRINDOD WELLS TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting held on Tuesday 17th September 2019 in Committee Room A, County Hall

Present: Cllr S Deeks-D’Silva, A Curtis, B Williams, J Jones, H Primmer, D Pugh, J Hawker, K Evans, L Weerdmeester-Price

Apologies: Cllr K Nicholls, S Meredudd, W Curzon

Absent: Cllr L Ward

A Minute’s silence was observed in memory of former Mayor and Town Councillor Don Hughes-Jones who recently passed away.

TC 138/19 **Declarations of Interest**

Cllr L Weerdmeester-Price – TC 146/19d

Cllr Hawker asked for advice with regard to item 143/19g. The Clerk advised that as this was for information only, she felt that no declaration was necessary.

TC 139/19 **Public Speaking**

None.

TC 140/19 **Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 16th July 2019 were approved and signed subject to an amendment.

TC 141/18 **Clerks Report**

Freedom of Information Request

A request was received on 24th July 2019 from a local resident with regard to the contract for watering the Hanging Baskets. A full response was sent on 30th July 2019.

Red Phone Boxes

A consultation was launched during the recess and members were consulted with regard to 2 phone boxes in Llandrindod Wells; 1 at the Ridgebourne and 1 on Brookland Road. Members agreed to register an interest in adopting both boxes for community use. Interest was expressed on 3rd September 2019.

Diary Dates

Members are asked to note the following dates which require Council participation:

Sunday 27th October – Erecting Poppies on Lamp Posts

Sunday 3rd November - Council & Army Cadets Clean Up – 10am – Town Council Office

Sunday 3rd November – Firework Display – 5pm - Princes Avenue Leisure Park

Sunday 10th November – 10.15am – Remembrance Day Parade – from RBL Club

Mon 11th November – 10.45am – Act of Remembrance – War Memorial

Tues 12th November – 10am - Removal of Poppies – Town Council Office

Sat 30th November – 5.00pm – Christmas Lights Switch On

Tues 3rd December – 6.30pm – Full Council Finance Meeting

Sun 8th December – Decorate the Grotto – 10am

Mon 9th December – Lighting Up the Grotto Event from 6.00pm

Cllr Hawker informed members of an event to celebrate the life of Don Hughes-Jones, being held on 12th October 2019 at 7pm in the Pavilion, which is open to everyone.

TC 142/19 **Chairman’s Announcements**

The Chair had been extremely busy over the summer recess. He had presented a cheque for £150.50 to Blood Bike Wales on behalf of the Town Council, which was the collection from the Vintage Vehicle Display. The Chair congratulated the Clerk on the wonderful Vintage Vehicle Display and thanked all those who assisted.

The Army Cadets. Cty Cllr Pete Roberts and Town Council will be holding a Clean Up event on 3rd November 2019 of Memorial Gardens. Cllr Jones offered to assist with grass cutting if required.

The Chair informed members that he had attended the initial “Pride” meeting, an event is being planned for 2020.

The Chair had spent some considerable time at the Princes Avenue Leisure Park greeting all charity groups who ran the site. He has been delighted with the feedback and the positive response to this new facility.

The refurbishment of the Skate Ramp is almost completed and has been carried out by a group of local community spirited volunteers. They have done an amazing job. Once completed the Clerk will arrange for a ROSPA inspection prior to opening.

Cllr Hawker informed members that Cty Cllr Roberts and his team had weeded and cleared the Town Council’s Wooden Trail area at the Lake.

Resolved: to send a letter of thanks to Cty Cllr Roberts and team for their hard work.

TC 143/19 **Correspondence**

a) Llandrindod Wells Victorian Festival – Thanks

Thanks for the grant to support the Festival and notification that Chris and Denise Hartley have stepped down from the Festival. However, a subsequent email had been received to say they have reconsidered and will remain. This was noted.

b) Sense – Invitation to Event

Invitation to attend an event on 13th November 2019 in the MRC to promote Sensory Loss Awareness Month. The Chair confirmed he has been invited separately.

Resolved: Members who wish to attend are asked to contact Sense to confirm their attendance.

c) Tom Taylor – Heart of Wales Line

Cllr Taylor forwarded a copy of a letter received from Ken Skates AC/AM as follows:

“Transport for Wales (TfW) are keen to establish Heart of Wales Line stakeholder workshop to start to collate thoughts and ideas where there are opportunities to make significant improvements to the services on the route. TfW’s current plans of increasing services to four to five a day are the most current plans in place for this line. Any potential improvements identified from the stakeholder workshop would need to be developed to inform a proper business case for consideration.”

Resolved: to thank Cllr Taylor and ask him to keep the Council updated.

d) Welsh Government – National Development Framework

The Draft NDF Consultation has been published for comment by 1st November 2019. An easy to read version has also been published. There is a drop in event at the Library in Llandrindod Wells on 3rd October between 2pm and 6pm.

Cllr Curtis gave some background to this framework which is introducing another level of planning which will cover the whole of the country allowing each LDP to fit into the framework. Cllr Curtis had spotted some issues and has booked an appointment at the event in the Library to discuss these matters.

Resolved: Cllr Curtis was authorised to represent the Town Council at this meeting.

e) R Edwards – Victorian Festival Firework Display

An email following a Facebook message referring to a post about the effect on the wildlife of the town Lake during the recent Fireworks Display with a number of people commenting, some for and some against. The Council was asked as funders of the display if it had any concerns with regard to the effect on wildlife.

The Chair felt that the Council was not qualified to comment on these matters as members are not Ecologists.

Members discussed this matter and it was mentioned that a Firework Display had been held regularly since the inception of the Victorian Festival.

Cllr Weerdmeester-Price, a keen conservationist, had researched some information which identified that Swans nest from April to June, Ducks nest from March to July so no nesting would have been disturbed. Sound does not travel well from air through water, so little disturbance of the fish would take place and Newts and Toads are only affected by Bonfires. He also checked on the RSPB website which states “There is little evidence to suggest that fireworks harm wild birds or affect their conservation status.”

Cllr Hawker felt that Natural Resources Wales and RSPB would be fully aware of this and would have previously highlighted any issues.

Resolved: The Council concluded that the responsibility for the well-being of the wildlife is a matter for the event organisers, the Victorian Festival and ultimately of Powys County Council the authority responsible for the Lake and Lake Park as they have a duty to ensure that safe guarding methods are in place.

- f) Dyfed Powys Police Commissioner - CCTV in Dyfed-Powys: Behind the Scenes**
Invitation to one member of the Council to attend and informative evening event at Police Headquarters giving a behind-the-scenes understanding of the CCTV system on 9th October 2019.

Resolved: The Chairman will attend this event.

- g) Grand Pavilion Events CIC - Thanks**

Thanks for the grant awarded in 2019/20 which has enabled them to purchase a commercial Dishwasher and additional worktops. This was noted. (Please see minute TC 138/19.)

TC 144/19 **Planning Applications**

- a) **19/1386/TRE** - Proposal: Works to trees in a conservation area

Location: Temple Avenue & Alexandra Terrace, Llandrindod Wells, Powys LD1 5HW

Resolved: No objection

TC 145/19 **Finances**

- a) **Payments for July 2019**

The payments for July 2019 were approved and signed.

- b) **Payments for August 2019**

The payments for August 2019 were approved and signed.

- c) **Annual Audit 2019/19 – Completed**

Notification from Grant Thornton of an unqualified audit judgement with confirmation of the completed audit submission on 21st May 2019. The Clerk was congratulated by members for once again undertaking and completing a successful audit. The Clerk will now publish this on the website.

TC 146/19 **Applications for Financial Assistance**

- a) **Llandrindod Foodbank**

Application towards the purchase of printer and supplies to assist the upcoming cookery course.

Resolved: to support this worthwhile initiative and award £250.

- b) **Thumbs Up Club**

Application for a grant towards a trip to Butlins for members.

Resolved: to support this extremely important group and award £250.

- c) **Trawsnewid Llandrindod Transition – Additional Information**

Application for a grant to support the “Facing the Future” Event as discussed at the July meeting. Additional information was received.

Members discussed this matter at length and several anomalies were identified in the figures stated. It was felt that the Council would be unable to support this application to subsidise food for the delegates. Cllr Hawker also mentioned that a similar event is being held for the group’s members with the same speaker which is being advertised as free of charge.

Resolved: not to award a grant on this occasion.

d) Gardeners for Wildlife.

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

Application for a grant to purchase equipment to assist the group to maintain flower borders, pop up bags and plants.

Resolved: to support this initiative and thank them for their hard work and award £254.57

e) Herb Garden Community Café

Application for a grant towards the cost of the mural and planters for the walkway, following the application at the July meeting.

Some concerns were expressed by members over this application, it was also mentioned that Planning Approval may be required for the painting of a mural in that area and the main beneficiary would commercial properties.

It was agreed that the responsibility for this area lies with Co-op/Bargain Buys who and they should be approached with regard to this.

The Clerk reminded members that the Chair had been paying for someone to clear this area regularly throughout the summer and it was felt that this area is much cleaner now. The application supporting email indicated as follows:

“I would like to emphasize that this will be of benefit to local business in the passage way which is currently hampered by the dreadful state of the alley which has become a hideaway for loiterers who have little respect for their surroundings.”

However, the Chair has confirmed this funding will conclude at the end of September 2019.

Members felt unable to support this application on this occasion.

Resolved: not to award a grant.

TC 147/19 Finance Committee – Appoint 2 New Members

The Council is required to appoint 2 new members to the Finance Committee.

Resolved: To appoint Cllr Weerdmeester-Price and Cllr Jones.

TC 148/19 Employment Appeals Committee – Appoint 1 New Member Wells

The Council is required to appoint 1 new member to the Employment Appeals Committee.

Resolved: To appoint Cllr Kerry Evans.

TC 149/19 Vacancy – North Ward

Following the resignation of former Cllr Price, the Clerk has been notified that no election has been called. A co-option advertisement was published on 2nd September with a closing date set for noon on Monday 30th September. Applications will be discussed at the October Council meeting.

TC 150/19 **Vacancy – South 2 Ward**

Following the disqualification of former Cllr Evans, the Clerk has been notified that no election has been called. A co-option advertisement was published on 3rd September with a closing date set for noon on Monday 30th September. Applications will be discussed at the October Council meeting.

TC 151/19 **Place Planning**

Cllr Curtis updated members on the results of the questionnaires sent to members. This had resulted in a tied vote, which clearly identified that members felt that there was a need for planning to take place. Cllr Curtis will now proceed with the Llandrindod Wells Future Planning project with the assistance of the Committee.

Resolved: the Clerk will officially notify PCC Planning of the Council's intentions. Cllr Curtis will arrange a meeting with the Committee.

TC 152/19 **Princes Avenue Leisure Park**

Cllr Curtis wished to thank all members of the Committee and the Clerk for their hard work on this project. He had visited the site regularly and had received lots of positive feedback from both volunteers and visitors to the site.

The Chair re-iterated Cllr Curtis' thanks and sent a particular thanks to Kelvin Greetham who had given lots of his time to assist at the site, laying matting etc. The Chair also thanked the Clerk for her hard work and financial negotiations with suppliers to obtain the best deals for the Council. He was very proud of this project and was delighted to see so many people enjoying the facilities both during the daytime and evenings.

Members felt very proud of this project and hoped to build on this with more projects in the future.

The Clerk confirmed that Karen Compton of the Mid Wales Journal will be doing a feature on this site very shortly.

Cllr Hawker suggested an idea for next spring/summer using a drone.

TC 153/19 **Wellness & Sports Collective Mission for Llandrindod**

The Clerk had provided a list of contact details for sports organisations and Cllr Williams will work on his ideas for presentation to the Council at a future meeting.

TC 154/19 **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 155/19 **Confidential Minutes**

a) Public Services Ombudsman – Investigation Conclusion

The Chair gave a verbal report.