

LLANDRINDOD WELLS TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Remote meeting held on Tuesday 20th January, 2026 at 6.30pm via Zoom

Present: Cllr S Deeks-D'Silva, P Smith, C Owen, N Bastow, S Sims

Apologies: Cllr J Jones, K Nicholls, R Thomas

Absent: Cllr S Meredudd

The Council observed a minute's silence in memory of the late Will Francis a former long term member of the Council.

TC 01/26 **Declarations**
None.

TC 02/26 **Minutes**

a) To confirm the minutes of the Meeting held on 18th November, 2025

Resolved: this was deferred to the next meeting as the meeting was not quorate for this item.

b) To confirm the minutes of the Meeting held on 9th December, 2025

Resolved: the minutes were approved and signed.

c) To confirm the minutes of the Meeting held on 16th December, 2025

Resolved: this was deferred to the next meeting as the meeting was not quorate for this item.

TC 03/26 **Clerk's Report**

Former Member Cllr Will Francis

I have previously informed all members of the sad passing of former Cllr Will Francis. He was a longstanding and effective member of the Council. His funeral will be held at Hereford Crematorium on Wednesday 4th February, 2026 at 2.15pm. Our Chair, Vice Chair and I will be attending to represent the Town Council.

Station Crescent Toilet Refurbishment

These works are well underway and our Chair and I had a recent site meeting. Due to adverse weather conditions to replacement roof has been slightly delayed but all works are scheduled for completion by the end of February, 2026.

Princes Avenue Leisure Park

The installation of the Outdoor Musical Instrument and Sensory Park and Fitness area are nearing completion.

We have also so some bookings for the 2026 period and any group wishing to book the site should contact me as Clerk via email.

Site & Property Inspections

All sites are inspected on a fortnightly basis in line with insurance requirements and some works have been scheduled for the Wooden Trail, Tremont Park Play Area, Nurture our Nature Garden, Oxford Road Field and Temple Chambers. This is part of our on-going maintenance programme and in line with our budget.

Annual Leave

I will be on annual leave from tomorrow and will return to work on Monday 2nd February, 2026. The office will be open Monday to Friday from 9am – 1pm.

TC 04/26

Chair's Report

The Chair reminded members of the 85th Anniversary Church Service for the 579 Llandrindod Wells Air Corps. This will take place on 8th February, 2026 at 3pm in the Holy Trinity Church. The Chair has invited all local Mayors to attend. Everyone is welcome.

TC 05/26

Correspondence

a) Powys Teaching Health Board – Little Owl Dental Practice

Email as follows:

“The Interim Orders Committee of the General Dental Council has suspended Dr Sami Aouant of AKS Dental Ltd (trading as Little Owl Dental in Llandrindod Wells).

Regretfully this means that Powys Teaching Health Board is bringing to an end the contract for the provision of NHS dental services with immediate effect.

AKS Dental Ltd (trading as Little Owl Dental in Llandrindod Wells) has been asked to contact patients promptly to inform them of the practice closure and to provide guidance on accessing the Dental Access Portal to join the waiting list for NHS dental treatment, and to provide advice to patients who are in active courses of treatment.

The Dental Access Portal is available online at pthb.nhs.wales/dap. Our Dental Helpline is also available for people who cannot apply online (01686 252808).

In addition, Powys Teaching Health Board will contact patients recently referred from the Dental Access Portal to advise them that they retain their place on the dental waiting list and to re-allocate them to an alternative provider as soon as possible.

Patients with emergency dental problems should contact NHS 111 Wales. Common emergency dental problems include severe toothache where painkillers have not helped, bleeding after a tooth extraction, visible swelling of the neck or face, or knocked-out teeth.

This information is also available from our website at pthb.nhs.wales/llandrindod-dental for you to share at your discretion with town councillors and local residents.

We fully recognise how disappointing this news will be for local patients.

The health board is working at pace to identify alternative arrangements for NHS dental services in the area but unfortunately there are no solutions that will offer immediate continuity of service. The statutory and contractual processes to put a new general dental services contract in place do take some time and we will ensure that you are kept updated on progress.”

The following written statement was received from Cllr Jamie Jones in his absence.

It is noted that with the withdrawal of the Little Owl Dentist’s NHS Dental Provisions Contract for Llandrindod Wells, the town is now again without any NHS Dental provisions for its residents. Which effectively means that we have to consider the NHS Dental Provisions for us and the surrounding area to have effectively completely collapsed in the Mid Powys area.

Although we have to note that level of service provided by the Little Owl Dentist was already much reduced from the previous MyDentist Group.

It should also be noted that LWTC started campaigning at the point where NHS dentistry in our area had already start to go over the edge of collapse almost half a decade ago now on behalf of the residents. When we started raising the issues with County Councillors, AMs, the Welsh Health Minister, and Powys Teaching Health Board.

Since that point when PTHB should have picked up the batten and started dealing with this problem. In my opinion it would seem that the reality is that they have failed our residents completely for this situation to get to this point.

It is not as if PTHB wasn't already aware of the problem, because Kirsty Williams (LibDem) was raising this issue with PTHB and the Welsh Government over a decade ago.

The results of our residents survey already high-lighted the very serious short coming with PTHB’s Dental Provisions half a decade ago and the situation is much worse now. This is having a serious effect on residents oral health and often as a result of a known serious lack of provisions, it is often leading to poor health outcomes for the residents.

It would seem to me that while we can have vast amounts of money spent on wide pavements and 20mph speed limits being forced upon us, as well as 36 extra Senedd Members and their additional staffing. Just think if the money was spent differently, how 36 extra Dentists across Powys and other rural counties could have transformed NHS Dental Provisions.

The results of the situation our residents are facing on this very serious matter, can only be considered as a knowing collective failure of the Welsh Government and PTHB jointly to have ignored this problem for so long.

I would again like to propose to member that we as a council need to pursue this serious failing on behalf of our residents and raised the matter officially with PTHB,

AM's, MP's, The Welsh Government Health Minister, and any other avenue we can in the Welsh Government.

Cllr Owen felt that this could be discussed at the PTHB Community Drop in Events.

b) Powys Teaching Health Board – Community Drop In Events
The following events have been scheduled:

The remaining drop-in events are taking 3pm to 6pm at a series of venues across the county:

- Tuesday 6 January at the Institute in Llanfair Caereinion
- Thursday 8 January at Y Plas in Machynlleth
- Thursday 15 January at the Youth & Community Centre in Llanfyllin
- Thursday 22 January at the Swan in Hay & Talgarth
- Tuesday 27 January at the Community Centre in Llanidloes
- **Tuesday 3 February at the Pavilion in Llandrindod Wells**
- Thursday 12 February at Clarence Hall in Crickhowell

The Clerk had shared this information with all local contacts and on social media. She encouraged all members to notify local residents and encourage them to attend.

TC 06/26

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) 25/1914/FUL

Grid Reference: E:306775 N: 261133

Proposal: Erection of 3 dwellings and all associated works - Site Address: The Bracken Trust, Cefnlllys Lane, Llandrindod, Powys LD1 5LJ.

Resolved: no objection

TC 07/26

Applications for Financial Assistance

None.

TC 08/26

Finances

a) To approve the payments for December, 2025

Resolved: to approve the payments listed.

b) Income/Expenditure to 30.12.25

Noted.

TC 09/26

Annual Grant Paperwork

Several amendments were recommended by the Clerk. Members discussed these.

Resolved: to approve amendments.

TC 10/26 Recruitment of Members

Members were asked to bring forward ideas to the Business Development Meeting on 10th February, 2026 when the proposed Community Drop Ins will be scheduled. Cllr Owen undertook to draft a promotional poster for circulation prior to the event.

TC 11/26 Lake Park Emergency Fund

The Council has set aside £5000 in its budget for 2026/27 to allocate should a similar situation occur at the Lake as this year with the Blue Green Algae.

Resolved: The Chair (or Vice) and Clerk were given delegated authority to access this fund without Council consultation should an emergency arise. The Clerk to report any spends to members at the earliest possible opportunity.

TC 12/26 Cross Border Health Care

The Clerk reported that there had been a good level of interest from town and community councils within Powys to join forces to campaign for better cross border health care. Members will set a date and an agenda for the first meeting at the Business Development Meeting on 10th February, 2026.

TC 13/26 Members Information & Reports

Cllr Bastow mentioned that the Carnival Committee were delighted with the grant allocated by the Town Council and following information from the Clerk will be planning early possibly a themed Carnival in 2027 in support of the Tour de France. The Clerk suggested that the Committee contact PCC early to obtain funding and resources.

TC 14/26 Resolution – Confidential Matters - “to resolve 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.

Meetings are open to the general public with the exception of Confidential Matters

TC 15/26 Confidential Matters (Contractual, Legal or Personnel Related.)

a) Legal Matters

The Chair notified members of a recent complaint received.