

Minutes from the MEETING of RHAYADER TOWN COUNCIL held at 7.00 pm on 25th October 2022 in the Council Chamber, Cwmdauddwr Community Centre.	
0622/01	<p>ATTENDING: D. Davies (DD) Chairing. V. Jones-Davies (VJD); C. Walton (CW); D. Lloyd (DL); W. Davies (WD); J. Stuart (JS); C. Hamer (CH); R. Thomas (RT) D. O. Evans (DOE); C. Evans (CE); Cllr A. Davies (AD).</p> <p>Clerks: V. L. Garwood (Clerk) and Julie Stephens</p> <p>APOLOGIES: L. Lloyd (LL); D. Thomas</p> <p>DD opened the meeting at 7.05 pm after the setting up of the new video conference equipment He welcomed Karen Compton (Press) who had joined remotely, there were no other public requests to attend remotely.</p>
0622/02	<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>
0622/03	<p>CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The chairman thanked Cllr R Thomas for chairing the last meeting • Thanks to Cllr JS for co-ordinating the local remembrance and mourning for HM Queen Elizabeth II. He also thanked all those who took part.
0622/04	<p>MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION UNDER URGENT BUSINESS: raised since the issue of the agenda. Chairman agreed to consider the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St Johns Ambulance (DD) • Devils Gulch (AD) and • any additional Highways items <p>He introduced Julie Stephens who joined the Council as the new clerk.</p>
0622/05	<p>MINUTES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 27th September were amended to reflect the following: 0522/08. A report had been circulated by email and at the meeting DOE requested that the subject matter of the report be included in the minutes. It was noted that a number of the items in the Cllr AD's report had been in relation to agenda items that were detailed elsewhere in the minutes. 0522/10a. Derw to be spelt Dderw. 0522/13i. The name of the newly appointed Clerk was missing. This was intentional at the time due to Data Protection and no contract having been issued. The minutes were then approved (AD/RT)
0622/06	<p>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES NOT ON THE AGENDA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vacancy for an additional councillor, no election had been called and it was agreed to now consider any applications for co-option that came forward. The opportunity to be promoted on Facebook/website. (JS/DD) • The hand washers in Dark Lane Toilets are to be checked/renewed by the supplier to remedy product faults. • Clock/War Memorial (see 0622/09d) • Smithfield Trust had been contacted – there had been no meetings in 2022/23. Members contacts had been passed to the Trust Secretary who advised that they would be contacted

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Chairman: Councillor D Davies _____.

Date _____

	directly to invite to meetings. It was noted that there was one vacant Town seat and a further two for Cwmdauddwr to be filled by the Town Council.
0622/07	COMMITTEES, SUB-COMMITTEES and WORKING GROUPS: No reported formal meetings.
0622/08	<p>INFORMATION AND UP-DATES FROM THE LOCAL COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBER.</p> <p>County Cllr AD gave an overview of the action she had been involved in related to the following agenda items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broadband Update: Broadway Partners were proposing further community meetings later in November – dates to be advised (see 0622/09): • Green Gardens Oak Tree (see 0622/10e) • Rhayader Town Investment Plan. (see 0622/09): • Clock and War Memorial. (see 0622/09): • Waun Capel – trees/shrubs. (see 0622/09): • Dark Lane Parking: (see 0622/10) • CAT Update: (see 0622/10 other PCC matters a)). • Dolgerddon: see 0622/10 other PCC matters b)). • Rhayader Warm Spaces were being offered by CARAD and Community Support will both open 2 days a week to offer vulnerable people free Tea and Coffee in a Warm Space which could also be used as a computer workspace. The Leisure Centre Manager is considering opening half a day a week. • Powys County Council has a 'Cost of Living HUB' on its website offering advice and guidance about cost of living support https://en.powys.gov.uk/costofliving It was suggested that a link be set up to this from the RTC website. • Youth Club: A meeting has been scheduled for all interested parties to discuss the potential start of a Youth Club. The meeting is set for the 9th November at 2.30pm at the Arches – Rhayader. • Cllr Jake Berriman (PCC Portfolio holder with responsibility for planning) aims to set up quarterly meetings with TCCs and planning officers to discuss and explain planning issues. He has also proposed that officers attend TCC meetings (see also correspondence item 0622/14). • AD had been contacted by a resident from Dolgerddon Bungalows who had asked for permission to trim back shrubs coming over the fence and plant daffodil bulbs along the verge. This was agreed (VJD/DD) • St Johns Ambulance: St Johns Ambulance had told they no longer had to respond to emergency calls and as a result calls were not being forwarded to them. DD had taken a lead to investigate this and encourage action to redress. He had contacted Fay Jones (MP) who had visited the town and followed up on the issue. DD proposed thanks to her for her prompt action which was agreed by all, Member also thanked the Chairman for his interventions and action it was agreed that the St John's Ambulance service was an asset to the town and much appreciated by local people.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remembrance Day: AD reported that poppies had now all been attached to lamp-posts around town. A meeting chaired by Darren was held to discuss the order of service. • It was agreed the programme for the Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial would replicate last years which was extremely successful. Members would represent the Community and the Town Council. AD and RT to deliver church readings if required. AD reminded members to people to encourage family members to wear their relatives medals – noted that this should seek to follow the RBL Guidance.
0622/09	<p>PROJECTS AND COMMUNITY ISSUES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Broadband Update: Broadway Partners were proposing further community meetings later in November – dates to be advised. b) Rhayader Town Investment Plan: there had been a useful meeting with Chilmark Consultancy, it was felt that they would present the key issues of concern and local priorities in their report to be presented to PCC for consideration. However, it was noted that they themselves had made no proposals for significant improvement over an above those identified locally and there was some disappointment that there was no significant evidence of an ‘outside view’ of the town or potential although they had noted the lack of youth facilities and general social needs. CW raised the need for facilities and activities for older people as social networks had been lost as a result of Covid 19. c) Clock and War Memorial: Replacement posts carrying chain around the War Memorial: A proposal and quote of £550 has been received from Art Metal regarding the replacement of the protective posts. This was discussed and it was suggested there may be alternative methods for securing the posts. Site meeting is to be scheduled (CH, CW, DD,) to discuss the proposal in more detail. In the meantime it was agreed to contact PCC to secure their permission for RTC to undertake and pay for the works. d) Waun Capel – trees/shrubs: VJD had spoken with the Trustees and been advised that they had commissioned an arboriculturist to report on the trees in the park and that the over-grown saplings would be included.
0622/10	<p>HIGHWAYS AND PCC MATTERS:</p> <p>Highways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Parking: Dark Lane - A resident has reported that people are parking on the white road markings on Dark Lane reported this to the police as PCC advised they had no authority over this. Members noted this and that any illegal parking is a police issue. CW reiterated that the Town Council should not seek to reduce legal parking – this was supported by members. b) Road Markings – Penrhiw-wen: highway particularly from the ‘washpool’ to the ‘s’ bends reported as a potential hazard due to missing white lines on this part of the highway which makes the edge of the road impossible to see when its foggy. Noted that this had been reported to PCC in the past but it was advised they would not be taking any action. Agreed to raise this again with PCC. <p>PCC Matters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) CAT update: CE had spoken to Sarah Bufton the Milwin Jenkins solicitors now assigned to this. She reported there was some missing information from the file at that time CE has followed this up. CE has emailed William Beddoes (PCC) and confirmed RTC wish to pursue the transfer. The valuation report is due on the 28th October, it will then be forwarded to the PCC portfolio holder for consideration. CE suggested a site meeting at the properties before transfer to ensure that condition reports and other terms of transfer reflect the condition and queried issues at this time.

	<p>b) Dolgerddon Update: Ad had circulated previously received correspondence from PCC officers (N Clutton and D Micah) and the PCC Portfolio Holder – Cllr Jake Berriman. She proposed that he be invited to a meeting to clarify the position regarding the relationship between PCC, the building insurers and the tenancy arrangements. CW reported that the fence close to Dolgerddon needs attention.</p> <p>e) Green Gardens Oak Tree: The Clerk advised she was still waiting to hear back from the insurance company despite chasing for an update but will chase again. It was noted that although there was much local support to leave the tree untouched the preferred PCC option is to fell the tree. CW asked if instead of complete removal, would it be acceptable to the immediate neighbours to pollard the Oak as proposed by the RTC contracted tree survey. AD to speak to the residents of the neighbouring property to seek their views. Options to be discussed again when the insurance company has responded.</p> <p>c) Recycling: CW still waiting for an more information from Recycling Company. Noted that Roberts Recycling operate community clothes banks VLG to pass contact details to AD.</p>																									
0622/11	PUBLICITY, MARKETING and EVENTS:																									
0622/12	<p>PLANNING: the following applications, previously circulated, were discussed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">No new planning applications were received for consideration. It was proposed that Cllr Berriman be invited to discuss planning issuesCW asked if there was any likelihood that small scale planning applications might be devolved to Town/Community Council level. AD confirmed this was not the case as there is a clear legal framework to follow.																									
0622/13	<p>FINANCE:</p> <p>a) To receive and approve the current balance of income and expenditure, together with invoices for payment. Members were content to approve the Chairman to sign the finance sheet and invoices as presented ()</p> <p>BALANCES AT HSBC 24/10/2022</p> <table><tr><td>Rhayader TC (Precept)</td><td>£ 64,336.82</td></tr><tr><td>Recycling Account</td><td>£ 54,767.70 (inc Ringfenced balances)</td></tr><tr><td>Public Toilet Account</td><td>£ 9,387.66</td></tr><tr><td>Allotment Account</td><td>£ 1,098.59</td></tr><tr><td>Bryntitli Fund Account</td><td>£ 27,103.15</td></tr></table> <p><u>Internal Transfers to approve: None</u></p> <p><u>Invoices for payment: PRECEPT</u></p> <table><tr><td>Clerk Oct 2022</td><td>time sheet to be approved by DD</td><td>TBA (IB)</td></tr><tr><td>HMRC August 2022</td><td>as approved by DD</td><td>TBA (IB)</td></tr><tr><td>Clerk Sept 202</td><td>time sheet to be approved by DD</td><td>TBA (IB)</td></tr></table> <p><u>Payments made – for information</u></p> <table><tr><td>Info Brighthr Oct</td><td>22.14 (DD)</td></tr><tr><td>HMRC Sept 2022</td><td>81.40 (IB) * TBA by DD</td></tr><tr><td>Waun Capel 2022/23</td><td>500.00 (IB)</td></tr></table>	Rhayader TC (Precept)	£ 64,336.82	Recycling Account	£ 54,767.70 (inc Ringfenced balances)	Public Toilet Account	£ 9,387.66	Allotment Account	£ 1,098.59	Bryntitli Fund Account	£ 27,103.15	Clerk Oct 2022	time sheet to be approved by DD	TBA (IB)	HMRC August 2022	as approved by DD	TBA (IB)	Clerk Sept 202	time sheet to be approved by DD	TBA (IB)	Info Brighthr Oct	22.14 (DD)	HMRC Sept 2022	81.40 (IB) * TBA by DD	Waun Capel 2022/23	500.00 (IB)
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Date

Groe Trust 2022/23 Info Bank to 30/09/22	1,000.00 (IB) 8.00 (chg)
<u>TOILETS - Invoices for payment:</u> Info JAT (cleaning OCT) excludes HMRC for info	
	413.96 (IB)
<u>Payments made – for information</u>	
BG	17.80 (DD)
BG	53.62 (DD)
BG	14.42 (DD)
Adcocks 218149	180.25 (IB)
Bank Charges to 29/09/22	8.00 (chg)
<u>ALLOTMENTS - Invoices for payment:</u>	
Raymond Rees Inv 4337	777.60 (IB)
<u>Payments made – for information</u>	
Bank Charges to 05/10/22	8.00 (chg)
<u>RECYCLING - Invoices for payment: NONE</u>	
<u>Payments made – for information</u>	
Bank to 05/10//22	8.00 (chg)
<u>BRYNTITLI - Invoices for payment: NONE</u>	
<u>Payments made – for info</u>	
Bank to 08/09/22	8.00 (chg)
An additional invoice from Adcocks was presented and approved inv 219788 £144.22	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> b) Funding applications had been received from the Urdd National Eisteddfod (Llandovery 2023) general support request and Brecon Advice Centre – general support request. These were noted but no funding awards were approved. c) External Audit Update – No correspondence from Auditor d) Long standing discussions with PCC regarding financial contributions for power supply at Dark lane and standing charges at Cemetery Toilet building to be followed up. e) Final Precept payments to Community Groups to be processed. f) Bank Accounts and signatories. g) Bryntitli applications deadline extended to 22 Nov, to be reviewed at RTC meeting 29 Nov. h) Draft payments to members 2022/23: this had been previously circulated. Members were reminded that this is the basis for agreeing payments to members (currently members opt out of receiving payments other than a civic duties award to the Mayor (£1,225 in 2022/23)). The final document is due for release in February but potential payments will need to be considered as part of budget setting and precept request. (Ref section 74 LGA (Wales) 2011) i) PCC Claim – Video Conference Project – support letters. RT confirmed that PCC Regeneration officers were satisfied that sufficient letters of support for the project had been provided and no further evidence was required. 	

	<p>j) Personal information for RTC bank account signatories needs to be updated, VLG circulated a form for completions.</p> <p>k) Noted that PCC Covid recovery grant towards toilets had not yet been received. VLG to Follow up.</p> <p>GOVERNANCE, STRATEGY and POLICY:</p> <p>a) Record of Members Interests – Members were reminded to review and complete these. VLG extended thanks for those completed, some remain outstanding and need to be completed as a matter of urgency and returned to the clerk.</p> <p>b) Section 6 biodiversity duty -Environment (Wales) Act 2016 three yearly report – Biodiversity report: AD has completed and issued a draft report Thanks extended to AD for completing this work</p> <p>c) Training Plan: members were reminded that all councils must write a Training Plan. This Plan is sets out requirements for the provision of training so it can be carried out in a proportionate way, taking into account the activities undertaken by that council, the current expertise of councillors and clerks and the nature and significance of any training needs identified. All councils should ensure that they have sufficient skills and understanding. These are: Basic induction for councillors; The Code of Conduct for members of local authorities in Wales; Financial management and governance. It was noted that training should also reflect new challenges and opportunities, such as those offered by the general power of competence or in relation to projects and community responsibilities. A framework plan for the period to the next Annual Meeting was reviewed and approved (VJD/AD). An induction information document was circulated.</p> <p>d) Councillors Training Needs – the Learning and Development Framework proposed by OVW was discussed by members and circulated for completion and return by the next meeting</p>
0622/14	<p>CORRESPONDENCE:. A summary of the following correspondence was noted</p> <p>a) Update on progress being made with the Council’s Planning Service – Cllr Beriman email re quarterly on line meetings and encouraging planning officers to attend council meetings.</p> <p>b) Grant scheme for veterans and their families – Royal British Legion</p> <p>a) The Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales draft Annual Report February 2023.</p> <p>b) Well-being of Wales Report – 2022 version of report published <u>Wellbeing of Wales: 2022 GOV.WALES</u></p> <p>c) The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 - requires all local authorities to prepare a Public Participation Strategy PCC draft for comments by 18 Dec 2022</p> <p>d) One Voice Wales conference on Biodiversity – free online 27 Oct 2022</p> <p>e) Joint One Voice Wales/SLCC event – 9 Nov 2022 £45.00 various topics</p>
0622/15	<p>COMMUNITY ISSUES, MEMBER DISCUSSIONS:</p> <p>Grants: discussion was held regarding the process for funding requests to the RTC. After discussion it was felt the existing funding criteria, process and values would continue at this time. It was noted that occasionally funding requests were made but were sent to the RTC without a complete set of</p>

supporting information which potentially could result in the application being rejected. VLG to check funding requests, highlight any missing information and request this from the applicants. It was agreed recipients of one grant could potentially apply for a second grant for a NEW project, assuming they have successfully completed the previous project in line with terms and conditions of the initial award.

Grants that have been awarded; recipients of grants are required to provide evidence of spending. It is generally expected that projects will have been completed within 12 months unless there are particular factors that have delayed this. There was a discussion on the process for capturing and collating information to show the status and progress of projects. **It was proposed the Clerk contact recipients and ask for information and collate this for the RTC**

Bryn Titli: A proposal was tabled that suggested 30% of the fund be ring fenced for direct use by the RTC for the benefit of the community. This was discussed and voted on: Yes 2, No 5, Abstain 2

The Bryn Titli fund closing date is currently the 12th November, after discussion it was agreed to extend the deadline to the 22nd November for consideration at the meeting on the 29th November. **VLG to amend the poster and pass to Darren for loading onto the front page of the website.**

AD asked for permission for the Speed Watch materials to remain in the council storage container on the allotment. Permission was granted.

Devils Gulch – There is still no progress, it appears Welsh Water have applied for funding from PCC. It is hoped this may come from the levelling up funding but is unlikely to progress any further until the new year. **Clive to issue a strongly worded letter to Welsh Water, the Press and PCC.**

AD reported for information that the Cambrian Society were promoting a petition in support of making the Cambrian Mountains and Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). The implications if ever awarded the designation could raise both Pros and Cons but are unlikely to be awarded without extensive consultation – however the success of a petition request could lead to consultation.

JS had been contacted to compete a Welsh Government Survey on public toilet facilities the clerk had also been contacted and both had participated. It was noted that Smithfield toilets are now privately owned.

CW asked if the RTC had stopped recognising the “Citizen of the Year”, it was thought this was because the RTC had not actually received any nominations. **VLG to check**

LT had advised in her apologies difficulty accessing email on different platforms, this was reiterated by other members, this was noted as an agenda item for the next meeting Members were reminded that advice could be sought from Cllr DT.

Speed Watch: AD asked for permission to store Speed Watch equipment in the Council Lock up at the allotments. This was approved (DD/CH)

The following were noted as subjects to be proposed to the press to report:

- St Johns Ambulance; Devils Gulch; Dolgerddon; Bryn Titli Fund; Remembrance Day

0622/16	<p>URGENT ITEMS NOT ON THIS AGENDA to include items received between the date of this agenda and the date of the meeting and also those proposed to and approved by the Chairman at the start of the meeting: The following items raised as urgent and agreed for discussion are noted above.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St Johns Ambulance (DD) (0622/08) • Devils Gulch (AD) and • any additional Highways items
0622/17	<p>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: Clerk recruitment discussed as an agenda item, no other issues/no public attending. No items to consider</i></p>
0622/18	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be held on 29th November 2022 The meeting will be held at Cwmduddwr School (subject to remote access arrangements and prevailing COVID-19 restrictions at the time of the meeting).</p>
CLOSE	<p>The meeting closed at 9.55 pm</p>

Action Points

- Councillor vacancy: The opportunity to be promoted on Facebook/website. (JS/DD)
- Meeting re Town Clock posts is to be scheduled (CH, CW, DD,) to discuss the proposal in more detail and PCC to be contacted to secure their permission for RTC to undertake and pay for the works.
- Lack of road markings at Penrhiw-wen to be raised with PCC
- Oak Tree, AD to contact residents of the neighbouring property to seek their views (AD)
- Recycling, VLG to pass contact details for Roberts Recycling to AD (VLG)
- Record of members interests, to be completed by all and returned to VLG
- Training needs form to be completed by all and returned to VLG
- Clerk to contact previous recipients of the Bryn Titli award to gather information on the status and progress of the works (Clerk)
- Bryn Titli poster to be updated with revised dates and loaded onto website (VLG/DT)
- A strongly worded letter re Devils Gulch to be sent to Dwr Cymru, PCC and the press (CH)
- Check for any applications for the "Citizen of the Year" (VLG)