

LLANDRINDOD WELLS TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Remote Meeting held on Tuesday 21st March 2023 at 6.30pm

- Present:** Cllr L Weerdmeester-Price, Jamie Jones, Jon Jones, M Morgan, K Nicholls, S Deeks-D’Silva, S Sims, J Shaw, B Williams
- Apologies:** Cllr W Curzon S Meredudd
- TC 35/23 Declaration of Interest**
TC 40/23b Cllr B Williams
TC 42/23a Cllr B Williams
- TC 36/23 Minutes**
The minutes of the meeting held on 21st February 2023 were approved.
- TC 37/23 Clerks’ Report**
The Clerk advised that the Police/Fire Station Defib Cabinet has been installed and delivery of the Defib will be imminent. The Clerk will install the Defib when it arrives.

The new Defibs for Hillcrest and Pentrosfa have arrived, and brackets for these to be mounted on lamp posts are being sourced.
- TC 38/23 Chairs Report**
The Chair and Clerk have been working on the Coronation Pop-Up Picnic on Monday 8th May 2023. The Chair ran through plans for the day. Any member wishing to help on the day would be welcomed.
- TC 39/23 Public Speaking**
None.
- TC 40/23 Correspondence**
a) One Voice Wales – Membership Renewal
The renewal notice was received for £1200 based on £0.390 per residence (3077.)
Resolved: to renew membership.
- b) Victorian Festival Committee – Fireworks**
Cllr Williams declared an interest in this matter and left the room whilst discussion took place. Letter of thanks to the Council for agreeing to fund the 2023 fireworks.

The Clerk informed members that the invoice total will be £3000 including VAT, this is £100 above the grant allocated.
Resolved: fund the additional £100.
- c) Lee Waters AM/MS – Cycle Path (Active Travel Scheme) -**
<https://en.powys.gov.uk/article/11654/Ongoing-Active-Travel-Schemes-and-Developments>
The following letter was received from Deputy Minister:

“Thank you for your email of 24 February in response to my letter of 8 February regarding concerns about the new cycle path along the A483.

In accordance with the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges standard single carriageways require a minimum width of 7.3m and the measurements demonstrate the carriageway exceeds this.

As advised in my previous response, we have worked closely with Powys County Council (PCC) on the design for the active travel route running from Llandrindod Wells towards Howey. PCC did place details of the scheme on their website for consultation and this can be found here.

This initial consultation did not raise any concerns over the road width but, comments that have now been made public will be considered carefully in moving ahead with the next phase of the scheme.

Whilst I acknowledge the views of the town council, we cannot continue with the approach taken for the last 70 years as it is not working. If we don't stop doing the same thing over and over, in developing car centric communities and building new roads to relieve congestion, and instead invest in real sustainable alternatives, such as rail, bus, walking and cycling projects we will not reach our NetZero targets. The science tells us we need to make greater cuts in the next ten years than the whole of the last 30 years to future-proof Wales.”

Members were disappointed at this response.

The Chair felt there was little more the Town Council could do and was angry at the response.

Cllr Deeks-D'Silva commented on the fact that the Minister states that WG needs to future proof Wales. He felt that 425m of cycle path would make little difference.

The Clerk informed members that no information had been received following the submissions of the council's Freedom of Information request of 18th January 2023. This has been chased on two occasions and holding letters have been received.

d) Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) Members Allowances

The IRP has made it mandatory for Town & Community Councils to offer all members the following annual non-taxable at source allowances:

- £156 (Equivalent of £3 per week) towards extra household expenses (including heating, lighting, power, broadband) of working at home.
- £52 for the cost of office consumables required to carry out their roles.

Cllr Jamie Jones had researched these allowances with his accountant and had been advised that are taxable for self-employed members. He felt that self-employed members will lose out.

The Clerk reminded members that this is not within the responsibility of the Council.
Resolved: to notify the IRP of this fact and point out the unfairness

e) Green GEN Towy Usk Public Consultation

The Council had been notified of this project and the dates of consultation events. Cllr Jamie Jones had asked for this matter to be placed on the agenda previous to the receipt of this correspondence.

Cllr Jamie Jones had attended an event on the Showground hosted by the CPRW (Campaign for Rural Wales.) He has great concerns for tourism and the impact the pylons will make on landscape. He felt these will bring a whole host of complications along with them. He felt that the Council should have an open mind when discussing this and he would like to attend any event hosted by Bute Energy.

Cllr Deeks-D'Silva informed members of further consultations which are taking place and urged members to attend:

Thursday 23 March, 2pm to 7:30pm – Montgomery Pavilion, Royal Welsh Showground, Builth Wells, LD2 3SY

Saturday 25 March, 11am to 4pm – Llandeilo Fawr Civic Hall, 17 Crescent Road, Llandeilo SA19 6HW

Tuesday 28 March, 2pm to 7:30pm – Penybont District Community Centre, Penybont, nr Llandrindod Wells LD1 5UA

Wednesday 29 March, 2 PM to 7:30pm - Llandovery Rugby Club, Church Bank, Llandyfaelog, Llandovery SA20 0BA

Thursday 30 March, 2pm to 7:30pm – Llandyfaelog Community Hall, Carmarthenshire SA17 5PA

Karen Evans informed members that Cty Cllr Jeremy Pugh has organized a meeting for Town Councils in Builth Wells in April. Details to be confirmed. The Clerk will find out further information for circulation.

The Clerk will include this item on the monthly agenda for the foreseeable future.

TC 41/23

Planning Applications

a) 23/0315/HH

Grid Reference: E:306604 N: 261242

Proposal: Erection of a side and rear extension - Site Address: Manston, 10 Brookfields, Llandrindod Wells, LD1 5LF.

Resolved: to support this application, provided that the biodiversity measures suggested are included.

b) 23/0337/REM

Grid Reference: E:306040 N: 260922 Proposal: Section 19 application to vary condition no.3 attached to Listed building approval 22/1722/LBC to allow change of brick to "Artico White"

Resolved: no objection

TC 42/23

Applications for Financial Assistance

The Clerk is currently seeking advice from One Voice Wales about the sharing of groups bank statements.

a) Royal British Legion – Coronation Party

Cllr Williams declared an interest in this matter and left the room whilst discussion took place.

Resolved: to award a grant of £250

b) Ysgol Cefnlllys – Coronation Event

Resolved: to award a grant of £250

c) Radnorshire Wildlife Trust – Llandrindod Talking Shop

Members felt his was a great idea.

Resolved: to award a grant of £250

It was agreed to inform RWT that an organisation can apply for one grant in any financial year. They may wish to consider applying in April 2023 for further funds for this project.

TC 43/23 Finances

a) To approve the payments February, 2023

Resolved: to approve payments

b) Income/Expenditure – 28.02.23

This was noted.

TC 44/23 Co-option North Ward

This matter was deferred to the April Meeting.

TC 45/23 Sunflower Competition

Cllr Morgan and Nicholls presented ideas for an event/competition. This was to be one of the first things organised by the Events Committee.

Cllr Deeks-D’Silva felt this was a good idea however, the council needs to consider whether risk assessments are needed to enter resident’s premises and how will accurate measurements be taken.

Cllr Nicholls stated that these issues will be looked into, however, they are currently only looking for the council’s approval to run this event.

The Clerk provided the costings for this project which would be nominal.

Members fully supported this idea.

Resolved: to launch this project with Cllr Nicholls and Morgan to research matters raised.

TC 46/23 Banking Task & Finish Group

Cllr Morgan updated members on the progress with this group. She asked members if anyone would be interested in joining this group.

The Clerk suggested that one of the new members may wish to join the group. Cllr Deeks-D'Silva said that if the new members did not wish to join, he would be happy to join the group. Additional membership will be discussed at the Annual Meeting.

TC 47/23 Clerks Home Working Allowance

Following questions from members, the Clerk asked to withdraw this matter.

TC 48/23 Wales Air Ambulance

Cllr Jamie Jones reported that the base will remain in Welshpool until 2026. Cllr Nicholls felt this matter no longer needed to be a fixed agenda item.

Cllr Jamie Jones wished it to remain in case any new information arises. The Clerk will include this on the monthly agenda.

TC 49/23 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 50/23 Confidential Matters (Contractual, Legal or Personnel Related.)

a) Temple Chambers (Contractual)

3 quotes had been received for works at Temple Chambers. These were discussed by members.

Resolved: to appoint Jon Sims to undertake the works at a quote of £8981.96

The Council agreed to issue a new lease to SWEA.

Resolved: to extend the lease in line with discussions.

b) Hanging Basket/Planter Watering Quotes

1 tender was received for each of these contracts. These reflected a 15% increase from last year.

Resolved: to appointment Mr McKechnie to carry out the Hanging Basket Watering at £3325.00 and to fill 7-day planters on a regular basis at £1270.75.

c) Town Council Website (Contractual)

Following the last meeting when a preferred contractor was chosen subject to the receipt of responses to some questions.

Cllr Curzon had drawn up a list of questions and responses had been received and circulated to members. Cllr Curzon informed the Clerk he was happy with the responses.

Resolved: to appoint Mid Wales Design's quote of £3250.00, some additional costs may be incurred and will be approved by the Council.

The Clerk will circulate links to the websites identified by members so a preferred style can be chosen.

d) Town Website (Contractual)

The Clerk passed on some information from Cllr Curzon who had looked at the creation of the new town website.

It was agreed to obtain a quote/s to rebuild the site and transfer over the information.

Resolved: Clerk to approach Jase Hawker to see if he would interested in developing the site and ask for a quote.

e) Tremont Park Play Area (Contractual)

The Council agreed to accept the transfer of the play area only to include access to machinery for grounds maintenance.

Resolved: To accept the transfer of the play area.