

LLANDRINDOD WELLS TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting held on Tuesday 21st February 2017 in Committee Room A, County Hall

Present: Cllr J Williams, E Worgan, C Rouse, P Hill, S Burgoyne, B Williams, G Price, S Meredudd, R Houghton, W Franics, J Green

Apologies: Cllr S Dorkenoo

Absent: Cllr B Makusha, S Millington

TC 12/17 **Declarations**

The following declarations were made:

Cllr J Green – 7a – Street Naming Pentrosfa

Cllr E Worgan – 10a – Planning Application P/2017/0193

TC 13/17 **Presentation - Fairtrade**

The Chairman welcomed Louise Tarling and Monica O’Dea to the meeting to make a presentation on behalf of Llandrindod Fairtrade Group. General introductions were made.

Monica began by thanking the Council for the invitation to attend the meeting and for continuing to support Fairtrade as a Council.

She had brought various Fairtrade food and non-food items to the meeting which can be obtained a shops within town. To obtain status as a Fair Trade supplier which can then be included in the Fairtrade leaflet a shop will need to stock 4 Fairtrade food items or 2 Fairtrade non-food items. The following businesses supply Fairtrade products:

The Herb Garden, Metropole hotel, Sugar & Spice, Portland House Tea Room, Van’s Good Food Shop, Oxfam, Spar (JO Davies), Hodges, Boots, Aldi, Tesco.

Monica read out a Fairtrade story for members interest.

Louise mentioned that to buy Fairtrade is a relatively simple shopping choice with a small premium which supports so many projects in other countries.

The Fairtrade Steering Group meet five times each year to look at ideas for promoting Fair Trade with a focus on Fairtrade Fortnight. The theme of this for 2017 is “Take a Break” and events and activities will be run throughout the fortnight which will include work with Messy Church and Primary Schools. To promote the theme, the visitors handed out Fairtrade Chocolate Bars to members.

There are some challenges with the campaign to persuade supermarkets to stock Fairtrade products and the group feels they need to reach the next level within stores to conquer this.

The formula for the premium is complex and information on this and other matters can be obtained from the Fairtrade Foundation website - <http://www.fairtrade.org.uk/>

The guests circulated leaflets to all members and copies of books to the Clerk.

The Chairman thanked Louise and Monica for attending the meeting and giving an interesting presentation.

TC 14/17

Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting held on 17th January 2017 were confirmed and signed subject to an amendment.

TC 15/17

Clerk's Report/Information from Meeting:

May 2017 Elections

I will be attending the 2017 Election Briefing meeting on 1st March 2017 at County Hall along with our Chair. Election packs for existing members will be available from the Town Council office from 2nd March. The onus will be on individual members to collect an Election Nomination Pack. Once completed these must be submitted to Powys County Council by the individual member, this cannot be the responsibility of the Clerk.

Town Council Property Inspections

Please can I remind those members who agreed to weekly inspect Town Council property to provide me with the completed Weekly Inspection Forms which were issued some months ago.

Bandstand

Some local residents decorated the Bandstand for Valentine's Day as a thank you to the Town Council and Town. This was a lovely thought and I thank them very much

TC 16/17

Chairman's Announcements.

11th Jan – Twinning Association meeting.

17th Jan – Town Council full meeting.

20th Jan – Llandrindod Theatre Company Panto. It's that time of year again when our town's very own talented group put on the panto at the Albert Hall. It was great to see the support that the town give to this annual event. Well done to all of the actors, director, lighting and props guys and girls you did our town proud again.

21st Jan – Meeting with Flo Greaves to loan gazebos and chairs for the Pomarium.

21st Jan – Llandrindod Wells Wassailing. Attended the first wassailing at the Pomarium Community Orchard. What a fantastic event with over 100 people coming from town and further afield to sing, dance and sample a few cups of cider. We were joined by the Mari Llwyd from Llandovery to lead us in awakening the trees and encouraging them to provide a good harvest this coming year.

A very well done to the organisers for pulling so many people together for the first wassail. I look forward to next year which promises to be even bigger.

25th Jan – Planter meeting. Meeting with the Clerk and Steve Smith (Gardener) to look at the sites for the new planters and also the North Road Roundabout planting ideas to pass back to Full Council for approval.

28th Jan – Met with Flo Greaves to return the gazebos and chairs to the container.

1st Feb – Youth Restorative Justice work. As most of you will be aware the planned painting at the Lake Toilets was cancelled at the last minute by the Youth Service Team. This was very disappointing as I had hoped it would be beneficial to all concerned.

7th Feb – Meeting with Tim from New Life Church. I was asked to meet with Tim from the church to hear his ideas around the threat to the town Arlais Day Care Centre.

7th Feb – Town Council Business Development Meeting.

8th Feb – Meeting with Clerk.

9th Feb – Meeting with Clerk.

10th Feb – Meeting with Cllr Carmichael and Cllr Rouse. Meeting between myself (Chair), Cllr Worgan (Vice Chair), Cllr Carmichael, Cllr Rouse and the Clerk. This meeting was cancelled as Cllr Carmichael and Cllr Rouse did not wish to attend.

12th Feb – Repair to Signal Box Museum. On doing my weekly check of the Signal Box I found that the lower door and frame had been kicked in. This left the bottom of the Signal Box totally open to the elements and anyone wishing to enter. I carried out emergency repairs to secure the box.

Also, whilst in that area I checked the Station Crescent Toilets only to find that the lock had been tampered with causing the door not to lock. This was repaired and is now working, I would ask all Councillors to please just check any Town Council assets when passing them and report any damage to the Clerk.

13th Feb – Llandrindod Eisteddfod AGM. Attended the Llandrindod Children's Eisteddfod AGM

Cllr Rouse commented that she was surprised to see listed a meeting which did not take place. The meeting was, to all intents and purposes, a private meeting which did not involve any other Council members, only Chris Carmichael and herself. By listing it, it has the potential to invite comment and questions from members. It will also be in the public domain as it will be on the Town Council website.

The Chairman responded reminding members that his report is for information only and is a record of the events and meetings attended as Chair and also includes meetings which are cancelled including the Restorative Justice session.

The Chair confirmed that cancelled meetings are included in the list, as he is self-employed and these involve him cancelling work and incurring in a possible loss of earnings.

TC 17/17

Correspondence

a) Powys County Council – Street Naming Pentrosfa

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

The following email was received:

“Thank you for your response of the 3rd February, which underwent further consideration. Unfortunately with Mrs Richards still a living person and still actively involved in the community it is not considered appropriate at this time to name the street Richards Way.

I can therefore confirm that a decision has been made to name the new development.

1-29 Dolydd Pentrosfa
Llandrindod Wells

Although the Town Councils suggestion to name the development Richards Way was unsuccessful this time around this does not preclude you from making this suggestion again in the future. However, as previously advised any suggestion for naming a street after a person must be supported with a detailed case stating why the name should be considered.”

Members discussed this matter and felt that a poor excuse was provided for not agreeing to the Town Council’s suggestion. The Chairman referred members to the naming of Thompson Way in Llanyre.

Resolved: to write to PCC expressing the Councils disappointment over the decision and pointing out the precedent set by the naming of Thompson Way.

b) Powys County Council – Draft Powys Well-Being Assessment 2017

The Clerk encouraged members to undertake this survey individually.

c) One Voice Wales- Membership Renewal

The Powys PSB agreed a draft Well-being Assessment on 2nd February 2017. This is now out for final consultation through a number of channels including local events across 13 Powys localities. As part of this consultation we would like to invite feedback from yourselves regarding the assessment.

You can access the assessment via the following link:

<http://www.powys.gov.uk/en/corporate/find-out-about-consultations-in-powys/well-being-assessment-survey/>

Cllr Price felt that the Clerk and members are using the services of PCC staff for advice and information and therefore felt that the support of One Voice Wales was not required.

Cllr Meredudd, the Town Council representative highlighted the benefits of being members of OVW, particularly the benefit of their lobbying skills with Welsh Government.

Resolved: to renew membership for 2017/18.

d) Victorian Festival – Town Council Grant

The following email was received from Christopher Hartley, Festival Administrator:

I was very dismayed to read your email.

We stated that unless we can get sponsorship that it would probably not go ahead. In the meanwhile the company who do the fireworks for us have said they will do a firework display logo for a main sponsor, which we have found. Would it not have been better for the town council to make a grant to the festival to cover the display?

I thank the Town Council for their interest in providing the firework display. We already have a sponsor for it and the balance will be from the PCC grant.

We therefore have to refuse letting the town council take this on; sponsorship has been found and the firework display will go ahead as part of the Victorian Festival as normal.”

The Clerk also read out a subsequent email which had been received on 17th February 2017:

“The Victorian Festival Leadership Team discussed your email at their meeting on Wednesday 15th February 2017.

The firework display was discussed after the previous minutes were changed to state the following word "if sponsorship is not gained".

In essence sponsorship was found.

The team confirmed that the Fireworks Display would go ahead under the auspices of the Victorian Festival, but were unanimous in offering their thanks to the town councils gesture.

It was further felt that an informal meeting could take place with yourself, the Mayor and myself to discuss the Festival, and any involvement that may be forthcoming from the Town Council in this prestigious event now in its 36th year.”

Cllr Houghton, the Town Council representative for the Victorian Festival read out a statement:

“Chris Hartley the Festival Director wishes to apologise for a misunderstanding in reaction to Jane’s email.

In the past the Town Council has sponsored the festival for £3000 to use on the festival projects that the Festival Committee votes for.

This year the committee voted to replace the fireworks with a procession finishing at the green with entertainment food and drink.

It has been decided to retain the fireworks as the traditional finish to Victorian Week.

Chris Hartley has brought the Festival back from the brink to a point at which it is now solvent.

Last year when Chris and the present Festival Committee took over there was only £1000 in the kitty. This was insufficient funds to run the festival to level that was needed.

In the past PCC used to give £15000 it then went down to £11000, then to 8,000 until its present contribution is £5700.

The Town in the past has given £3000 as an outright donation to the running costs, this year's Festival will be a vast improvement and is hoped to be the best yet, the main problem is always funds.

A letter was sent last Oct to the Mayor and Jane but no answer came back.

If we could be sponsored by the Town Council this would be published in all our literature also a large banner on the green indicating the council's involvement, although we could get by without sponsorship from the town the funds would be used to add to the amount of public entertainment and the fireworks to make this year's Festival a memorable event.

Once again I hope you all understand where I am coming from and will agree to donate some sponsorship to add your support to put us once again firmly on the map of major events in Wales."

The Clerk and Chairman clarified the situation as mentioned above and the Clerk confirmed that an application had been received which was discussed by the Finance Committee and then Full Council who agreed to discuss specific sponsorship in January 2017, which was done as the last meeting. The Town Council had agreed to run and fund the fireworks to support the Festival, as Cllr Houghton, the Town Council representative had informed members that the fireworks were not taking place.

Members were disappointed with the initial response received from the Festival Administrator.

Cllr B Williams informed members that his wife is a member of the Committee so he would be abstaining from the voting process. He felt that he would like to see this matter move forward and would like to offer the Festival a grant to spend as they wish to do so.

Considerable discussion took place on this matter and Cllr Worgan referred members to the standard process whereby a grant application for a specific item is made with supporting information which is presented to the Council for consideration..

Resolved: to write to the Festival Committee suggesting that they submit a full application for a grant to include the specific purpose of the grant and the costs for the March meeting.

Cllr Green left the meeting due to work commitments.

e) Cllr Chris Carmichael - Resignation

The Clerk read out the letter from Cllr Carmichael:

“Having thought long and hard about this whole saga regarding the car parks, I understand that the Town Council feel unable or unwilling to simply let Powys County Council off the financial hook by paying for something that should not be paid for. But by making that response they are declaring that an unfair act is being made by Powys and to simply step away from it it, in my opinion, totally against the ethos of the Town Council. As a Town Councillor I am unable to protest against the discrimination that Powys is perpetrating against some of its residents, so in light of this I am tendering my resignation from Town Council forthwith.”

Resolved: to write a letter of thanks to Chris for his work on behalf of the Town Council.

TC 18/17 **Applications for Financial Assistance**

a) Heart of Wales Line Walking Trail

Resolved: to award of grant of £100

b) New Life Church – Defibrillator

Members discussed this matter and felt there was a need to obtain further information.

Resolved: Clerk to request further information on actual cost and details of funds raised so far.

TC 19/17 **Representatives Reports**

a) Llandrindod Eisteddfod Committee - JW

TC 20/17 **Planning Applications**

P/2017/0193 Householder: Erection of an extension at 18 Oakridge Drive Llandrindod Wells. Cllr Worgan declared an interest in this matter and left the room whilst discussions took place. **No objection.**

TC 21/17 **Accounts**

The accounts for January 2017 were approved and signed.

TC 22/17

Budget 2017/18 – Motion

Cllr Price commented in view of the Council's democratic decision not to fund the cost of permits for the 2 car parks, he felt that it is wrong for the Town Council to collect money from local residents for a service that will not now be taken over.

Cllr Price submitted the following written motion:

"Having set aside money within the 2017/18 budget to cover the cost for the Tremont Road and Ridgebourne car parks. Town Councillors voted against paying the sum requested from PCC of £3640 (£1170 Ridgebourne Car Park & £2470 Tremont Road Car Park) by majority vote at its meeting on 17th January 2017.

I therefore propose that the Town Council budget 2017/18 be reduced by £3640."

Resolved: This was agreed unanimously. A precept amendment will be sent to PCC for £145,973.

TC 23/17

Purdah

The Clerk confirmed the date for commencement of Purdah within Powys is 17th March 2017. The following statement was circulated to all members:

"Purdah covers the period between the notice of election and polling day and during this period the Town Council, or staff should not in the course of their business promote any party or candidate, it must remain impartial. The Town Council should not use its resources to promote or provide publicity to one candidate or political party or its policies over another. The support to your current Councillors should only extend to activities involved in discharging their role as Town Councillors and should not involve any personal promotion or campaign activity."

TC 24/17

North Avenue Roundabout

The Clerk had been asked to provide a Traffic Management Plan. Following advice from the gardener, the Clerk notified members that the installation of a central hanging basket structure would require daily watering which he felt was difficult to sustain. He suggested a central raised bed. Members agreed with this.

Resolved: to issue an amended plan to Powys County Council and a Traffic Management Plan.

TC 25/17

Town Promotional Leaflet

The Chair informed members that although High School had initially been interested in preparing a leaflet, he had recently been contacted by the Art Teacher to say that this would no longer be possible.

Members discussed the leaflet and some expressed an interest on receiving the template and working on this.

Resolved: Clerk to circulate the template to those members who expressed an interest. This matter will be discussed at the next meeting.

TC 26/17

Youth Market

The Chair announced that the Llandrindod Wells Youth Market had won a Business Award for Mentoring which had been presented in Cardiff. Members congratulated the Youth Market team.

Confidential Minutes

TC 27/17

a) Restorative Justice – Station Crescent Toilets

Resolved: to suggest the Youth Restorative Justice team contact Friends of the Rock Park to offer the services of the youths.

b) Oxford Road Grass Cutting – Quotation

Resolved: to contact an external contractor to obtain a quote for the works.

c) Town Council Maintenance Contractor

Cllr Francis had put forward a proposal which will be discussed at the next meeting.

d) Royal British Legion Event

Notification of a future event.

Resolved: to write to RBL Branch to offer the Town Council's full support.