

Minutes from the MEETING of RHAYADER TOWN COUNCIL held at:**7.00 pm on the 19th December 2022** in the Council Chamber, Cwmdauddwr Community Centre.

0822/01	<p>ATTENDING: D. Davies (DD) Chairing. Cllrs A. Davies (AD); V. Jones-Davies (VJD); C. Walton (CW); W. Davies (WD); J. Stuart (JS); R. Thomas (RT); L. Lloyd (LL); D. Thomas (DT); D. Lloyd (DL) ; C. Hamer (CH); K. Cronin (KC) C. Evans (CW) and D.O. Evans (DOE) joined the meeting at 7.30pm V. L. Garwood - Responsible Finance Officer (VLG) and J. Stephens (Clerk)</p> <p>Karen Compton (Press) joined the meeting remotely.</p> <p>RTC Cllrs assembled at 6.45pm prior to the start of the Ordinary Meeting for the presentation of the Bryntitli Awards.</p>
0822/02	<p>BRYNTITLI 2022/2023 AWARDS: Prior to the start of the Town Council meeting, the Mayor (DD) thanked Ventient Energy for their support of the Bryntitli Fund. He then presented cheques to representatives from the community organisations benefitting from the Bryntitli Fund. Presentations made to: CARAD, Cwmdauddwr Christmas Lights, Cwmdauddwr Community (Old School), Cylch Meithrin, Rhayader Town Football Club, The Groe Trust, Gwastedyn Messy Church, St Clements Church, The Arches Reindeer Run, Rhayader Under 5s, Rhayader Young Farmers and Waun Capel Trust MUGA</p> <p>The ordinary meeting started at 7.05pm</p>
0822/03	<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>None declared</p>
0822/04	<p>CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The chairman welcomed Katy Cronin as the new councillor The Chairman noted the positive decision to reverse the temporary closure of the Leisure Centre. Further comments to be covered later under the agenda The chairman thanked the Luncheon Club for an enjoyable time and excellent meal at the recent Christmas Party. He noted there are currently vacancies for people to join the club Thanks to Cllr R Thomas and his Fire and Rescue Service colleagues for the excellent arrangements and support given to the recent Reindeer Run
0822/05	<p>MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION UNDER URGENT BUSINESS: raised since the issue of the agenda: The damage to the toilets</p>
0822/06	<p>MINUTES:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on the 29th November 2022 were approved (JS/RT)
0822/07	<p>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES NOT ON THE AGENDA:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Grant funding guidelines, to be added to the January Agenda (Clerk) Town Clock/War Memorial; conversations are continuing regarding works to the posts (CW) Local Health Provision. AD has spoken to Jane Jones the Practice Manager to gain an understanding of the issues now there is just one GP. Jane advised AD no formal complaints had been received. Jane reported a GP had left to set up their own practice so the practice is down to only one GP. The vacancy has been advertised but there have been no applications which reflects the difficulties faced by practices across the UK. Locally, it's difficult trying to attract a GP to the area if there is no work for their partner. Jane noted that people were actively using other local services such as the pharmacy. Although Jane has not had complaints about the surgery, complaints had been received from people asking about waiting lists for referrals, it was explained that people had been referred, but the lists are so

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Chairman: Councillor D Davies _____

Date _____

	<p>long it will be some time before patients get a response. RT felt that patients are unlikely to complain about the people they will then rely on for treatment. Service is still not adequate in some cases, an example given of a person ringing at 11am with no medical person being available. It was noted there used to be 3 doctors at one time. AD to set up a meeting with Jane in the new year to explore these issues.</p> <p>d) DT to approach Community Health Council to represent RTC at its next meeting</p> <p>e) Oak Tree – see 0822/09c</p> <p>f) CAT: see 0822/11a</p> <p>g) Recycling: The clerk has been in touch with Roberts Recycling who are going to provide relevant information. On receipt, Clerk to discuss additional information with CW and RT</p> <p>h) CE to arrange printing of Remembrance Service programmes – to agreed budget with VLG</p>
0822/08	<p>COMMITTEES, SUB-COMMITTEES and WORKING GROUPS:</p> <p>a) Toilets: At approximately 10pm on Sunday 18th December, unknown person(s) entered the ladies toilets and set fire to the toilet roll in one of the stalls. This resulted in the destruction of the toilet roll holder and led to significant smoke damage throughout the ladies toilet block. It is hoped that as the walls are painted with anti-vandal paint it should be possible to clean them. It was suggested toilet roll holders are replaced with metal ones. CCTV from the Ambulance Station was checked and appeared to show 2 people involved in the incident. JS noted that people had taken time to contact RTC to make sure their children were not involved in any way. RT suggested the CCTV at other locations such as the Kebab Shop be checked. Disappointment was expressed at the lack of Police response at the time of the incident, this is to be raised with the police by letter. Clerk to follow up with the Police and Insurance. CW to discuss cleaning up of the fire damage with Aubrey</p>
0822/09	<p>INFORMATION AND UP-DATES FROM THE LOCAL COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBER.</p> <p>a) Devils Gulch: It has been confirmed work will now commence in January. AD clarified the road crossing the Craig Goch Dam will be closed to traffic whilst work takes place on the Dam Valves. The road will remain open to pedestrians and cyclists.</p> <p>b) Youth Club: A meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 20th December 12.00 at the Arches to seek commitment from people to form a management committee and take the project forward.</p> <p>c) Oak Tree: AD notified PCC that RTC were willing to proceed with an Asset Transfer on the basis that PCC should pay for the works to be carried out. A quote is now required from Andrew Mills. Clerk to contact Andrew Mills</p> <p>d) White Lines at Penrhiw-wen; PCC will not paint White Lines on this stretch of road</p> <p>e) CAT Library: see 0822/11a</p> <p>f) CAT Dolgerddon: see 0822/11b and 0822/18</p>
0822/10	<p>PROJECTS AND COMMUNITY ISSUES</p> <p>a) Small Grant requests: 2 small grant requests had been received last month alongside Bryntitli Applications. Funds requested have already been awarded from the Bryntitli Fund</p> <p>b) Grant Request: A request has been received from St Johns Ambulance asking for a contribution towards the cost of advanced driver training for 6 Rhayader Volunteer Alternative Responders. DD glad to support this service. Award agreed £1,000 (CW/DT) AD pleased to note there are 6 local people willing to volunteer their time to support their community. Clerk to notify the applicant</p> <p>c) Rhayader Leisure Centre: Good news that PCC and Freedom Leisure (FL) have reversed the decision on the temporary closures but still concern over the long term future of Leisure Centre (LC) Key points raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DD, essential we are pro-active, need to get FL into a meeting with us • CE, need to reinstate management committee that was previously disbanded by FL

- Need to identify the area Ops Manager and invite to the meeting
- RT and AD essential we continue to chase for financial information
- DT, as the figures came from FL, ask them to bring them to the meeting
- Figures needed for all centres for comparison
- JS has issued a FOI request, only 3 cabinet members responded. Asked to see what the cabinet received from FL. Have 20 working days to respond
- JS also emailed the manager at the LC to ask for P&L for the last 60days
- AD noted there is a facility on the PCC website for anyone to raise questions
- CE asked if we should consider using a collective approach with other town councils
- DD, need to set up a working group to consider how to take this forward and consider all possible options including the setup of a trust
- AD, reminded Cllrs there is a lot of local knowledge to tap into
- Essential figures are shared, need to know plans are viable
- DL, cannot wait for 20 days to get figures, agreed
- DL asked if any feedback from Fay; DD: no, still a PCC / FL issue currently
- RT, well done to AD for standing up and fighting for Rhayader
- AD, reminder the LC and Pool are a vital contribution to the health and wellbeing of the wider community
- CE explained some of the complexities of funding, community enterprises don't always make money
- LL, reminder that part of the LC is based on land owned by the Church diocese
- Thanks to Rev Lance Sharpe for his support, he must be included in the working group
- RT, Martin and Tim should be part of the working group due to their extensive experience with the LC
- RTC Working group members: LL, AD, RT, DL, DD and JS
- **ACTION: set up working group, invite FL to a meeting and chase for figures**

d) Effectiveness of Powys CC Cabinet: The decision, now rescinded, to temporarily close a number of Leisure Centres has been a complete debacle and demonstrates poor management and decision making by PCC Cabinet. Also generally discussed under 0822/18. Key discussion points:

- How was the decision made with seemingly few facts to support it, and lack of due diligence
- Were FL put under pressure to justify their decision
- JS "does not have confidence going forward, PCC should have facts and figures and a full impact assessment
- It appears as though the decision was pushed through by certain officers rather than being fully considered by the cabinet
- Press release was issued at 3pm, no other warnings were given when in fact concerns had already led to Cllr David Selby visiting Leisure Centres in June
- Decision made on the eve of the Welsh Government Settlement announcement, why not wait for 24 hours
- There has been plenty of time and opportunity to meet and discuss possible solutions.
- Complete lack of consultation, RTC could have helped seek solutions
- Poor timing, December and January are peak recruitment times, leading to loss of income from potential new members
- DD proposed a "vote of no confidence in Powys County Council Cabinet", DT seconded. Unanimous resolution. AD abstained

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VLG to Write to Wynn Richards and Steve Boyd and copy other Community Councils regarding the concerns of RTC of the efficiency and effectiveness of the PCC Cabinet in respect of their handling of the matters related to the Leisure Centres and Swimming Pools.
0822/11	<p>HIGHWAYS AND PCC MATTERS:</p> <p>Highways:</p> <p>PCC Matters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) CAT Library update: Documentation has been received from PCC in support of the transfer. Given the length of time it's taken to reach this position, the subsequent deterioration of the building and the potential impact of recent developments at the Leisure Centre, AD proposed a meeting is held at the Library to assess its condition and highlight any issues prior to proceeding. CE believes there was a tacit agreement at one time that the Library should move to the Leisure Centre, DD noted that Cllr. David Selby had seemed in favour of this. CE asked that running costs for the last year be obtained. Meeting to be arranged early in the new year, AD to speak arrange with the Keyholder re access. b) CAT Dolgerddon Update: LL explained the results of her investigation into the status of the lease which appeared to suggest the original leaseholder is still liable. Due to the complexities surrounding the lease it was proposed by JS and DD that LL and CE should arrange to meet relevant parties to share their knowledge and assist where possible. AD to contact Jake Berriman re meeting c) Presentations: AD explained a number of organisations including PAVO, Crime Stoppers and Dementia Awareness had expressed a desire to deliver short presentations to RTC on their services and suggested these are done before the main meeting. DD agreed. Clerk to add organisations to future agendas
0822/12	<p>PUBLICITY and EVENTS: Karen Compton was asked to report on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Bryntitli Awards b) Vote of no confidence in Powys County Council Cabinet
0822/13	<p>PLANNING: No new applications to discuss.</p>
0822/14	<p>FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE: Presented by VLG</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The draft the draft Precept budget had been previously circulated. However, it was agreed that financial effect of the progress of the CAT of the Library should be considered in more detail as this could impact the budget and precept. JS explained he had a few queries and suggested a separate meeting be arranged to allow sufficient time to discuss and agree the budget. Clerk to arrange meeting early in the new year b) The account balances were noted and agreed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 49,718.24 RTC General A/C 54,748.70 Recycling 362.99 Allotments 8,392.61 Toilets 26,829.15 Bryntitli <p>The following payments were approved (JS/RT)</p> <p><u>Invoices for payment: PRECEPT</u></p> <p>Clerk DEC 2022 time sheet to be approved by DD TBA (IB)</p>

	<p>HMRC DEC 2022 as approved by DD TBA (IB)</p> <p>RFO DEC 202 time sheet to be approved by DD TBA (IB)</p> <p>Refund VLG iro Amazon purchase Wi-Fi Router 69.49</p> <p><u>TOILETS - Invoices for payment:</u></p> <p>Info JAT (cleaning DEC) excludes HMRC 413.96 (IB)</p> <p>Cliff Walton & Sons Ltd inv 25417 50.00 (IB)</p> <p><u>ALLOTMENTS - Invoices for payment: NONE</u></p> <p><u>RECYCLING - Invoices for payment: NONE</u></p> <p><u>BRYNTITLI - Invoices for payment: (for information)</u></p> <p>Cheques issued for 2022 Awards</p> <p>CARAD: £400</p> <p>Cwmduddwr Christmas Lights: £2,000</p> <p>Cwmduddwr Community (Old School): £1,500</p> <p>Cylch Meithrin: £1,000</p> <p>Rhayader Town Football Club: £1,000</p> <p>The Groe Trust: £1,000</p> <p>Gwastodyn Messy Church: £650</p> <p>St Clements Church: £850</p> <p>The Arches Reindeer Run: £550</p> <p>Rhayader Under 5s: £234</p> <p>Rhayader Young Farmers: £440</p> <p>Waun Capel Trust MUGA: £750</p> <p>GOVERNANCE</p> <p>a) Members were reminded to complete any outstanding Records of Members Interests and Training Needs Assessments and return these to the Clerk</p> <p>b) Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Part 1 – Section 6 The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty. Members thanked AD for her report and agreed that it be submitted to Welsh Government. (DD/VJD)</p> <p>c) Katy Cronin received copies of the code of conduct and induction briefing, signed a declaration of acceptance of office and signed to agree to opt out of the general payments to members for the remainder of 2022-23.</p>
0822/15	<p>CORRESPONDENCE:</p> <p>No community correspondence had been received and there were no additional information items other than those previously circulated for information by email.</p>
0822/16	<p>COMMUNITY ISSUES AND MEMBER DISCUSSIONS:</p> <p>AD passed on thanks to RT and his fellow Fire Fighters for their prompt action to re-secure the Christmas Lights following the strong winds</p>
0822/17	<p>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: Toilets; see 0822/08a</p>

0822/18	<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:</i></p> <p>DD thanked Karen Compton for her attendance and she left the meeting at 8.30pm when there was a short confidential discussion.</p> <p>8.30pm CONFIDENTIAL DISCUSSION</p> <p>Members were reminded that the detail of this should not be discussed with others not in attendance during this discussion.</p> <p>This item is minuted in Part 2 of these minutes.</p>
0822/19	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be held on <i>Date to be confirmed</i> at Cwmdauddwr School (subject to remote access arrangements and prevailing COVID-19 restrictions at the time of the meeting).</p>
CLOSE	The meeting closed at 9.00 pm

Action Points

- Grant funding guidelines to be reviewed – Clerk to add to January agenda
- 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 discussed.
- DT to approach Community Health Council to represent RTC and raise concerns noted
- Clerk to obtain information on recycling services, costs and income and discuss with RT and CW
- CE to arrange printing of Remembrance Service programmes – to agreed budget with VLG
- Clerk to write to Police re lack of response to call re Arson
- Clerk to follow up with Insurance company re damage to toilets
- CW to discuss the clearing up of fire damage with Aubrey
- Clerk to obtain quote for works to the Oak Tree from Andrew Mills
- Funding agreed for St Johns responder training, clerk to notify applicant
- Leisure Centre: set up working group, invite FL to a meeting and chase for figures
- VLG to issue letter regarding the concerns of the RTC re PCC Cabinet handling of LC matters
- CAT Library: Meeting to be arranged to view Library, AD to arrange access through the keyholder. Running costs to be obtained
- CAT Dolgerddon: AD to contact Cllr. Beriman to arrange a meeting
- Clerk to arrange a Precept meeting early in the new year
- Outstanding Training Needs Assessment forms to be sent to VLG
- Outstanding Records of Members Interest forms to be sent to VLG

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