

## LLANDRINDOD WELLS TOWN COUNCIL

### **Minutes of a Hybrid meeting held on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> June, 2024 at 6.30pm in the Pavilion, Llandrindod Wells**

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

**Apologies:** Cllr S Meredudd

The Chair welcomed Cllr Rob Thomas to his first meeting.

She also welcomed those members of the public in attendance in person and remotely.

**TC 86/24 Declaration of Interest**

None.

Cllr Deeks-D'Silva pointed out that the introductory agenda statement under this matter is not complete and ask for it to be amended accordingly including the reference to personal and prejudicial interest.

**TC 87/24 To confirm minutes of the Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> April, 2024**

The minutes were confirmed subject to amendment.

**TC 88/24 To confirm the minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> May, 2024**

The minutes were confirmed subject to amendment.

**TC 89/24 To confirm the minutes of the Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> May, 2024**

The minutes were confirmed subject to amendment.

**TC 90/24 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> May, 2024**

The minutes were confirmed subject to amendment.

**TC 91/24 Clerk's Report**

**a) New Planters**

The new planters within Llandrindod Wells have now been installed and have been planted up. This is to bring additional colour to the town and in place of the hanging baskets.

**b) Boarded Up Shop**

I'm sure members will be delighted to see that the boarded shop along Temple Street has now been repaired and is now open for business. We wish them every success with their new venture.

**c) Oxford Road Field**

The new ride on tractor mower arrived week commencing 10<sup>th</sup> June, 2024 and the field has been mowed by members of the Junior Football Club. This is further evidence of partnership working between the Town Council and a local group.

**d) Skate Park Project**

The new planning application is now out to consultation and is listed on the agenda for this meeting under item 11b.

Unfortunately, due to the General Election, funding pots have currently been frozen. We are hopeful that these will re-open following the election.

Regular updates will be published on the Town Council website. The National Lottery application was submitted on 14<sup>th</sup> June 2024.

**e) Tremont Play & Nature Park**

Some additional funding has been identified to provide additional seating, more planting and interpretation signage. I will be working with Ben Mullen, PCC's Nature Recovery Officer on this matter.

**f) Council Vacancy – West Ward**

The advertisement for co-option has now been published with a closing date of noon on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> July, 2024.

**g) D-Day 80 Filming**

We had a lovely morning with the most senior members of our community discussing their memories of D-Day 80 and WW2. Crossgates School will be working on the video as an IT/Media project on behalf of the Town Council.

**h) War Memorial**

The Town Council has agreed to fund the professional clean of the War Memorial as previously reported. This was scheduled for June 2024, however, the weather has not been in our favour and we are hopeful this will be carried out shortly.

**TC 92/24**

**Chair's Report**

**Sunday 2/6/24 – The Big Battle**, organised by Fuelled by Cake, took place at our Lake. It was a day of community fun and the weather was thankfully warm and sunny. Many thanks to Fuelled by Cake for all their hard work in organising the day. The Town Council were delighted to fully support the event and I really enjoyed watching the many competitors and presenting the prizes – well done everyone!

**Thursday 6/6/24 – D-Day 80 Lamp Light of Peace.** A Proclamation was made by our Town Crier, Jan Swindale. There were readings and a lantern was lit. Thank you to Deputy Mayor Cllr Paul Smith for deputising for me this evening and to Cllr Kim Nicholls and Town Crier, Jan Swindale for organising the event.

**Friday 7/6/24 – The Llandrindod Wells Branch of Smart Money Cymru Community Bank** opened in Middleton Street. Mr Andrew Davies is the Powys Development Manager. Our Deputy Mayor, Cllr Paul Smith attended the opening event, representing the Town Council.

**Sunday 9/6/24 –**

**1). Blessing of the Royal British Legion New Standard, Llandrindod Branch.** This was held at The Holy Trinity Church, which I was delighted to attend as Chair and Mayor.

**2). An Act of Remembrance service held at the War Memorial for the D-Day Normandy Landings.** I was honoured to attend both this service and the service held at Llandrindod Wells Hospital, laying wreaths on behalf of the Town Council. Thank you to the Royal British Legion for organising today's events, the local community for showing their support and to my Consort for the day, Mr Rhodri Evans, an Iraq and Northern Ireland Veteran, who served with the Blues & Royals (RHG/D) of the Household Cavalry.

**Other News:-**

- New Town Councillor for South Ward 2 – The Town Council is pleased to welcome Cllr Robert Thomas
- New Skate Park Planning Application – this has now been prepared and submitted to Powys County Council

- We are pleased to welcome back The Welsh Enduro on the 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> of this month – good luck to the organisers and competitors, I am looking forward to meeting you all again!
- There are 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.

**TC 93/24**      **Public Speaking**  
**None.**

**TC 94/24**      **Correspondence**

**a) Welsh Government – 20mph Speed Limit**

Email from Ken Skates Minister as follows:

I am trying to build the consensus that 20mph is right around schools, hospitals and in built up residential areas. Through partnership working and by supporting highway authorities to make changes where it is right to do so, he believes we can absolutely make 20mph a success story for Wales. However, we cannot escape the fact that 20mph has served to polarise the people and communities we serve. Against that background, he felt we should take a step back and listen to the views of everyone involved. He takes full responsibility for that reset, and it is not a reflection on highway authorities who have worked so hard on the implementation of this policy over the past two years and more.

To support the National Listening Programme they have published a webpage to help signpost people towards the relevant highway authority where they want to feedback on specific speed limits. Your local knowledge and community engagement make you key partners in this process - [traffic@powys.gov.uk](mailto:traffic@powys.gov.uk)

We want you to **let your highway authority know** if you think a specific road should:

- change from 20mph to 30mph
- change from 30mph to 20mph
- stay at 20mph

When giving feedback please:

- be clear and precise about which section of road you are talking about
- give reasons for your views

**Resolved:** The Clerk will share this information on the Town Council website and Facebook page.

**b) Re-Think: Don't Break the Heart of Wales – Council Representation**

The following response was received from the above group:

“Further to our conversation earlier, I am writing to inform you that RE-think committee members met last night and agreed unanimously that it would not be appropriate to invite any Town or Community Councillors to join the committee.

We were concerned about any precedent this would set, and also had some reservations about an elected representative sitting on the committee of a campaigning organisation.

However, we would be very pleased to liaise with Llandrindod Wells Town Council (and any others) on aspects of this campaign, preferably through a small working group of Councillors set up for the purpose.

We would also consider inviting a representative of the Town Council to some of our meetings on an ad hoc basis in order to share information. We would hope that this would be reciprocated by any working group set up by the Council.”

Cllr Smith has been in discussions as agreed by the Council with the leader of the Re-think group.

Cllr Deeks-D’Silva, Cllr Markinson and Cllr Jamie Jones stated that they had all been approached by members of the Re-think group and members of public about the publication of the Re-think financial situation which Cllr Smith had announced at a previous meeting. They were horrified about this being published.

Cllr Smith responded by stating that this was information given to him freely by the leader of the Re-think group. Information which was also available on the Re-think website.

Cllr Jamie Jones stated that members of the Re-think group were horrified that their finances were reported by Cllr Smith at the meeting and subsequently in the minutes and in the press. Cllr Smith again reiterated that this information was provided to him freely by Rethink and there was no request for it to remain confidential, and that this information was 99% already in the public domain.

Cllr Deeks-D’Silva suggested that a meeting should be set up with Re-think to see if they wish to move on with their engagement with the Town Council. This issue has caused an awful lot of embarrassment.

Cllr Curzon felt that rather than the Town Council being berated by the public for issuing the financial information in open meeting, the person who provided the information with the Re-think group should be approached.

Cllr Markinson supported the idea of a meeting with Re-think.

Cllr Curzon responded by stating that the email had been received from Re-think and there would be no need for a meeting.

Cllr Deeks-D’Silva stated that the Clerk had published the full minutes of the Business Development meeting on 14th May 2024 on the Town Council website and had now set a precedent, and asked why this had been done.

The Clerk responded by stating that the “Meeting Outcomes” had been published and not the full minutes. This was refuted by some members. The Clerk checked this on the website whilst at the meeting and confirmed that Meeting Outcomes had been published. She went on to inform those present that the Council has a legal duty to publish meeting outcomes on the Town Council website within 7 days of the meeting, hence the publication.

Cllr Deeks-D'Silva stated that lessons should be learned – think before you speak, and went on to say “that’s what happens with you give the keys of the bus to an inexperienced learner.”

Cllr Markinson stated that this is all a mess and it’s time the Town Council took action.

He went on to state that he believed that Cllr Smith does not really want the Council to work on this project and does not support Re-think

Cllr Smith responded by re stating, as previously recorded in the minutes, his full support of the Re-think group as the best vehicle to fight against Wind Turbines and Pylons and his wish for the Town Council to join forces. He confirmed that Cllr Markinson suggesting otherwise in a public meeting was untrue and defamatory and that he will consider legal action.

Cllr Deeks-D'Silva stated that Cllr Smith should read Article 10 and should be aware that a Councillor can say anything about a Councillor in a Council meeting.

Cllr Smith reminded members that Cllr Markinson had referred to Re-think as purely a Facebook group and had made derogatory remarks about their status in an email to all Cllrs.

Cllr Markinson responded by asking if Cllr Smith had this email. Cllr Smith confirmed that no, this email was not available this evening but would be made available tomorrow.

Cllr Smith reiterated that he did not wish to see the windfarms planned in Powys and asked for this to be placed on public record.

Cllr Markinson replied Cllr Smith by stating – “I don’t believe a word you said.” He went on to state that the Council had torpedoed the idea of a Committee.

Cllr Bastow reminded members that the Council had not voted against the setting up of a Committee, but had voted to abstain from making a decision in order to obtain further information regarding Re-think was carried.

Cllr Deeks-D'Silva stated that 3 members of the Council have a proven track record on this project and felt that the 3 members who expressed an interest to represent the Town Council were not suitable.

Cllr Weerdmeester-Price questioned this statement as to why they would not be suitable.

On 28th May Cllr Smith, Cllr Meredudd and Cllr Weerdmeester-Price had stepped forward to represent the Council at meetings with Rethink. Cllr Meredudd and Cllr Weerdmeester-Price had been members of the original Task & Finish Group.

Cllr Smith confirmed that all members of the Council were offered the opportunity to join the group and asked Cllrs Markinson, Cllr Deeks-D'Silva and Cllr Jamie Jones if they had been given the opportunity to represent the Council at meetings with Rethink. All three confirmed that they had been invited to represent the Council and had refused.

The Clerk confirmed that she had carried out all the actions related to facilitating the public meeting and had subsequently analysed the postcode of those in attendance. There were 49 residents from within the electoral boundary of Llandrindod Wells present.

The Chair said that the Council needed to move forward with this and agree some actions.

After some discussions it was agreed to set up a new Task & Finish Group to liaise with Re-think on wind turbines and pylons to report back to the Council.

The Clerk confirmed she had suggested this at the previous meeting and had been shot down. She had also given her support to a Committee with no delegated powers.

Cllr Smith reminded members that this opportunity was open to all members. Cllr Deeks-D'Silva, Cllr Jamie Jones, Cllr D Markinson and Cllr Sian Meredudd were appointed to the group. Cllr Smith and Cllr Weerdmeester-Price did not wish to be part of this Committee with Cllr Markinson.

**Resolved:** to set up a new Task & Finish Group to liaise with Re-think and report back to the Council consisting of the members listed above. The group to complete the submission to the consultation by Friday 21<sup>st</sup> June for submission by the Clerk.

**c) Traffic Cymru – A483 Llandrindod to Howey Active Travel Path Phase 2**

Notification of Construction of phase 2 of the new Active Travel shared use path alongside the A483 linking Llandrindod Wells to Howey. Phase 2 comprises the construction of the shared use path between Grosvenor Road Junction to Ridgebourne Drive Junction.

Programme Start Date: Monday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2024

Programme Completion Date: Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2024

The Clerk reminded members that a full objection had been submitted on behalf of the residents which was published on the Town Council website and Facebook page. The Council remains fully opposed to this scheme. This was noted.

**d) Cty Cllr Jake Berriman – Llys Heulog Play Area & Section 106 Monies**

"Thanks for the interest in this site. It is something that I get asked by residents about quite frequently.

Steve Gealy from the parks department is familiar with the site and shares the aspirations I, and residents, have to see the play area on the "Sunny Patch" reinstated.

Section 106 monies, amounting to around £35,000, have been allocated to this upgrade to re-equip the site in due course. However, they are notional monies and depend on the next phase of Crabtree Green being started/built out. I am advised by Steve, that no other funding exists, and so we are awaiting that development coming forward to trigger the opportunity to invest here.

My previous enquiries have indicated that there is no additional Section 106 pot as such.

I am more than happy to meet with the Town Council and Steve, to explore any other avenues currently not considered."

The Clerk explained the references to section 106 monies for the benefit of those present and detailed the cost of the Tremont Park Play Area as an example of the high cost of play equipment.

The Clerk will try and establish funding pots to fund the sourcing of additional equipment and report back to the Council.

**e) Joe Botting – Geopark Update**

It's been a while in the planning, and the wheels of the Charities Commission turn slowly, but we have some news to pass on to the Town Council: I'm pleased to say that we now have official confirmation of approval as an organisation.

<https://register-of-charities.charitycommission.gov.uk/charity-search/-/charity-details/5232550/charity-overview>

We hope you're as excited by this as we are, but of course now the hard work starts in earnest, turning it into a reality. We intend to formally launch the geopark in the early afternoon of July 27th, in the Metropole Hotel, and you will of course receive a more formal invitation to the event in due course. This email is simply to give you advance notice, and to keep you informed that the geopark plans are reaching the first stages of fruition. Thank you again for your support during the initial phases, and we are looking forward to working with you on creating a building what we hope will be a wonderful project for Llandrindod and the wider area.

The Clerk reminded members that the Town Council has included £5000 within its current budget in support of this project.

Cllr Jamie Jones stated that this project is extremely significant for this area. The pylons and wind turbine projects may have a detrimental effect on this project.

Members were encouraged to attend the launch meeting and encourage residents to attend.

**f) National Association of Councillors – Renewal of Membership Subscription**

Renewal of subscriptions at £270 plus VAT.

The Clerk recommended supporting this renewal which provides for individual Councillors in support of their Town Council work.

**Resolved:** to re-join the National Association of Councillors.

**g) R Knights – Social Media Posts**

Email including a screenshot of a Facebook Group with a post concerning the Town Council and its actions, this also included a Mid Wales Journal recent report on a Council meeting. The Chair reminded members of the Council meeting to be held on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> June, 2024 to discuss internal issues which include social media posts. This will be held under confidential session due to the “legal” nature of the matters to be discussed.

The Chair proposed to defer this matter to the next meeting which was voted on and agreed. Cllr Markinson requested it should be heard and discussed because the resident had taken the trouble to come along to the meeting to hear this discussed and it was discussed to a degree covering her social media post in full before the latter part was passed to a future meeting.

**Resolved:** to defer this matter to the next meeting.

Cllr Markinson went on to quote some matters from the contents.

Members were aware of the extreme negativity within several social media posts and the chains of comments being included.

Cllr Markinson stated that the Council is being berated on social media and is being made to look like fools and this needs to be addressed immediately

The Clerk confirmed she is aware of some of these posts which and also press reports which had not been reported accurately. The inference of the Town Council carrying out its business in secrecy was and is untrue.

The Chair confirmed that this correspondence will be discussed at the next meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> June, 2024. Cllr Nicholls asked if all members could be part of forming the response. The Chair confirmed that the response would be done collectively.

**Resolved:** to defer this item until the meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup> June, 2024.

TC 95/24

**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) 24/0707/HH**

Grid Reference: E:306049 N: 261865

Proposal: Installation of an air source heat pump - Site Address: Archibald House , Waterloo Road, Llandrindod Wells, LD1 6BL

**Resolved:** no objection.

**b) 24/0721/FUL**

Grid Reference: E:306089 N: 260811

Proposal: Construction of replacement skate park - Site Address: Replacement Skate Park, Princes Avenue, Llandrindod Wells, Powys LD1 5HU

**Resolved:** to submit no comment as the Town Council is the applicant.

**c) 24/0795/FUL**

Grid Reference: E:305932 N: 261158

Proposal: Replacement doors and windows - Site Address: The Garlands Coffee Shop, Middleton Street, Llandrindod Wells, Powys LD1 5DG

**Resolved:** to fully support this application.

TC 96/24

**Applications for Financial Assistance**

None.

TC 97/24

**Finances**

**a) To approve the payments for May 2024**

**Resolved:** the payments were approved and signed.

**b) Income/Expenditure to 31.05.24**

This was noted.

TC 98/24

**Local Protocol Resolution**

The Chair explained that the Council had previously adopted this protocol, however, it was removed some time ago.

On speaking with the PCC Monitoring Officer and One Voice Wales, they both commented and recommended the re-adoption of this protocol.

**Resolved:** to re-adopt Model Local Resolution Protocol for Community and Town Council

TC 99/24

**Town Maintenance**

The Chair had brought this matter to the meeting for discussion and thanked Cllr Jamie Jones for providing photographic evidence of the weeds and general outdoor maintenance issues within town.

Members agreed that this is appalling and Powys County Council should be contacted about this.

The Clerk has contacted the Community Payback team to see if this a project they may be able to assist with and awaits their response.



The Chair mentioned the local resident who had set up a group in town “Keep Llandrindod Clean” who meet on a Sunday to tackle the litter and weeds in the town. They have done a wonderful job and the Chair approached the Town Council to see if it would be prepared to support these works.

The Clerk has arranged an informal meeting with the gentleman with herself and the Chair to discuss his project.

The Clerk commented as RFO and said she would be happy for the Council to support this initiative financially to be used for the purchase of equipment and other items to support these works. She recommended that if the Council wishes to support this, a sum of money could be allocated within the Town Council budget and any equipment be purchased by the Clerk and remain as the property of the Town Council.

Cllr Jamie Jones mentioned insurance and the Clerk and Chair will discuss this with the gentleman at the meeting.

**Resolved:** to allocate a budget of up to £1000 initially to be managed by the Clerk to provide equipment for this project which will remain as Town Council property. This will be taken from the Community Chest budget line.

Cllr Bastow fully supported this idea but felt that this is a dereliction of duty by Powys County Council.

Cllr Smith also questioned if this is a budget or productivity issue and suggested a request to PCC to establish what the budget is for this service for the current year and past 2 years.

**Resolved:** to write to PCC about the dereliction of duty and to establish the budget for 3 years.

#### TC 100/24

##### County Councillors Reports

a) **Cty Cllr J Berriman**

“My post box is dominated, at this time of year, by overgrown hedgerows and grassy verges impacting on the usability of paths and pavements, so nothing of wider significance. Obviously, the work on sustainable Powys Continues which we are all being engaged with as local Members and Community Councils.

I am not aware of any specifics re Llandrindod Property rationalisation yet, other than the prior decision that the Gwalia has been declared surplus and this will be taken to market again shortly. We will need to track this and its potential implications very carefully as the building is so important to the heritage of our town.”

b) **Cty Cllr P Roberts**

No response

c) **Cty Cllr J Ewing**

Cllr Ewing sent her apologies.

#### TC 101/24

**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 102/24

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

a) **Tremont Park Quotes (Contractual)**

A quote had been received from OTM for a fortnightly cut and mulch at £110.00

The Clerk explained that the first cut will be carried out this week which will be to cut and collect and will be at an additional cost.

**Resolved:** to accept the quotation subject to a satisfactory first cut.  
Cllr Jamie Jones will report back to the Clerk on the first cut.

**b) Social Media Posts (Legal) Clerk**

**Resolved:** This matter was deferred to the meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2024.