

## LLANDRINDOD WELLS TOWN COUNCIL

### Minutes of a meeting held on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2015 in Committee Room A, County Hall

**Present:** Cllr C Rouse, J Williams, S Millington, G Price, C Bailey, R Houghton, W Francis, E Worgan, R Coleman, S Meredudd, P Hill, J Green,

**Apologies:** Cllr S Dorkenoo, C Carmichael

**Absent:** Cllr A Bridgman

**TC 86/15** **Minutes**

The minutes of the last meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> July 2015 were confirmed and signed.

**TC 87/15** **Clerk's Report/Information from Meeting:**

**New Town Website**

The holding page has been set up to allow businesses and organisations to register for the new website. Our Chairman has set up a photographic competition to obtain images of Llandrindod Wells, so far we have had lots of entries, these will form a rolling display on the new website. Please encourage residents and visitors to submit photographs via [www.llandrindod.co.uk](http://www.llandrindod.co.uk)

**TC 88/15** **Chairman's Announcements**

- 15.07.15 Royal British Legion  
Meeting to discuss VE/VJ Day Service
- 18.07.15 Rhayader Carnival  
Fantastic floats and entries for the Carnival, judging is such a responsibility!! Really enjoyable morning with Jon, Jo Williams. Ben and Elin were a real asset.
- 18.07.15 Repair Café 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary, Rock Park  
They waited for us to arrive from the Carnival to cut the cake and then eat some – delicious!
- 19.07.15 Llandod Cycle Fest, Lake Park  
Started Ladies Race, a huge number of good cyclists entered. This was a great event and obviously enjoyed by everyone who was around.
- 20.07.15 Lake Park Feasibility Study, County Hall  
A very good meeting where ideas flowed.
- 22.07.15 Reception at Royal Welsh Show  
Hosted by the Chairman of PCC we attended with Jon & Jo Williams. Very enjoyable occasion.
- 02.08.15 VE/VJ Day Service, Holy Trinity Church  
Service followed by the laying of a wreath at the Memorial and the Hospital Memorial. Tea afterwards at the Royal British Legion. It was a lovely afternoon.
- 09.08.15 Race for Life, Llandrindod Wells Slimming World, Lake Park  
Cut the ribbon to start the event. Barry and I did 3 laps of the Lake with them. I hasten to add we walked it as did lots of other people. The people who ran 5 laps were amazing! Justin Baird-Murray was so impressed by this event he has suggested we would have a fitness event?

- 10.08.15 Twinning Brunch, Metropole Hotel  
To bid farewell to the Grombach Band. Delicious brunch.
- 13.08.15 Dementia Meeting, Mid Powys Mind  
The setting the group in Llandrindod Wells – LOUDA (Llandrindod Opens Up to Dementia Awareness) establishing the Committee and constitution which is progressing well
- 15.08.15 Musical Soiree, Dickens Wine Bar  
Most enjoyable evening
- 19.08.15 Twinning Meeting, Hotel Commodore
- 22.08.15 1940's Weekend, Temple Gardens  
Miss Victory judging
- 23.08.15 Evacuees Judging
- 25.08.15 Gerald Dickens, Albert Hall  
Brilliant
- 26.08.15 Youth Market Meeting, Herb Garden
- 27.08.15 Task & Finish Group Meeting – Community Delivery – County Hall  
Recommendations to be presented to Full Council and Business Development Meeting
- 28.08.15 Dracula's Ghost, Commodore Hotel  
Very, very good production
- 29.08.15 Street Organ Procession, Temple Gardens  
Presented certificates
- 29.08.15 Mardi Gras, Temple Gardens  
Judged entrants
- 30.08.15 Steampunk Event, Temple Gardens  
Judging with Montague Jacques Fromage – I'm all judged out.
- 02.09.15 Opening of Social Club, Caerwnon Park  
We were made so very welcome. The Club Room was refurbished with lottery funding. We met lots of escapees from Birmingham!!!!

TC 89/15

**Correspondence**

**a) PAVO – Grant application for Play Equipment**

Notification that the application for a grant towards play equipment had been unsuccessful. This was noted.

**b) Powys County Council – Household Waste Recycling Centre  
Letter from Ashley Collins as follows:**

“As you may be aware the Council's Cabinet recently approved a recommendation for the existing Community Recycling Centre in Waterloo Road to be upgraded to a Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC). The purpose of this letter is to inform all neighbouring residents and businesses of our plans and give you the opportunity to ask any questions that you may have regarding these changes.

The current Community Recycling Site accepts a number of different recyclable materials and benefits from a planning permission which will allow the site to be upgraded as required. In order to improve the service we will shortly be applying for further permission so that materials such as fridges and freezers, car batteries, household and garden chemicals can also be taken to the site. Unlike

the existing facility, the new site will be manned and will be open at specified times so that all materials taken to the site will be managed appropriately.

We appreciate that residents and businesses may have concerns regarding the changes to this site and we have enclosed a question and answer sheet which gives some more information on concerns that have already been brought to our attention.

You are of course welcome to contact either myself or Laura Samuel, Senior Contracts Officer on the above number with any further questions you may have. We will also be holding a 'drop in' session at the Council's building on Waterloo Road (next to Boys and Boden) on 2<sup>nd</sup> September between 2:00pm and 7:00pm, where you can come and talk to us and look at the design for the site."

Cllr Price had spent considerable time with residents of the North Ward with regard to this matter and who are opposed to this site. The Drop in session was reported as being unhelpful and merely informed residents of the decision. PCC had obtained a Welsh Government grant of £130,000 to secure the Ddole Road site for this operation and confirmed to Cllr Price that this money would not need to be repaid. Cllr Price had received a letter from the Minister who does not seem to be aware of the County Council's change of site plans. He is under the impression that the grant will need to be repaid if the Ddole Road site is not developed. The residents of the North Ward are circulating a petition against this proposal. Cllr Price is also concerned that the current adopters and volunteers for this site will have no future involvement and therefore the much needed revenue received and distributed within the area to groups and organisations will be lost.

**Resolved:** to write to PCC stating that this is not a suitable site for this operation due to it being a residential area and inappropriate. Also that in these austere times the County Council must put safeguards in place to provide funding to the local adopters for distribution.

**c) Play Radnor  
Item Withdrawn**

**d) Leighton Andrews AC/AM – Working with Unitary Authority**

"Thank you for your e-mail of 22 July regarding the relationship between Llandrindod Wells Town Council and Powys County Council.

The Welsh Government recognises the need for clear and open communications between Principal Authorities and Town and Community Councils so that they are able to work together in the interests of the local taxpayer. A charter agreement can be an effective way of setting out how councils work together and you may wish to explore this with Powys County Council.

The duties and powers of Local Authorities are set out in a wide range of legislation and the law allows Authorities considerable discretion regarding how duties may be performed and how powers may be exercised. These choices form part of the considerations for Authorities in reaching decisions about how local resources are prioritised and spent. It is important that, in setting its budget,

each Principal Authority engages with its constituent Town and Community Councils and the local population. The Welsh Government has encouraged Principal Authorities to share learning as to how best to engage with their communities in making budget decisions and we are considering measures to improve engagement in the setting of Local Authority budgets as part of our plans for reforming Local Government in Wales.

You requested a range of financial information. The Welsh Budget is published each year on the Welsh Government's website. It includes details of the Main Expenditure Group (MEG) allocations for each financial year:

<http://gov.wales/funding/budget/?lang=en>

Recognising the responsibility on each Authority to determine local spending, the majority of funding provided to Local Authorities by the Welsh Government is delivered through the annual Local Government Settlement and is unhypothecated. This, combined with the income raised locally, allows Authorities significant flexibility in setting their budgets.

Information about the funding allocations for Powys County Council and the other 21 Principal Authorities in Wales can be found on our website:

<https://statswales.wales.gov.uk/Catalogue/Local-Government/Finance/Settlement/Central-Government-Support/standardspendingassessmentsandcentralgovernmentsupport-by-authority>

The funding provided to Principal Authorities through the Local Government Settlement is distributed according to relative need using a formula which takes account of a wealth of information on demographic, physical, economic and social characteristics. The formula is agreed collectively with Local Government in Wales. Also, whilst the Settlement provides the largest single contribution to Local Government funding, it is not the only source. Authorities need to consider all aspects of their income – including fees and charges, specific grants and council tax – in planning ahead.

There is further information about Local Authority financing and expenditure on our website:

<http://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/local-authority-revenue-outturn-expenditure/?lang=en>

The Welsh Government does not provide general, unhypothecated funding (Revenue Support Grant) to Town and Community Councils. This is because the statutory duties on Local Government in Wales are placed on the Principal Authorities. These Authorities may determine, in agreement with the relevant Town and Community Council, to delegate certain functions to a Town or Community Council. Where responsibility is delegated from a Principal Authority to a Town or Community Council, it is important the two work together to agree an appropriate change in the funding arrangements.

The longer term proposals for reform of local government in Wales, including the plans for local government finance, were set out in our White Paper, *Reforming Local Government: Power to Local People*. The proposals include measures to boost the capacity and capability of Town and Community Councils to provide the leadership required to support local service delivery.

Many councils are simply too small at present. It is essential that community councils strengthen their democratic mandate by involving local people and by ensuring strong governance and financial controls are in place, and that Clerks are professionally qualified. Where this is the case, we will free up Town and Community Councils by giving them the general power of competence.”  
This matter was noted.

**e) Powys County Council – Removal of Banners on A483**

Email from Adam Jervis as follows:

“From our previous reply, Town Council Members will have recognised Powys County Council’s somewhat limited ability to respond regarding this particular issue as it concerns the Trunk road and therefore can only act upon receipt of instructions from the Trunk Road Agency.

With regard to your specific question regarding the removal of the Town Council and Town Council Members’ banners, I have discussed the matter with the Trunk road inspector and am assured that these were not ‘singled out’ for any reason and it was more to do with the timing of the instruction and what banners were present on the Trunk road at that time. To date there has not been any similar instructions issued by the Agency since this occasion.

On County roads for which Powys County Council is the highway authority, we successfully operate a policy much along the lines you describe. “

Cllr Williams and Cllr Price thought that it had been agreed for a meeting to be arranged, however this had not taken place. The Clerk had written to PCC with the outcome as above.

Cllr Price had been informed that there is no policy with regard to this matter, however the email from Adam Jervis clearly states differently. Cllr Price felt there is a need to have some advertising for local promotion.

Cllr Williams did not wish to pursue this matter further.

**f) Mrs D Wharton – Town Bus Service No 46 (see 8a)**

Email as follows:

“As users of this service we wish to suggest possible ways in which some form of transport will continue to be available to residents who like ourselves have no car and need access to shops, doctor's surgery etc.

1. We were interested to read Powys County Council's Cabinet Executive Report of 14th July 2015 (C121-2015) re: Public Transport Budget Services Reductions particularly-

4.2 (3rd para.) "Community Transport Schemes. A desire for more community transport schemes provided there is funding and support given to communities to run them and they can recruit volunteer drivers .There is some scope to expand schemes of this nature but they can be difficult to sustain. Need consistent funding."

2.We understand the present RVS Tuesday service will shortly cease due to lack of funding.

3.Would Powys County Council be prepared to assist funding a community based service say twice weekly with volunteer drivers and passengers prepared to contribute to costs?

4.Lastly we would like to point out how such a transport scheme would benefit the elderly in providing a means of socialising. At present, for instance, several of us who use the bus have further contact in a local cafe."

Cllr Francis had also written a report on this matter to be presented to Council under agenda item TC 91/15 a

Cllr Francis outlined the information in his report and members discussed the issue.

Cllr Price had challenged the PCC decision to withdraw this service as town services in many other towns had not been affected. He has subsequently been informed that a local operator has come forward with a suggestion to retain some form of service in Llandrindod Wells (2 journeys daily on Monday, Wednesday, Friday) on a demand response system. Cllr Price is optimistic that some form of service will be reinstated. He has also been in touch with Mrs Wharton with regard to this.

**Resolved:** to write to Mrs Wharton with the above information.

**g) Chamber of Trade & Tourism – Pavilion**

Letter from Sue Green, Chair as follows:

Councillor Green declared an interest in this matter and left the room whilst discussion took place.

"For your information, over the summer months our Press and Promotion Officer Jeff Green has been working hard endeavouring to save the Pavilion from being sold and return it to a community asset for the people of Llandrindod Wells.

We have now arrived at a situation where we have a number of interested parties interested in forming a charitable trust to oversee the continued use of the building and enable all the previous events and new events to continue to run in the Pavilion.

We currently have the support of Powys County Council, Llandrindod Wells Chamber of Trade & Tourism, the Victorian Festival, Welsh2Day, Steampunk Committee, Tennis Club, Llandrindod Youth Theatre, Guy Roderick, (who helped save the Wyeside), and also interest from the Archery Club and our new MP Chris Davies.

However, to make this work as a true asset for the town, we believe it will have to be used on a daily basis. With this in mind, we hope that both the Town Council and the TIC would consider relocating to the Pavilion for the same rent you currently pay. We believe the increase of office space and improved car parking for visitors to our town would be a major benefit and will enable both organisations to become more visible and have a greater impact on the town. We would hope that you would appreciate the mutual benefit of moving your facilities to the Pavilion in order to anchor in our community centre. We appreciate that this will cause some inconvenience but however we believe this the only way to save the pavilion for the people of Llandrindod Wells.

This year's Victorian Festival clearly demonstrated the unique properties of this historic building and we believe with a decent marketing campaign, this building will return a profit and become a real asset for the town. Powys County Council has offered the Pavilion on a rolling two year trial period. As a charity we would be exempt from business rates and if as requested, they offer it at a peppercorn rent (like the Rock Park), with the Town Councils support, we would be able to meet the financial requirements. There are various possibilities for use of the building including, town council meetings, open public meetings, art gallery, Saturday morning pictures and music and cultural events.

As you're aware, this is a group of concerned residents looking at securing a major asset for the people of Llandrindod Wells. If at any time the town council felt like running the venue, we would be more than happy to work with you."

The Chair asked members to specifically address the request to the Town Council during discussions.

Cllr Francis felt this was an emotive issue as the Town Council would be spending rate payers money and this matter would need considerable thought.

Cllr Price questioned if this was the view of the whole membership of the Chamber of Trade and Tourism, as it had been mentioned to him in the past that local businesses could not see how public authorities are best placed to run operations in direct competition with local businesses.

Cllr Houghton felt that the Town Council should explore this matter, this was echoed by Cllr Williams, Cllr Coleman and Cllr Worgan.

Cllr Millington felt this could be explored, however she has reservations with regard to the pressure this would place on the Town Clerk, and also that the indication is that this would be for 2 years.

**Resolved:** To ask for a meeting with the full membership of the Chamber of Trade and Tourism and representatives from the Town Council.

#### **h) Ysgol Trefonnen – Governorship**

Cllr Millington's term as Governor will expire on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2015. Cllr Millington expressed an interest in being re-elected.

**Resolved:** Cllr Millington to be reappointed as Town Council Governor.

TC 90/15

**Financial Applications**

- a) **Llandrindod Wells Silver Band** – Release of Grant - £1000 -approved
- b) **Eisteddfod Committee** – Release of Grant – Cllr Coleman declared an interest in this matter and left the room whilst discussions took place. £250 - approved
- c) **Twinning Association** – Release of Grant for Hosting - £992 - approved

TC 91/15

**Representatives Reports**

- a) **Town Bus Service (WF)**  
See minute TC 89/15f

TC 92/15

**Planning Applications**

- a) **P/2015/0743** – Full: Erection of one 30.5m to hub (45.07m to tip) wind turbine with control box and associated works (resubmission of P/2014/0384 at Wern, Llanyre, Llandrindod Wells.  
**Resolved:** to object to this application due to the negative visual impact this will have on the residences of Llandrindod Wells. Cllr Meredudd and Cllr Bailey supported this application.

TC 93/15

**Accounts**

The accounts as listed for July and August were approved and signed.

TC 94/15

**Residential Car Parks – Ridgebourne and Tremont Road**

Cllr Rouse declared an interest in this item and left the room whilst discussions took place.

Cllr Price explained PCC's intention to place charges on these two car parks. These car parks are used by local residents who do not have any off-road or roadside parking available to them. Cllr Price and Cllr Worgan felt it is appalling to charge residents for this facility.

Cllr Price felt there would be little cost related to these areas and he had received confirmation that these are not rateable. Cllr Green felt there would be some maintenance costs involved with repairs and resurfacing in future. Cllr Price asked if the Town Council would consider taking over the car parks via Community Asset Transfer. If this is successful the Town Council could consider asking residents to form Trusts to manage the sites.

**Resolved:** to submit 2 Community Asset Transfer Expression of Interest Forms to PCC.

TC 95/15

**Station Crescent Public Toilets - Issues**

The Chair wished to thank Cllr Williams and the Clerk for the work they have carried out throughout the summer recess with regard to the toilets. There has been a tremendous amount of time spent with regard to issues.

Cllr Williams highlighted some of the issues including broken locks, damaged doors, vandalised toilet roll holders, door handles and other minor items. This has been continual. CCTV has now been installed and some incidences have now been reported to the Police, which are being pursued. The Clerk asked members to be vigilant when passing the area and asked members to check on the toilets and report any issues directly back to the Town Council.

Members hoped with the installation of CCTV, the vandalism would now cease.

TC 96/15

**Confidential Matters**

**a) Twinning**

A letter of complaint had been received from a local resident.

**Resolved:** to provide contact details for the relevant PCC Department

**b) Halloween**

Cllr Williams would like to organise two Storytelling Sessions in the newly refurbished Grotto to be funded from his Vice Chairman's Allowance. Members felt this was a great idea.

**c) Community Grant**

This item was withdrawn from discussions

**d) Signal Box Museum**

Concerns over the condition of the Museum.

**Resolved:** to explore handing this over to an outside organisation, to consider selling the Museum, and to look into de-listing the Museum.

Signed: ..... Date: .....