

LLANDRINDOD WELLS TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting held on Tuesday 19th May 2015 in Committee Room A, County Hall

Present: Cllr C Rouse, E Worgan, J Williams, J Green, S Meredudd, R Coleman, R Houghton, A Bridgman, S Meredudd, S Millington, G Price, C Carmichael

Apologies: Cllr W Francis, C Bailey, S Dorkenoo

Absent: None

TC 50/15 **Minutes**

The minutes of the last meeting held on 21st April 2015 were confirmed and signed

TC 51/15 **Clerk's Report/Information from Meeting:**

TC 40/15 c **Dog Fouling Campaign**

Plans are now underway under the leadership of Cllr Worgan and Cllr Rouse to arrange an event. Further details will follow.

TC 49/15a **Accounts Package**

The remote installation will take place this week and two days training will take place on 3rd & 4th June. During this time the Town Council office will be closed.

TC 49/15b **Public Toilets**

The refurbishment of the Station Crescent Public Toilets is now complete and the toilets are now open and in regular use. Members are asked to pop down and take a look at the block and the work carried out. There will be a 20p charge on the outside door of the male and female block but not on the disabled toilet. This is an extremely positive step for the Town Council and starts the journey of devolved services.

TC 52/15 **Chairman's Announcements**

There were none from the newly elected Chairman.

TC 53/15 **Correspondence**

a) Powys Teaching Healthboard – Pharmacy Opening Hours

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

Email from Kevin Smith, Head of Pharmacy as follows:

"I am sorry to hear that some patients have had problems accessing medicines.

As you may be aware, normal core opening hours for pharmacies are 9am-5pm, (possibly with a lunch hour where the shop is open, but is unable to dispense medication because the pharmacist is having a break). Opening times are set by the community pharmacy itself, since the regulations do not currently allow Health Boards to dictate opening times.

In some cases the HB will fund extended opening hours, in order to facilitate access, and this is the case in Llandrindod Wells. As you have noted this extends opening until 6.30pm on weekdays.

On the vast majority of occasions patients are seen and provided treatment or prescription before the pharmacy closes. In practice, where the surgery notifies

the pharmacy that they have overrun and are sending a patient to the pharmacy who will not get there before 6.30pm, but who needs a prescription dispensed urgently, the pharmacy will remain open for a few more minutes, on a professional goodwill basis.

Following your email, we will re-examine the situation to see if there is evidence that patients are suffering for avoidable reasons, and what options there are to resolve that, working with the pharmacies, the surgery and other NHS services. We would welcome your support in gathering evidence of such problems. If you could let us know how many complaints you have had already, that would be a helpful start.”

Resolved: to write to the Practice Manager of the Surgery to ask if it their policy to telephone the on duty Pharmacy if appointments run over.

b) S Deeks-D’Silva – Speeding Issues Wellington Road

Email as follows:

“We would like the Town Council to be aware of our serious concerns regarding speeding motorists past our property, Westmoor, on Wellington Road.

We have raised the issue previously with the Trunk Road Agency asking for 30mph signs as there are none once you go past the 'Welcome to Llandrindod' sign.

We were told it was not their policy to put signs up where there is street lighting as motorists 'should be aware' of the speed restriction! Why then do other areas put plenty of speed advisory markings in place?

Their representative claimed that 30mph signs would have no effect and suggested we purchase an old car to park in front of the house to slow traffic! We felt this was a ridiculous suggestion and shirking their responsibility. To access our vehicles we have to cross the main road, as do our neighbours and their children. Parking a car would make crossing even more hazardous.

Following a spate of very dangerous speeding, including motorists overtaking others at high speed, we decided to buy 30mph signs ourselves and we put two signs up, one for each direction, on the lamp posts outside our house. Our neighbours voiced their approval and we all noticed that motorists were slowing down significantly. The signs were proving effective, however one week later someone appeared in a high visibility jacket and took them down. Having tried direct action and been thwarted in this, we ask that the Town Council take some action regarding this problem.”

Resolved: to write to Edwina Hart referring to recent correspondence on this matter and requesting that repeater signs be installed throughout the length of the A483 within Llandrindod Wells due to the length of this stretch of road, with a request to change the policy on this matter as this seems to differ to the policy in England. Also to request that notification of the 30mph limit be painted on the road at the North and South entrances to the town.

Cllr Coleman felt that there is an enforcement issue with regard to speeding.

Resolved: to write to Dyfed Powys Police pointing out the speeding issues and requesting that they regularly monitor and enforce at both ends of the town. The Clerk will chase up Alan Davies with regard to the outcome of their recent meeting and also request the results of the recent speed surveys undertaken within Llandrindod Wells.

c) Diana Berriman – Emergency Planning

Email as follows:

“Last week I spoke with Andrew Twigger, Emergency Planning Officer at PCC. The Local Resilience Forum (which covers the Dyfed Powys Police area) have a very organised and varied set of emergency plans covering a targeted list of risks. We discussed the importance of local communities being informed about the work of the LRF, and One Voice Wales will be inviting Andrew to speak at one of their future meetings.

However, in the meantime, Andrew is happy to come and talk specifically to Llandrindod Town Council about the plans in place locally, so I have copied him in to this so that you can contact him directly, if the Town Council wish to take advantage of this.”

Resolved: to invite Andrew Twigger to address the Town Council at the next Business Development Meeting.

d) Ombudsman – Revised Guidance on Code of Conduct

Copies of the revised Guidance has been emailed to members.

TC 54/15

Applications for Financial Assistance

None Received.

TC 55/15

Representatives Report

- a) Green Spaces (SM)
- b) One Voice Wales Area Meeting (SM)
- c) Llandrindod Transition (SM)
- d) Friends of Rock Park (SM)
- e) Rural Development Plan (SM)
- f) Fairtrade (SM)

TC 56/15

Planning Applications

- a) **P/2015/0382** – Householder: Creation of new vehicular access, turning and parking area at Weymouth Villa, Tremont Road for Mrs Glenys Jones Deshommes.

Resolved - object to this application due to the implications this will have on an already busy highway.

TC 57/15

Accounts

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

TC 58/15

Food Festival Banners

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

Cllr Williams placed for the Town Council Food & Beer Festival banners on the A483 at both ends of the Town. These were removed by Powys County Council Highways Department on the order of the Trunk Road Agency. One was removed from what he had been told was private land. On speaking to the person who removed them, Cllr Williams was told that there is a zero tolerance to illegal signs placed on the Trunk Road. He understood this is policy but as only the Town Council banners and Highland Moors signs were removed I feel that this policy is not being applied fairly to all illegal signage. He also mentioned he had received an email from Sue Green with regard to this matter and informing that the Pizza Love signs had also been removed.

Cllr Williams proposed the Town Council write to Edwina Hart to point this out and in view of the recent appointment, by her, of a Town Champion to "promote Llandrindod Wells and encourage people to stop" the removal of the temporary Food and Beer Festival banners goes against what she is trying to promote. Also to request a copy of the policy with regard to the removal of signs.

Resolved: to write to the Minister as above.

TC 59/15

Weeding & Grass Cutting

The Clerk had issued photographs of issues within the Town.

Cllr Houghton commented:

"The Town Council is often reminded that Powys County Council owns our roads all public buildings apart from the Bandstand the Albert Hall and the Station Crescent Toilets.

Well, with ownership comes responsibility and the upkeep of the assets is part and parcel of this. As the Council has seen by the photo proof that the growth of plant life is slowly overtaking many parts of the town and dog mess is left to degrade.

He felt it is ironical that the most neglected town center in our County is the home of the County Council.

Cllr Houghton proposed that a letter be sent to the Chairman of Powys Council copied to the head of the department responsible for street cleaning, including the Lake area, also that a regular cleaning program be implemented. As the tourist season is already upon us this is a priority.

Cllr Price followed this up with details of other issues within the town and confirmed that he has been in constant contact with PCC LE with regard to these issues. He has been informed that weed spraying will take place shortly, but felt this is only due to the pressure put on by the Town Council and County Councillors.

Resolved: letter be sent to PCC Chief Executive and Paul Griffiths, Head of Service pointing out these issues and asking for them to be addressed immediately.

TC 60/15

Tesco Section 106 Projects

The Clerk had been asked to produce a timeline with regard to contact with PCC on this project. This had been prepared going back to the time when formal project proposals were passed to the Regeneration Officer in December 2013/January 2014. Cllr Green felt that the timeline stretched further back than that and undertook to

research this and pass further information back to the Clerk following the meeting.

Cllr Price felt the Town Council had been particularly proactive with this matter and the Clerk had obtained quotes for the remaining work with a view to moving this project forward. This information had been passed to the Regeneration Officer on 24th April, however no response has been received. He also commented that it is not the Town Council's responsibility to do this work for Powys County Council.

Resolved: to write to Cty Cllr Avril York (Portfolio Holder) with a copy to Paul Griffiths providing the information supplied to the Regeneration Officer to ask that they move forward with this project immediately.

TC 61/15

Community Delivery

Members were disappointed with the lack of progress with this matter.

Resolved: to organise a meeting of the Task & Finish Group with the Pilot Officer, Paul Griffiths to move forward with this project.

Cllr Coleman left the meeting.

TC 62/15

Confidential Matters

a) Bandstand – Tenders

The Clerk reported that 4 tenders had been received for the above refurbishment. The Chair, Vice Chair and Cllr Williams had met to consider the tenders. The Clerk outlined all information from the 4 tenders; 1 had been eliminated due to lack of insurance cover, 1 had been eliminated due to cost. The remaining 2 tenders were of similar cost.

Resolved: to award the contract to Character Building of Franksbridge at a cost of £3520.00 plus VAT. This will include the removal of the external brick skin and steps.

An additional quote had been received to rebuild the internal brick skin. Members agreed to meet the builder on site to establish if this is required and advise accordingly.

b) Public Open Access Wi-Fi (POW)

Cllr Worgan and Cllr Houghton reported that the tenders have now gone out to companies. The deadline for returned tenders is 9th June 2015. Members of the Task & Finish Group will report back at the next meeting.

c) Signal Box – Update

Email from David Edwards as follows confirming that HoWLEN will be unable to take over ownership of the Signal Box.

Signed Date