

LLANDRINDOD WELLS TOWN COUNCIL

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

Present: Cllr J Williams, E Worgan, C Rouse, J Green, B Williams, W Francis, S Dorkenoo, G Price, B Makusha, R Houghton, S Meredudd

Apologies: Cllr P Hill

Absent: Cllr S Millington, S Burgoyne

TC 28/17 Declarations

The following declarations were made:

Cllr J Green – 9a Planning Application P/2017/0198

TC 29/17 Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting held on 21st February 2017 were confirmed and signed.

TC 30/17 Clerk's Report/Information from Meeting:

May 2017 Elections

Our Chairman attended the Election briefing on my behalf on 1st March 2017. I now have nomination papers for all members who wish to apply for election. Can members please collect these at the end of the meeting if they haven't already done so.

Street Naming Pentrosfa

No further response has been received from Powys County Council. However a very interesting article was presented in the Mid Wales Journal on Friday 3rd March regarding this. Thanks to Karen Compton for this.

2017/18 Budget

I have now received confirmation from Powys County Council that the Town Council's request to reduce its precept has been accepted.

Purdah

May I remind members that Purdah within Powys commenced on 17th March 2017.

TC 31/17 Chairman's Announcements.

15th Feb – Independent Remuneration Panel Meeting. Attended the IRP meeting in Abergavenny with the Clerk. A very interesting meeting and great to speak with other Councils from around the South Wales area.

15th Feb – Twinning Meeting. The meeting mainly focused on the visits this year with our twinned town of Contrexville. As this is the 25th anniversary of our twinning agreement there will be celebrations over their visit and it is hoped that Town Council will be involved.

17th Feb - Meeting with Healthmatic. A meeting with the Clerk and Mal from Healthmatic to discuss the situation with the toilet blocks.

20th Feb – Young Farmers Clubs Entertainment Competition. Invited to the start of the YFC week of competitions at the Albert Hall Theatre. Jo and I had really been looking forward to this event, which is always a great week, but unfortunately, we were not able to attend due to sickness.

21st Feb – Town Council Full meeting.

27th Feb – Invitation to attend the opening of the new defibrillator at the Outdoor Bowling Club. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend due to a prior engagement, but I would like to say what a vital resource this is for our town and visitors and I hope to see more of these lifesaving devices being placed around town.

27th Feb – Meeting between Llandrindod Wells and Builth Wells High Schools.

28th Feb – Cabinet meeting at County hall to decide the future of Llandrindod and Builth High Schools. Attended the meeting and along with the Mayor of Builth Wells to show our support for the future of both schools. It was very disappointing to note that only one of our town County Councillors, Cllr Price, came to speak on behalf of our school. It was also sad to note that no other members of the Town Council came to show their support. The decision was to close both schools from 31st August 2018 and to reopen as one school on the 1st September 2018.

1st March – Meeting at County Hall. An information meeting to inform Town and Community Councils about the procedures and important dates for the up and coming elections. The Clerk was unable to attend due to sickness.

6th March – Carnival meeting. I was asked to attend the carnival meeting to discuss this year's event and give feedback from last year. The small group of volunteers are doing a fantastic job in organising this event, which is the biggest day of the year for our town. Well done everyone.

10th March – Community delivery meeting. Attended a meeting in Brecon with the Clerk and the main leaders from Powys County Council to discuss community delivery. A frank discussion was had between all who attended and the members of the authority, around how we have found the whole process so far. Everybody put their points across and these were noted. We will see how things progress from this point onwards.

13th March – Crabtree Green Allotment Tenants Meeting – St Francis Centre.

TC 32/17

Correspondence

a) One Voice Wales – Larger Councils Status

Notification that the criteria for a larger Council has been reduced to 2500 households. Therefore Llandrindod Wells now falls within this category.

Also the opportunity to nominate one member and the Clerk to represent the Town Council at regional meetings.

Resolved: Cllr Meredudd to attend the first meeting in April 2017.

b) Dod Town Extreme – Dissolution

Email received as follows:

“It is with regret that I'm emailing to inform you that the decision has been taken to dissolve Dod Town Extreme. This decision has not been taken lightly, however we find ourselves again in a position where we have no input and support from the community and responsibilities left to just two of us. As a committee we feel without the support of the local community the aims of creating MTB trails and building a skate park in Llandrindod are unachievable. The group has been let down over the years by those who claimed to have the drive to see such projects through but in reality became uninterested when there was work to be done.

We'd like to thank you for your input and support over the years and we're really sorry to not have the capacity to see things through. As per our constitution funds held by DTE will be donated to a group that has similar aims, so if anyone is aware of any local projects please point them in our direction.”

The Chair and members agreed with was sad to receive this notification. Cllr Green asked if the Town Council had allocated monies to this project. The Clerk confirmed that the Town Council had funded the Feasibility Study and had committed money towards expenses and marketing, however none of this had been claimed.

c) Powys County Council – Monday Waste Collections

Notification that Monday waste collections will cease on 1st April 2017 this is to endeavour to make a cost saving of £500,000. This was noted.

d) Boundary Commission – 2018 Review of Parliamentary Constituencies

Notification of a consultation period from 28th February to 27th March 2017, details at www.bcw2018.org.uk. This was noted.

e) HOWLTA – Thanks

Thanks for the grant of £100.

f) Powys County Council – High School Consultation Outcome

Notification on the Cabinet decision with regard to the schools which can be viewed at

<http://powys.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?Cld+137&Mld+3248&Ver+4&LLL+1>

This was noted.

TC 33/17

Applications for Financial Assistance

a) Victorian Festival – Grant Application

Application to fund the cost of the Twin Top Entertainment Marquee for the Festival of £2503.08

A lengthy discussion took place over this application, all members gave their input into discussions.

Some members were in favour of awarding the full grant, however others were in favour of the Town Council organising a Vintage Vehicle Display for the Saturday of the Festival week to run in Middleton Street. The Chairman felt that this could be in memory of former Cllr Ken Richards who had organised this display for many years. The Town Council could also hire a Vintage Bus to give free rides from town and around the Lake.

Cllr Houghton, the Town Council representative on the Victorian Festival Committee stated that the tent would be full of activities all week, he felt there is a lot of animosity against the Victorian Festival and stated that the Festival would be better this year than last year. He felt the Town Council should give the Festival the benefit of the doubt and let it drive forward. Cllr Meredudd felt that the Town Council needs to be careful and hand this situation with kid gloves.

Resolved: to award the Victorian Festival a grant of £1500 to partially sponsor the Twin Top Marquee. Also to organise a Vintage Vehicle Display and book a Vintage Bus for the Saturday of the Festival. Town Council to liaise with the Victorian Festival Committee. Cllr B Williams abstained from the vote.

b) Radnor Fringe Festival – Event Sponsorship

Application for sponsorship of the 2017 Festival of £500.

Resolved: to award an Event Sponsorship Grant from 2016/17 of £500.

TC 34/17

Representatives Reports

- a) **Trawsnewid Llandrindod Transition – Food Assembly (SM)**
- b) **Trawsnewid Llandrindod Transition – AGM (SM)**
- c) **Brecon & Radnor Area One Voice Wales (SM)**
- d) **Consultation Seminar Boundary Commission (SM)**

TC 35/17

Planning Applications

- a) **P/2017/0198** - Outline: Erection of 4 detached single storey dwellings and formation of vehicular access and associated works at land at Pentrosfa Road for PAR Homes.

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

Email received from Mr S Hawkes as follows:

“I am uncertain of the degree to which a Welsh Town Council can influence the decision of a Local Planning Authority, and in particular those decisions of Powys County Council.

I know, that as Town Councillors, you will be aware that this combined site has had a very chequered Planning history (including a successful Planning Inspectorate visit – the conclusions reached by the Inspector, and the results of the Enquiry, are seemingly being ignored by the Local Planning Authority).

Current On-Site and Proposed Construction Activities

- P / 2015 / 0930 relates to a Site which was outside of then Development Boundary when permission was awarded.
- P/ 2015 / 1212 relates to a Site which was outside of the revised Development Boundary when permission was awarded.
- **P / 2017 / 0198** relates to a proposed Site which, could at least be called Speculative and, will be well outside of the new proposed Development Boundary if permission is awarded.

Site Vehicle Density

The original road layout was designed for 23 properties, with the road design specification anticipating a small number of additional dwellings. When the road served 142 properties the junction was extended on safety grounds. No further road design improvement was made. When all the Highland Moors schemes are completed, 190 properties will be served by this road and its junction with the Trunk Road network. A road designed to cater for traffic of originally 110 property vehicle movements a day, will now be expected to cater for well over 3 times that number.

Affordable Housing for our Residents

PAR Homes are expecting to build some 49 dwellings on the extended Site. These are almost all 3 Bed and 4 Bed dwellings. By the Company's own admission in Planning Committee, these will all be for sale (as the developer claims that it uneconomic to build affordable housing on this Site). Indeed, one of the smallest dwellings is currently advertised for sale with a local Estate Agent at £139k.

Powys Council's own analysis of housing need in Llandrindod, indicates a clear requirement for 1 Bed and 2 Bed properties. Larger properties of the 3 Bed and 4 Bed classification (each with 3+ car parking spaces seems to do little to alleviate that known and published property shortfall.

Thank You for reading this submission, and I would respectfully ask the Town Council not to support this Planning Application, and indeed if a consensus prevails, registered opposition to the Application."

Cllr Price felt that the Town Council's initial objections to the application still stand and he would like to see the Town Council support the local residents in objecting to this application. He also commented that it is the responsibility of the County Council to have a sufficient five-year land supply and as they have not developed and adopted the LDP to the proposed timescale developers are seeing a loophole and taking advantage of this by making applications outside of the development boundary.

Resolved: to object to this application to support local residents and reiterate previous objections and make comments on the five-year land supply and LDP. Cllr Makusha abstained from the vote.

- b) **P/2017/0225** for Section 73 application for variation of condition 2 of P.2015.1211 in relation to alterations of approved plans at Unit 29 Ddole Road Industrial Estate. **No objection.**
- c) **DEM/2017/0004** – Application for prior notification of proposed demolition at Southfields, Spa Road East for Powys County Council.

The Clerk explained that the application had been resubmitted following the request for an up to date Bat Survey and Ecological survey.

Resolved: to object to this application and the demolition of this building due to its age, character and architectural features. Members felt it would be tragedy to lose such an old building which is part of the legacy of Llandrindod Wells.

TC 36/17

Accounts

The accounts for February 2017 were approved and signed.

TC 37/17

Independent Remuneration Panel

The Clerk presented a written report to members with regard to recent determinations which have been made by the IRP with regard to financial expenses and losses incurred by Town & Community Councillors.

The Clerk made some written recommendations as RFO to the Council which will make the role of Councillor open to everyone, no matter what their financial circumstances may be. The recommendations are summarised below:

				Budget Implication
1.	44	Members Payments	Already adopted	
2.	45	Senior Roles	Do not adopt	
3.	46	Civic Allowance – Chair	Adopt	£400
3.	47	Civic Allowance – Vice Chair	Adopt	£100
3.	48	Travel	Already adopted	£300
4.	49	Subsistence	Adopt	£500
5.	50	Other Allowances – Accommodation	Adopt	£500
6.	51	Costs of Care	Adopt	£1500
		Allocation from Reserves		£2500

Discussions took place on the above recommendation.

Resolved: to adopt Determinations 46,47, 49, 50, 51, to not adopt Determination 45.

TC 38/17

Electronic Agendas

The Clerk presented a written recommendation to members as follows:
Some members of the Council have indicated that they wish to receive electronic copies of Agendas, Minutes and supporting paperwork.

To formalise this arrangement there is a requirement for the Council to pass a resolution adopting this as an acceptable process.

The Local Government Act 1972 states that notice of meetings must be made with 3 clear days' notice. This would also apply to electronic paperwork.

The passing of such a resolution will allow each member the individual choice of how they wish to receive their meeting papers.

Resolved: to adopt the above recommendation.

TC 39/17

Town Promotional Leaflet

Cllr B Williams had done a considerable amount of work making changes to the proposed Llandrindod Wells leaflet and presented 2 draft versions to members for discussion.

The Chair thanked Cllr B Williams for his work on these leaflets. Members discussed these and made some suggestions. Members agreed that Option 2 was preferred.

Cllr Francis felt that the railway line should be included on the map or reference to this within the leaflet.

The Chair felt that the leaflet contained too many images containing people and felt that this could date easily. Cllr B Williams had used the stock images on the Town Website as they have no copywrite issue, however the majority of these images contain people. Members also felt that no individual businesses within the area should be featured.

Resolved: to work on option 2, making suggested amendments and send this out to a professional designer for them to work on.

Confidential Minutes

TC 40/17

a) Town Council Maintenance Contractor (WF)

Cllr Francis put forward a written proposal to members with regard to contracting a "Town Council Maintenance Person" on a self-employed basis. Cllr Francis suggested that this matter be deferred until the June meeting when the new Council would be in place.

Resolved: to defer this matter until June meeting.

b) Grass Cutting Quotes

Quotes were presented to the Council from Powys County Council and Green Fingers. The Clerk had concerns about the standard of work carried out in the previous year by Green Fingers

Resolved: to accept the PCC quote of £569.80 for Grass Cutting and £93.50 for Hedge Cutting.

c) Town Council Decisions

Following a recent conversation with a local resident, the Chairman reminded all members that a decision made by the Town Council is a decision of the Full Council and not of a particular member. Members must ensure that this is the information portrayed.