

Minutes from the MEETING of RHAYADER TOWN COUNCIL held at:**7.00 pm on the 29th of November 2022** in the Council Chamber, Cwmdauddwr Community Centre.

0722/01

ATTENDING: D. Davies (DD) Chairing.

Cllr A. Davies (AD); V. Jones-Davies (VJD); C. Walton (CW); W. Davies (WD); J. Stuart (JS); R. Thomas (RT); C. Evans (CE); L. Lloyd (LL); D. Thomas (DT); D. O. Evans (DOE) – attended remotely

D. Lloyd (DL) joined the meeting at 7.30pm

V. L. Garwood - Responsible Finance Officer (VLG) and J. Stephens (Clerk)

APOLOGIES:

C. Hamer (CH)

There were no public requests to attend remotely.

DD opened the meeting at 7 pm to consider the Bryntitli 2022 -2023 Fund applications prior to starting the ordinary meeting.

0722/02

BRYNTITLI 2022/2023 APPLICATIONS:

VLG clarified the amount currently in the Bryntitli Fund. It was agreed not to ring fence any as had been discussed in previous meetings. AD proposed the amount awarded should not exceed the annual value which leaves the residual amount in the fund to be used for potential future works on projects such as the Library. This was agreed.

14 applications had been received; it was agreed to go through applications and provisionally assess awards from available funds then review the allocations against the funds still available as appropriate.

All applications were then considered against the funding criteria with the following outcomes:

- a) **CARAD:** Award £400 as match funding for Drumming Sessions only, fund will not cover associated costs. (JS/CW)
- b) **Cwmdauddwr Christmas Lights:** Agreed to award £1,000 to replace old inefficient Banners, lights, bulbs & Strings. (JS/CW) Reassessed then amended to £2,000 to be used as stated above. (VJD/JS)
- c) **Cwmdauddwr Community (Old School):** Agreed to award £1,000 towards the cost of replacing tables and chairs. (VJD/LL) Reassessed then amended to £1,500 to be used as stated above. (CAD/RT)
- d) **Cylch Meithrin:** Agreed to award £1,000 towards the cost of the shed, no labour costs to be covered from this fund (RT/JS)
- e) **Rhayader Town Football Club:** (RT & DD declared an interest and left the meeting) Agreed to award £1,000 to cover the cost of training goals and football nets. (JS/DT) RT and DD were recalled to the meeting
- f) **The Groe Trust:** (DL declared an interest and left the meeting) Agreed to award £1,000 towards the cost of secure storage facilities (JS/DT)
- g) **Gwastedyn Messy Church:** Agreed to award £650 towards the cost of craft resources and books only. (JS/DT)
- h) **St Brides Church:** Award was declined, funds cannot be used for “investigation” works. (JS/DT)
- i) **St Clements Church:** (DOE declared an interest and left the meeting) Agreed to award £850 towards the cost of specific repairs (RT/DT) DOE was recalled to the meeting
- j) **The Arches Foodbank:** The award was declined as running costs are not covered by the fund. It was proposed and agreed to offer a goodwill gesture of £100 from the RTC (JS/CE)
- k) **The Arches Reindeer Run:** Agreed to award £550 to cover the costs of Medals, Antlers and Race numbers. (JS/DL)

Certified as a true record

Chairman: Councillor D Davies _____.

Date _____

	<p>l) Rhayader Under 5s: Agreed to award £234 to cover the cost of a new Coat and Welly Stand. (LL/CE)</p> <p>m) Rhayader Young Farmers: Agreed to award £440 to cover the cost of Dart Boards and Pool Table (JS/VJD)</p> <p>n) Waun Capel Trust MUGA: Agreed to award £750 towards the cost of replacement LED Floodlight Lamps (AD/CW)</p> <p>Clerk to notify applicants of the outcomes.</p> <p>AD noted this meant a total £10,374 has been awarded to the community which is a positive outcome.</p> <p>There is still money in the account from last year when Covid resulted in fewer community initiatives, this still provides funds for potential future projects such as the library. DT proposed the fund be advertised again early next year, CE suggested May/June. Agreed. Clerk to add this to a future agenda. Prior to promoting the fund again JS and RT both proposed the application guidelines were reviewed and improved to make sure the funding criteria were clear to potential applicants. Clerk to add this to a future agenda.</p> <p>It was noted there had been 2 Small Grant applications, these will be assessed at the next meeting. Clerk to add to the December Agenda</p> <p>The Bryntitli discussion ended, and the ordinary meeting started at 8.23pm</p>
0722/03	<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.</p> <p>JS, DL and LL declared an interest in the Councillor Vacancy nominees (0722/10a)</p>
0722/04	<p>CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The chairman thanked Cllr A Davies for the invitation to attend the Elan Valley 10k run and the Luncheon Club. Thanks to Cllr D Thomas for planning and coordinating the excellent Remembrance Day activities. Thanks were extended to all those who assisted and attended.
0722/05	<p>MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION UNDER URGENT BUSINESS: raised since the issue of the agenda.</p> <p>None raised.</p>
0722/06	<p>MINUTES:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on the 25th of October 2022 were amended to correct a spelling mistake; Pen Y Wern should read Penrhiw-wen (0622/10b) The minutes were then approved (AD/RT)
0722/07	<p>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES NOT ON THE AGENDA:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Town Clock/War Memorial; conversations are continuing regarding works to the posts (CW) Lack of road markings at Penrhiw-wen – see 0722/11a Oak Tree – see 0722/10c Devils Gulch – AD attended the Open Day at the Elan Valley Visitors Centre where the contractor engaged to carry out the works was in attendance and confirmed a start date of 7th January despite the delay in securing funding Recycling – see 0722/11c VLG confirmed there had been no applications for “Citizen of the Year”. JS noted that it was promoted generally on the website but suggested it is actively promoted next year. VJD noted a similar situation with the Best Kept Garden Award. Clerk to add both to a future Agenda Bryntitli feedback from 2021/22 awards: Most have now been received by the Clerk, others continue to be chased. AD to follow up with the School, Clerk to follow up others. No new awards will be made to these organisations until completed information has been received.

	h) Records of Members interest forms and Training needs forms - see 0722/14c
0722/08	<p>COMMITTEES, SUB-COMMITTEES and WORKING GROUPS:</p> <p>a) Remembrance Day: Thanks to Cllr D Thomas for planning and coordinating the excellent Remembrance Day activities. The Councillors also expressed their thanks and appreciation to all involved in the Remembrance Service including: Lieutenant-Colonel (Retd) Aled Huw Thomas, the Reverend Lance Sharpe of Rhayader Churches, Reverend Ronald Downey of Bethania Baptist Chapel, members of the Armed Forces and Veterans led by Staff Sgt Anthony Bennett formerly of the Welsh Gunners and RA 5th Regiment, Rhayader Fire and Rescue Service, St. Johns Ambulance Service and local troupes of Scouts, Brownies, Cubs, Rainbows and Beavers. Clerk to write to Keith Fielding to thank the scouts and cubs for their excellent work putting up poppies on lampposts and selling poppies door to door. Total money raised: £2,045.63. Note for next year, poppies to go onto Lampposts in Cwmdauddwr as well. DT explained Rhayader does not have a British Legion Representative, so he is now the official Representative. Members were reminded that £100 was set aside in the budget for Remembrance Day. It was proposed that this be given as a donation to the RBL to cover the supply of the three Wreaths laid (DT/VJD) DT to send VLG contact details for RBL donations and Wreaths. DT noted the supply of programmes was getting low, CE to organise printing with a budget to be agreed at the next meeting VLG</p> <p>b) Smithfield Trust: AD, DD, CH, RT and CE all attended a meeting with the Trust. Work underway on new fence and drainage.</p>
0722/09	<p>INFORMATION AND UP-DATES FROM THE LOCAL COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBER.</p> <p>Thanks to County Cllr A Davies for her report containing an overview of the activities undertaken over the last month.</p>
0722/10	<p>PROJECTS AND COMMUNITY ISSUES</p> <p>a) Councillor vacancy. Two residents had asked to be considered to be co-opted. JS, DL and LL left the meeting while voting took place. Katy Cronin was voted in as a co-opted Councillor. Clerk to notify applicants. JS, DL and LL were recalled to the meeting, and the Chairman advised them of the decision to invite Katy Cronin to join the council</p> <p>b) Hospital provision. CW raised his concern over the lack of local Emergency provisions as the nearest A&Es are an hour away. JS noted that Fay Jones (MP) was keen to push for a Rural Health Strategy. DD to contact the PCC Health Committee to follow up. AD suggested the RTC should have a place on the Community Health Council. DT expressed his interest and will take this forward. CE explained she had first hand feedback from people moving to/from the area expressing nervousness re the lack of serious health provision. RT explained residents had expressed concerns now there is only one local GP making it increasingly difficult to get a doctor's appointment and relying more on the practice nurse. Actions agreed to take this forward: DT to raise concerns via the Community Health Council. DT to work with the Clerk to compile a list of questions to be addressed to the local practice. AD to work with the Clerk to write to the practice manager and invite her to a meeting to provide the opportunity to share her concerns and challenges with the RTC and identify any potential solutions. Questions to the Clerk by the end of the week.</p> <p>c) Oak Tree: AD advised she was still waiting to hear from PCC as the main contact has been on annual leave. CW confirmed he had spoken to Andrew Mills who agreed to stand by his report and would be covered by insurance if actions were carried out as per his specification. On this basis it was agreed RTC would proceed with discussing an Asset Transfer of the Tree</p>

	<p>from PCC (CW/RT) However, PCC should be approached to pay for the works Clerk/AD to follow up with PCC</p> <p>d) Meetings Attendance: DD reminded councillors it was formal requirement of the role that they attend all meetings and come fully prepared.</p> <p>e) Waun Capel: work continues on the trees/shrubs, all in hand with the Waun Capel Trust</p>
0722/11	<p>HIGHWAYS AND PCC MATTERS:</p> <p>Highways:</p> <p>a) Road Markings at 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. AD to continue to press PCC for a response.</p> <p>PCC Matters</p> <p>a) CAT Library update: The valuation report was due on the 28th of October, CE had chased William Beddoes for an update but had no response to date. CE agreed to forward a copy of the email to AD to follow up.</p> <p>b) CAT Dolgerddon Update: Cllr Jake Berriman has been chased for an answer. AD has been advised no additional information can be provided at this time while confidential insurance issues are ongoing. This is extremely frustrating as the matter is no further forward and it is no longer clear where the responsibility lies and what actions PCC are taking. LL to work with CE and AD to consolidate all information received to date and draft a strong letter to relevant parties at PCC. LL and AD to discuss the contents of the letter (CE/AD/RT)</p> <p>c) Recycling: Discussion re Recycling, seen as a good service although the income is minimal. VLG reported another local council receives approx. £30 per month from Roberts Recycling for clothes banks collections. Noted that the council could consider paying a contractor to collect recycling. Waste clothing, electrical items and plastic film were noted as particular issues. VLG to pass contact details for Roberts Recycling to Clerk. Clerk to obtain additional information and discuss with CW and RT</p> <p>d) Thanks were passed to AD for the draft Biodiversity Plan. The 2022 plan to be approved at the next meeting for publication on the website by the 31st December 2022. Clerk to add to the agenda</p>
0722/12	<p>PUBLICITY and EVENTS:</p> <p>a) Thanks to be passed to Karen Compton for her coverage of the Bryntitli Fund availability and Remembrance Service in the Journal. Clerk to contact</p>
0722/13	<p>PLANNING: the following applications, previously circulated, were discussed.</p> <p>a) 22/1831/HH: Erection of an Oak Frame Pergola and Balcony to the rear elevation (South) Mill Cottage, Cwmdauddwr, LD6 5EY. No objections noted</p> <p>b) 22/1866/HH: Erection of a Car Port. 1 and 2 Bear Barn, East St, Rhayader, LD6 5DN. No objections noted</p> <p>c) 22/1813/FUL: Application to render the gable end to prevent water ingress into Fluoride Building in the Water Treatment Works, Elan Valley Water Treatment Works, Elan Valley. No objections noted</p> <p>d) 21/2085/FUL: NOTE, invitation to make a representation to the planning committee on the 1st Dec re application for change of dwelling (C3) to a D1 (Wellbeing and Healing Retreat), conversion of part of barn to artists studio and store, installation of solar arrays and all</p>

	associated works. Rhydoldog, Cwmdauddwr, LD6 5HB follow. <i>Clerk to write to the Planning Committee and re-iterate the RTC objections</i>																																
0722/14	<p>FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE: Presented by VLG</p> <p>a) To balance of income and expenditure was noted and the following invoices were approved.</p> <p>BALANCES AT HSBC 28/11/2022</p> <table> <tr> <td>Rhayader TC (Precept)</td><td>£ 55,518.64</td></tr> <tr> <td>Recycling Account</td><td>£ 54,748.70 (inc Ringfenced balances)</td></tr> <tr> <td>Public Toilet Account</td><td>£ 8,392.61</td></tr> <tr> <td>Allotment Account</td><td>£ 362.99</td></tr> <tr> <td>Bryntitli Fund Account</td><td>£ 26,837.15</td></tr> </table> <p><u>Internal Transfers to approve: None</u></p> <p><u>Invoices for payment: PRECEPT</u></p> <p>Clerk Nov 2022 time sheet to be approved by DD TBA (IB)</p> <p>HMRC NOV 2022 as approved by DD TBA (IB)</p> <p>RFO NOV 2022 time sheet to be approved by DD TBA (IB)</p> <table> <tr> <td>Office Solutions Wales</td><td>£ 41.72</td></tr> <tr> <td>Royal British Legion (Donation for Wreaths)</td><td>£ 100.00</td></tr> <tr> <td>Gallagher Insurance 2023/24 renewal</td><td>£1,426.29</td></tr> <tr> <td>Nantgwyllt Church</td><td>£ 50.00</td></tr> <tr> <td>United reform Chapel</td><td>£ 50.00</td></tr> <tr> <td>Bethall Baptist Chapel</td><td>£ 50.00</td></tr> <tr> <td>St Bride's Church</td><td>£ 50.00</td></tr> <tr> <td>St Clement's Church</td><td>£ 50.00</td></tr> <tr> <td>St Francis' Church</td><td>£ 50.00</td></tr> <tr> <td>Presbyterian Chapel</td><td>£ 50.00</td></tr> <tr> <td>Bethany Chapel</td><td>£ 50.00</td></tr> </table> <p>The Royal British Legion Award and those to the churches and chapels for grass cutting and maintenance of public spaces outside those places of worship to be listed as S137</p> <p>An award of £100 to the Arches Foodbank (as discussed during the review of the Bryntitli Fund applications) was also agreed. (S137)</p> <p>It was also agreed to purchase a wi-fi router for use with the video conferencing equipment in the chamber (DD/DT)</p> <p><u>TOILETS - Invoices for payment:</u></p> <p>Info JAT (cleaning NOV) excludes HMRC for info £ 413.96 (IB)</p> <p><u>ALLOTMENTS - Invoices for payment:</u></p> <p><u>RECYCLING - Invoices for payment: NONE</u></p> <p><u>BRYNTITLI - Invoices for payment:</u></p> <p>Awarded for applications made November 2022-23 as listed on signed appraisal and award sheets:</p>	Rhayader TC (Precept)	£ 55,518.64	Recycling Account	£ 54,748.70 (inc Ringfenced balances)	Public Toilet Account	£ 8,392.61	Allotment Account	£ 362.99	Bryntitli Fund Account	£ 26,837.15	Office Solutions Wales	£ 41.72	Royal British Legion (Donation for Wreaths)	£ 100.00	Gallagher Insurance 2023/24 renewal	£1,426.29	Nantgwyllt Church	£ 50.00	United reform Chapel	£ 50.00	Bethall Baptist Chapel	£ 50.00	St Bride's Church	£ 50.00	St Clement's Church	£ 50.00	St Francis' Church	£ 50.00	Presbyterian Chapel	£ 50.00	Bethany Chapel	£ 50.00
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	<p>b) Management accounts were discussed, and included income received and payments made to 28th November 2022, members were advised that transfers between accounts had been made to rectify a few payments that had been paid from incorrect accounts and a list would follow. An overview of spend to date / projected spend was presented with a draft budget for 2023-34. The draft budget reflected community awards for the current year, increase in insurance costs and sundry admin and day to day operating costs, Salary budgets were based on 2022 NALC pay scales and calculation notes were provided. The precept values for 2023/24 had been issues by Powys County Council and it was noted that the value of the precept £1 had reduced from £919.66 to £917.97. Members were reminded of the restrictions of Section 137 of the Local Government Act (LGA) 1972 which 'authorise a local council to spend money (subject to the statutory limit, which for 2023-24 has been advised as £9.93 per elector) for the direct benefit of its area, or part of its area, or all or some of its inhabitants'. Members were asked to consider the draft budget and bring forward amendments for discussion and agreement at the next meeting in order to agree the precept request for submission to Powys County Council in January 2023. Clerk to add as the first item on the agenda</p> <p>c) Members were reminded to complete any outstanding Records of Members Interests and Training Needs Assessments and return these to the Clerk</p> <p>d) Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Part 1 – Section 6 The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty. See 0722/11d</p>	
0722/15	<p>CORRESPONDENCE: A summary of the following correspondence was noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Welsh Government <i>Diversity in Public Life</i> Conference dates and venues; Minister for Finance & Local Government speaking b) Consultation on Electoral Administration and Reform White Paper; deadline 10 Jan 23 c) Welsh Government Fuel Support Scheme Toolkit d) National Association of Local Councils; Clerks salary from 1 Apr 23 (noted in budget considerations) e) One Voice Wales, <i>Innovative Practice</i> Conference; theme is "<i>Gearing ourselves up to provide for Successful and Vibrant Towns and Communities</i>" 8 Dec 22 f) Emergency Ambulance Services: next meeting scheduled 6 Dec 22 g) OFGEM Priority Service Register from Clinical Conditions & Pathways Team, Quality & Nursing Directorate, Health & Social Service Group. Free support service to promote the extra help available to vulnerable people h) Help & Support for vulnerable people from: Laurence Harpwood Tackling Poverty and Supporting Families Division; Fuel Rights Handbook; Financial Help for Families i) New guidance on bullying and harassment from One Voice Wales and SLCC j) Local Places for Nature. Councils to identify potential sites such as Bus Stops etc for Green Roofs asap k) Consultation: Council Tax for second homes; questions and responses invited before 22 Dec l) Consultation: Call for evidence to strengthen Welsh speaking communities 	

	m) Courier Fraud Awareness: poster available for public awareness
0722/16	COMMUNITY ISSUES, MEMBER DISCUSSIONS: <i>No additional issues were raised.</i>
0722/17	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: <i>No urgent items raised.</i>
0722/18	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: No items to consider</i>
0722/19	DATE OF NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be held on Monday the 19th of December 2022 The meeting will be held at Cwmdauddwr School (subject to remote access arrangements and prevailing COVID-19 restrictions at the time of the meeting). The meeting will be preceded at 6.30pm with the presentation of cheques to recipients of the Bryntitli Fund Awards.
CLOSE	The meeting closed at 10.25 pm

Action Points

- Clerk to write to Bryntitli applicants with outcome of awards
- Bryntitli Fund to be re-advertised in May/June – Clerk to add to a future agenda
- Grant funding guidelines to be reviewed – Clerk to add to a future agenda
- 2 small Grant Applications to be added to the December agenda
- Town Clock/ War Memorial. CW to continue to discuss possible works on the posts
- Citizen of the Year and Best Kept Garden Award – Clerk to add both to a future agenda
- Feedback from 2021 Bryntitli Awards outstanding: AD to follow up with the school, clerk to follow up others
- Clerk to write to Keith Feilding to thank Scouts and Cubs for Remembrance Support activities
- DT to send VLG contact details for RBL
- CE to arrange printing of Remembrance Service programmes – to agreed budget with VLG at next meeting
- Clerk to contact applicants for councillor vacancy of outcome
- DT to approach Community Health Council to represent RTC and raise concerns noted
- DD to contact PCC Health Committee to raise concerns re health provision
- DT to work with the Clerk to provide a list of questions to be addressed to the local GP practice
- All Cllrs to forward questions to the Clerk by the end of the week
- AD to work with the Clerk to compose a letter inviting the practice manager to a meeting with some members of the RTC
- Oak Tree: AD and the Clerk to follow up with PCC
- Penrhiw-wen Road Markings: AD to continue to press PCC for a response
- CAT Library: CE to forward AD a copy of the email sent to William Beddoes for AD to follow up
- CAT Dolgerddon: LL, CE and AD to work together consolidating all previous information received from PCC.
- LL and AD to use this information to form the basis of a strong letter to be sent to PCC
- VLG to pass contact details for Roberts Recycling to the Clerk
- Clerk to obtain information on recycling services, costs and income and discuss with RT and CW
- Biodiversity Plan produced by AD to be approved for publication on the website: Clerk to add to December agenda
- Clerk to contact Karen Compton to pass on thanks for press coverage
- Clerk to write to the Planning Committee to re-iterate RTC objections to Rhydoldog application
- Outstanding Training Needs Assessment forms to be sent to VLG
- Outstanding Records of Members Interest forms to be sent to VLG