

LLANDRINDOD WELLS TOWN COUNCIL

Hybrid Meeting of the Council which will take place on:
Tuesday 19th December, 2023 at 6.30pm in the Main Hall of the Pavilion Mid Wales

MEETING OUTCOMES

Present: Cllr M Morgan, W Curzon, P Smith, Jamie Jones, D Markinson, L Weerdmeester-Price, Jon Jones, K Nicholls, N Bastow, S Deeks-D'Silva, S Sims.

1. **Apologies** Cllr S Meredudd, B Williams

2. **Declaration of Interest:**

Reminder to members. (A Personal Interest is also a prejudicial interest because (under the objective, public perception test in Paragraph 12 (1) of the Members' Code of Conduct) it would be regarded as so significant that it is likely to prejudice my judgement of the public interest.) (See code of conduct.) (Forms available from Clerk)

None.

3. **To confirm minutes of the meeting held on 21st November, 2023**

The minutes of the meeting held on 21st November 2023 were confirmed and signed subject to amendment.

4. **Clerk's Report**

Llandrindod Wells Active Travel Phase to Llandrindod to Howey

The Welsh Government and the North and Mid Wales Trunk Road Agent (NMWTRA) are progressing plans to deliver a shared-use walking and cycling path from Llandrindod to Howey.

The Town Council has sent in a submission to the Consultation.

Cllr Jamie Jones had approached the Clerk about publishing the response. The Clerk asked the Council for authorisation to do this.

Resolved: to publish the response submitted by the Town Council.

Cllr Jamie Jones went on to say that it was particularly disappointing that only 2 members had fed into this response. Cllr Nicholls stated she had responded as an individual. Cllr Jamie Jones thanked her for doing this.

Christmas Party & Switch On

Both events went very well and the feedback for the Children's Party and Christmas lights has been wonderful. 441 people attended the Christmas Party and members and volunteers who attended received some great feedback. The room was buzzing with children's laughter. Well done to everyone involved.

The Parade and Switch On also went well and we have received really positive comments about the new lights and tree.

Car Park Review

The Clerk represented the Council at the Powys County Council Car Park Review which was attended by County and Town Councillors and Clerks. The focus of my group was – Enforcement, Service, Improvement and Innovation. This was a really active discussion and a follow-up meeting will be held in January. We were asked not to feedback any discussions until the final review is completed.

Cllr Deeks_D'Silva had approached County Councillors for Llandrindod Wells to see if they have been invited to attend Town Council meetings, they confirmed they had not.

Resolved: to invite the 3 County Councillors to attend and report at each full Council meeting.

5. Chair's Report

24/11/23 – I had been invited to the Welsh 2 Day Enduro end of year get together and presentation of donations. This event was well attended, many local charities received generous donations and a great evening was had by all. Thank you to the Wesh 2 Day Enduro for holding the event in our part of Wales as it puts us on the map and attracts business and tourism to our town.

25/11/23 – A very busy, exciting and special day for Llandrindod Wells. I attended the Lantern Making Workshop in the morning to see how the children were getting along making their lanterns for the parade in the evening – they all looked amazing and I was glad that it wasn't me judging them.

Then it was time to go to The Pavilion to get everything set up for the Local Community Children's Christmas Party. The Pavilion had put up a beautiful Christmas Tree which really added to the occasion. We had Bertie's photo booth which was very popular with everyone and some lovely photographs were taken and put on Facebook. There was a bouncy castle, traditional party games, refreshments served and the fabulous Children's Entertainer Mr Bamboozle keeping everyone entertained with his magic tricks. Over 400 people attended the party and everyone had a great time. I don't think I have ever seen so many excited children enjoying all the fun! Some of the adults have contacted us since saying that their children had had a fantastic afternoon and had not wanted to leave. The Town Councillors who are on the Festive Lighting Committee, the Town Clerk and the volunteers all agreed that the party was a total success. I must thank the volunteers who willingly gave up their afternoon to help, we simply couldn't have done it without them. We had a visit from the High Sheriff for Powys and two of our great PCSO's Josh and Liz.

The time went very quickly and then it was time to move across to the Bandstand to get ready for the Parade and Switch-on of the Festive Lights. It was a magical evening and everyone seemed to like the new lights and tree in town. The Town Silver Band kindly played carols to get everyone in the festive mood, the Round Table Santa and sleigh were amazing and there was a wonderful atmosphere at the Bandstand. Thank you to everyone who took part in and supported this event, I certainly won't forget it!

1/12/23 – Another Switch-on of lights, this time at our beautiful lake organised by Lee and Jenni Percy. Thank you to Lee and Jenni for inviting me to do the countdown. It was such a lovely evening with great new Christmas decorations and lights, Santa arriving, beautiful singing by local artists, mulled wine, delicious food and great market stalls. What an amazing turn-out by residents with the High Sheriff also in attendance.

2/12/23 – A cold morning to open the Christmas Market in town, there were lots of great stalls but I don't know how the stall holders managed to keep themselves warm – well done everyone!

I then popped to give some words of support to Cllr Jake Berriman and Richard Vellacott (Tesco) for their very brave fund-raising 24 hr Sleep-out in aid of The Great Tommy Sleep Out and Help Our Homeless Wales. Well done both, you couldn't have picked a colder night – massive respect for what you did.

5/12/23 – Time to judge the shop windows in town on their recycled themed Christmas Window decorations, not an easy task! I was joined by Cllr Jonathan Jones, Chair of the Festive Lighting Committee and Cllr Laurence Weerdmeester-Price.

7/12/23 – I was very honoured to attend the 579 (Llandrindod Wells) RAF Air Cadets Awards Evening with Carols. What a lovely evening with special guests presenting the Awards. I was very impressed with the cadets from the minute I was welcomed at the front door. The cadets are respectful, confident, very smartly dressed and have great social skills which will serve them well for the future. I so enjoyed chatting to them afterwards finding out about their future plans. The town should be very proud of our cadets, they are a credit to everyone who encourages and supports them at 579.

8/12/23 – Time to put up the new Town Council Tree of Remembrance at the Holy Trinity Church for the Christmas Tree Festival. Many thanks to Cllr Wade Curzon as, although I was there, he is responsible for the beautiful tree, I simply followed his lead in putting it together and handing him the lights! Cllr Curzon also donated £50 to the funds for the Tree Festival on behalf of the Town Council and its residents.

9/12/23 – The day started with myself and Cllr Laurence Weerdmeester-Price presenting the prizes to the winners of the Christmas Shop Window Competition. Thank you to all the shops that took part – all the windows look lovely and really add some Christmas Cheer to our town. Winners: 1st – Bradleys, Joint 2nd – The British Red Cross and The Bracken Trust, 3rd – Doves and Dandy's.

The evening saw Cllr Wade Curzon and myself attending the Holy Trinity Christmas Tree Festival Community Service. We had both been invited to take part in the service with Cllr Wade doing a biblical reading and myself reading 'T'was the Night Before Christmas'. It was a beautiful service with lovely readings, carol singing and, of course the twinkling Christmas Trees.

Donations have been given to:

579 (Llandrindod Wells) RAF Air Cadets

It is now time to enjoy the Christmas period and to look forward to the New Year. The Seed to Feed Bird Photographic Competition is under way, the Town Council will continue to work on existing projects and will be looking at new ideas for the town.

I wish you all a lovely Christmas and a happy and successful New Year

6. Public Speaking

None.

7. Correspondence

a) Powys Resident – Dementia Matters in Powys Funding

Letter from Powys resident who expressed concern at the lack of funding allocated to Dementia Matters in Powys.

Some discussion took place on this matter and it was agreed to write to the Health Minister expressing the Council's concern at the decline in services within our area and highlighting DMIP and Denistry, this to be copied to the MP and MS for the area. The Clerk was asked to acknowledge receipt of this letter from the local resident and advise them of the Town Council actions on this matter.

Resolved: to write to the Health Minister with copies to the MP and MS and the resident. Cllr Smith & Weerdmeester-Price voted against this.

8. 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) **23/1700/FUL**
Grid Reference: E:305413 N: 260763
Proposal: Change of use from a barn to a farm-workers dwelling including the reinstatement of the demolished part of the barn - Site Address: Rhydlyndu , Park Lane, Llandrindod Wells, LD1 5NN
Resolved: No objection subject to the inclusion of swallow boxes and native trees. Cllr Deeks-D'Silva abstained from the vote.

- b) **23/1757/CAC**
Grid Reference: E:305858 N: 261150
Proposal: Conservation Area Consent for demolition of an existing garage
Site Address: Tudor Lane Garage, Tudor Lane, Llandrindod Wells, LD1 5ET
Resolved: No objection. Cllr Deeks-D'Silva abstained from the vote

9. Applications for Financial Assistance

- a) **Spa Town Trust**
This matter had been deferred from the previous meeting and further supporting information had been supplied.
Resolved: to award a grant of £250 for these events.

- b) **Llandrindod Wells Junior Football Club**
Application to purchase a replacement storage shed for Oxford Road field

Members discussed this matter and it was agreed that a more permanent storage solution, such as a metal container would be more suitable. Screening would also be possible. The Clerk explained that this would fall outside of the Small Grants Fund. The Clerk was asked to explore options in conjunction with the Football Club and residents. This matter was deferred.
Resolved: Clerk to explore further options.

- c) **Fuelled by Cake**
Application for grant towards event in June
Resolved:

10. Finances

- a) **To approve the payments for November 2023**
Resolved: payments were approved.
- b) **Income/Expenditure to 30.11.23**
These were noted.
- c) **Audit Wales – Annual Return 2022/23**
The Annual Return was presented to full Council for approval. No issues of concern were raised and an unqualified audit was received.
Resolved: to accept the audit.
- d) **Annual Budget – 2024/25**
Resolved: to set a budget of to set a draft budget of £ 215,823 based on Band D Product of £ 2553.08 equating to £84.53 per household for 2024/25 equating to a 10.91% increase on 2023/24.

The Clerk reminded members that the budget set for the current year, 2023/24 was decreased when set by 5.41%.

11. Review of Policies

a) Bank Payment Policy

Resolved: to approve the policy

b) Health & Safety Policy & Appoint Responsible Member

Some amendments were recommended. It was agreed to defer this to the next meeting so amendments could be made.

Resolved: Defer to the January meeting.

The One Voice Wales Health & Safety Training and subsequent draft policy suggested appointing a member to assist the Clerk with the responsibility for Health & Safety within the Council.

Cllr Jamie Jones commented that he had offered in the past to assist the Clerk with Health & Safety matters and risk assessments, however he had been rebuffed at the time by the Clerk.

The Clerk responded that if Cllr Jamie Jones felt this, he should have requested this matter to be placed on an agenda for full Council discussion.

Cllr Jamie Jones, went on to say, in view of the Clerk's issues with her micro-management, (a matter which the Clerk had reported confidentially to the Personnel Committee) he wanted to get the Clerks comments on appointment a member to assist with Health & Safety matters.

The Clerk confirmed that this had been advised by One Voice Wales.

Resolved: to appoint Cllr Nicholls as member responsible for Health & Safety.

Cllr Nicholls responded by stating she felt she was well qualified to undertake this role as she had been responsible for Health & Safety of many sites during her work role and holds relevant qualifications.

c) Social Media Policy

Resolved: to approve the amended policy

a) Small Grants Terms & Conditions & Application Form

Resolved: to approve the procedure and application form.

12. Appoint Members to Staffing Appeals Committee

The Council was asked to appoint 3 additional members to the Staffing Appeals Committee.

Resolved: to appoint Cllr Bastow to the Committee

13. National Association of Councillors

The Clerk advised that the membership to this association is £22 per member per year equating to £330. The pro rata membership for the remainder of this municipal year would be £165 + VAT.

The meeting was closed at this point due to the disruptive behaviour of a member.

14. Green Gen Towy Usk – New Information

This matter was deferred.

15. Wales Air Ambulance – New Information

This matter was deferred.

- 16. 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.
This matter was deferred.
- 17. Confidential Matters (Contractual, Legal or Personnel Related.)**
- a) Job Evaluation – Town Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer**
The Clerk left the room whilst discussions took place.
This matter was deferred.
- b) Administrative Assistant – Job Application Form – Timeframe**
This matter was deferred.