

LLANDRINDOD WELLS TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting held on Tuesday 16th February 2016 in Committee Room A, County Hall

Present: Cllr C Rouse, J Williams, J Green, S Millington, R Houghton, A Bridgman, W Francis, G Price, S Dorkenoo, P Hill, C Carmichael, E Worgan, S Meredudd.

Apologies: Cllr R Coleman, C Bailey.

The Chairman announced to members that Cllr Sian Meredudd will have completed 40 years of service as a member of the Town Council on 17th February 2016. The Chairman thanked Cllr Meredudd for her hard work on behalf of the Council and for the town of Llandrindod Wells. Cllr Meredudd was presented with a bouquet of flowers.

TC 11/16 **Minutes**

The minutes of the last meeting held on 19th January 2016 were confirmed and signed.

TC 12/16 **Clerk's Report/Information from Meeting:**

TC 128/15 Middleton Street Unloading Bays

No further contact with regard to this as of yet.

Town WiFi/Website/Branding Launch

The launch will take place on Saturday 27th February 2016 at the Metropole commencing at 11.00am. Everyone is welcome to attend to use the Town Wifi and log in to the new Town Website. There will be a quiz and a play area for children. Please can members encourage residents to attend. Our Chairman will also be presenting prizes to the 3 winners of the Photographic Competition.

TC 13/16 **Chairman's Announcements**

The Chair had a busy month preparing for the Website/Wifi Launch but had no official engagements.

TC 14/16 **Correspondence**

a) Powys County Council – CAT Putting Green

Confirmation that the CAT is progressing and PCC has now gone out for external valuation. **This was noted.**

b) Powys County Council – Alexandra Road Bridge

In 2010 engineer advice was that refurbishment of the bridge would cost £37,000. Since that time the bridge has continued to deteriorate and the costs for refurbishment have now been estimated at between £250,000 and £500,000. The cost of removing the current structure is £54,000. The 2014 engineer advice stated that "the required repairs are likely to be extensive and we anticipate that it will be cheaper to replace the whole steel footbridge retaining the existing concrete foundations than to repair it." If refurbishment of the structure were still possible which is uncertain, the bridge would still need to be replaced in the near future due to its age and the significant level of erosion.

No final decision has yet been made as to replacing the structure. Removing the current unsafe structure is just the first step. PCC are currently exploring all the options.

This includes seeking a quote from an engineer in relation to potential replacement costs. Once further information is available, that will be taken to Portfolio members for their consideration and made public at the appropriate time.

Resolved: to approach Network Rail to ask for a meeting to discuss the bridge.

c) Powys County Council – Paperless Planning Applications

Confirmation of the movement to a paperless system from 1st February 2016.

This was noted.

d) Llandrindod Wells High School – Proposed Closure

The Clerk and some members attended the Public Meeting to discuss the future of the High School and see the Governor's presentation on their alternative proposals. Cllr Green, Dorkenoo, Hill, Bridgman & Meredudd declared an interest in this application and left the room whilst discussions took place.

Cllr Williams gave some background information as a school Governor. He discussed the alternative proposal submitted and the public meeting held at the school. The whole school is in support to the Governor's proposal.

Members had been circulated a draft list of objections for consideration. Some minor amendments and additions were made.

Resolved: to send in letter of objection to the PCC proposal to all Cabinet members. Also to support the Governor's alternative proposal.

Cllr Williams also asked if the Town Council would produce a flyer for delivery to each residence in Llandrindod Wells. This was agreed.

Resolved: Clerk to copy these for distribution to members for hand delivery before 22nd February.

e) Blaenau Gwent CBC – FOI Request Response

Following the Council's FOI Request the following response was received:

"There hasn't been any increase, in fact there was a drop from the August and September figures.

It is the Local Authority that prosecute for fly tipping rather than the Police force. As it's only been 3 months since the introduction of the 3 weekly collection, any offences that we are looking at for that period still wouldn't have reached the stage where a prosecution file would have been presented to legal. That doesn't mean that we don't have on-going prosecutions, but none of them are prosecutions arising from offences that have occurred since October 2015.

Our figures are fairly consistent, 16 fly tipping prosecutions in 2013-14, 8 in 2014-15 and we estimate there will be 10 for 2015-16.

It really is too early since the introduction of the trolibocs to say if it will make a difference to prosecutions, it can take anything from 4-12 months for a case to come to court, but based on the number of investigations our enforcement officers carry out I haven't seen a significant jump in cases since the schemes introduction.

Initially the three weekly collections were disputed by a number of residents, but after the second/third load of collections, residents had become used to the changes and complaints began to decrease.” This was noted.

f) One Voice Wales – Subscription Renewal

£831 based on 2929 chargeable dwellings at 0.284p per dwelling. Increase of £24 from 2015/16.

Resolved: To renew membership for 2016/17.

g) Powys County Council – LDP

The Schedule of Focused Changes to the Deposit Powys Local Development Plan 2015 is now available for public consultation up until 4.30pm Friday 11th March. All details on how to make comments are attached. All comments on the Focused Changes should be forwarded to the LDP team at the County Council and not the Programme Officer. This was noted.

TC 15/16

Financial Applications

None

TC 16/16

Representatives Reports

None

TC 17/16

Planning Applications

a) P/2016/0045 - Change of use office (B1) to one bedroom ground floor flat (C3) at Bryncelyn Park Crescent Llandrindod Wells. Cllr Worgan declared an interest in this application and left the room whilst discussions took place. **No objection.**

b) DEM/2016/0002 - Demolition of footbridge over railway at Temple Avenue Alexandra Road Llandrindod Wells. Members objected to this application as this is an established route and public footpath.

The Clerk will also write to PCC Planning Office to point out that Demolition applications and Tree applications plans are not currently uploaded to the PCC Planning Portal. As PCC has moved to paperless planning the Town Council is not able to see the plans.

TC 18/16

Accounts

The accounts as listed for January were approved and signed.

TC 19/16

Youth Council

An email had been received from Rhys Gough. Cllr Williams and Cllr Millington will represent the Town Council on the Youth Council and agreed to work with Rhys and the Council to being the set up.

Resolved: Clerk to inform Rhys of this.

TC 20/16

Railway Level Crossing – Tremont/Brookland Road

Cllr Price had been made aware that there is a proposal by Network Rail to close the Level Crossing in Llandrindod Wells. It was suggested that this matter be discussed at the meeting with Network Rail when discussing the Alexandra Road Bridge.

TC 21/16

Confidential Matters**a) Temple Drive Wall**

A letter had been received from a local resident complaining about the barriers blocking the footpath along Temple Drive. This is a privately owned wall which is in need of repair.

Resolved: to write to the Trunk Road Agency to ask them to enforce the repairs to this wall and the removal of barriers as a health and safety issue.

b) Signal Box Museum

Cllr Houghton established that there is no case for the de-listing of the Signal Box. Members agreed it is time to move on with this project and the best possible option would be to sell the Signal Box or transfer ownership to a community group.

c) Lake Toilets

Letter received from a local resident complaining about the Town Council not increasing its precept to take over the Lake Toilets. The Town Council continue to be in discussions with PCC regarding this.

Signed: Date: