

CONFIDENTIAL

LLANDRINDOD WELLS TOWN COUNCIL

Town Council & Business Development

Minutes of a Business Development meeting held on Tuesday 1st October 2019 in Committee Room A, County Hall

Present: S Deeks-D’Silva, A Curtis, B Williams, K Evans, W Curzon, H Primmer, D Pugh, K Nicholls, L Weerdmeester-Price
Cllr J Jones (6.45pm)

Apologies: Cllr S Meredudd, J Hawker

Absent: Cllr L Ward

BD 38/19 Declarations
None.

BD 39/19 Minutes
The Minutes of the last meeting held on 3rd July 2019 were approved and signed.

BD 40/19 Civic Awards
The Council agreed to re-institute Civic Awards for 2020.

BD 41/19 Planning Application
a) **19/1344/LBC** - Installation of a gas kiosk - The Log Cabin, Spa Road, Llandrindod Wells, Powys LD1 5ER. **No objection.**

BD 42/19 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

BD 43/19 Town Council Debit Card
The Chairman expressed concern at the Clerk having to pay for items which cannot be invoiced to the Council directly herself by payment card. This has been the procedure over many years. It is possible for the Town Council to obtain a Debit Card for such purposes.

The Clerk felt that there would need to be safety measures put in place to protect the Council and herself as an employee.

Members discussed options and it was agreed that wherever possible the Clerk should get authorisation for the purchase of items from a Council bank signatory, and all purchase receipts should be signed by 2 signatories prior to filing.

Resolved: the Town Council to request a Debit Card for the current account for use solely by the Clerk and RFO.

Cllr Jones arrived at the meeting and gave his apologies for being delayed

BD 44/19

Budget Preparations 2020/21

a) Urban Grass Cutting & Lake Picnic Area

The Clerk had obtained the following quotations from Powys County Council for information purposes:

One additional cut of 23788m² (excludes Tremont Park) would be £1541 + vat

Resolved: to allocate a budget line of £1541 in the 2020/21 budget to enable discussions to take place later in the year.

One earlier cut of Lake Picnic Area (May)

One cut in May would be an additional cost of £70.70 + vat.

The Clerk informed members that there is currently a budget line for the Lake Park containing £1000; any additional cut could be funded from this budget.

Resolved: to consider this later in the year.

b) Memorial Gardens Grass Collection

The Clerk had obtained the quotes from Powys County Council for some services:

Cut grass with a boxing off mower on 10 occasions per year would be an additional cost of £1057.07 + vat.

Another option would be to cut the grass every 2 weeks with a mulching mower, so the grass stays on site but is mulched into the surface. This would be an additional cost of £284.39 + vat.

Members felt this was a significant cost and it was agreed to look at grass collection on dates when events are taking place. The Clerk reminded members that a budget line for Temple/Memorial Gardens is in the current budget containing £4001.

Resolved: to arrange for grass collection as and when required.

c) Street Cleaning

The Clerk had obtained the following quotes from Powys County Council:

Hire a sweeper and driver out at an hourly rate of £38.51.

A man with a small van when required is £18.76 per hour .

Should you hire a sweeper then we would need to recover some tipping costs which is currently £131.35 per tonne . A sweeper for 8 hours on street sweeping would gather approx. 0.5 tonne.

Members felt that this is a serious issue and is the responsibility of Powys County Council. However, the standard of litter picking has dropped significantly and has been reported to Powys County Council. Members agreed to allocated some monies within the budget to support this service
Resolved: to place £6000 within the budget for 2020/21 to enable discussions to take place later in the year.

d) Street Lighting

PCC has mentioned some possible changes in winter 2020 to the service which may result in turning some street lights off. A survey will be undertaken later in the year. As this would fall within the budget being set for 20/21 the Clerk has obtained the following information:

The Town Council has been quoted an estimated cost of £24 per street light.

As discussed, this is all of the lighting that is currently subject to change some of which may be retained by the County Council as this option progresses. This list doesn't include lights on the trunk road or privately-owned lighting on the industrial estates. Once the surveys have been carried out, PCC will come back with a more definitive list however this is not likely to be until in the new year.

There are currently 990 street lights in Llandrindod Wells. To fund the some lighting it would cost the Town Council:

200 lights £4800
300 lights £7200
400 lights £9600

Members felt this service should be funded by Powys County Council, however concern was expressed that lights may be switched off.

It was agreed to look at allocating monies from the existing Devolved Services Budget if approached by Powys County Council to enable discussions to take place later in the year.

Resolved: to consider funding an element of this service from the existing Devolved Services budget.

e) Defibrillators

The Clerk had received a quote from Cariad for the purchase of a Defibrillator at £1100 plus £400 for the box.

Members felt there is need for additional Defibrillators in areas not covered within the town e.g. Ridgebourne, Tremont Road, Lake Park. Members felt that a map of Defibrillator locations would be ideal.

It was agreed to allocate £3000 in the budget 2020/21 to either provide Defibrillators or to award grants to community groups to assist their fund raising.

Resolved: to allocate £3000 in the 2020/21 budget.

BD 45/19 Skate Park – Update

One of the options for land associated to a sports group suggested by Steve Gealy would not be moved forward as the Club were not willing to allocated the requested land.

The Council will explore an other option.

BD 46/19 Skate Ramp – Update

The work on the Skate Ramp is now completed and the site is being cleared this week. The path has been laid with Tarmac. All works have come in within the £6000 budget. The ROSPA Inspection will take place on Friday 4th October 2019.

It was agreed to open the Skate Ramp for use on 21st/22nd October.

BD 47/19 Press & Social Media Posts

This matter was added to the agenda in view of its urgency.

There was increasing concern about the continuing negative posts on social media from a former member of the Council which regularly contain inaccurate and on occasion false information.

Resolved: to write to Dr Caroline Turner, Chief Executive of Powys County Council pointing out these issues with supporting evidence. This was supported unanimously.