

RHAYADER TOWN COUNCIL**MINUTES of the MEETING held as a VIDEO CONFERENCE on MONDAY 26th APRIL 2021 AT 7.00 pm**

This meeting was held within the context of: The Local Authorities (Coronavirus) (Meetings) (Wales) Regulations 2020 (Web Link - <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2020/442/made>) and The Health Protection (Coronavirus Restrictions) (No. 4) (Wales) Regulations 2020. (Web Link - <https://gov.wales/health-protection-coronavirus-restrictions-no-4-wales-regulations-2020>)

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7pm and welcomed Louise Sachdave from Hope House Tŷ Gobaith. Louise gave short presentation about their work.

They work with children and young people up to the age of 25 yrs supporting them and their families with respite care; sibling support; end of life care and online counselling. There are hospices in Oswestry and Conwy but much support is given as outreach. Six families are being supported locally. Currently the organisation is able to support 1 in 3 of those enquiring for help but their long term aim is to turn no-one away.

Louise explained that fundraising had been difficult over the past year – with shops closed and fund raising activities curtailed by COVID -19 restrictions. However, they have operated some online events and would seek to continue these after Lockdown. They have planned for and identified a £1m reduction in funding.

Cllr Price offered thanks for the work of the Hospice which Louise received acknowledging the experience and kindness of her nursing colleagues. It was noted that the nearest Hope House Hospice shop is in Welshpool and it was suggested that there was potential for a shop to be opened locally. **It was agreed to send grant application forms to Louise.**

The chairman thanked Louise for her presentation.

The Town Council Meeting Commenced at 7.18 pm. The Chairman welcomed the new Clerk

0121/01 ATTENDING

Chairman: Cllr. J. Narborough

Councillors attending:

A. Davies (AD); D. Thomas (DT); C. Evans (CE); D.O. Evans (DOE)
C. Walton (CW); W Davies (WD); L. Price (LP); G. Williams (GW);
J. Stuart (JS); V. Jones-Davies (VJD).

Observer:

County Cllr. K. Curry,

APOLOGIES: Cllrs., D. Lloyd (DL); R. Thomas (RT); D. Davies (DD).

0121/02 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

V J Davies - Item 09 21/0270/HH. Planning
J Stuart – Item 07 (i) School Transport

0121/03 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ashfield Sponsored Walk 10th April 2021 – Mayor meet Derek Gibbons when he came to Rhayader during the sponsored walk and gave contributions collected from members. • Attended the opening of a Food bank at the Arches. Additionally to the food bank service benefits advice is being offered and it is planned in the future to promoting healthy eating and cooking. • Attended an online town and Community Council Meeting organised by Powys County Council (PCC)
0121/04	<p>MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION UNDER URGENT BUSINESS: raised at the meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water Supply to Rhayader Town (CW) see 0121/13c
0121/05	<p>MINUTES: The minutes of the meeting held on 30 March 2021 were amended (Cllr JS Declared Interest iro Llanidloes High School only and item 6.16 amended to read .. Cllr L Price <i>contacted</i> Tony Cain....). after which the Minutes were approved and agreed as a true record.</p>
0121/06	<p>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES: not on the agenda</p> <p>Postal Collection Times: Clerk advised that Royal Mail collection times are based on area designation. Most of Powys is ‘Deep Rural’ – collections will usually be at a set time (between 9am and 4pm) However, Sometimes post boxes can change to an earlier collection time - mail will be collected when a post person is making deliveries, usually in the morning. If this happens a label is put on the post box in advance to notify the Change. It was noted that some very early daily collections were not appropriate. It was agreed to write to Royal Mail with these concerns Clerk requested details of the post box locations. Photograph of box to show collection times to be sent to clerk (DOE)</p>
0121/07	<p>COMMITTEES, SUB-COMMITTEES and WORKING GROUPS: to receive consider and agree minutes, reports and recommendations from these. And to receive updates and information on PROJECTS AND COMMUNITY ISSUES</p> <p>There had been no formally recorded meetings of committees, sub-committees or working groups but members had progressed actions on projects and issues discussed at the meeting of the town Council on 30th March 2021. The following updates were made:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Rhayader CATS. A letter had been sent to David Pritchard at PCC advising of the Councils wish to accept the transfer of the Library, along with the TUPE transfer. This had been acknowledged as received but no direct reply had been received. Chase PCC for progress Female Safety – “Ask Angela”. AD reported that the project had been strongly embraced by public houses and cafes in the town. It was supported by the local PCSO Gareth Morris. Although Dyfed Powys Police were not operating their own programme there had been an indication of their interest in observing the progress of the Rhayader project. Posters had been designed and circulated and AD gave thanks to the help received from Andrea Lewis (Ty Morgan’s), Tom Jones (Hafod Hardware) and Don McIntyre (OSW) for giving their time & skills voluntarily in the development of Rhayader Town Councils ‘Ask Angela’ safety campaign” and this was endorsed by all present. Broadband: Cllr. K. Curry referred to his previously sent email that detailed letters to be sent in partnership with Nantmel Community Council to residents to engage interest. He confirmed the cost of printing and postage would be covered by Broadway Partners. A project boundaries map from Reece Simmons (PCC) was now available if required. It was agreed (i) Chairman to sign the letter jointly with Nantmel CC and Cllr Curry (ii) to setup a Task and

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Finish Group to work progress the project. Initial membership would include CW, WD, DT (RT was proposed in his absence)

- d) South Street Gas Mains Replacement April 13th – April 21st – this work was now complete but there had been considerable issues with people not observing the road closures and diversions. Additionally it was noted that grass verges had been damaged during the works. **JN to follow up. Cllr KC to contact Western Utilities to request reparations for ‘tidying up’ and reinstating verges.**
- e) Pump Track (Weirglodd) Lease: A letter had been sent to Milwyn Jenkins asking for revised costings but no response had been received.
- f) Devils Gulch: Members noted updates from Gwyn Thomas circulated by KC since the last meeting. However, it was felt these indicated little progress towards addressing and no clear way forward had been presented to JS who had been in touch with XXXX. **It was agreed to contact both Gwyn Thomas and senior officers again requesting a breakdown of cost and timetable for works. Alan Shurmer and Peter Davies to be copied correspondence.**
- g) Dolgerddon Update. Cllr Curry had been advised by David Micah (PCC) that this was in the hands of the PCC legal team. An update from Phil Sherrard (PCC legal) had indicated that PCC continued contact with the leaseholder, who was in discussion with their insurers.
- h) Traffic in Llawrllan: It was intended to raise this at the May meeting with the Police. Police action by the local office in the area was appreciated and had been seen to be effective with many residents. However, there were considerable concern regarding speeding traffic on the main road to and from the Elan Valley. **Safety is the greatest concern for all road users and it was resolved to contact PCC to ask that a review of speeds and speed reduction measures be undertaken.** It was noted that there was some interest in setting up a local speed watch group. Additionally, **the increased number of campers in both vehicles and tents in the Elan Valley** was discussed and it was **agreed to flag this up with both the Elan Valley Trust and the Welsh Water Visitor Centre Rangers.**
- i) High School Transport. A letter to PCC requesting that 2021 school transport policy and its impacts on transport to Llanidloes High School be reconsidered and in the short term be suspended until results of the feeder school review are known had been sent. However, PCC Officers had advised that consultation had taken place and the outcomes as set out in policy would be implemented. KC advised that local papers had been advised. It was noted that people should be encouraged to respond to the Feeder School Consultation.
- j) Dog Fouling: it was noted that RT had contacted the school and they are keen to do a poster project.
- k) Car park: It was reported that pot holes in the car-park had been filled. **Resurfacing and white lining** was discussed but it was noted that this should not be undertaken before the outcome of potential electric car charging points was known, **It was agreed that the Asset Sub Committee would action this in due course.** Cllr KC advised that PCC are costing installation of electricity supply to enable charging points to be installed. CW noted that he had contacted Western Power about this. **It was noted that this project could not be progressed until supply was confirm and agreed to contact PPC to request update and timetable.**
- l) Pump Track Viewing – Funding (raised as an agenda item by RT but presented by XX in his absence) An overview of a short report and proposal (previously circulated) was given. **Proposed costs of (i) Nicholas Evans £ 3,381.60 were approved and it was agreed to (ii) purchase benches from Caerfagu at a cost of £1,132.00. Both (i) and (ii) to be funded from the Bryntitli Account.** There was a short discussion about giving people the opportunity to place/fund memorial seats on the site, this idea was approved. It was proposed that the use of Bryntitli Funding be acknowledged and COVID- 19 restrictions allowing representatives from Clayton Taylor be invited to attend an ‘opening event’.

0121/08	<p>PUBLICITY AND EVENTS</p> <p>a) NHS, Social Care and Frontline Workers' Day – promoted on Facebook, anticipate promoting generic activities. that will be suggested by the event promoters</p> <p>b) VE Day 2021- 8th of May – promoted on facebook but no event activities yet arranged</p> <p>c) Female Safety – “Ask Angela” AD had prepared a press release – Clerk to circulate to Newspapers</p>
0121/09	<p>PLANNING: To consider any planning applications received and any others received between the date of this agenda and the date of the meeting.</p> <p>An application had been received since the agenda was set 21/0590/TRE Stone House, Tanners Row, Rhayader Powys LD6 5BG , details were not available on the Powys planning Portal but the Powys planning notification advised an application to ‘Fell ornamental conifer that has outgrown location and replace with native mountain ash’ There were no objections subject to the tree not being felled until after the nesting season.</p> <p>There was a short discussion about how to deal with post agenda applications in order to be able to both allow time for consideration and comment within the 21 day timetable. It was noted that in respect of complex applications time extensions could be requested (although it was understood such extensions may not always be granted).</p> <p>An application which had been deferred from a previous meeting 21/0270/HH was discussed. It was proposed that no objection be made (JS/LP) this was agreed by a vote. CW and DT abstained. VJD had declared an interest as the applicant was a neighbour.</p>
0121/10	<p>FINANCE</p> <p>a) End of year balances which had been recorded on the precept tracker to 31/03/2021 were set out along with Bank Balances at 25th April 2021. Clerk explained that variances would be identified through the end of year accounting and would be listed as in the accounts as unrepresented cheques and income. Members noted the salary payments: JD, JAT, VLG, HMRC £319.14 and confirmed agreements of payment of the following invoices: Adcock (inv 189860) £ 106.69. Spencer David (inv 0453) £ 840.00 and Huws Grey (inv T5259194) £706.44</p> <p>b) To consider applications for funding: Macmillan Trust: general funding request to ask ‘if Town/Community Councils would consider choosing to support Macmillan Cancer Support as one of your charities for 2021’ Although a national charity, the money raised in Wales is spent right here in local communities to help local people living with cancer</p> <p>c) To adopt an Internet Banking Policy and Procedure. This set out the process for Internet banking payments and would be appended to the Financial Regulations. Agreed</p> <p>d) To confirm the appointment of an Internal Auditor. Paul Roberts was re-appointed as internal auditor for 2020-21. Clerk to send letter of appointment.</p> <p>e) To agree additional hours for the RFO to prepare the 2020-21 financial records for internal audit. Clerk explained that end of year accounting and preparation of financial and governance information</p>

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	<p>was required for submission to the internal auditor. It was agreed that this was additional to the temporary clerking arrangement in place. Up to two additional days (at an hourly rate of £XXXX) were agreed. Clerk to advise members for approval and agreement of any additional hours required.</p> <p>f) Membership of One Voice Wales was agreed.</p> <p>g) Payroll – deferred to the next meeting.</p>
0121/11	<p>GOVERNANCE, STRATEGY and POLICY</p> <p>a) Rhayader Five Year Plan: It was agreed that the Chairman and Cllr Price would begin a review of progress to date.</p> <p>b) Risk Assessment and</p> <p>c) Asset Register</p> <p>It was noted that a review of the Council Operating Risk Assessment and Asset Register would be considered and approved at the Annual Meeting in May. To facilitate this it was agreed that both would be looked at for relevance and updating by the Chairman and Cllr Price.</p>
0121/12	<p>CORRESPONDENCE: To receive and consider the following items of correspondence received before the meeting. A correspondence summary document had been circulated with the Agenda</p> <p>a) Consultation: Race Equality Action Plan for Wales. Noted</p> <p>b) Information: Community Asset Transfer Publication. A link to this been forwarded along with a an overview. Noted</p> <p>c) Information: Funeral Grant for loss of a child. Families in Wales registering loss of a child under age of up to 18 to receive £500 contribution towards funeral costs. To be promoted by the Registrar. Noted</p> <p>d) Legislation: Smoking in public places. Noted</p> <p>e) One Voice Wales: Area Meeting.</p> <p>f) Governance: Remote Meetings After May 2021: The Act makes permanent provision for remote meetings (multi-location) and electronic publication of documents, currently provided through The Local Authorities, (Coronavirus) (Meetings) (Wales), Regulations 2020 Act and it is intended to have effect from 1 May 2021 to dovetail with the expiry of The Local Authorities, (Coronavirus) (Meetings) (Wales), 2020 Regulations. These provisions will also apply to community councils. Noted</p> <p>g) G Letter: RSPCA/Puppy breeding. Members confirmed no knowledge of receipt of a letter from the RSPCA. Clerk had written to the letter sender to with details of the responsibilities of PCC regarding this.</p> <p>h) Funding: UK Community Renewal Fund: Details of a recent presentation about this had been circulated by email to members. The deadline for applications is 5pm on Monday 17th May 2021. Noted</p> <p>i) Letter: Request for Councillor’s DOBs. Matt Jones, Senior Reporter, County Times preparing an article about the age profile of TCC Councillors. This was briefly discussed and although members saw value and interest in the topic generally. It was not felt appropriate that dates of birth should be given.</p>

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0121/13	<p>COMMUNITY ISSUES, MEMBER DISCUSSIONS and URGENT ITEMS NOT ON THIS AGENDA: to include items received between the date of this agenda and the date of the meeting and those proposed to and approved by the Chairman at the start of the meeting.</p> <p>a) HSBC - change of contact details. A letter to HSBC to request change of contact details from previous clerk to Vanessa Garwood (Temporary Clerk). This was approved, Chairman to arrange for 2 Bank Signatories to sign permission.</p> <p>b) Round the Lakes Race: Deferred until further updates of Covid-19 restrictions</p> <p>c) Water supply to the Town (CW). There were concerns that the pressure for the water supply to the town was inadequate and increased the risk of the extent of property damage by fire and posed safety concerns for lives. Although the safety of all property and people in the Town from fire was identified as a priority it was noted that there were a number of vulnerable groups (for example, the school and residential nursing homes). Past correspondence had be sent but no improvements had been made. It was understood that the Fire Service had concerns about water resources for fire-fighting. Poor upkeep of fire hydrant points was highlighted. It was agreed to advise XXX of the concerns.</p> <p>Members referred to a recent fire at the property of Lloyds – Masons. Sadness was expressed for the damage to the premises and the family business which had operated in the town for over 100 yrs and was recognised as being integral to both the business and social communities of the Town and surrounding communities</p> <p>The following community issues were noted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There had been no reply to a letter sent to the Smithfield Trust. • Electric supply from toilets to light and parking meter in car park and electricity supply at Cemetery - CW has been in touch with the supplier and is awaiting progress.
0121/14	<p>DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS:</p> <p>The ANNUAL MEETING will be held at 6.30 pm on WEDNESDAY 26th MAY 2021</p> <p>An ORDINARY MEETING will be held at 7.00 pm on THURSDAY 27th MAY 2021</p> <p>Both meetings will be by Video Conference or elsewhere but to be determined by prevailing COVID-19 restrictions.</p>
	<p>The meeting closed at 9.55 pm</p>

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