

LLANDRINDOD WELLS TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting held on Tuesday 18th September 2018 in Committee Room A, County Hall

Present: Cllr J Williams, S Deeks-D'Silva, E Worgan, S Meredudd, B Williams, W Curzon, G Price, D Walton, R Evans, J Hawker, K Nicholls

Absent: Cllr L Ward, S Moore

TC 124/18 **Declarations**
Cllr R Evans: 7h – TC 129/18h
Cllr K Nicholls: 9b – TC 131/18b

TC 125/18 **Minutes**
The minutes of the last meeting held on 17th July 2018 were confirmed subject to an amendment. Minutes to be signed following amendment.

TC 126/18 **Clerks Report**

Hanging Baskets

The contractor engaged to water the hanging baskets has done a wonderful job, and I have received so many positive comments about the Town Council installing the baskets, the contractor's work and their general appearance. It's always good to hear nice comments. The baskets have now been removed.

Putting Green

The Putting Green was used by local groups to raise funds through the summer holiday and again lots of great comments were received from residents, visitors and the groups who have raised funds. It was great to see the site used again.

Unfortunately, we were unsuccessful with our grant application to the Lottery Awards for All, however, I will reapply shortly.

It is hoped that drainage, new fencing will be carried out shortly.

Vintage Vehicle Display

This event was held on 25th August and was very successful. Lots of great feedback from exhibitors who all liked the location and some lovely comments from residents and visitors. The Council will have the opportunity shortly to decide if this will continue as an annual event.

The collection on the bus and registration desk raised £207.60 which was donated to Llandrindod Wells First Responders who once again supported the Council at this event. My thanks to Cllr Worgan, Cllr Deek's-D'Silva, Cllr Walton and Cllr Price for organising the event and to those members and volunteers who attended on the day to assist.

Risk Assessment Training

I attended PCC Risk Assessment training, which was excellent and I felt I gained a lot from this day.

All TC Risk Assessments have been undertaken again recently and regraded accordingly. I have also introduced some new ones which will be updated if any changes occur, or annually. This training highlighted many areas of risk, which although I was aware of, I felt needed more in depth focus.

War Memorial Refurbishment & Interpretation Board

The War Memorial is now fully refurbished and looks wonderful. 90% funding was received from the Powys War Memorial Project.

As a separate submission I was successful in obtaining full funding for an Interpretation Board (which I designed as a case) to be sited on the left side of the Memorial replacing the Box hedge which was removed due to being damaged. A Working Group designed inserts for the board which I obtained on magnetic backing so this display can change depending on different themes and commemorations. Full funding for the board, the inserts and plaques was obtained from the Powys War Memorial Project Fund.

It has been agreed with PCC that following the removal of the 2 Box hedges, a layer of concrete and paviors will be laid, one side to house the Interpretation Case and the other to house the single "Contemplation" seat purchased by the Chair. The base and paviors have now been laid and the board and seat have been installed. I have also obtained full funding for these works from the PCC War Memorial Project. The hedges were removed with the agreement of Steve Gealy from Powys County Council, these left many protruding roots which the Vice Chair and I (in the absence of the Chair) felt were a health and safety issue and were subsequently removed.

Diary Dates

The following Town Council events/activities. Members are asked to notify the Clerk if they are available to assist out any or all of the dates:

- Sat 27th October 10am – Poppies on Lamp posts
- Saturday 3rd November – Erection of Christmas Lights on Wellingtonia Tree & Temple Gardens Fir Tree
- Saturday 17th November – Christmas Lights Parade & Switch On (time tba)
- Further date for Festive Lights & Tree installation in Grotto
- Tuesday 27th November – Full Council Finance Committee.

Cllr Nicholls questioned who signed off Risk Assessments, the Clerk confirmed she prepared all Risk Assessments and signed them off.

TC 127/18

Chairmans Report

7th July – Llandrindod Wells Carnival. My wife and I started the day by attending the photo session to crown the new carnival queen. This was followed by judging of the carnival floats and walkers' sections. For the judging it was great to have the new head teacher of Ysgol Calon Cymru and the interim chair of governors join us and speak to the many parents in attendance about the new school. It was a fantastic site to see the carnival procession head through town and the turn out again this year was terrific. My wife and I then went on to crown the new queen at the bandstand. The day ended off with the lorry pull which is always great fun. My thanks go to the committee that do such a great job of running this event and I would like to thank the chairman for his kind words of appreciation for the support I had shown them again this year.

8th-12th July – My family and I, along with several other residents of the town set off for a privately organised and funded trip to the First World War battlefields of Ypres, Somme and Flanders. The main aim of our trip was to trace the graves and commemorative plaques to the fallen soldiers of Llandrindod Wells and Radnorshire. The number of cemeteries and commemorative plaques in the areas are many but the task was taken up by all on the trip. We eventually managed to find 38 of our fallen, including 2 Llandrindod men who are buried side by side. These were recorded for a future exhibition to be held in the town museum over the remembrance period. Myself, as Mayor, and Mr Phil Jones from the Radnorshire museum were chosen to lay wreaths at the nightly remembrance service at the Menin Gate Ypres. I, as Mayor, laid a wreath of thanks to the fallen of Llandrindod Wells and Phil laid a wreath for the fallen of Radnorshire. This was a huge honour in the 100th anniversary year of the ending of WW1 and the first time a Mayor of Llandrindod Wells had laid a wreath at the service. It was especially touching to be approached by many South Wales residents that happened to be at the service, who were so pleased to see Wales represented. Phil and his wife, Amanda, had kept a diary of the trip and submitted it to the local papers to print. What a great advert for Llandrindod Wells and promotion of the 100th anniversary. There was a slight down side to the trip, on my return I was contacted by the Vice Chair to inform me that the Clerk had received some complaints from members that I had laid a wreath on their behalf without telling them, even though I had informed them at the previous meeting I was laying a wreath as the Mayor. A rather sad ending to what was a truly moving and memorable experience.

17th July – Scouts presentation. I was asked to present a group of new scouts with their certificates and join them for their sports event. What a great group and I'm pleased to see their numbers increasing.

17th July – Full town council meeting.

19th July – Meeting residents at the court Lant Avenue.

22nd July – Bracken Trust Singers. A lovely concert was held at the newly refurbished Amphitheatre by the Bracken Trust Singers and the Tenovus singers from Llanidloes. it was a great way to launch the Amphitheatre and I hope that it will be used by more organisations in the future.

22nd July – Personnel committee meeting.

23rd July – Festive lights committee meeting.

24th July – New member induction meeting. Having not met the new councillor I thought it would be good to attend the new member induction the clerk had arranged so I could introduce myself.

25th July – Meeting with the Vice Chair, at his request.

25th July – Citizenship Ceremony at County Hall. I was asked to attend the citizenship ceremony for 2 applicants to become full British citizens. It was great to have some time afterwards to speak to them and their families.

27th July – Line Mangers meeting with the clerk. This had to be cancelled due to circumstances outside my control, but hopefully will be scheduled for the very near future.

31st July – Meeting with the Poppy Collection Organiser to discuss future events as Mayor.

1st August – Meeting with the Tesco Community Champion to discuss upcoming events as Mayor.

4th-18th August – Away

19th August – Welsh Cycling Road Race Championships. I was asked to present the winners with their trophies and medals after the event. It was great to present local man, Tim Davies, with a second-place medal. This is a huge event but had very little support. I spoke to the CEO of Welsh Cycling who would love to work with the town to promote and bring next year's event to the centre of Llandrindod. Maybe this is something that the Town Council would be willing to do going forward.

20th-26th August – Llandrindod Wells Victorian festival.

Another busy week for the town with the return of familiar faces that support the festival every year. I had the honour of meeting Queen Victoria at the train station and introducing her to our MP Chris Davies and AM Kirsty Williams. This was followed by the opening ceremony at the Bandstand and much to my surprise I was Knighted by her majesty. All great fun to start off the week and pleasing to see the people coming out to support the event. I attended the festival every day in Victorian costume along with my family when time allowed. It is always nice to have the opportunity to speak to the visitors and get their feedback on the town and festival. I had for the most part good feedback on the town and festival. The church again did a fantastic job with their display and café and I would like to say a special thank you to the ladies that made up the Mayors sponsored flower display. If you didn't get to see it they had arranged the flowers on a park bench which was fantastic. We also attended the world premiere of Gerald Dickens Tale of Two Cities production at the Pavilion. A fantastic one-man performance by Gerald and it was greatly received by all in attendance. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend the Grand Ball, due to family commitments, but have had reports that it was a great success. It's great to see the grand ball back at its true home in the pavilion. The week ended with the torch parade to the Lake and the Firework Display, sponsored by the Town Council this year. It was a spectacular way to end the week. I would like to send my thanks to all of the festival committee and friends that worked so hard during the week and the previous months to make the festival such a success.

28th August– Mid Wales Journal. Victorian Festival feedback.

28th August – Community Engagement Committee meeting at the Pavilion.

29th August – Meeting with Tesco Community Champion. Invitation to attend future events as Mayor.

3rd Sept – Town Council Business Development Meeting.

4th Sept- Twinning visit. Welcoming get together for our twin town of Bad Rappenau guests at the Rock Park. It was great to see old friends and meet new ones as they arrived in the Rock Park from a long day of travel.

5th Sept – Guided tour of Llandrindod. We took our twin town guests on a guided tour of the town and introduced them to many of the interesting sights. A particular favourite was the Owl in the Grotto and the Wellingtonia tree outside the Council office. Whilst at the grotto the Vice Chair was dealing with the builders who were carrying out work to the new paviers and asked for some advice. In the evening my family and I held a barbecue for a group of ten visitors at our home.

6th Sept – Met at the Lake to see off the German group on their day trip to Welshpool. My Wife and I took another group on a tour to Water Break its Neck and then Hereford Cathedral. In the evening some of the group attended the summer season show at the Albert Hall.

7th Sept – My wife and I took some of the group to Devils Bridge and then met the rest of the guests at Aberystwyth. We left the group to prepare for the evening meal in Crossgates Community Centre. A great evening was had by guests and hosts. This included singing and dancing in German and English.

8th Sept – Everyone met at the Lakeside to say farewell to our German guests and have pictures taken. They left with happy memories of their time spend in Llandrindod and look forward to returning next year. This ended a very busy week.

The Chair updated members on the Llandrindod Wells Raft Race being organized by him as Mayor. There are now 13 entries and it looks like being a good day. All members are welcome to attend. Members had already agreed for the toilets to remain on free pay for the event.

The Chair ask for approval for the use of the Walkie Talkies and Defibrillator. This was agreed by all.

TC 128/18 **Public Speaking**
None.

TC 129/18 **Correspondence**

a) Llandrindod Wells Eisteddfod Committee – Thanks

Letter of thanks for the grant allocation for 2018/19. This was noted.

b) Armed Forces Covenant Trust – The Battle’s Over Silhouettes

The Clerk had obtained grant funding for the purchase of 10 Silhouettes which have now arrived in the office. Included in the Clerk’s plan for submissions was to host these at the October and November Town Council meetings; at the Remembrance Day Parade and also at Royal British Legion Commemoration events. Members felt this was a good idea.

Cllr Hawker using Hash Tags on Social Media to promote this and the work and involvement of the Council.

c) Cllr T Taylor – HOWLTA Routes

Approach with regard to increasing the rail services and speed of trains on the Heart of Wales Line. Cllr Walton mentioned the imminent changes to service provider.

Cllr Price suggested that in view of Cllr Walton's interest in trains and his membership on the Transport Group he would be the ideal member to liaise with Cllr Taylor on the Town Councils behalf and report back.

Resolved: Cllr Walton to act as liaison.

d) Planning Aid Wales – Training Event – 28th November 2018

The Introduction to Planning event will take place in Llandrindod.

Resolved: Anyone wishing to attend should contact the Clerk.

e) Planning Aid Wales – Section 106 Training – 18th October 2018

The Clerk indicated she wished to attend. It was felt that this training would not be relevant and an element of Section 106 Training would be covered in the event on 28th November.

Resolved: No one to attend.

f) One Voice Wales – Training Courses

The Clerk had previously circulated a list of imminent training courses.

Resolved: Anyone wishing to attend should contact the Clerk. Clerk to obtain the cost of running an in house course on Module 18 Effective Staff Management following a suggestion from Cllr Price.

g) One Voices Wales – AGM Motions

The following motions will be presented at the One Voice Wales AGM. The Council voted individually on each motion to give Cllr Meredudd a mandate to vote as Town Council representative at the AGM:

1. Barry Town Council

We call upon all members of One Voice Wales to support and adopt all campaigns that actively promote initiatives within their communities to rid beaches, streets, parks, hedges and riverbanks of the plastic litter scourge:

Remove single-use plastic items from their own premises

Encourage and support local shops and businesses to use sustainable alternatives to plastic

Promote campaigns and events to highlight the damage that plastic waste is doing to the countryside, coastlines and towns

Welsh Town and Community Councils to strive to achieve a 'plastic free' status award. **Support**

2. Llangynog Community Council

"One Voice Wales acknowledges the need for the implementation of countermeasures aimed at reducing the damaging impact Mega Dairy farming

(CAFO) operations are having on the Welsh rural communities and their environment and will actively lobby Welsh Government to develop policy and procedures to address the situation." **Abstain**

3. Machynlleth Town Council

This council urges One Voice Wales to lobby the Welsh government to introduce without delay, legislation that will ensure that those communities who are losing or who have lost their high street banking services due to closure are enabled and assisted to set up, accommodate and promote community banking initiatives.

Support

4. Peterston Super Ely Community Council

One Voice Wales calls on the Welsh Government to lead on a 20mph default for restricted roads (ie those with lighting) with a view to reduce road danger where people live, work, shop and learn as soon as possible. **Abstain**

5. Tredegar Town Council, Pencoed Town Council and Wrexham Flint Area Committee Composite Motion

One Voice Wales recognises that the current environment of financial austerity is having a profound impact on the ability of Unitary Authorities to continue to support non-statutory service provision. Consequently One Voice Wales calls upon Welsh Government to:

- ☐ Put in place a financial programme to enable Community and Town Councils to have available funded resources to enable the efficient and effective transition of services from Unitary Authorities to the community and town council sector ☐
- ☐ Review the current Public Service Board representation to ensure in future community and town councils are represented on all such bodies across Wales.

Support

6. One Voice Wales Motion "That membership fees are uplifted by up to 4% for the financial year 2019-20. **Against.**

h) Powys County Council – Active Travel Initiative

Cllr R Evans declared an interest in this item and left the room whilst discussions took place. In view of the imminent planning application it was decided to make no comment.

Resolved: No comment.

TC 130/18

Planning Applications

None.

TC 131/18

Applications for Financial Assistance

a) Tremont Wombles – Application for Grant

Application for grant to purchase gardening equipment for the group who are maintaining the roundabout and play area within Tremont Park.

Resolved: to offer to purchase the lawn mower as quoted at £390.83 plus VAT to be loaned to the Tremont Wombles, which could then be used by other local groups. The Tremont Wombles would be responsible for storage and maintenance.

b) 1st Maelog Guides – Application for Grant

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

Application for new badges, handbooks and equipment.

Resolved: to award the full grant of £254.55

c) Jude Boutle – Llandrindod Wellness Routes – Application

Resolved: to award a grant of £150 towards the cost of signage. This money to be released upon receipt of an invoice from the supplier to the value of the grant amount. It was also suggested that Jude contact the Active Travel Officers within Powys County Council to see if Jude is able to access their project for some additional grant funding.

TC 132/18 **Finances**

a) To approve the payments for July 2018

The payments for July 2018 were approved and signed.

b) To approve the payments for August 2018

The payments for August 2018 were approved and signed

TC 133/18 **Town Council Vacancy South 2 Ward – Co-option**

One application for co-option was received.

Resolved: to appoint Allan Curtis as member for South 2 Ward

TC 134/18 **Pre Nomination Pack**

The Clerk in discussion with the Chair had prepared an Information Pack to be available to anyone who is interested in becoming a member of the Town Council. The draft was presented for discussion. The Chair thanked the Clerk for her work on this.

Resolved: to adopt this pack and issue, as suggested by the Clerk, to potential candidates.

TC 135/18 **Town Council Vacancy South 1 Ward – Co-option**

PCC had notified the Town Council that no call for an election had been made.

Therefore, the Council is permitted to enter into the co-option process. The draft advert was approved with a closing date of Tuesday 9th October 2018 at noon.

Resolved: to advertise for co-option.

TC 136/18 **Vintage Vehicle Display**

Cllr Deeks-D'Silva reported as a member of the Working Group on the recent display. This had been a real success and had come in almost £500 under budget, this included some banners and signage which could be used for future events.

With regard to the issue with parking in the Welsh Government Car Park; Cllr Deeks'D'Silva had spoken with Julie Christopher from Welsh Government to inform her that an email had been sent in early April to another member of staff, but unfortunately this did not reach her. He apologised verbally on behalf of the Group and asked if she required a written apology. She confirmed that she was happy to accept a verbal apology. Therefore, the matter is now settled.

Cllr Deeks-D'Silva asked if the Chair could forward a copy of the initial message received from Julie Christopher to the Clerk to go on file. The Chairman agreed. The Chair felt lessons could be learned from this and in future follow up emails should be sent to ensure permission is obtained.

TC 137/18 **Community Engagement/Social Media Working Group**

a) Appoint Member to Group

Cllr Nicholls had decided to step back from this group. No other member expressed an interest in joining. The group will now consist of Cllr J Williams, Cllr S Deeks-D'Silva, Cllr B Williams, Cllr J Hawker, Cllr L Ward, Cllr S Meredudd.

b) Community Engagement Update

Cllr Hawker presented the amended Community Engagement Strategy which had been amended by the Working Group.

Resolved: to adopt this Strategy.

TC 138/18 **Noticeboard – Lake Park**

Cllr Hawker had identified a need for noticeboard at the Lake Park, sited either at the Putting Green or on PCC land, which would obviously require permission from PCC. He felt there were 2 options. Option 1 to remove existing noticeboard and posts sited opposite the entrance to Co-op and re-site this, or Option 2 to purchase a new board.

Cllr Price suggested purchasing a wall mounted board to be sited on the toilet block.

Resolved: Chair, Clerk & Cllr Hawker to arrange to meet at the Lake to look at possible options.

TC 139/18 **Litter Picking – Trefonen**

Cllr Hawker mentioned that a young lady had been voluntarily litter picking on the Trefonen Estate for some time. Cllr Hawker suggested that the Town Council do something to mark her contribution.

Cllr Price thanked Cllr Hawker for highlighting this and suggested the young lady be invited to the next meeting to receive a card and possibly a gift. The Clerk reminded members that the Council is not permitted to support an individual, however this could be done personally.

Resolved: Clerk to contact members to see if they wish to make a small contribution towards a gift.

TC 140/19 **Christmas Fayre – Sat 24th November**

Following a recent meeting the Clerk had provisionally reserved a table at the above event in the Metropole. Cllr Meredudd would be happy to host a Town Council stand at this event. The Chair felt that all members must show a commitment to attend to represent the Council.

Cllr B Williams felt that a simple questionnaire could be given out.

Cllr Hawker felt that Council could have a photo frame e.g. #llandrindodchristmas.

Resolved: Clerk to confirm the booking and draw up a rota for members to attend.

TC 141/19 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 and personnel content.

TC 142/18 Confidential Minutes

a) Damage – Fairybell Tree

The Chair updated members on this matter.

Resolved: to authorize the Chair to complete the Satisfaction Survey on behalf of the Town Council. Cllr Deeks-D’Silva abstained from the vote.

b) Town Council Transport

As Cllr Ward was unable to attend the meeting this matter would be deferred.

c) Community Asset Transfer

Resolved: to agree the Heads of Terms submitted by PCC.

d) Putting Green

The Clerk had confirmed that offer of the £15,000 CRG grant is subject to a time limit and that the project must be completed and the grant claimed by 1st March 2019.

The Clerk had also contacted PCC to establish the area covered by the Tesco Section 106 monies and assurance was received that this money covered the Putting Green area.