

RHAYADER TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 23rd OF JUNE 2020 AT 7.00PM (Virtually due to Covid-19 Pandemic)

THOSE PRESENT

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

1. APOLOGIES: Cllr. J. Jones

1a. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The Chair Cllr. J. Narborough was happy to announce that the Pump Track is reopening on 24.6.20.
- Condolences on behalf of the Council were expressed to Cllr. J. Stuart at the passing of his Mother Alvine.
- Congratulation on behalf of the Council was expressed to Cllr. C. Evans on the birth of her baby boy.
- Acknowledgment was given to the wonderful social distancing tea parties held across town for the V.E. Day Celebrations. The Chair thanked the community for sending in their photographs of the day.
- The Chair and Cllr. J. Stuart were invited to join the Chair of Llandrindod Wells Council and Jayne Griffiths (Tesco) in virtually judging an area wide Scarecrow Competition. It was wonderful to see so many entries. Winners were chosen from each area, the winner from Rhayader and Cwmdauddwr was Mrs. M. Williams with Meurig Rees a close second. Both received a prize from RTC.
- The Chair wished to commend the actions of Cllr. R. Thomas and Mr. Andrew James, Citizen of the Year 2019, and retired fireman, when they recently came to the aid of a Rhayader man having a suspected heart attack. One of the local defibrillators were used identifying the need for defibrillators in the area. The gentleman is safe and well and incredibly grateful to these 2, local heroes.

1b. MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION UNDER URGENT BUSINESS

PCC proposals for social distancing measures for pavement widening in the town centre shopping area.

2. MINUTES TO BE AGREED

Minutes from Council Meeting 21.4.20 and AGM minutes from the 16.6.20 were accepted as a true record of events by Full Council.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Dolgerddon – Youths seen entering the building. Clerk has since contacted PCC who came and did a site visit with a view to securing the building. Doors were closed and padlocked. Also, Clerk contacted local PCSO Gareth Morris who will include Dolgerddon Hall on his regular patrols in the area.

Action – Clerk to write a press release outlining the continuing concerns relating to Dolgerddon Hall.

Footpath and related issues – After a long discussion on this issue, Cllr. D. Davies suggested that this task be given to the Council Portfolio Holders for Environment/RoW/Parks, Cllrs. V. Jones-Davies and Cllr. G. Williams. This was agreed by Council.

Action – Cllr. G. Williams and Cllr. V. Jones-Davies to investigate further with a view to moving on with this item.

4: REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORTS

Cllr. R. Thomas reported back on a virtual meeting he attended for R2000 (R2K). The campaign to raise Rhayader after lockdown has begun. It was agreed to use precept money identified for R2K, to start

Certified as a true record

Date.....

Chair Councillor J. Narborough

Marketing campaign for business in Rhayader. Cllr. J. Stuart proposed a collaboration with R2K and Sell To Wales as a start to the marketing strategy for the town. This was seconded by Cllr. C. Walton.

5: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

8.1 Cllr. C. Evans

8.4 Cllr. A. Davies

6 AGENDA ITEMS

6.1 Allotments

Cllr. A. Davies Chair of the Allotment Sub-Committee brought several proposals and changes to documentation to Council for consideration. All documents and proposed change information were circulated to Council prior to the meeting.

a) Changes to Tenancy Agreement. Change dates for start and end of each allotment year and change the date rent is due. Proposed by Cllr. J. Stuart and seconded by Cllr. D. Thomas

b) Permission to obtain a poly tunnel for communal use on the site at the Weirglodd allotments – Cllr. L. Price asked for the lease to be examined as it was her understanding that PCC would not allow structures to be erected on the site itself but were acceptable in the communal area adjacent to the allotment site. Proposal to purchase a poly tunnel for Weirglodd allotment site subject to checking lease for legal issues was made by Cllr. J. Stuart and seconded by Cllr. D. Thomas. Up to £1500 to be made available from the Allotment Account to purchase a polytunnel.

c) Reduce the size of some of the allotment plots – Agreed by Council. Cllr. C. Walton suggested this may be of benefit to smaller community groups like the Scouts if the rent was realistic.

d) New application form and process. Form to be sent out to those who enquire after an allotment plot. These forms will be discussed by the allotment sub-committee in their first meeting of the year before allocation of plots. Proposed by Cllr. J. Stuart seconded by Cllr. D. Thomas.

e) Increase in the cost of renting a plot. Present rent £30 a year. There followed some debate as to how much to increase the rental of the allotment plots. This would be for the Weirglodd site only as the Rhayader site has had no money spent on the site to enhance it for the plot holders. Cllr. R. Thomas proposed and increase to £40 but was not seconded. Cllr. D. Thomas proposed an increase to £50 which was seconded by Cllr. D. Evans. However, Council were undecided. Cllr. A. Davies said she would return to Council with figures to support each proposed increase at the next meeting in July. Deferred till next meeting.

Action - Cllr. A. Davies to provide figures relating to increasing the rental of the Weirglodd site for the July meeting.

Action – Clerk to contact PCC to see if a poly-tunnel can be erected on the site at the Weirglodd site or just in the communal areas.

Action – Cllr. J. Stuart and Clerk to check lease agreement between RTC and PCC.

6.2 Asset and Project Management Sub-Committee

Cllr. D. Davies suggested this sub-committee needs to be more pro-active to start moving things on.

Council agreed. As Chair of the committee, Cllr. D. Davies will organise a virtual meeting of committee members soon.

Action – Cllr. D. Davies to arrange a virtual meeting of the Asset and Project Management Sub-Committee.

6.3 Councillors Yearly Remuneration Declaration 20/21

There are still declaration forms to be signed and handed back to the Clerk. Closing date for all forms to be signed and returned is 31.7.20

Action – Declaration forms outstanding are to be signed and returned to the Clerk by 31.7.20

6.4 Green Space/World Environment Day/Woodland Planting Free Starter Kits.

This item was discussed, and Council agreed that a working group would be best to move forward with this item.

Cllr. L. Price, Cllr. V. Jones-Davies, Cllr G. Williams, and Cllr. A. Davies agreed to form a small working group. Cllr. J. Stuart, Cllr. D. Davies will support with orchard planting if a site is identified.

Action – Working group to take on the task of improving the environment post Covid-19

6.5 Dolgerddon Update

PCC updated RTC with the following information. There is no change in the current situation with Dolgerddon Hall.

Certified as a true record

Date

Chair Councillor J. Narborough

Action – Clerk to obtain further update for the next Council meeting in July 2020.

6.6 Footpath Update

Discussed in item 3 Matters Arising from Previous Minutes. See above.

6.7 Pump Track Grass Cutting Update

Cllr. K. Curry updated RTC on the Pump Track maintenance. The grass at the track has been cut by Jen Newman Elan Valley/ Welsh Water and the Elan Valley Rangers at no cost. They have offered to do this until such time the Sports Association are able to do their own grass maintenance. The pump track will need to be closed for one day from time to time for the grass cutting to take place. This kind offer of help was very much welcomed and appreciated by Cllr. K. Curry and RTC, and indeed the Sports Association.

Cllr. R. Thomas explained to the Council that the pump track has been allocated 3 cuts a year by PCC but will need more to keep adequately maintained. Cllr. J. Stuart proposed that the Council give £500 of precept money to the Sports Association for ground maintenance of the pump track for this year. This was seconded by Cllr. L. Price. Council unanimous in agreement.

Cllr. L. Price suggested artificial grass as a solution for the long term. Cllr. R. Thomas said the concerns with artificial grass are environmental issues.

Action – Clerk to provide £500 of precept money to RDSA when required.

6.8 Library/TUPE and related matters.

Correspondence was circulated to Council prior to the meeting from Milwyn Jenkins Solicitor. The letter stated their interpretation of our position regarding the TUPE issue/asset transfer of Rhayader Library to RTC from PCC.

After discussion, it was agreed that the Clerk was to ask MJJ to respond to PCC on behalf of RTC regarding this issue.

Action – Clerk to request MJJ to respond to PCC on behalf of RTC regarding the TUPE/Library issue.

6.9 Road Signs Update

Clerk updated Council on current road sign situation. The road signs have been made and are ready to go up.

Assurance was given that the work would be sooner rather than later, and when it was safe to do so.

6.10 Home to School/College Transport Policy Consultation

Cllr. A. Davies said she was willing to complete the consultation on behalf of RTC and circulate her report once complete. Council thanked her and were in full agreement.

Action – Cllr. A. Davies to complete the consultation on behalf of RTC

6.11 Climate Change Questionnaire in conjunction with Llandrindod Wells Town Council and other Councils.

Cllr. A. Davies completed the paperwork Llandrindod Wells Council had sent to RTC regarding climate change issues and expressed an interest in becoming more involved. Cllr. A. Davies offered to be RTC rep when moving forward with this task. Agreed by Council.

6.12 R2K Update and related matters.

Discussed in item 4 Representatives Reports. See above.

Cllr. K. Curry suggested a collaboration with Jen Newman Elan Valley/ Welsh Water as a joint marketing approach.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

Email from Ventient Energy for details on the Bryntitli awards from 2019. Also, to enquire if Rhayader had any food banks in the area that needed support during the Covid-19 crisis.

Action – Clerk supplied them with the information they required

Cllr. C. Walton suggested Clerk to write to Bryn Blaen Wind Farm to discuss similar funding to that of Bryntitli.

Action - Cllr. C. Walton will provide Clerk with the contact details of Bryn Blaen

Action – Clerk to write to Bryn Blaen Wind Farm regarding funding.

Certified as a true record

Date

Chair Councillor J. Narborough

8. PLANNING

8.1 20/0708/HH Vicarage Cottage, Rhayader. Removal of chimney stack Cllr. C. Evans removed herself from the meeting for this item. Council approved planning application.

8.2 20/0709/CAC as above. Council approved planning application.

8.3 20/0745/HH 20, Green Gardens, Rhayader. Proposed extension and supportive works. Council approved planning application.

8.4 20/0760/HH Oaklands, Dark Lane, Rhayader. Erection of extension between existing house and detached garage. Cllr. A. Davies removed herself from the meeting for this item. Council approved planning application.

8.5 20/0787/FUL Community Centre, North Street Rhayader. Removal of existing felt roof and replacing with suitable alternative. Although RTC agree to the work being done, Cllr. C. Walton suggests we enquire as to what the alternative roofing material is being used.

Action – Clerk to enquire to planning department, what materials are being used for repairing the roof.

8.6 20/0878/FUL Neuadd Bungalow, Rhayader. Replacement dwelling. Council approved planning application.

9. FINANCE

9.1 Audit update and related matters.

Clerk informed Council internal auditor Paul Roberts has audit. Clerk has contacted external auditor and agreement made for audit to be received to them 31.7.20.

Account balances/information was shared to the Council prior to the meeting. Agreed by Council.

9.2 Tenovus Cancer Care.

Request for donation. After discussion Cllr. L. Price proposed a donation of £50 which was seconded by Cllr. J. Stuart. Council in agreement.

Action – Clerk to make payment of £50 to Tenovus Cancer Care. Cheque from Recycling Account

9.3 Hope House Children's Hospice

Grant application form filled in for a donation of £250 to help towards a "cuddle bed" to enable family to lie down next to a sick child. Cllr. V. Jones-Davies proposed the total amount of £250 be given to the hospice. Seconded by Cllr. J. Stuart.

Action – Clerk to make payment of £250 to Hope House Children's Hospice. Cheque from Recycling Account

9.4 The Bracken Trust Cancer Support Centre

Grant application form filled in for a donation of £500 towards funding an online Zentangle creative class. Discussion took place and it was agreed to defer this application till July meeting while Clerk obtains financial report from the Bracken Trust.

Action – Clerk to contact the Bracken Trust and ask for a financial report to support their grant application.

10. URGENT BUSINESS

10.1 Pavement outside of Leisure Centre, Rhayader

Cllr. R. Thomas reported on the pavement outside the Leisure Centre as it had been brought to his attention. The pavement had been replaced with materials and colour not in keeping with the rest of the original pavement. The pavement was also at a different level to the remainder of existing pavement.

Cllr. C. Walton explained that heavy rain while workers were replacing/repairing the pavement may have had something to do with the way it looks.

Clerk had contacted PCC prior to meeting to investigate and Mayor J. Narborough had spoken to workmen involved in the job. There had been very heavy rain while doing the work, the materials used are anti-slip surface, and appearance will improve once yellow lines are painted back in. Also, general usage over time will change colour of the new part of the pavement. At this time there was no instruction to replace any of the work done.

Action - Situation will be monitored by Council.

10.2 PCC proposals for social distancing measures for pavement widening in the shopping area.

Information on this issue had been sent to Council prior to the meeting. PCC wished to remove car parking in the centre of town to widen the pavements to allow social distancing. Bollards were also to be introduced to cone off areas. RTC rejected these measures, and with such a short deadline for comments, Cllr. C. Evans proposed that we contact

Certified as a true record

Date

Chair Councillor J. Narborough

PCC as soon as possible to inform them that we reject these changes to the town centre. This was unanimously agreed by Council. Also notify residents and businesses via social media of Council rejection to the measures PCC wish to put in place. It was stated during the discussion that residents have no problem in keeping to social distancing rules, they have been abiding by these rules for several months.

Action – Clerk to contact PCC by email after this meeting and cc in portfolio holders to express RTC rejection to their plans to address social distancing in Rhayader. (cc also to Cllr. K. Curry)

Action – Cllr. R. Thomas to inform businesses and residents on RTC rejection to PCC measure for social distancing via social media after this meeting.

10.3 Cllr. D. Davies reported that there are funds available for a new club house at the Weirglodd Football Club. More information to follow.

10.4 Cllr. K. Curry informed Council that the Wierglodd boundary dispute has been resolved.

11. PRESS RELEASE

Dolgerddon

Proposed social distancing in Town Centre by PCC, rejection from RTC

12. BUSINESS FOR NEXT MEETING

Grant application from Bracken Trust

Dolgerddon and related issues

Any up and coming events

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Next Full Council meeting will be held virtually, on Tuesday 21st of July 2020 at 7pm

The meeting closed at 9.55pm

Certified as a true record

Chair Councillor J. Narborough

5 of 5

Date