

23rd April 2019

RHAYADER TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 23rd OF APRIL 2019 AT 6.30PM AT THE OLD SCHOOL CWMDAUDDWR

THOSE PRESENT

Chairman: Councillor W. Davies
Councillors: G. Williams D. Davies C. Evans C. Walton R. Thomas
A. Davies D.O. Evans J. Jones J. Narborough
V. Jones Davies L. Price
Observer: County Cllr. K. Curry
Luke Nicholls

1. APOLOGIES: Councillor J. Stuart

Before agenda items were discussed, Council proceeded with the next stage of co-opting a new Councillor for RTC. Resume of each candidate was read out before voting took place.

Mr Darran Thomas was nominated by a majority vote. It was proposed by Cllr. A. Davies that Luke Nicholls, one of the applicants, be invited to become a Youth Ambassador for RTC, with a view to bringing young people's issues, concerns, and ideas to RTC. This proposal was seconded by Cllr. R. Thomas. Council agreed with the idea, providing a more clarified description of the role to be discussed at a later date.

Action - New post to be discussed further with Luke, and Councillors, at an arranged date and time.

1a. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Midnight Tractor Run – Chairman attended the event and officially started the run. Over 100 entries took part, and the event was very well supported.
- Rhayader Angling Association Presentation Evening at the Elan Hotel - Very well attended dinner and presentation evening.
- Easter Egg Hunt at Rhayader Fire Station organised by Rhayader Carnival Committee - 150 Easter Eggs donated by local Spar shop. Over 140 children attended. Stalls, Face Painting, Raffle, Burgers etc. Very well attended by the whole community and good to see so many children taking part.
- Cat Sanctuary – New venture by Melanie Hughes and Libby Parry. Funds raised to support the spaying of cats in the area.

1b. MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION UNDER URGENT BUSINESS

- Monks Trod Walk – Cllr. A. Davies
- Wall at the Old School Community Centre, Cwmdauddwr – Cllr. C. Walton

2. MINUTES TO BE AGREED

Minutes of RTC meeting held 19th of March 2019, agreed with the following amendments:

- Speakers - Changes to be made to the speakers report by Cambrian Mountain Initiative - noted
- 6.14 Circulate to Council, recommendations from the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales Report for Council to make an informative decision on expenses received.
- 12 – Move the following 2 items from “Business for next meeting” to “Matters Arising from minutes”
Rhayader Under 5's Group meeting with RTC
St Harmon Traffic Safety

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Date

Chairman Councillor W. Davies

23rd April 2019

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Rhayader Under 5's – Rhayader under 5's need a new location. County Cllr. K. Curry reported 3 proposed locations for consideration:

1. Pavilion Waun Capel Parc – There are parking issues, and due to the postcode, the group would need to re-registered.
2. Cricket Club – On inspection, layout is not appropriate and would require alterations, although it is big enough. Cllr. C. Walton informed Council that the Cricket Club is still in existence, in case there are any issues regarding lease.
3. Portacabin could be supplied by PCC. To be positioned where the Cricket Club is, by the school or by the nursery. The preferred location is by the school.

Cllr. L. Price suggested Cwmdauddwr School. Cllr. C. Walton said this would not be an option due to water issues, and again the group would need to re-register due to change of postcode.

Cllr. C. Walton suggested a Portacabin could be sited on the old tennis court, or on the cricket pitch.

Location discussions are still taking place.

School will require the room from Rhayader Under 5's from September 2019.

St. Harmon Road Safety Concerns – No update on this issue.

Action - County Cllr. K. Curry will follow-up and report back at next meeting.

Street and Gutter Cleaning – The street cleaning machine has been out and about but has not completed the job to a satisfactory standard. Not all gutters and gullies have been maintained, and the streets remain mainly unkept.

Action – Clerk to follow-up.

Dolgerddon – County Cllr. K. Curry reported that there is no further update at this time.

Action - Cllr. C. Evans to speak to the County Times regarding possible press release on the Dolgerddon situation.

4: REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORTS

Cllr. C. Walton reported back from the School Governors Group. Main discussion point being the problem with schools working to budget restraints.

Cllr. C. Walton reported back from Toilet Committee – There was a toilet sewage problem in the Dark Lane toilets. Welsh Water dealt with this, however there was a problem in completing the work.

Action – Clerk to write to Welsh Water requesting them to complete the work.

Cllr. J. Narborough and Cllr. D. Evans are waiting for the paperwork to be returned from the Land Registry Office regarding land ownership.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest

6 AGENDA ITEMS

6.1 Local Public Toilet Draft Strategy Comments (deadline 22.4.19) Item information was circulated, no comments made.

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Chairman Councillor W. Davies

Date

23rd April 2019

6.2 Allotment Sub-Committee Meeting (held 2.4.19, at the Elan Hotel, Rhayader) and Allotment Site Meeting (9.4.19) Update. Cllr. G. Williams and Cllr. A. Davies reported back.

Notes regarding the Allotment Committee Site Meeting and recent meetings have been circulated to Council. The main issues being, the need to clear out rubbish from the site, clear empty plots that had overgrown, identification of communal areas and use of machinery, equipment and storage facilities. To resurrect the Allotment Association to deal with allotment issues and nominate representatives to report back to Allotment Committee.

Action – Clerk to wait to hear from David Lewis regarding the Allotment Association reform, allotment holders will then be contacted to discuss the way forward.

6.3 Rhayader 2000, Charitable Status.

Charitable Status Report drafted by Bill Stow had been circulated to Council prior to the meeting. Cllr. D. Evans proposed the item be deferred till next meeting, seconded by Cllr. R. Thomas. Any comments would be most welcome from Council which will be reported back to Bill Stow at Rhayader 2000.

6.4 Grass Cutting Schedule, mapping of grass cutting areas around Rhayader.

Clerk contacted PCC regarding the grass cutting schedule and enquired about the areas of grass not on the current schedule. Cllr. J. Narborough agreed to help the Clerk to identify the grass areas for cutting on a map, using the information from the Council Walkabout earlier this year, and pass it on to PCC who said they would consider cutting the extra areas if not too much work. Cllr. C. Walton said Council would like to see the mapped areas first before passing on to PCC.

6.5 Garden Waste Collection Update.

Cllr. J. Narborough proposed buying Green Waste Sacks to be used when cutting roundabout etc £105 plus VAT from PCC. Seconded by Cllr. C. Evans

Cllr. C. Walton suggested buying a skip with a lockable lid and positioning in a location of easy access. The skip could be emptied as and when required for a small cost.

Action – Cllr. C. Walton to determine cost of skip, and cost of emptying the skip for next meeting.

6.6 OVO Energy Women's Bike Tour, coming through Rhayader Friday 14th June 2019

Cllr. R. Thomas suggested press release, banners etc around town, notify as many of the community as possible as this is a big event coming through the town and will be televised etc. Possible interactive board at the Smithfield. Agenda item for next meeting.

Action – Clerk to notify all local community groups of the event. Promote on Facebook page, and provide press release. Contact the organisers for as much materials as possible, with a view to promoting the town as well as the event.

Action – Cllr. C. Walton to investigate the use of the interactive board in the Smithfield for next meeting.

6.7 Smithfield - Concerns and Update.

Cllr. C. Evans attended a meeting with the Smithfield Trust who now have an independent person overseeing the lease of the Smithfield as a trading market. Smithfield Trust want to keep the Smithfield as a livestock market. There are people interested in the lease.

Any organisation wanting to use the Smithfield can do so by contacting Sian Davies, Secretary of the Smithfield Trust.

6.8 Citizen of the Year Award.

Cllr. G. Williams suggested opening the criteria to include groups. After discussion Council agreed to leave the criteria as it stands, not to include groups.

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Date

Chairman Councillor W. Davies

23rd April 2019

6.9 Glass recycling in Cwmdauddwr.

Cllr. A. Davies on behalf of Cllr. J. Stuart stated that the glass recycling bin had been removed from Cwmdauddwr. There followed a discussion as to whether there ever had been glass recycling bins.

Action - Cllr. L. Price will investigate and report back at the next meeting.

6.10 OVW Event 15th of May 2019

As agreed by Council in previous minutes RTC no long subscribe to OVW so no attendance to the event required.

6.11 Bike Park Update

Site meeting took place. Cllr. C. Walton reported back that there were a few planning issues that can be resolved. Badger and Otter issues to be addressed with ecology assessment to be carried out by Doctor Munro. Design and work on the Bike Park have gone out to tender and there has been a lot of interest. There are strict deadlines to be adhered to. Soil testing has taken place. S.A.C (Special Area of Conservation) is in hand.

6.12 Clerks Salary and Pension Scheme

Clerk left the room while salary and pension were discussed.

Cllr. D. Davies provided Council with several options for pensions for employees. Council resolved that the NEST Pension Scheme, which had been suggested as a feasible option for the Clerk and any other RTC employees, be adopted.

Clerk returned to the meeting.

6.13 Knife Amnesty.

Cllr. R. Thomas had seen a report in the County Times and questioned the accuracy of the report.

Action – Clerk to contact Community Police to investigate further.

6.14 Litter and Fly Tipping.

Cllr. A. Davies brought this to Councils attention, there appeared to be a lot of litter/fly tipping on the Weirglodd, particularly around the Rugby Club. Cllr. A. Davies is due to attend a meeting with local school pupils at Rhayader School to discuss/arrange a litter picking exercise.

Action – Cllr. A. Davies to organise a litter picking day, involving school pupils involved, and liaising with Rachel Palmer, Keep Wales Tidy.

Action – Cllr. C. Walton will contact the Rugby Club regarding litter issue.

6.15 5 Year Plan Update.

Action – Clerk is to produce an action plan following on from the Council Walkabout earlier this year and link it to the 5 Year Plan. Clerk to seek out a list of all benches and assets produced by Jackie Connelly. Cllr. V. Jones Davies has produced her own list of benches and passed it to the Clerk. This exercise is ongoing.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

- 7.1 Cancer Research Wales – Donation Letter. – Council noted receipt of the letter.
- 7.2 Abermule Recycling Letter – Request for letter of support from RTC – Council noted the receipt of the letter.
- 7.3 Merchant Navy Seafarers Fund – Merchant Navy Day 3.9.19. Request for RTC to fly the red ensign.
Action – Councillor J. Stuart to organise.
- 7.4 Penralley House re Welsh Government response to traffic calming issues.

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Date

Chairman Councillor W. Davies

23rd April 2019

Action – County Cllr. K. Curry will feedback at next meeting, following information he reported to Council, from an email he had received in relation to the issues raised.

- 7.5 Ventient Energy – Possible site visit in July 2019. Council noted receipt of the letter.

8. PLANNING

8.1 Ref 19/0576/TRE Work to trees in Conservation Area in the Elan Village
No objection from Council

8.2 Ref 19/0483/FUL Demolition and replacement of 2-bedroom building. The Old Drill Hall, Rhayader
No objection from Council

9. FINANCE

All finance items noted by Council

10. URGENT BUSINESS

Monks Trod – Cllr. A. Davies walked Monks Trod and took some photographs. Report circulated to Council prior to the meeting.

New Wall at the Old School Cwmdauddwr – Cllr. C. Walton reported the wall has been rebuilt, and the old drinking fountain will be reinstated. This was confirmed by Cllr. J. Stuart and Cllr. D. Evans.

11. PRESS RELEASE

Turn the Town Pink Week.

Cllr. C. Walton has an idea to turn the clock face pink using lighting.

All shops and local businesses joining in the fun whilst raising money for Cancer Research.

Noah's Ark Children's Hospital Welsh Walk, coming through Rhayader Monday 13th of May 2019.

RTC will be supporting the charity by running a cake stall on Friday 10th of May outside the Lamb and Flag with all the proceeds being presented to the fund raisers when they come through Rhayader on Monday 13.5.19 at 11am.

12. BUSINESS FOR NEXT MEETING

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next monthly meeting will be held at 7p.m. on Tuesday 21st of May 2019.

RTC AGM 14th of May 2019 7pm.

The meeting closed at 9.20p.m.

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Date