

LLANDRINDOD WELLS TOWN COUNCIL

Remote meeting held on Tuesday 23rd January, 2024 via Zoom

MEETING OUTCOMES

Present: Cllr M Morgan, S Meredudd, S Deeks-D'Silva, Jamie Jones, L Weerdmeester-Price, Jonathan Jones, S Sims, N Bastow

1. **Apologies:** Cllr K Nicholls, P Smith, D Markinson, W Curzon

2. **Declaration of Interest**
TC 38/24b Cllr S Meredudd

3. **To confirm minutes of the meeting held on 23rd January 2024**
The minutes were confirmed and signed subject to an amendment.

4. **To confirm minutes of the meeting held on 20th February 2024**
The minutes were confirmed and signed.

5. **To confirm minutes of the meeting held on 22nd February 2024.**
The minutes were confirmed and signed.

6. **Clerk's Report**

Tremont Park Play Area

Radnorshire Wildlife Trust are holding a volunteer planting day on 30th March 2024 from 10.30am as part of the Biodiversity Project. Everyone is welcome.

There will be an official opening of the Play & Nature Park on 6th April 2024 time to be confirmed.

New Skate Park

The Town Council has been successful and obtained a Revenue Grant for £10,000 in order to undertake the surveys and inspections required in support of the planning application for the new Skate Park.

War Memorial

The War Memorial professional clean, to be funded by the Town Council, will commence in June 2024.

Cllr Sims had been approached by a member of the RBL who informed him that there is a form of protective surface for copper statues to prevent discolouration. The Clerk will check with the stone mason about this.

Ysgol Cefnlllys Easter Bingo

Cllr Curzon has purchased some Easter Eggs from his allowance on behalf of the Council and its residents in support of this event.

From Seed to Feed

The winner of the competition has now been chosen and has requested a tower bug hotel as their prize. This will be presented in the next few days and a photograph will be published on the Town Council website and Facebook.

Freedom of Information Request

The Clerk reported that an FOI had been received and is being dealt with.

7. Chair's Report

20/2/24 – I was delighted to spend the afternoon with the Llandrindod Wells Branch of the Mother's Union at the Holy Trinity Church. Following prayers, I was invited to address the members and gave them an insight as to what it is like to be a Mayor and Chair of the Town Council. Members enjoyed looking at the chains of office and most knew a lot of our past mayors. I was then treated to some lovely cake.

23/2/24 – Ysgol Cefnlllys Senedd invited me to attend one of their meetings and to give feedback as to how they were being run. I was amazed by the pupil's confidence and professionalism. We discussed a few ideas on how to prepare for meetings and I think we may well have some future Town Councillors and politicians in the making! Well done to the Senedd members – you should all be very proud of yourselves.

24/2/24 – The Carnival Committee held a fund-raising St. David's Concert at the Royal British Legion. The Rhayader Male Voice Choir led the beautiful singing and pupils from our local schools also provided wonderful musical entertainment. A big thank you to everyone who took part, including the lady singers, teachers and parents and to those who organised the event – it was a great evening.

4/3/24 – Dementia Matters in Powys asked me to plant a tree in the Llandrindod Pomerium, which I was very proud to do. The tree was in remembrance of both Queen Elizabeth and for one of the members whose idea it had been to plant the tree. Llandrindod Pomerium members had helped in organising the event, getting the tree and digging the hole beforehand on a very cold and damp day.

8/3/24 – I was invited to an Awards Evening at the Hotel Commodore by Lee and Jenni Percy at which they were presented the Best of British Getaways – Best Boat & Canoe Hire Venue in WALES 2023 Award. The award was well-deserved for all the hard work Lee and Jenni do at the Lakeside Boathouse. Lee thanked the Town Council for being part of their success and for their help in developing the Lakeside Boathouse over the last 3 years. I love walking around our beautiful lake, Lee always chats to me about his latest ideas and I always look forward to seeing what is happening there. Well done both, the award will certainly promote the lake and attract more tourism to our town. It was a very special occasion which I was honoured to be invited to, representing the Town Council.

9/3/24 – I was invited to the opening day of Bygone Bags, High Street by Allan and Wendy Curtis. The shop looks beautiful and there are so many lovely things to buy there. I was their first customer and I am very pleased with my purchases. I wish Allan and Wendy every success in their new venture.

11/3/24 – Today saw me back at Ysgol Cefnlllys. I was videoed speaking about being the Town Council School Governor. The 2 pupils who were fully responsible for producing the video did an excellent job and we did it all in just one take.

Donations have been given to :-

Llandrindod Wells Carnival Committee

So, it's been another busy and very enjoyable month being out and about meeting people and supporting events. The Town Council continue to work hard for residents and updates on existing and new projects etc. are given in the minutes of meetings publicised on our website. Please keep checking posters and social media to see what's happening in town and give your support where you can.

8. Public Speaking

None.

9. Correspondence

a) M Walby – Thanks

Resolved: to write to Arwyn thanking him for representing Llandrindod Wells and congratulating him on his achievement of being part of the winning team representing Wales.

b) Powys County Council – Duty Planning Officer

Notification of a new Duty Planning Officer designated line –

Monday to Friday 10am to 12 noon and 2pm to 4pm – 01597 827272.

This was noted.

c) Minister for Health – Medical Practice

Response as follows:

Thank you for your email below. I have been asked to reply by the Minister for Health & Social Services on this occasion and apologise for the delay in doing so.

The Minister continues to be very grateful for the continued efforts of GPs and their teams to maintain high-quality care in the face of sustained high demand for their services, reflected in the fact that over 1.5 million people are consistently accessing GP services across Wales each month.

This year's GMS contract negotiations have been undertaken against a significantly challenging financial and operational backdrop, with unprecedented budget cuts across Welsh Government. The Minister was pleased to announce on 7 February that despite the financial challenges and budget constraints, the conclusion to negotiations for 2023-24 will see £20 million investment into general practice this year, the highest level of investment in many years. Crucially, this investment will see an uplift of 5% to pay for all staff working in general practice, including practice nurses and administration staff.

Overall, the number of GPs practising in Wales in recent years remains relatively steady, combined with an increase in the number of nurses and direct patient care staff employed in general practices, supporting patient access to care.

However, as the BMA Cymru Wales *Save our Surgeries* report highlighted starkly, workforce capacity and levels of stress are a very real concern amongst the profession, and we have taken practical steps to reduce demand on GPs. Investment in Urgent Primary Care Centres and the 111 Press 2 for Mental Health service are just two examples. Recent funding of £5 million for Allied Health Professionals will increase the support available to GPs via community resource teams and we have increased the range of services community pharmacists can provide. The new Unified GP Contract will also help to reduce bureaucracy and free up more time for GPs to see patients.

The Primary Care Model for Wales emphasises the GP is not the only first point of contact and many GP practices now offer care from a wider group of professionals, including practice nurses, physiotherapists and pharmacists. We believe this will help ease the pressure on GPs and help patients access the right kind of care more quickly.

The Welsh Government also recognises the importance of helping the general public understand what to expect from their GP practice. As part of our *Help Us, Help You* campaign, materials were circulated to all health boards last year to use as posters or share on their social media pages, outlining the process of booking a GP appointment and managing patient expectations."

The Clerk was asked to check the original request email and if all questions had not been answered to write to the Minister asking for further answers.

Resolved: to write to the Minister as above. Cllr Weerdmeester-Price abstained from the vote.

d) Powys County Council – Referendum Request

Further to a request to Powys County Council Chief Executive the following response was received:

“I’m afraid that Welsh Government runs the consultation process and Powys County Council’s role is to provide technical advice from our Planning Department. It is therefore not possible for the council to hold a referendum.”

This was noted.

The Clerk had been asked by the Task & Finish Group leader, Cllr Markinson, to write to all Town & Community Councils in Powys to ask them to contact PCC regarding a referendum.

Resolved: Clerk to write to Town & Community Councils on 25th March 2024.

e) Powys Street Naming & Numbering SNN3/2024/0002

Request for street name suggestions for the new estate of 69 dwellings north and south of Lakeside Avenue.

Members discussed this matter and Cllr Sims came forward with the following suggestions:

North – Upper development - Bryn Gwylfa (Lookout) – in connection with observation point connection during the War.

South – Lower development - Penbryn (Hillview)

Resolved: members fully supported these suggestions to be put forward to the developer.

f) One Voice Wales – Subscription Renewal

Subscription renewal of £1265, 3086 chargeable dwellings x 41p.

Resolved: to renew the subscription as above. Cllr Jamie Jones abstained from the vote.

10. 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) 24/0266/HH

Grid Reference: E:306049 N: 261865

Proposal: Installation of a Vailiant aroTHERM PLUS 10 kw air source heat

Pump Site Address: Archibald House, Waterloo Road, Llandrindod Wells, LD1 6BL

Resolved: no objection.

11. Applications for Financial Assistance

a) Fuelled by Cake

Second application in support of their event in June 2024.

Resolved: to award a grant of £750

b) Spa Town Trust

Application in support of a series events in 2024

Cllr Meredudd declared an interest in this application and left the room whilst discussions took place.

Members were slightly disappointed with the attendance figures, however, it was felt that the weather had been really inclement which may have affected this.

Resolved: to award a grant of £250 on this occasion, however, in view of the numbers the

Council would hope to see an increase and evidence that co funders are being identified. The Council will also require photographs of the event.

12. Finances

- a) To approve the payments for January 2024
Resolved: approved
- b) To approve the payments for February 2024
Resolved: approved
- c) Income/Expenditure to 29.02.24
Resolved: noted.

13. Lake Park - Survey Results

The results of the survey were shared with the Council and are as follows:

Participants	730		
Residents of Llandrindod Wells	96		
Question 1	Would you wish to see the one-way system reversed completely?		
Yes	61.71%	No	38.29%
Question 2	Would you like to keep the road layout as it is currently?		
Yes	26.41%	No	73.59%
Questions 3	Would you like to see the road layout including the Lake as it was prior to the installation of Covid 19 measures.		
Yes	54.75%	No	45.25%

The Clerk summarised the results which gave a clear mandate of residents preferable option. **Resolved: to write to the Portfolio Holder of Powys, coping in Highways and the 2 local County Councillors sharing the survey results and requesting that PCC support the mandate from residents and reverse the one-way system, particularly on health & safety grounds as soon as possible. The Clerk will include some background information on this.**

14. County Councillors Reports

- a) **Cty Cllr J Berriman**
Cty Cllr sent his apologies and had nothing to report. He wished to pass on his sincere thanks to the Town Council, Mayor Marcia and High Sheriff Reg for the wonderful volunteer event that you organised and so successfully carried off last week. It was a real credit to the whole community.
- b) **Cty Cllr P Roberts**
Cty Cllr sent his apologies and reported the following:
This past month has been a quiet one however there are a number of small issues that I would draw to your attention

Firstly, Powys County council are hosting a webinar on the 21st to provide a briefing for Town and Community Councillors on the Sustainable Powys Development which will be essential if we are to maintain services without resorting to massive council tax increases.

Next, I would like to extend an invitation to you and members of the public to join me between 12 and 3pm on Sunday for a "Spring Clean" of the paths around the Bandstand. Last weekend I

cleared most of the grass and overgrowth on the path parallel to the trunk road but the rest of the area is just as bad.

Finally, I would like to extend my congratulation to Lee Percy and the team at the Lake for winning a series of prestigious national awards in the past 6 weeks and they have now firmly established the town as a destination venue for those interested in safe watersports activities for all the family.

c) Cty Cllr J Ewing

Cty Cllr sent her apologies and reported the following:

“My March '24 ,County Councillor reports starts, with sending on my congratulations to the boathouse, on winning ‘Best Boat and Canoe Hire Attraction – Wales’ in the awards, created by SME News. [Powys boathouse named Best of British Getaways winner | County Times](#) . Mr and Mrs Percy have been successful (post covid 19), in running a business from the lakeside, offering water activities for the community and for visiting tourists. I send on my best wishes to Lee and his staff for the 2024 season.

I would also like to thank the tourism and regeneration team at Powys Council in successfully gaining funding at the Lakeside and Rock park, from the ‘Brilliant Basic Project Scheme’, a Welsh Government grant set out for improvements that will enable visitors to orientate themselves more effectively when they arrive at location and locate and access key visitor assets more easily. The project has increased enjoyment and visitor satisfaction at these key visitor locations.

Llandrindod Wells Visitor Experience Scheme – £125,000. This scheme was created to focus on the visitor experience around the Lake and Boathouse and has include opening a slipway access point near the boathouse for water activity access, a new oak shelter/seating area, resurfacing the area around the boathouse to improve disabled access, and create a beachside area and wildlife viewpoint.

A new disabled access footbridge was installed in the nearby Rock Park, giving access for all to enjoy the 12 acres of mature woodland.

Powys council are now waiting to hear of the second levelling up fund and to find out if path/ pedestrian walkway around the lake has been successful.

Other ward grant news comes from the oldest theatre in Mid-Wales.

Our very own jewel , The Albert Hall on Ithon Road. The small team have been success in gaining a total of £60,000, from Art council Wales, and the community facilities programme, a capital grant scheme operated by the Welsh Government. Grants can be used to improve community facilities which are useful to, and well used by people in the community and match funding. The fund will be used to make accessibility and sustainability improvements at the iconic old venue.

I would like to send on my best wishes and well done to the hard-working team of volunteers down at the hall.

The Welsh Government has announced it will be investing £1m to create a network of car clubs to connect rural communities, including Llandrindod Wells. A car club helps reduce carbon emissions with promoting car sharing and holds the financial benefit of renting the share car, without needing to invest in your own.

I have received several emails regarding transport for medical appointments and wish to share with you [Community Car Schemes \(pavo.org.uk\)](https://pavo.org.uk)

The Scheme is open to people who do not have reasonable access to other forms of transport. In Powys the priority for transport is for health appointments, but also includes journeys that meet every day needs.

- I wish to make public the contact number- Builth Wells Community Support - 01982 553004

[Llandrindod Wells Medical Practice \(llandrindodswellsmedicalpractice.co.uk\)](http://llandrindodswellsmedicalpractice.co.uk)

I have also received further information from Jane Dodds MS, post her visit to Llandrindod medical practice. We can report, the PTHB Powys Trust Health Board states NO POWYS G.P medical practice is to close. Jane will discuss bringing back the 'Rural GP incentive scheme' to obtain and retain the number of qualified doctors to Wales and in particular rural areas. She will be investigating further with a 'Health commitment to rural surgeries' being discussed with The Health Minister.

Jane MS, is also requesting a investigation in to Hereford and Shrewsbury hospital waiting lists, for the management of time and our Welsh expectations when crossing the border to receive our A and E care, planned surgeries and treatment times.

At this time, we would like to see further use of the independent prescribers at both Boots and Lakeside pharmacies, and LWMP's own website [Consult Online from Home - Llandrindod Wells Medical Practice \(webgp.com\)](http://consultonlinefromhome-llandrindodswellsmedicalpractice.webgp.com) – to help reduce telephone times residents can report adult and children's medical issues, request sick notes and test results, review long term conditions, repeat medication and request contraception from home.

In March I have visited several organisations, and charities including the foodbank where I have donated needed goods. I invited our Senedd member Jane Dodds and a member of the youth intervention team (PCC) for a detailed and informative tour of what other help and advice is available for our residents. I have also made a cash donation to our Welsh medium pre-school. I attended the AGM at Play Radnor and I aim to end March with a trip to Mind, Kaleidoscope, the hive and Impelo.

Invite and info below to share, regarding Mind and Impelo.

Invite- Impelo & Mid & North Powys Mind - The Dance Centre

Impelo, a well-loved dance charity located in the heart of Powys, sadly announced in December that their multi-year funding from the Arts Council of Wales was withdrawn. As a result, they have had to decrease services, reduce core staff, and temporarily close the Dance Centre with a view to put the Dance Centre up for sale on the open market.

Mid & North Powys Mind currently has its main base in Llandrindod Wells in a rented building that is wholly inadequate. It has no central heating and damp issues. Mid & North Powys Mind have been looking for a more accessible and better home for its services for many years. Impelo seek to transform lives through heartfelt co-created movement programmes and workshops, and Mid & North Powys Mind's mission is Improving mental wellbeing for people in Mid & North Powys.

The devastating news about the Dance Centre has sparked an innovative proposal:

Mid & North Powys Mind would like to buy the Dance Centre building and co-locate with Impelo - so both organisations are based from the same building.

It's a given that the main draw to the centre itself is it's large dance studio but the building has a huge amount of space just waiting to be re-developed and utilised - plenty of room for both organisations to thrive and continue to deliver incredible programmes for their communities. Co-locating would give Impelo a much needed cash injection, rejuvenate the building itself and

reduce running costs in the longer term. It would also give Mid & North Powys Mind a much more suitable venue from which to deliver its services.

Cat Nunn, Chair of Mid & North Powys Mind said: " In the wake of this awful news about Impelo's funding comes a rare opportunity for our two organisations to have a firm foundation for the future, a place for the community to be welcomed and for us to thrive"

It's exciting to imagine a building in Llandrindod where these two charities could call home.

Jemma Thomas, Artistic Director and joint CEO of Impelo said: "Our dance centre serves as a weekly hub for various classes and communities, complementing our broader outreach initiatives in schools and healthcare settings while also allowing us to support dance artists in Powys. However, like many well-used buildings, it requires extensive renovations and is costly to maintain. The proposal from Mid and North Powys Mind presents an incredible opportunity for us to retain our studio space and continue to support our dance communities whilst co-habiting with an organisation who's values are so aligned with our own."

This project is wholly reliant on successful capital grant funding and we really need your help. Please can you complete the survey below to support us this potential endeavour.

If you would like to see our draft plans for the building, we are holding an Open Day at Mid & North Powys Mind's current building (Crescent Chambers, South Crescent, Llandrindod Wells, LD1 5DH) on Thursday 21st March from 10-1pm - we would love to hear your thoughts.

Thank you - your time is greatly appreciated.

Click here to complete the survey : <https://forms.gle/p8ThNnd9TtdVdgbY8>

[Powys Volunteer of the Year Awards 2024 - Nomination form \(google.com\)](#) Powys Volunteer of the Year Awards 2024 - Nomination form - Nomination deadline: 1st April 2024

All nominees must be volunteering in Powys, I invite and welcome the Town council to make a nomination to a local resident in Llandrindod for the Volunteer of the year award, in light of your local presentation. Link above. "

15. Green Gen Towy Usk

The Clerk had circulated an email with the dates of the second consultation with a closing date of 8th May 2024 – link <https://www.greengentowyusk.com/index.php?contentid=27>

Two local consultation events are taking place:

Montgomery Pavilion
Royal Welsh Showground, Builth Wells LD2 3SY
Wednesday 20 March - 2pm to 7pm

Penybont District Community Centre
Penybont, near Llandrindod Wells LD1 5UA
Tuesday 9 April
2pm to 7pm

In the absence of Cllr Markinson the Project Lead, the Clerk updated members on the plans for the public meeting.

3 dates had been put forward for the meeting, and it was agreed to hold the Public Meeting on Tuesday 30th April, 2024 from 6.30pm to 9pm at the Pavilion Mid Wales. The group will liaise with the Pavilion on full requirements.

The Clerk had been given a list of people to invite to form part of a panel for the event.

Resolved: Clerk to confirm date with venue, book requirements and refreshments for those attending.

16. Wales Air Ambulance

Cllr Jamie Jones is highly disappointed at the outcome of this consultation to move the Air Ambulance Base from Welshpool. He commented that 28% of all call outs are attended by the 4x4 vehicle which is now being lost to the area. He felt this will be doing a great dis-service to this area which is already deprived of ambulances on times. This will lead to further delay in response times.

The Powys Teaching Healthboard will be meeting on 20th March to prepare its response and the Healthboards will be meeting on 28th March. It was agreed to table this matter for the April meeting and then remove this as a standard agenda item.

17. 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.

18. Confidential Matters (Contractual, Legal or Personnel Related.)

a) Administrative Assistant

The Chair presented a report to Council detailing out the recruitment process used by the panel for this role. The panel also recommended the appointment of a specific candidate.

The panel were thanked for their hard work.

Resolved: unanimously to appoint the selected candidate as Administrative Assistant on a two-year fixed term contract, for 16 hours per week, subject to receipt of suitable reference. It was also agreed for the Clerk to purchase all relevant equipment and set up all services required.