

## LLANDRINDOD WELLS TOWN COUNCIL

### Minutes of a meeting held on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2015 in Committee Room A, County Hall

**Present:** Cllr E Worgan, C Rouse, G Price, S Dorkenoo, C Carmichael, W Francis, A Bridgman, J Green, R Coleman, R Houghton, J Williams,

**Apologies:** Cllr S Millington, C Bailey, P Hill

**Absent:** Cllr S Meredudd

#### **TC 01/15** Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2014 were confirmed and signed subject to the following omission.

Cllr Green referred to minute 138/14 and asked for clarification on a statement made suggesting that he apologises to the Clerk. Cllr Green asked what he should be apologising for.

Cllr Price responded that Standing Orders state that “no discussion of the draft minutes of a preceding meeting shall take place except in relation to their accuracy. “ Cllr Price referred to Cllr Green’s previous declaration of interest on this item.

Cllr Price indicated that **as** he had made the comment at the last meeting he would email Cllr Green following the meeting to clarify this matter. **This was carried out and copied to all members of the Council.**

#### **TC 02/15** Clerk’s Report/Information from Meeting:

##### **Knights Town Council – Pre Meeting.**

No response has been received to date.

##### **Election – North Ward**

The cost of the election for the casual vacancy was £1894.70.

##### **Flashing Matrix Signs**

The Chairman is currently arranging a meeting with officers of Powys County Council and the Task & Finish Group

##### **Tesco Section 106 Projects**

The Clerk had received a verbal update from Jenni Thomas as follows:

##### **a) Grotto**

She confirmed that authorisation has been sent to the contractor to start the work on manufacturing and installing the railings. Work should start within the near future.

##### **b) Wiki Wifi**

The Welsh Assembly have asked the Superfast Broadband expert who recently visited Llandrindod Wells to work with Jenni on this project. This is currently in progress.

**c) Town Signage**

Jenni is aware that the Town Champion will be working on 'Town Branding' and a tender will be going out from the Business Group/Welsh Assembly for a consultant to work on this branding. Jenni wishes to ensure that all signage is in line with this branding and will await the outcome of the consultants work before ordering signage.

**d) Interactive Noticeboard (Tesco)**

As with the above signage, this will be put on hold until Town Branding has been agreed.

**e) Temple Gardens Seating**

Jenni was confused about this as she had discussed the installation with Steve Gealy who reflected that Justin Baird-Murray Chairman of the Group responsible for the Temple Gardens did not want recycled seating installed. I reminded her of my conversation with Justin regarding this and he confirmed this would be acceptable. Jenni will not talk to Steve Gealy with regard to moving this matter on asap.

**f) Town Clock**

Requested an update on this matter.

TC 03/15

**Chairman's Announcements**

The Chair had no announcements to make. She thanked Cllr Rouse, Cllr Hill and Barry Rouse for decorating the Town Council tree for the Holy Trinity Tree Festival.

TC 04/15

**Correspondence****a) Powys County Council – Pedestrian Crossing Waterloo Road/Cadwallader Way**

Email from Tony Caine as follows:

"I have copied Bryan in on this since any capital works such as a footway extension would need to go through him. However I don't believe there is sufficient room to extend the footway within the verge as suggested.

I regret that this is not a positive reply but we are not always able to satisfy everyone's concerns. In this case however there is the crossing point near the entrance to the builders merchants which provides a suitable crossing point for those that do not feel safe crossing on the bend. I appreciate that it may be mean a short detour but this pails into insignificance if it provides those concerned pedestrians with a more safer crossing point."

This was noted. Cllr Price had received plans for this area which he had circulated to local residents, they feel that this enquiry has run its course.

**b) Post Office - -Station Crescent Post Office Modernisation**

Notification that the Station Crescent Post Office will be refurbished and will be closed from Friday 30<sup>th</sup> January and will re-open on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February this included a timetable for the service at Tremont Road and Builth Wells. This was noted.

**c) Welsh Rehabilitation Company – Community Payback**

Letter from Tracey Hickman, Community Payback Officer notifying members of the scheme should future suitable projects arise.

Members identified some project ideas and welcomed and supported this initiative **Resolved:** to respond to this letter giving support and asking them to inform the Town Council when they have capacity for new projects.

**d) M Heighway – Gallipoli Commemorations 2015**

Letter offering the donation of an Aleppo Pine to commemorate WW1 Gallipoli campaign in 2015 to be planted within the Rock Park.

Members were all in favour of this project and felt it could be combined with the WWI commemoration over the 4 years. Cllr Dorkenoo suggested the Town Council pay for the installation of a plaque.

**Resolved:** to support this project and forward information to Steve Gealy to enable him to establish a suitable site for this tree.

**e) Robert West – Fencing**

Offer from Robert West to repair some publicly owned fencing as a payback for the community support he has received.

Members welcomed this offer, however the Town Council does not have any fencing requiring repair. It was suggested that he contact other community groups regarding this. Cllr Price felt that the Council should point out that Financial Regulations state that the Town Council must obtain 3 competitive quotes for work.

**Resolved:** To contact Mr West as above.

**f) Chamber of Trade & Tourism – European Christmas Market**

**Cllr Green declared an interest in this matter and left the room whilst discussions took place.**

Letter from Sue Green, Chamber of Trade & Tourism as follows:

“We would like to congratulate you and all the council on your huge efforts at the Christmas town event which was due to take place on 30<sup>th</sup> November. We would also like to extend our thanks for our modern, fresh and clearly coordinated town Christmas lights strategy. We understand the time and efforts that these activities involve and know that it has a direct benefit to local businesses.

Whilst we sympathise with the cancellation of the European market, and understand the frustration that you all felt, the business community is resourceful and if we had been contacted as soon as the problem arose, we feel confident that we could have delivered a solution to cover the missing market. We have as one of our Chamber members, DA 3D pictures - market traders and wholesalers, who we know would have gathered a number of stalls in the four days we had available. We would also have considered the traders on the Friday

market, the WI ladies et al stalls on the Coop walkway on Fridays, the Farmers market traders in Builth Wells and some of the Food & Beer Festival traders. We maintain that the route you took to cancel the entire event disappointed everyone and has to a greater or lesser extent affected Christmas trade adversely for all businesses in the town. We would like to caution against hasty decision making in the future until you have had a chance to explore all options. This was a perfect opportunity to pull together as a community and demonstrate our winning spirit. You may be surprised to know that the business community is resilient, flexible and quite used to crisis. We do not expect you to solve all the problems that arise by yourselves and we want to reassure you that we are here to support you with existing initiatives and help drive new initiatives forward. We would suggest that you have a cancellation agreement with suppliers to cover costs if such an event occurs again.

Can we ask three things for the future please:

- 1) You will enlist the help of the Chamber to consider options before an event is pulled like this again.
- 2) With the likely increase of transfer of town assets from PCC to the town council perhaps you can consider how the business community can support you in this capacity
- 3) That the light switch on happens in November - maybe the third week would be a good target as some towns switch on mid November.

Finally, we want to thank all of you sincerely for another year of excellent service to the town and look forward to supporting you better in the coming year. Our very best wishes for a happy Christmas and a prosperous 2015. “

Members discussed this letter and some concern was expressed at the tone of the letter and some correspondence which is coming from the Chamber of Trade & Tourism which has only a limited core of members from within the town. A lot of traders supported the Town Council's decision to cancel this event. Some members took exception to the statement “we maintain that you route you took to cancel the entire event disappointed everyone and has to a greater or lesser extent affected Christmas trade adversely for all businesses in the town.”

**Resolved:** to acknowledge receipt of this letter and point out that the contents were noted.

**g) Chamber of Trade & Tourism – Cycle Fest**

**Cllr Green declared an interest in this matter and left the room whilst discussions took place.**

Letter seeking support from the Town Council for the road closure in relation to the above event from Fri 17<sup>th</sup> – Sun 19<sup>th</sup> July.

Cllr Williams felt that the Town Council should support the request for the road closure. This was agreed unanimously.

**Resolved:** contact PCC Highways to indicate support.

**TC 05/15**

**Applications for Financial Assistance**

**a) Powys County Council – Welsh Language Development**

Members felt that Llandrindod Wells was not mentioned within this letter so no

funding could be granted. The Town Council would welcome further information on their work in Llandrindod Wells in future.

**b) Play Radnor – Comments on Grant Decision**

**Cllr Worgan declared an interest in this matter and left the room whilst discussions took place.**

Cllr Rouse took over the Chair for this item. Some members were not happy with the tone of parts of this letter and agreed not to revisit the decision regarding the grant application.

**Resolved:** to write noting the comments within the letter and advising Play Radnor of the deadline for grant applications for 2016/17.

**TC 06/15**

**Representatives Report**

**a) Powys Local Area Action Group (SM)**

Cllr Francis wished to obtain further information regarding this group. The Clerk will ask Cllr Meredudd for further information.

**b) Fairtrade (SM)**

Noted.

**TC 07/15**

**Planning Applications**

a) **P/2014/1261** for LBC: Proposed ATM to replace existing ATM at HSBC Middleton Street. **No objection.**

b) **P/2014/1273** for Full: Change of use of former Fire Station to car sales and display, external alterations and associated works at Fire Station, Tremont Road for Mr S Mills, The Pines, Llandegley. **No objection, however the Town Council would ask Planning to ask the developers to install a retaining wall at the back of this site to alleviate resident's worries.**

c) **P/2015/0024** for Full: Erection of a single wind turbine 27.13m to blade tip. 20.58m height and 13.10m blade diameter at Bwlchau Bettws, Hundred House for Mr Richard Jones.(Glascwm Community Council area) **No objection.**

d) **P/2015/0035** - Full: Change of use of first floor office to flat accommodation at Trafford House, Temple Street for Richard Morgan, Penybont Hall. Cllr Williams had received concerns from residents of the area. **No objection to this application, however there is residential concern about the cumulative effect of 1 & 2 bedroom flats in the area.**

e) **P/2015/0038** - Change of use of basement to self-contained flat at Mayfield, Waterloo Road for Christine Owen, Llety'r Bugail, Welshpool. **No objection**

**TC 08/15**

**Accounts**

The accounts as listed were approved and signed by the Chairman.

**TC 09/15**

**Meeting Schedule**

The meeting schedule was agreed subject to one alteration.

TC 10/15

**Town Champion**

The Town Champion, Jude Boutle had contacted the Clerk to hold an initial meeting with her and the Chairman prior to addressing the Full Town Council. This meeting will take place on Weds 21<sup>st</sup> January 2015 at 2.30pm. Cllr Rouse indicated she wished to attend also. This was agreed.

**Resolved:** Clerk to arrange a meeting between the Town Champion and Full Council.

TC 11/15

**Town Hall Pond/Fountain**

At the recent Business Development Meeting members had discussed the future of the pond and if it should be converted into a flowerbed. Members agreed that this should be retained as a pond.

**Resolved:** Clerk to inform Steve Gealy and ask for remedial works to be undertaken. The Town Council will then consider taking over responsibility for the pond.

TC 12/15

**Confidential Matters**

- a) **Station Crescent Public Toilets** – Community Asset Transfer Document  
Subject to some minor amendments the Council agreed to sign the Community Asset Transfer document which was duly signed by the Chair and Clerk.

**Resolved:** Clerk to forward this to Alastair Knox as soon as possible.

- b) **Community Delivery** – Next Steps

It was agreed to form a small Task & Finish Group to discuss Community Delivery as a group initially and subsequently with the Pilot Officer, Paul Griffiths. The group will consist of Cllr E Worgan, Cllr C Rouse, Cllr J Williams, Cllr J Green.

**Resolved:** Clerk to arrange meeting to discuss community engagement with regard to community delivery.

Signed ..... Date .....