

<b>Minutes from the ORDINARY MEETING of RHAYADER TOWN COUNCIL held at: 7pm on the 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2024 in the Council Chamber, Cwmdauddwr Old School Community Centre.</b>	
0823/01	<p><b>The meeting opened at 07.05pm</b></p> <p><b>ATTENDING:</b> Cllr. R. Thomas (RT) Chairing. Cllrs. A. Davies (AD); D.O. Evans (DOE); D. Lloyd (DL); C. Walton (CW); D. Davies (DD); C. Evans (CE) V. Jones-Davies (VJD); L. Lloyd (LL); C. Hamer (CH); K. Cronin (KC); Finance Officer V. Garwood (VLG) and Clerk J. Stephens (Clerk)</p> <p><b>APOLOGIES</b> Cllrs. J. Stuart (JS); D. Thomas (DT) and W. Davies (WD)</p>
0823/02	<p><b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:</b> Members were requested to declare any personal and/or prejudicial interests they may have in matters to be considered at the meeting. Cllrs will leave the Chambers during the Precept discussion as appropriate. AD will leave the Chambers during any planning discussions.</p>
0823/03	<p><b>CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS:</b></p> <p>Thanks were extended to Cllrs for giving up their time to come to additional meetings. Congratulations extended to Alfie Price for being selected to represent Wales at the 2023/24 British Isles Indoor Bowls Council's Under 18 Mixed Championships. <b>Clerk to write to him on behalf of the council.</b></p>
0823/04	<p><b>MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION UNDER URGENT or ANY OTHER BUSINESS:</b> raised since the issue of the agenda: None</p>
0823/05	<p><b>MINUTES:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on the 12<sup>th</sup> December 2023 were approved</li> <li>b) The minutes of the Precept Budget Meeting held on the 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024 were corrected to remove reference to DOE in relation to Christmas Lights and revise information to make it clear figures were still under review to avoid any misunderstanding. They were amended then approved.</li> </ul>
0823/06	<p><b>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE ORDINARY MEETING MINUTES NOT ON THE AGENDA:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) <i>Waun Capel Bryntitli Request:</i> (see 0823/09e)</li> <li>b) <i>Car Park Costs;</i> Payments for the use of the power supply for parking meters and central lighting by PCC: The Clerk explained an initial payment had been received in March 2016 with a further one in July 2018. This is being actively pursued by the Clerk with Neil Clutton. Issues re the positioning of the Parking Bays are also being pursued.</li> <li>c) <i>Trophies at Dolmynach House:</i> The Clerk confirmed the old trophies are still in the display cabinet. Old information indicates they have no monetary value. The Clerk shared information on the work being done by the team at the Radnorshire Society next door and suggested any old documents not required by the Council are donated to the Society. Clerk to organise a meeting later in the year for Cllrs to come together and review old documents. <b>Clerk to action</b></li> <li>d) <i>Council Land:</i> The clerk thanked CE for her help to clarify information on Titles held. <b>Clerk to follow up with Solicitors</b></li> <li>e) <i>Enduro 2024:</i> A request has been received from the Secretary of the Motor Club to update RTC on this years Enduro plans. <b>Clerk to invite to the February meeting.</b></li> <li>f) <i>Staff reviews:</i> Review to consider the roles and responsibilities of the 3 concil employees and the impact to the Clerks role should the RFO leave at the end of March. <b>Clerk to add this to the February agenda</b></li> <li>g) <i>Bank Fees:</i> <b>VLG authorised to proceed with transfer of Allotment, Recycling and Bryntitli Accounts to Lloyds Bank.</b></li> <li>h) Chambers WiFi: (see 0832/09a)</li> <li>i) Previous Clerks Pension: VLG has spoken to NEST who advise there is an inconsistency with the Bank Account details. Clerk is chasing Julie Davies to find out what account details were</li> </ul>

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	used while VLG continues to pursue the matter with NEST. <b>Clerk and VLG to action</b>
0823/07	<b>COMMITTEES, SUB-COMMITTEES and WORKING GROUPS:</b> a) None to report
0823/08	<b>INFORMATION AND UP-DATES FROM THE LOCAL COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBER.</b> AD provided an update, to include: a) Feedback on PCCs budget and the challenges it faces b) The Arches: They are seeking additional Volunteers and Trustees.
0823/09	<b>PROJECTS, COMMUNITY ISSUES AND MEMBER DISCUSSIONS</b> a) <i>Precept</i> : Following the results of the Precept Meeting on the 9 <sup>th</sup> January, the final proposed budget and precept were circulated for consideration and discussion. It was confirmed Cwmdauddwr Community Centre would no longer receive a set payment, instead this money will be allocated to provide WiFi for the whole Building. DL and JS to organise. After further discussion, the total precept figure of £60,370 (£65.48) was Proposed and seconded DD/CW. Agreed by all. <b>VLG to notify PCC</b> b) <i>Toilets</i> : Concern raised over the running costs of the Toilets. AD continues to lobby PCC, WG and Highways for possible grants. Toilets Committee to continue to look for cost cutting measures and bring back to Council for approval. <b>Clerk to organise meeting</b> c) <i>Oak Tree CAT</i> : PCC have commissioned a second report on the condition of the tree which indicates significant internal rot and therefore poses a danger to nearby property and the highway. Clerk to notify PCC that sadly, under the circumstances they have no option but to rescind their CAT application. <b>Clerk to action</b> d) <i>Library CAT</i> : AD explained an initial conversation had been held with Gwilym Davies, PCC re the condition of the Library Building. AD to continue discussions and invite Gwilym to an Asset meeting when he has more information. <b>AD, ongoing action</b> e) <i>Bryntitli; Waun Capel Bryntitli Request</i> : The Clerk explained Sports Wales were unable to fund Outdoor Gyms. It was felt the Bryntitli funding application was a little premature as additional funding required was not in place. Clerk to advise Waun Capel with the offer to meet and discuss further as required. <b>Clerk to action.</b> f) <i>Bryntitli; Motor Club</i> : waiting for Bank Details. g) <i>Emergency Services</i> : AD shared concerns over the future provision of Emergency Services in Rhayader. The town is fortunate to house a police building, fire station and St John Ambulance Station however, all face financial challenges and some recruitment challenges. Councillors are keen to develop conversations with each organisation to offer support and help identify potential solutions to ensure the services remain viable and continue to operate out of the town. It was noted, the St John 4WD vehicle is now back in Rhayader and the boiler has been repaired. DD felt it would be useful to have statistics to understand usage and challenges facing the service. AD is in ongoing discussions with the St John team and continues to Lobby Jane Dodds. <b>Clerk to add to next Agenda.</b> CW asked that the provision of Health and Hospital Services is added to a future agenda. <b>Clerk to action</b> h) <i>Town Champion Project</i> : The Clerk thanked those Cllrs who had provided feedback and advised a further set of questions would be issued. These will be asking for feedback /ideas on specific actions and projects the council members would wish this person to undertake if employed. The next step is to speak to as many local businesses as possible to ask them the same question. Clerk is able to do this on the high street but asked that Cllrs forward contact details of any businesses that the Clerk may not be aware of. <b>Clerk to issue questions, Cllrs to advise Clerk of any business to speak to.</b>
0823/10	<b>HIGHWAYS AND PCC MATTERS:</b> a) Proposal to remove Railings at the A470 /St Harmon Road and Smithfield junctions: RT updated Cllrs on the proposals by PCC to remove the Railings and revise the road layout at the entrance to the Smithfield and works to the junction at St Harmon Road. There may also be

	<p>an option to increase the number of parking spaces next to the roundabout. RT reiterated the information previously circulated and explained the rationale for the changes which include greater pedestrian safety and support for the WG "Active Travel" agenda. The option to retain the existing railings is not feasible given their condition, the choice it to either remove them or remove and replace with a new modern version. It was noted that the 40 mph speed limit sign on Llangurig Road coming from the North had been moved closer to town. This increases the danger to pedestrians crossing near the Millennium roundabout. LL asked that PCC are contacted and asked to move it back. <b>Clerk to action.</b> Following further discussion, it was agreed that RT would respond to PCC to advise: RTC do not agree with the changes to the Smithfield Entrance and want the main junction to remain as is. If the railings must go, then remove them completely and do not replace with modern version. Further discussions are welcomed regarding changes to the roundabout that might increase parking spaces. <b>RT to respond</b></p>																														
0823/11	<b>PUBLICITY and EVENTS:</b> Karen to continue to report on the Toilet Running Costs																														
0823/12	<p><b>PLANNING:</b> AD left the Chamber while the application was discussed</p> <p>a) 23/1840/FUL: Installation of a 40m Lattice Comms Tower and associated equipment incl Solar Power within a 2.4m fenced compound. The plans were discussed, it was noted the tower would only provide limited coverage, however, the coverage it does provide would aid the emergency Services and walkers in the area. Ideally it could be altered to look like a tree. <b>No objections, but Clerk to feedback comments to Planning.</b></p>																														
0823/13	<p><b>FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE:</b> Presented by VLG</p> <p>The correspondence list was circulated and noted.</p> <p>General funding requests from Kids Cancer C and Marie Curie were noted.</p> <p>VJD expanded on the type of support provided by Marie Curie, some Cllrs. indicated their support on an individual basis.</p> <p>A copy of the accounts summary was circulated . HSBC Account balances and payments as at 23/01/2024 to be approved, a bank reconciliation was circulated. It noted the following cash in hand per Bank Statements:</p> <table> <tr> <td>Petty Cash:</td><td>0.00</td></tr> <tr> <td>Recycling:</td><td>50,850.32</td></tr> <tr> <td>Bryntitli:</td><td>26,221.95</td></tr> <tr> <td>Allotments:</td><td>1,312.37</td></tr> <tr> <td>Allotment (Saving):</td><td>0.01</td></tr> <tr> <td>Toilets</td><td>3,663.76</td></tr> <tr> <td>Current (precept)</td><td>58,290.51</td></tr> </table> <p>The balances supported by bank statements and the following payments were approved (AD/LL):</p> <p><b><u>PRECEPT - Invoices for payment:</u></b></p> <table> <tr> <td>Clerk Jan 2024 salary as contracted</td><td>Current a/c (IB)</td></tr> <tr> <td>RFO Dec2023/Jan 2024 salary as contracted</td><td>Current a/c (IB)</td></tr> <tr> <td>HMRC Jan 2024 as advised by DD- NB balance tr from toilet a/c</td><td>Current a/c (IB)</td></tr> <tr> <td>SLCC membership</td><td>£148.00</td></tr> <tr> <td>Urdd Sponsorship award</td><td>£150.00</td></tr> <tr> <td>Planning Aid Training 106</td><td>£40.00</td></tr> </table> <p><b><u>TOILETS - Invoices for payment:</u></b></p> <table> <tr> <td>Caretaker Jan 2024 salary as contracted.</td><td>Toilet a/c (IB)</td></tr> <tr> <td>Ian McPhee Painting Dark Lane Toilets (covered by insurance claim)</td><td>£450.00</td></tr> </table>	Petty Cash:	0.00	Recycling:	50,850.32	Bryntitli:	26,221.95	Allotments:	1,312.37	Allotment (Saving):	0.01	Toilets	3,663.76	Current (precept)	58,290.51	Clerk Jan 2024 salary as contracted	Current a/c (IB)	RFO Dec2023/Jan 2024 salary as contracted	Current a/c (IB)	HMRC Jan 2024 as advised by DD- NB balance tr from toilet a/c	Current a/c (IB)	SLCC membership	£148.00	Urdd Sponsorship award	£150.00	Planning Aid Training 106	£40.00	Caretaker Jan 2024 salary as contracted.	Toilet a/c (IB)	Ian McPhee Painting Dark Lane Toilets (covered by insurance claim)	£450.00
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	<p><b><u>ALLOTMENTS - Invoices for payment: None</u></b></p> <p><b><u>RECYCLING - Invoices for payment: None</u></b></p> <p>Recycling Account: The account will be used for the Pollinator Project Grant fund and payments. The account still holds the money ringfenced as the Sports Hall fund. It was agreed this should be moved to the old Allotment Savings Account, currently dormant in order to attract Interest. <b>VLG to action</b></p> <p>CW suggested the money could be used to offer community “loans” <b>VLG to investigate options</b></p>
0823/14	<b>CORRESPONDENCE:</b> List circulated and noted.
0823/15	<b>URGENT ITEMS NOT ON THIS AGENDA OR ANY OTHER BUSINESS:</b> None
0823/16	<b>UPDATES FROM THE CLERK:</b> Request made to pay for membership of Social Farms and Gardens, £24 per annum giving access to advice and sources of grant funding. Agreed by all. <b>Clerk to action</b>
0823/17	<b>EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS DUE TO THE CONFIDENTIAL NATURE OF THE FOLLOWING BUSINESS ITEMS</b> <i>under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 (3) it was resolved to exclude members of the public during discussion of the following agenda items:</i> <b>None discussed</b>
0823/18	<b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING:</b> Ordinary Meeting on <b>Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2024</b> at Cwmdauddwr Old School.
CLOSE	The meeting closed at 09.15pm

**ACTION POINTS: Actions from the meeting and carried forward from previous meetings:**

Clerk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alfie Price: write and offer congratulations</li> <li>• Shortfall in Toilet Costs: Arrange to meet with CW to discuss further potential savings</li> <li>• Planning applications; Feedback to planning</li> <li>• Enduro 2024: Invite representatives to Feb meeting</li> <li>• Oak Tree: Notify PCC RTC have rescinded its CAT application</li> <li>• Waun Capel Bryntitli request: Feedback on application and offer to meet to discuss further.</li> <li>• Bryntitli Guidelines: Add to the February Agenda to review</li> <li>• Emergency Services: Add to the February Agenda</li> <li>• Health and Hospital Provision: Add to the February Agenda</li> <li>• Car Park: Follow up with PCC for refund of outstanding Parking Meters &amp; Central Lighting Electricity costs and issues with parking bays.</li> <li>• Social Farms and Gardens: organise council membership</li> <li>• Policies and Risk Assessments: Revise remaining documents and circulate at a future meeting.</li> <li>• Old council documents: organise a meeting later in the year to review all old documents</li> <li>• Council owned sites: Organise a meeting with Solicitors</li> <li>• Crime: Invite PCSO to a future meeting</li> <li>• Bank details: Chase previous Clerk for details of the bank used to set up the pension payments</li> <li>• Staff Reviews: Add to the February Agenda</li> </ul>
CW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>ON HOLD:</b> CCTV: Provide proposal and quote for CCTV to cover the waste recycling area. Wait until decision made on Toilets</li> </ul>
RT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Railings and changes to road layout; Feedback to PCC</b></li> </ul>
AD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Library: Meet with Gwilym Davies re condition of the Library Building</b></li> </ul>
DL & JS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Chambers IT: Discuss IT connectivity and work together to come up with a proposal for the next meeting (carry forward to January)</b></li> </ul>
VLG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Precept: Notify PCC of the final amount required</b></li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Toilets, PHS contract: Check on contract notice requirements if necessary.</li> <li>• Previous Clerks Pension: Resolve outstanding payment, continue to pursue.</li> <li>• Bank Fees: Move Recycling, Allotments and Bryntitli Bank Accounts to Lloyds</li> <li>• Sports Hall Fund: Move to the old Allotment Savings account</li> <li>• "Loans" investigate information on potential to use Sports Hall fund as "community Loans</li> <li>• Sale of Mower: Raise invoice and process payment</li> <li>• Training Plan: Complete full plan by the end of the year</li> </ul>
DT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conferencing Equipment: Follow up faults with the supplier</li> </ul>
All Cllrs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete the second Town Champion Questionnaire and return to Clerk or bring to the next meeting</li> <li>•</li> </ul>

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