

## LLANDRINDOD WELLS TOWN COUNCIL

### **Minutes of a Remote Meeting held on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2022 at 6.30pm**

**Present:** Cllr L Weerdmeester-Price, W Curzon, Jamie Jones, M Morgan, Jonathan Jones, K Nicholls, S Sims, K Brelstaff, K Evans, S Meredudd, J Shaw, B Williams

**Apologies:** Cllr S Thomas

**TC 01/22** **Declaration of Interest**  
None.

**TC 02/22** **Minutes**  
The minutes of the meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> December 2021 were approved.

**TC 03/22** **Clerks' Report**  
**Public Access Defib – Football/Rugby Club**  
The case has now arrived for the public access defibrillator funded by the Town Council and will be installed shortly. The Clerk will be arranging a presentation photograph shortly.

The case for the Outdoor Bowling Club has arrived and has been installed.

#### **Town Council Office**

Following a resolution by the Town Council, the office is now closed under the current Welsh Government Covid 19 Home Working regulations. The council can be contacted by email and telephone on 07858 150057. The Clerk will be checking the office for post on a regular basis. Notices have been placed on Facebook, the website and on the office door. All measures have been put in place to support the Clerk during home working.

#### **Llandrindod Wells Air Cadets**

The Chairman made a donation of £200 on behalf of the council and residents of Llandrindod Wells towards the fund set up to purchase a mini bus for the Air Cadets. The group are actively fund raising for this project.

#### **Princes Avenue Leisure Park**

Powys County Council have completed the work on the trees bordering the Leisure Park. The Town Council contractors will be commencing works on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2022; bird and bat boxes will be installed once the works have been completed. Some new elements are being included in the Leisure Park for younger children to enhance the whole family experience on the site.

#### **Middleton Street Planters**

PCC and Transport for Wales)have agreed to accept 2 planters from Middleton Street to be relocated on the Station Platform. The Town Council will continue to water these in the summer, however, planting will be transferred to the Station Management Group.

### **Ice Rink**

Following the huge success with the Ice Rink in 2021, the Clerk has now booked this again for 2022.

Cllr Meredudd has suggested a location for the third planter following discussion with the council and is in discussion with PCC Highways about relocating this on cemetery corner.

**TC 04/22**

### **Chairs Report**

The Chair had nothing to report.

**TC 05/22**

### **Public Speaking**

None.

**TC 06/22**

### **Correspondence**

#### **a) Resident – Planting, Oxford Road Field**

The following response was received:

“The package from Keep Wales Tidy includes five fruit trees, ten soft fruit bushes, ten herb and pollinator plants along with a fruit tree handbook, peat-free compost, gloves, hand tools and wild flower seeds.

I have spoken to Incredible Edible Llandrindod who would enthusiastically “adopt” this project and take on pruning and care of the plants. They have insurance under Transition Llandrindod to cover work days for the group and a ready-made team of volunteers who have the knowledge and skills for this area to flourish. I would also like to engage the local community and think it would be a good way for people to meet outdoors and get to know their neighbours.”

**Resolved:** to arrange a site meeting for members and the resident to discuss the plans, and subject to agreement the council will give permission for planting along the one side of the field.

#### **b) Welsh Water – Cartref Programme**

Welsh Water are looking to actively support communities across our operating area through our Cartref programme, by offering free water efficiency products and free repair services for common internal leaks such as taps and toilets. They are hoping to deliver this programme in Llandrindod during February and March.

**Resolved:** to support this project and arrange a meeting with the Clerk, Cllr Brelstaff and Cllr Meredudd to discuss joint working.

#### **c) Cllr Steve Deeks-D’Silva – Resignation**

The Clerk reported the receipt of Cllr Deeks-D’Silva’s resignation from the Council on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2022. This was received.

The Chair was sad to hear today that Cllr Steve Deeks-D’ Silva had resigned from the council. I wanted to thank him on a personal note for all the help and advice he has given him, both when he first started on the council and during his time as Chair. He also like to thanked him on behalf of the town council and commented he was sure he will be sorely missed.

The Clerk felt it was a sad day for the Council and wished to put on public record,

her personal thanks for former Cllr Deeks-D'Silva for his guidance and leadership of the council over an extremely difficult time and for leading to cement the council into the strong and proactive council it is today. She also thanked him for his support of her as Clerk and for helping her regain her confidence both personally and in her role as Clerk during several difficult years.

Cllr Jamie Jones proposed the Council write to Mr Deeks-D'Silva to thank him for everything that he has done for the Town Council during a very difficult period. Especially for returning the council back to being run correctly, Supporting the Town Clerk, unifying the council members, driving the council forward, and most of all for the huge volume of time that he has given.

Cllr Williams and Cllr Nicholls echoed the previous comments.

**Resolved:** to write to Steve Deeks-D'Silva to thank him as above.

**TC 07/22**

**Planning Applications**

**a) 21/2261/HH**

Grid Reference: **E:306417 N: 262413**

Proposal: Partial demolition of existing garage and erection of two-storey side extension - Site Address: 6 Clywedog Drive, Llandrindod Wells, Powys , LD1 5BZ.

**Resolved:** no objection

**b) 21/2291/FUL**

Grid Reference: **E:306055 N: 260848**

Proposal: Car park extension and associated works - Site Address: Car Park, Western Promenade, Llandrindod Wells, LD1 5HU.

The Clerk advised as this application borders on land leased by the Town Council for the new Skate Park, the council may wish to make no comment.

**Resolved:** no objection.

**c) 21/2379/HH**

Grid Reference: **E:305545 N: 259610**

Proposal: Erection of timber summer house in corner of garden (retrospective)  
Site Address: 18 Dolydd, Pentrosfa, Llandrindod Wells, Powys, LD1 5N.

**Resolved:** no objection

**TC 08/22**

**Applications for Financial Assistance**

None.

**TC 09/22**

**Finances**

a) To approve the payments for December 2021

**Resolved:** accounts were approved.

b) Expenses/Budget to 31.12.21 – for information.

**Resolved:** received.

**TC 10/22**

**Council Projects:**

**a) Climate Emergency – Update**

- i. Participation in a successful funding application made by PACE.  
Cllr Brelstaff presented the following information to the Council:

The funding is in place, and a small steering group has looked at the 4 briefs. PAVO have employed a project manager to oversee the strands.

1. The 20-minute community. Can you get to where you need to be (work and shopping etc in 20 minutes either by active travel or public transport. All the community councils will be written to invite them to participate.
2. Carbon Audits & Action planning. The idea is to support 3 communities who have declared a climate emergency and are unsure what to do next. All the town and community councils in Powys will be emailed to invite them to participate.
3. Home energy survey. The aim is to carry out home energy audits and produce reports. Hopefully this will include 3 communities. A request will also go out to all community and town councils. It will also gather evidence to be able to continue a piece of work after June. Lightfoot is a company with experience who may take on this role.
4. Green guide website. People will be paid to collect data on different topics and someone will project manage it. Constructing the website will be commissioned and there are local and skilled people who are likely to bid for the work. The aim is that advertising from suitable sources will pay for the ongoing upkeep of the site

**Resolved:** if approached, the Council will be happy to participate in this initiative led by Cllr Brelstaff.

**b) Banking Group**

In view of the survey, and the request for public response, the Clerk had agreed to include this item for information on the agenda.

Cllr Brelstaff updated members of the work of the Task & Finish group with the brief of examining how the town can prepare for a possible situation where, in years to come, there are no national banks with a physical presence in the town. Both HSBC and Lloyds have given no indication of any intention to close.

The group is particularly aware of the town's demographic and geographic isolation and want to be able to provide a proper impact analysis of the current situation and one including the possibility of there being no banks in the town. If we ever did find ourselves in that situation, rather than be in a position of complaining, with little effect when and if they do, we thought is more positive to think about how the town can be sustained and thrive in such circumstances; both from a personal as well as a business perspective.

To that end the group has constructed a survey building on that organised by Cty Cllr Pete Roberts which was addressed only to Barclays customers, and widened it to include all residents and people who bank in the town. It has sections for personal banking and for businesses/charities, and the group hope to gain an idea of banking use now and whether it is an issue or perceived to be an issue in the scenario of there being no banks present in the town. It may well be that the vast majority would not be unduly affected, but we would want to highlight the needs of those that would be.

The group is particularly interested in the role of the building society, the credit union, community banks and the post offices in the town, in terms of the range of services they can offer.

The group has also spoken to Hay on Wye Town Council about their participation in the 'Access to Cash' project, whereby cashback is available without a purchase.

The survey will be available online but paper copies will be available that can be returned to the Town Council office and we will hopefully be able to leave copies in various places and post to businesses for example on the industrial estate.

The Clerk will launch the survey on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2022 and asked all members to circulate this link as widely as possible throughout the community.

**TC 11/22**

**Britain in Bloom**

Cllr Jamie Jones presented this idea to the council with initial thoughts of working on a “Llandrindod Wells in Bloom” project. Members felt this was an excellent idea and were fully supportive.

The Clerk suggested that if the council wished to support this project, then a Task and Finish Group could be set up to research this with a Terms of Reference developed by the Clerk in conjunction with Cllr Jamie Jones.

**Resolved:** to set up a Llandrindod Wells in Bloom Task & Finish Group consisting of Cllrs Jamie Jones, M Morgan, Jonathan Jones, L Weerdmeester-Price, Cllr Curzon and Cllr Meredudd.

The Clerk will contact Cllr Jamie Jones with regards to this shortly.

**TC 12/22**

**Training Policy – Review**

The Clerk had prepared draft amendments to the existing training policy in line with requirements in the Local Government Election (Wales) Act 2021.

**Resolved:** to accept the amended draft.

**TC 13/22**

**Communication Policy – Draft**

The Clerk had drafted a Communications Policy for discussion by the Council. Members discussed the contents and agreed to adopt the policy.

**Resolved:** to adopt Communications Policy.

**TC 14/22**      **Future Emergency Agenda Item**

The Chair approached the Council following an emergency item raised at the Business Development Meeting held recently. He had discussed this matter with the Clerk suggested the best way forward for future items.

The agenda is legally the responsibility of the Clerk who will set the agenda and consult the Chair prior to its publication.

It is inevitable that emergency items may come forward from time to time and these may be included at the discretion of the Clerk as additional items on an agenda due to their strict time frames or on health and safety issues.

Confidential matters can only include items which are:

Personnel Related  
Contractual  
Legal

All other items must be addressed within open session.

The Chair recommended that if a member identifies an emergency item which needs to be addressed due to its importance or due to a time deadline, and has not been included on the imminent meeting agenda, the member should contact the Clerk and/or the Chairman to make them aware of this immediately.

If the item is related to the Clerk or their actions, this should be addressed directly to the Chair.

The Clerk can then advise if the item can be included at the imminent meeting and where it should appear on the agenda.

**TC 15/22**      **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 16/22**      **Confidential Matters (Contractual, Legal or Personnel Related.)**

**a) Clerks' Working Hours**

The Clerk left the room whilst discussions took place.

**Resolved:** to ask the Clerk to sign the Working Hours Directive opt-out form

**b) Address to Council (SDD)**

As Cllr Deeks-D'Silva had resigned from the Council this matter was removed from the agenda.