



CYNGOR TREF LLANWRTYD WELLS TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES

Minutes of the Virtual Council Meeting on Wednesday 17th March at 7.00pm

Attending: Cllrs L. Pace-Avery, A. Edwards, J. Davies, T. Van Rees, A. Jones, S. Jones, M. Pigott, R. Chattaway. C. Rickard, G. Watkins and Cheryl Hood (Town Clerk).

Zoom visit by Kirsty Williams, Education Minister for Wales.

Cllr Pace-Avery welcomed Kirsty Williams to the meeting and thanked her for her support and help she had given to Llanwrtyd Wells over the years. She would be greatly missed. Councillors remembered many occasions when Kirsty had visited the town and events that she had attended and supported.

Kirsty Williams, thanked the Town Council for their support and said what a proactive Town Council we had in Llanwrtyd.

The Town Council wish Kirsty well in whatever she was doing next.

Councillor Pace-Avery welcomed Cllr Geraint Watkins to the Town Council.

1. Apologies: None

2. Declaration of Interests:

There were no Declaration of Interests.

Some Annual Declaration of Interest forms are still outstanding.

Action: Councillors who have DoI's outstanding return them to the Clerk ASAP.

3. Minutes of the meeting from 17th February 2021.

Item 6. Spelling of house name amended.

Proposed: Cllr Davies

Seconded: Cllr Edwards

Action: Draft minutes to be made available by Tuesday of the following week and added to the Standing Orders.

Proposed Cllr Pigott.

Seconded Cllr A. Jones.

4. Finance

- Audit Wales have still not completed their audit of Town accounts. Deryck Evans (Audit Wales) will review accounts 22nd March and report back.

- Sue Lilly, Clerk Llangammarch Wells on stand by, having prepared the report in her role of interim clerk for Llanwrtyd Wells.

Action: Clerk to report back next month.

In reply to a question from Cllr Edwards, Cllr Pace-Avery clarified the relationship between Llanwrtyd Wells Town Council and the Dolwen Fields Development.

Initially Dolwen: Recreation for All (DFRfA) had been part of LWTC, on advice from Powys CC the committee separated from LWTC and became an organisation with its own constitution and bank account. All monies granted to LWTC for D:FRfA have now been transferred to their account.

Discussion around the use of the Pavilion, camping, the Lambkin-Parkinson Way and risk assessment of Dolwen Field.

She was asked if any other monies in the Town Council accounts had been pigeon holed for other projects.

Cllr Davies replied that the monies in the Town Council account were for the running of Hall, Pavilion, Toilets, Caretaker, Repairs etc.

Internal Audit:

- Richard Mears has agreed to act as the Internal Assessor.

5. Anti-Social Behaviour

- Continuing problem with dog fouling (see item 7).

6. Town Square and Green

- Update on Culvert below the Red Kite, Cllr Van Rees asked for dates to attend the property Trawscoed Fach, with Simon Crowther from Powys Land Drainage dept. Cllr Davies asked to be included, having historical knowledge of the culvert .
 - The tree railings previously sited between Peter Cook's and the New Inn were now at the Llangammarch Depot. It was requested that they be released for use in Dolwen Field.
- Toilets** – It was agreed in principle to open the toilets, subject to Government Covid-19 guidelines.
- Unanimous.**
- The locks have been returned; not yet re-installed due to people still putting money in the machines, despite notices stating that the toilets are closed.

Action: Clerk

7. Dolwen Fields Update

- Great progress has been made. The gabions were now in place. The Sensory Garden has been marked out. The path around the Field will be tidied and the circuit will be completed by joining the two ends by installing a short path behind the rugby posts.
- A discussion ensued;

The Risk Assessment sounded alarming regarding the amount of work required.

It was noted that the repairs had started; the fence has been repaired; the slabs removed and the catch on the river gate repaired.

Action: Cllr Pace-Avery commended the Town Clerk for a thorough report.

LWTC now have two maintenance people to deal with repairs. The Table was reminded that it had been roughly 12 years since the fund the play areas had been installed using funds parents had raised themselves, but the cost of maintenance had not been included in the cost; perhaps the next generation of parents would help with fundraising.

People were still walking their dogs on the Field despite the signage.

It was surprising how much the Field was being used by residents for running walking and playing.

Quite a few hours had already been spent working on Dolwen but more support was required. The pagoda used by the youth was well used, but we need to engage more with the youngsters to find out what they want. Councillors suggested we engage them in talks.

Action: LWTC want to thank the Dolwen Fields team for their hard work.

8. Feedback from Councillors

- **Cllr A. Jones;** Informed the table as owners of Victoria Hall, that the Victoria Hall Committee have been denied access to inspect the left side of the hall adjoining Mr Garland's property. There are maintenance jobs to do, painting etc. On several occasions the Victoria Hall Committee asked for access. The door that had been placed across the alley between the properties has been removed but the gate frame was still there.

Cllr Edwards suggested that the VHC formally write a letter to Mr Garland asking for access and for the clerk to contact OVW to ask about rights of way etc.

Action: Cllr.A Jones to send a copy of the deeds containing the right of access.

Action overall: Clerk

- **Cllr Pigott :** Issues over rights of way. Signs have been put up stopping people from walking on land that is designated as bridle ways or footpaths. Discussion around access to rights of way being denied. Would like to be copied into emails from Powys Rights of Way Officer.

Action: Cllr Pigott as Secretary of the Walkers are Welcome Group to be the contact point for the Powys Rights of Way Officer.

Action: Clerk

- **Cllr Van Rees:** The War Memorial Institute had been planning to carry out repairs and renovations to the building in order to remove barriers for disabled persons to attend Town Council meetings.

The Institute is a listed building it had been decided to renovate the ground floor to allow this. The first floor would then be converted into flats to generate money for the institute. However, due to the

diminishing numbers of the ex-service community it is suggested that the Trustees transfer the Institute to the Town Council subject to preserving the fabric of the building. There are grants available to assist with refurbishment.

Action: Item to be put on a future agenda for further discussion. Special meeting of LWTC.

- E-mail from Ken Skates with regard to the traffic lights, they were going to speak to their legal department to see if there was anything that could be done to expedite the works. The Table was informed that a resident, caught a film on his dash-cam of a young child nearly being run over. The traffic lights are obscuring the view and people are becoming complacent with regard to the lights.

- Contact with Powys with reference to moving the two bins from the Field to two other areas within the town but had not received a reply yet.

- Library re-opening ASAP
- The notices that had been put up at Abernant Lake restricting access, had not been placed there by Manor Adventures. The road is owned by Manor Adventures.
- Cllr Van Rees had no objection to people walking on his land, so long as they were sensible, especially during the lambing season. However, it is NOT a right of way.

Llanwrtyd Woodland Creation Scheme –

Cllr Van Rees requested a meeting with Jack Griffiths, Tilhill Forestry but no reply received as yet.

Received a letter from Mr Mercer, NFU, it is a very well phrased objection to the project.

- Four letters of objection to the project have been received by LWTC.

Discussion around the proposed Scheme;

- Trees being planted on agricultural ground which will be lost forever.
- Employment in the Forestry Division – Oak trees do not require as many employees as Conifers trees. Jobs relying on the conifer timber.
- Four letters objecting to Proposal received.
- Protecting habitat ground / agricultural ground.
- Approach Welsh Assembly.
- Economic Impact Report to be completed.

Action: Cllr Van Rees to contact Mr Griffiths again to arrange a meeting.

It was noted that this is a Woodland Creation Grant from the Welsh Assembly and not an NRW grant Proposal that we write to Welsh Government. English Companies coming in and taking Welsh grants and we are not benefiting from it.

Action: Meeting to be arranged following meeting with Mr Griffiths

- Tir Gorsaf Station Road – this translates to Station Land and it had never been station land. This was discussed previously it was suggested that it translated to Station Approach. Nothing LWTC can do now.

Cllr S. Jones: asked what was happening with regard to Trefflys community broadband scheme. Cllr Van Rees reported there was no interest from the Beulah area.

Action: Cllr Van Rees chase up the outlying areas.

Cllr David Price has been chairing the meetings between broadband companies

Cllr S. Jones wanted to know if they will receive the same support in Abergweysn. Cllr Van Rees agreed they would.

Cllr S. Jones – stated she had seen a man with a bucket during the recent flooding a few weeks ago. He was there again last week. She spoke to him and he said he was from Port Talbot and he was panning for gold in the river.

Cllr Davies - Spoken to Powys about the Cemetery gate. They will repair the tap that is permanently running. With regard to walk from Zion Street to Loftwen, he was informed by walkers that on a recent walk along the path they were shouted at by family of the owner of the field.

The walk from Green Lane, from there up is unpassable that will need looking at. Signs have been put up to say 'keep off'.

Action: Take to the Rights of Way Office.

Cllr Chattaway – requesting a 'No Overnight Parking' sign be placed in the laybyas lorries parking up and start their engines at 4am leaving their rubbish behind. Most laybys have a 'No Overnight Parking'.

Action Clerk to contact Highways.

9. Planning

– Esgair Cloddaid, North Devil’s staircase. Installation of a forestry track to allow felled timber to be removed to roadside. **No objection.**

10. Twinning

Nothing to report.

11. Co-Opting of Councillors

One vacancy for a Councillor at the moment.

Cllr Edwards.

Apologised for not having attended the last two meetings due to having taken up the role of Programme Director for Mass Vaccination for Powys Teaching Health Board. Work/ life has been a little less balanced than it had been and looks as if there will be no let up.

They have accepted an offer on the house. Therefore, she will give her formal resignation at next month’s meeting.

Cllr Pace-Avery thanked Cllr Edwards for her support, and stated she would be missed.

12. Training: PAVO Training for March.

13. Services

- **Public Toilets** see item 6 above.

14. Draft Standing Orders

Amendments as follows –

1. Draft minutes to be made available within a week of meeting.
2. Hours of Town Council Meetings to be changed to 3 hours,

Adopted – **unanimous**

15. Dark Skies Community –

Cllr Pace-Avery stated that having Dark Skies status could promote and entice a different group of people to the Town. Businesses has suffered over this last year. Cllr Pace-Avery intended to speak to businesses about applying for Dark Skies status and wanted to know what others around the table thought.

Discussion: Brecon already has Dark Skies status.

Dafydd Wynn Morgan at Cambrian Mountain might be a useful contact.

The Table was asked to be mindful of the MOD activity at night.

16. Post Lockdown Celebrations

Cllr Rickard: proposed a weekend event that would involve all the Town groups and committees spreading the word to get everyone in the Town involved.

Irfon Watkins had announced a Free event on the 7th August, which will be held in Victoria Hall. We could incorporate this into the festival. **Cllr Edwards** stated that

- A) the vaccination programme would not be completed. and
- B) A surge of increased infections is expected when we reopen.

Action: We need to keep the date fluid.

17. Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill

Emails received from Jan Walsby and Ella Titman and a resident of Llangammarch Wells regarding the CEE Bill. This was discussed.

Action: Cllr Van Rees and Cllr Davies to look at the CEE Bill and report back at the next meeting.

18. Correspondence

Cllr Pace-Avery – received a phone call from a gentleman who has put in a bid for Myrtle House requesting clarification regarding council minutes.

Emails:

- Becky Jeremy: Communities for Work Plus Toolkit. Regarding job support in Powys
- Robert Bevan that should have gone to Sue Lilly,

Action: Clerk to forward

- PAVO regarding Third Party Sector.
- Reminder that this a Census this year.
- Letter from Dolwen Fields Development Committee thanked LWTC for the donation. A copy of the Dolwen: Recreation for All newsletter will be sent to LWTC when completed.

Councillors to advise Clerk if they would like any emails forwarded.

19. A.O.B.

Cllr Pace-Avery has written to Powys Council requesting that the parking space outside the orange house on Victoria Square be designated as a Disabled Parking Bay.

Action: Clerk .

Cllr Watkins –

For the last three years the Oxford Freshwater Management Trust bid for a grant from the Welsh Assembly to research why the freshwater pearl mussels in the bed in the River Irfon above Caer Beris haven't bred for the last 40 years, despite the water being pretty clear and the mussels themselves living for 80 years. The aim is to understand why. The Bid for the sustainable management scheme encourages farmers to get involved in the river, not just the quality of the water but the DNA of fish, river walks and volunteering. It is now coming into place and soon meetings will be held to disseminate information. When it gets going Cllr Watkins will invite a speaker to a meeting. Community involvement will be encouraged.

Cllr Van Rees wanted to ask Cllr Edwards to forward a letter she had written in support of Himself to the Ombudsman.

Cllr Davies – asked if the two tree protectors that were now in Llangammarch Depot, could be released to be used in the future in Dolwen Fields.

Unanimous.

Cllr Pace-Avery – Closing date for tenders for the grass cutting had passed and a meeting would be arranged outside of the Town Council meetings to discuss and award the tender. Date and time to be arranged.

Date of next meeting - 21/04/2021

Meeting closed at 21:38

Minutes Amended : Yes

Verified at meeting on the 21/04/2021

Signed off by Chair :

