

Minutes from the MEETING of RHAYADER TOWN COUNCIL held at: 7.00 pm on the 24th January 2023 in the Council Chamber, Cwmdauddwr Community Centre.	
0922/01	<p>ATTENDING: D. Davies (DD) Chairing. V. Jones-Davies (VJD); C. Walton (CW); W. Davies (WD); L. Lloyd (LL); D. Lloyd (DL) K. Cronin (KC) D.O. Evans (DOE) V. L. Garwood - Responsible Finance Officer (VLG) and J. Stephens (Clerk)</p> <p>D. Thomas (DT) joined the meeting remotely, C. Evans (CW) joined the meeting remotely at 8.00pm</p> <p>APOLOGIES: Cllrs A. Davies (AD J. Stuart (JS); R. Thomas (RT); C. Hamer (CH);</p> <p>Karen Compton (Press) joined the meeting remotely.</p> <p>There were no public requests to attend.</p> <p>After setting up the IT equipment to enable remote access, the meeting opened at 7.20pm</p>
0922/02	<p>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: Members were requested to declare any personal and/or prejudicial interests they may have in matters to be considered at the meeting. None declared</p>
0922/03	<p>CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Congratulations to Rhayader Church in Wales Primary School for achieving a positive very good Estyn report along with a Nurture School award. A fantastic achievement.
0922/04	<p>MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION UNDER URGENT BUSINESS: raised since the issue of the agenda: None</p>
0922/05	<p>MINUTES:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on the 19th December 2022 were approved (DOE/VJD). To be signed by DD Part 2 of the minutes recoding the confidential discussion were read out by DD, confirmed as an accurate record of the discussion and approved (DD/LL) The Minutes of the Short Agenda Precept Meeting held on the 10th January 2023 were approved (DOE/DL)
0922/06	<p>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES NOT ON THE AGENDA:</p> <p>Matters ongoing, to carry forward:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Town Clock/ War Memorial. CW to continue to discuss possible works on the posts AD to set up a meeting with the GP practice manager in the new year to explore issues DT to approach Community Health Council to represent RTC and raise concerns noted CE to arrange printing of Remembrance Service programmes – to agree budget with VLG Outstanding Training Needs Assessment forms to be sent to VLG Outstanding Records of Members Interest forms to be sent to VLG
0922/07	<p>COMMITTEES, SUB-COMMITTEES and WORKING GROUPS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> VJD reported a meeting had been held with the Allotment Plot Holders on the 18th January, a positive meeting with high attendance. Clerk to organise an Allotment Committee Meeting to discuss questions raised.
0922/08	<p>INFORMATION AND UP-DATES FROM THE LOCAL COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBER.</p> <p>See attached notes with updates from Cllr. Davies</p>
0922/09	<p>PROJECTS AND COMMUNITY ISSUES</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Grant Guidelines: A copy of current guidelines highlighting changes proposed by JS was circulated. Some minor alterations to wording were suggested; it was suggested a statement could be added to clarify the need for accounts to be provided. CW; must ensure grant

Certified as a true record

Chairman: Councillor D Davies _____.

Date _____

	<p>awards are followed up at the end of the year. Clerk will ensure this is done. LL noted that existing criteria would prevent people trying to fund one-off events, particularly for refreshments and venue hire. DD clarified the funds were aimed at projects rather than events. It was suggested a statement be added that invites people to contact the council to discuss their application should they be unsure if they meet the criteria. DOE questioned whether Bryntitli funds could be issued twice a year. After discussion it was agreed to add this to the next agenda for further consideration as funds may not be available if all awarded at the first round of applications. Clerk to note suggested changes to the document issued by JS and re-circulate for consideration. Add to next agenda</p> <p>b) Grant Request: A request has been received from the Speed Watch Volunteer Group. Following a discussion, it was decided further information was required before a decision could be reached. Clerk to contact the applicant and follow up with AD</p> <p>CE Joined the meeting remotely at 8.00pm</p> <p>c) Toilets: The Clerk presented details of the costs to carry out repairs following the Arson attack, total £1,093 It was agreed a claim for this amount would be made to the insurance company. (DOE/VJD). Clerk to contact insurers</p> <p>d) Wreaths: VJD and DL had questioned how long Wreaths remain in place, there is a concern that they begin to look tatty. A war memorial should look dignified. After discussion it was noted there should be a year round presence for residents who may wish to remember loved ones on a particular date. However, there needs to be space to house flowers later in the year. KC proposed some Wreaths were moved, keeping some in place and making room for flowers as well. Agreed</p> <p>e) Oak Tree: Clerk advised she notified PCC payment terms were acceptable, now waiting for transfer paperwork. Andrew Mills put on standby to carry out the works. Clerk to ask AD to contact the local resident with an update.</p> <p>f) Presentations: Following previous suggestions, it was agreed to invite representatives from Welsh Water to present their plans for the Elan Valley at the next RTC meeting. Clerk to extend invitation for half hour presentation to commence at 6.30pm</p> <p>g) Recycling: Clerk gave an update, Roberts Recycling offer Textile recycling which could potentially provide and income of approximately £45 per container. This would require permission from PCC if they were to remove the current provider. CW questioned how well this worked, VLG explained it was in place in Llanyre and appeared to work well. Discussion held on other types of recycling not currently supported with kerbside services including soft plastics and small electrical items. KC advised that that a change in legislations due to come into effect in October may lead to more Fly Tipping. Cllrs to provide the Clerk with details of any organisations offering recycling services. Clerk to continue to investigate options and contact PCC. To be added to the next agenda</p> <p>h) Leisure Centre: Meeting arranged for Thurs 16th Feb 2pm, meeting includes original members of the Steering Group. Later meetings to include members of the proposed “working group”</p>
0922/10	<p>HIGHWAYS AND PCC MATTERS:</p> <p>Highways:</p> <p>a) CW raised the issue of the damage created when Cables were being laid between the Bryn Blaen Windfarm and Bryntitli substation. Who is expected to pay for the remedial works, it was felt it should be the organisation or their sub-contractor, it should not fall to PCC. It was suggested it would fall within Nigel Brinn’s remit. Clerk to follow up with AD</p> <p>b) LL explained she had been contacted by a concerned resident regarding the Gully Clearing, the operators of the machine were seen sitting apparently not doing anything. LL spoke to them and discovered that the machine had actually frozen and needed time to de-frost before it could be used. The machine operators explained some of the issues including: lack of</p>

	<p>heaters that had failed their PAT tests, having to travel all the way to Crossgates to re-fill, unable to use other Hydrants due to risk of contaminants leaching into water. DD proposed this is raised as an issue with the Cabinet Member for Highways, Clerk to ask AD to follow up. Karen Compton to raise this in the Press. DD to speak to his contact.</p> <p>c) Trunk Road condition; to be carried forward to the next agenda when RT is present</p> <p>PCC Matters</p> <p>a) CAT Library update: Meeting held at the Library between William Beddoes PCC, Lesley and Kay Thomas from the Library Service and CE, LL, VJD, AD and Clerk . A brief overview of feedback was shared. CE explained the Library service thought it was RTC than had blocked a possible move to the Leisure Centre and had seemed surprised that this was not the case. It was thought perhaps FL had put up barriers to the move including substantial charges. DD proposed a meeting be organised to discuss potential plans for the library. CE proposed waiting until all information including running costs and MoU are received from PCC. Agreed, when received, Clerk to arrange a further meeting. CE suggested the meeting is held at the Library so all Cllrs get the opportunity to look at the building. A brief overview of some running costs were shared. DD expected that some of the running costs should be recharged to PCC to reflect the cost of hosting the library service.</p> <p>b) CAT Dolgerddon Update: LL update Cllrs on the outcome of the enquiries into the legal position of the lease for Dolgerddon with PCC and YMCA. PCC legal team have explored all options. AD continues to liaise with the Portfolio holder Jake Berriman. CW asked for clarification over the land in the front of Dolgerddon, it was clarified this been noted as a misunderstanding by Jake Berriman.</p>
0922/11	<p>PUBLICITY and EVENTS: Karen Compton was asked to report on:</p> <p>a) Gully Clearance; The Budget and Precept, to remain at the same level as last year; Toilets fully operational after Arson attack; Meeting organised with Freedom Leisure to work together to support the Leisure Centre.</p>
0922/12	<p>PLANNING: No new applications to discuss.</p>
0922/13	<p>FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE: Presented by the RFO</p> <p>BALANCES AT HSBC 23/01/2023: A bank reconciliation was circulated. It noted the following cash in hand per Bank Statements: 0.00 Petty Cash 52,188.80 Recycling 0.00 Allotment SAVING 23,131.15 Bryntitli 354.99 Allotment A/C 7,338.60 Toilet A/C 62,806.59 Current (precept a/c) Less unrepresented payments £4,762.81 Total Bank Balance all accounts £141,057.3 The balances supported by bank statements were approved along with the following payments:</p> <p><u>Internal Transfers to approve: None</u></p> <p><u>Invoices for payment: PRECEPT</u> *Cwmduddwr Community Centre - Re-issue unclaimed precept awards 202 and 2021 – see note below</p>

PCC – invoice 20142407 (2022 elections)	£ 888.27
For Info – Insurance 2023/24	£ 1,426.29
Invoice from Cliff Walton & Sons for elec extension lead was presented at the meeting	£ 10.00

TOILETS - Invoices for payment:

Info JAT (cleaning January and fire damage) as approved by DD through payroll (IB)

ALLOTMENTS - Invoices for payment: NONE

RECYCLING - Invoices for payment: NONE

BRYNTITLI - Invoices for payment: NONE

The RFO advised that the 2023-24 budget be reviewed and presented an updated budget that took into account recent payments and adjusted projected expenditure for 2022-23. A budget revision options paper was discussed:

It was noted that the budget setting meeting of 10th January 2023 the final adjusted budget was set at £ 54,680.00 to be funded from a precept request of £47.77 raising £ 43, 851.43 and own resources totalling £ 10,828.57. At that meeting the following items of expenditure had not been projected: NEST – pension payments pre 2021 thought to be £1,026.30 (it was noted that despite a number of enquiries by both DD and VLG access to the NEST account had not been available to RTC to confirm this or make the payment as the account had been password protected and linked to the name of the clerk at the time of setting up. However, a delegated authority document was being negotiated with NEST for account access. Further outstanding but previously approved payments dating back to 2019 had been recorded in past accounts as unclaimed precept payments to Cwmduddwr CC and were expected to total £1,000.

As a result of budget adjustments to accommodate the above the potential carry forward amounts from 2022/23 to 2023/4 would be reduced. Members considered the following Options:

1. **Maintain the planned budget: requires the income from precept be increased to £ 46,880.34. Funded by a household precept of £51.07**
2. **Reducing the budget to £ 52,005 (a reduction of £ 2,675) to allow a balanced budget based on a Precept of £47.77 raising £43,851.43 and own resources carried forward of £8,151.91**

Members noted for information that the 2023/24 precept would raise less money than in 2022/23 because the value of the precept £ reduced. Therefore, to maintain same *income* the precept request needed to be £47.86 not 47.77

The Chairman proposed that Option 2 be approved to ensure the precept remained at £47.77 and this was agreed (DD/DL).

GOVERNANCE

- a) **Members were reminded to complete any outstanding Records of Members Interests and Training Needs Assessments and return these to the Clerk**

0922/14	CORRESPONDENCE: Correspondence received via email has been circulated and is summarised in the Correspondence List.
0922/15	COMMUNITY ISSUES AND MEMBER DISCUSSIONS: None discussed
0922/16	URGENT ITEMS NOT ON THIS AGENDA to include items received between the date of the agenda and the date of the meeting and also those proposed to and approved by the Chairman at the start of the meeting: None discussed
0922/17	EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS DUE TO THE CONFIDENTIAL NATURE OF THE FOLLOWING BUSINESS ITEMS <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> None discussed
0922/18	DATE OF NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 21st February 2023 at Cwmdauddwr School (subject to remote access arrangements and prevailing COVID-19 restrictions at the time of the meeting).
CLOSE	The meeting closed at 9.15 pm

Action Points carried forward from previous meeting:

- Town Clock/ War Memorial. CW to continue to discuss possible works on the posts
- AD to set up a meeting with the GP practice manager in the new year to explore issues
- DT to approach Community Health Council to represent RTC and raise concerns noted
- CE to arrange printing of Remembrance Service programmes – to agree budget with VLG
- Outstanding Training Needs Assessment forms to be sent to VLG
- Outstanding Records of Members Interest forms to be sent to VLG

Additional action points:

- Allotments: Clerk to organise an Allotment Committee Meeting
- Grant Guidelines: Clerk to note suggested changes to the document, re-circulate for consideration and add to the next agenda
- Grant Request: Clerk to ask the applicant for more information and follow up with AD
- Toilets insurance claim: Clerk to follow up with insurance company
- Oak Tree: AD to notify local resident of outcome
- Presentations: Clerk to invite Welsh Water to present their plans to RTC at the Feb Meeting, 6.30pm
- Recycling: Cllrs to provide the Clerk with details of any organisations offering recycling services. Clerk to continue to investigate options and contact PCC. To be added to the next agenda
- Bryn Blaen cabling work damage: Clerk to follow up with AD and ask that it be raised with PCC
- Gully Clearing: Clerk to ask AD to follow up with PCC. DD to speak to his contact.
- Trunk Road condition; to be carried forward to the next agenda when RT is present
- Library Meeting: When draft MoU has been received, Clerk to arrange a further meeting.