

## LLANDRINDOD WELLS TOWN COUNCIL

### Minutes of Hybrid Annual Meeting on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> May, 2024 at 6.30pm at the Pavilion Mid Wales

**Present:** Cllr M Morgan, N Bastow, L Weerdmeester-Price, Jamie Jones, K Nicholls, S Meredudd, P Smith, S Deeks-D’Silva, W Curzon, Cllr Jonathan Jones

**Apologies:** Cllr S Sims, Cllr D Markinson

**Resolved:** to record the meeting

#### TC 61/24 Election of Chair/Mayor

The Clerk introduced members to this item and ran through the voting process. Ballot papers were issued to all members present and a Zoom Poll for the member attending via Zoom.

The following nominations were received prior to the meeting:

**a) Cllr David Markinson**

Cllr Markinson had emailed his withdrawal prior to the meeting.

**b) Cllr Marcia Morgan**

**Resolved:** to appoint Cllr Marcia Morgan as Chair and Mayor for 2024/25. The declaration of acceptance of office was signed by the Chair.

Members congratulated Cllr Morgan on her nomination.

The Clerk reported that Cllr Markinson had sent an email to the Clerk and all members just prior to the meeting notifying of his withdrawal from nomination. He requested for the comments within his email to be included in the minutes.

The Clerk stated that this was not normal practice, however, in openness and transparency she asked the Council to vote on this matter in two parts:

Proposal from Cllr Deeks-D’Silva for Cllr Markinson’s comments to be read out at the meeting. This was agreed.

**Resolved:** to read out Cllr Markinson’s comments. This email was read out.

Proposal from Cllr Deeks-D’Silva for Cllr Markinson’s comments to be included in the minutes verbatim. A recorded vote was requested and agreed.

| Member                | In Favour | Against            | Abstain  |
|-----------------------|-----------|--------------------|----------|
| Bastow, N             |           | Yes                |          |
| Curzon, W             |           | Yes                |          |
| Deeks-D’Silva S       | Yes       |                    |          |
| Jones, Jamie          | Yes       |                    |          |
| Meredudd, S           | Yes       |                    |          |
| Morgan, M             |           | Yes (Casting Vote) | Yes      |
| Nicholls, K           | Yes       |                    |          |
| Smith, P              |           | Yes                |          |
| Weerdmeester-Price, L |           | Yes                |          |
|                       | <b>4</b>  | <b>5</b>           | <b>1</b> |

**Resolved:** not to include the comments in the minutes.

**TC 62/24 Election of Vice Chair/Deputy Mayor**

Ballot papers were issued to all members present and a Zoom poll was launched for the member attending remotely.

The following nominations were received prior to the meeting

- a) **Cllr K Nicholls**
- b) **Paul Smith**

**Resolved:** to appoint Cllr Smith as Vice Chair and Deputy Mayor for 2024/25. The declaration of acceptance of office was signed by the Chair.

Members congratulated Cllr Smith on his appointment.  
Cllr Jonathan Jones left the meeting.

**TC 63/24 Introduction of Administrative Assistant**

The Clerk introduced the new Administrative Assistant Steven to the Council and outlined his role. He had commenced work on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2024 and will be supporting the Clerk. The Chair and members welcomed Steven to the Town Council.

**TC 64/24 Presentation of Grant Cheques**

The following groups were presented with annual grant cheques for 2024/25. These awards are on behalf of the Town Council and its residents for the benefit of the residents of Llandrindod Wells.

- a) **Carnival Committee - £2500**  
Barbra Gough and Lianne Phipps accepted the cheque
- b) **Eisteddfod Committee - £470**  
Emily O'Connell and junior members accepted the cheque
- c) **Twinning Association - £2500**  
Helen Skelton and Ed Coady accepted the cheque
- d) **Radnorshire Indoor Bowls - £500**  
Paul Vaughan and Betty Morgan accepted the cheque
- e) **Llandrindod Wells Silver Band - £1000**  
Tim Mann accepted the cheque.
- f) **Radnor Scouts - £1600**  
Charlene and Louise accepted the cheque.

**TC 65/24 Former Chairs Report**

The Chair reported the following information:

During the last month it has been a pleasure to represent the Town Council and residents of Llandrindod Wells at the following events:

**12/4/24** – Presenting football goal nets to Ysgol Cefnlllys.

**25/4/24 to 28/4/24** – An amazing Twinning trip to Bad Rappenau to continue the close friendship between Llandrindod Wells, Bad Rappenau and Contrexeville. I was home-hosted by a wonderful family and made some lovely new friends. Six of us from Llandrindod Wells travelled to Bad Rappenau and thoroughly enjoyed spending time with our hosts and members of our other twinned town, Contrexeville. We were treated to some lovely day trips, had lunch

in a castle and had a meal followed by an evening listening to a wonderful orchestra. I met the Mayor, Herr Sebastian Frei, went up on stage to present him with a gift and I managed to deliver a message in German from us all in Llandrindod Wells. I still can't quite believe that I did it! I was presented with a candle to bring back to our Holy Trinity Church which symbolised friendship, hope and planning for the future.

**4/5/24** – Opening of the new Tremont Park Play and Nature Area

**11/5/24** – World Fairtrade Day: Judging cakes in the morning

**11/5/24** – Llandrindod Wells Hospital League of Friends: Everyone enjoyed a very well-attended fund-raising afternoon tea with entertainment held at Llanyre Village Hall.

**19/5/24** – Twinning Candle presentation at the Holy Trinity Church

**Donations for this month have been given to :-**

- Llandrindod Wells Hospital League of Friends
- Glenys Bufton Animal Rescue
- Ysgol Cefnlllys
- Ysgol Trefonnen

#### **End of Year Chair's Report – 21/5/24**

The Chair presented the following verbal report to those present:

"I cannot believe that our Annual Meeting is already here. The past year has gone by so quickly and I would like to thank the Town Council for giving me this wonderful opportunity of being Chair and Mayor. Thank you to our hard-working Town Clerk, Jane Johnston for her support, guidance and advice. We are very fortunate as a Town Council to have a long-standing, qualified, knowledgeable and experienced Town Clerk. Jane has always made herself available to the Chair in case of emergencies, which have usually been weekend issues with the public toilets!

I want to thank those Town Councillors who have steadfastly supported me throughout the year, including former Cllrs Benjamin Williams and Jill Shaw. I will never forget the encouragement and support you have all shown me, especially Vice Chair/Deputy Mayor Cllr Wade Curzon, Immediate Past Chair/Mayor Cllr Laurence Weerdmeester-Price and Cllr Kim Nicholls. I would also thank those who have been my Consorts this year, I have so many wonderful memories of attending events with you all. It was great for us all to get together last week, swapping stories about the year.

A heartfelt thank you to the residents of Llandrindod Wells for warmly welcoming me to so many fundraising events and visits to local volunteer groups and organisations. You all do such a wonderful job and I have been humbled by the time that so many of you give to help others. We are fortunate to have such a strong community spirit here.

Thank you to County Councillors Jake Berriman, Pete Roberts and Josie Ewing, Powys County Council Officer Steve Gealy and Andy and Karen Compton from the Mid Wales Journal for supporting the Town Council (well done to Andy for finally getting me to relax in front of a camera!).

The Town Council have been very active and have pulled together as a team to work for residents and I would thank residents for the many lovely messages that have been received. We have just recruited an additional member of staff; Steven and I wish him all the very best in his new role.

I have been very honoured to be your Mayor this year and Chair of the Town Council. It has been an experience that I will never forget. I never thought that I'd be spending time with a film

crew, see so many sunflowers being grown, officially opening the Victorian Festival, help to set off the Bank Holiday fireworks, pressing the button to light up our wonderful town for Christmas, Crowning our Carnival Queen, representing us in Bad Rappenau, getting up early to start off the Welsh Enduro 2023, opening the new Play and Nature Area at Tremont Park and being part of so many more memorable events, there are far too many to mention. My year has been well-documented in monthly Chair’s Reports and on our Town Council website.

We currently have vacancies on the Town Council and I would encourage residents to consider applying as it is an opportunity to help our community, to bring new ideas to the Town Council and a chance to learn new skills. I thoroughly enjoy being a Town Councillor and would certainly recommend it.”

**TC 65/24 Bank Signatories – Appoint**

**Resolved:** to re-appoint Cllr Morgan, Cllr Meredudd, Cllr Weerdmeester-Price, Cllr Sims, And Cllr Curzon as signatories. To add Cllr Smith as an additional signatory as Vice Chair.

**TC 66/24 Internal Audit 2023/24 – LRS Audit**

The Internal Audit report was presented to Council and had raised no issues. The Clerk had informed the Internal Auditor of a payment of £200 which had been made via Full Council approval which he noted and raised no concerns over this.

**Resolved:** to accept the report.

**TC 66/24 Annual Return 2023/24**

The Annual Return for 2023/24 was presented to Full Council for discussion and approval. The Clerk ran through the report stated that the Council would be subject to a full transactional audit this year as part of the new Audit Wales process (year 3.)

**Resolved:** to approve the Annual Return for 2023/24.

**TC 67/24 General Power of Competence – Eligibility and Designate Status**

The Clerk explained to the Council that in order to retain GPOC status the Council would need to meet the following criteria:

- a) Employ a fully qualified Clerk to CiLCA level – criteria met
- b) Have a minimum of 2 year’s unqualified annual returned – criteria met
- c) Consist of two-thirds members elected or elected unopposed – criteria not met since the resignation of Cllr Benjamin Williams.

**Resolved:** to relinquish the GPOC status as the Council no longer meets the criteria for this status.

**TC 68/24 Senior Role Payment**

The Council is permitted to award a Senior Role Payment of £500 for up to 3 members.

Cllr Deeks-D’Silva recommended that an award of £500 be paid to Cllr Meredudd in recognition of her 50<sup>th</sup> year of service to the Town Council and the volume of work she undertakes on behalf of the Council.

**Resolved:** to award a payment of £500 to Cllr Sian Meredudd.

**TC 69/24 Appointment of Town Council Representatives on Local Groups and Committees**

The Council appointed the following members to represent the Town Council:

| External Groups              | No. | Representative/s |
|------------------------------|-----|------------------|
| Cefnlllys C P School to 2027 | 1   | M Morgan         |
| Fairtrade Group              | 1   | S Meredudd       |
| Friends of Rock Park         | 1   | S Meredudd       |
| Llandrindod Carnival         | 1   | N Bastow         |

|                                   |   |  |
|-----------------------------------|---|--|
| Llandrindod Eisteddfod Committee  | 1 | K Nicholls                                   |
| One Voice Wales                   | 1 | S Meredudd<br>N Bastow                       |
| PACE                              | 1 | S Meredudd                                   |
| Spa Town Trust                    | 1 | S Meredudd                                   |
| Town Silver Band                  | 1 | Jonathan Jones                               |
| Trawsnewid Llandrindod Transition | 2 | S Meredudd                                   |
| Trefonnen School to 17.05.25      | 1 | P Smith                                      |
| Twinning Committee                | 1 | Chair-Marcia Morgan<br>Vice Chair-Paul Smith |

| <b>Council Committees/Working Groups</b>  | <b>No</b> | <b>Representative/s</b>  |
|---|-----------|--|
| Crabtree Green Allotments   | 7         | Chairman-Marcia Morgan<br>Vice Chairman-Paul Smith<br>S Meredudd<br>K Nicholls<br>L Weerdmeester-Price<br>N Bastow |
| Festive Lighting Committee  |           | Chair-Marcia Morgan<br>Vice Chair-Paul Smith<br>Jonathan Jones<br>L Weerdmeester-Price<br>K Nicholls<br>W Curzon   |
| Finance Committee   | 7         | Chair-Marcia Morgan<br>Vice Chair-Paul Smith<br>Jamie Jones<br>S Deeks-D'Silva<br>S Sims<br>W Curzon<br>N Bastow   |
| Personnel/Staffing Committee<br><br>Recommend deferral to meeting on<br>28.05.24 (Confidential) | 5         | Chair-Marcia Morgan<br>Vice Chair-Paul Smith<br>W Curzon<br>K Nicholls<br>Jamie Jones<br>Jonathan Jones            |
| Employment Appeals Committee<br><br>Recommend deferral to future meeting<br>(Confidential)      | 5         | S Sims<br>N Bastow<br>Vacant<br>Vacant<br>Vacant   |
| Skate Park Committee  | 5         | K Nicholls<br>W Curzon<br>M Morgan<br>Jamie Jones<br>S Meredudd<br>6 co-opted members<br>(external)                |

|  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| Policies & Procedures Review Committee | 5 | W Curzon<br>K Nicholls<br>S Sims<br>S Deeks-D'Silva<br>Paul Smith             |
| Princes Avenue Leisure Park Committee  | 4 | S Sims<br>S Meredudd<br>L Weerdmeester-Price<br>W Curzon                      |
| Temple Chambers Committee              | 4 | Chair - Marcia Morgan<br>Vice Chair-Paul Smith<br>W Curzon<br>K Nicholls      |
| Friends of Lake Park (Working Group)   | 5 | S Sims – Project Lead<br>Jamie Jones<br>Marcia Morgan<br>L Weerdmeester-Price |
| Climate Change Task Group              | 4 | S Deeks-D'Silva<br>S Meredudd<br>Jamie Jones<br>P Smith                       |
| Local Events Task Group                | 4 | M Morgan<br>K Nicholls<br>S Sims<br>W Curzon                                  |

**Resolved:** to defer the appointment of members to the Personnel/Staffing Committee to 28<sup>th</sup> May 2024. Cllr Deeks-D'Silva and Cllr Jamie Jones voted against this.

**Resolved:** to defer the appointment of members to the Employment Appeals Committee to a future meeting. Cllr Deeks-D'Silva and Cllr Jamie Jones voted against this.

Cllr Jamie Jones wished for it to be noted that he had not received the last two sets of minutes of the Personnel Committee Meeting despite requesting them. The Clerk confirmed that this is a matter for the Personnel Committee.

**TC 70/24**

**Review of Financial Regulations**

The current Financial Regulations were reviewed by the Council.

**Resolved:** to re-approve the Financial Regulations without amendment.