



CYNGOR TREF LLANWRTYD WELLS TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Virtual Council Meeting on Wednesday 20th May at 7.00pm

Attending: Cllrs L Pace-Avery, A Edwards, M Pigott, S Jones, P James, J Davies, J Parkinson, T Van Rees, A Jones.

Taking Minutes: Sue Lilly (Llangammarch CC Clerk)

1. Apologies for absence

Sue Middleton has resigned from 31st May, hence Sue Lilly (Llangammarch Clerk) was asked to step in to take the Minutes this evening.

2. Declaration of Interests

There were none

3. Minutes of April meeting

These were corrected for the name of J Newman, that should have read J Parkinson. These were then proposed as accurate by Cllr James and Seconded by Cllr Jones and unanimously agreed.

4. Finance

- End of year balance – This was not available as Internal Audit is incomplete awaiting finalised accounts.
- Bank reconciliation for year ending March 2020 – This was not available as Internal Audit was incomplete awaiting finalised accounts.
- Richard Mears (Internal Auditor), reported that the accounts demonstrated a list of entries but were not reconciled. He did email the Clerk to say that he cannot sign these off. It was unanimously agreed that Clerk needs to complete accounts by the end of the month. The council cannot take the accounts any further. Once the accounts are signed off the finance committee can then take over.
- Audit statement – This must be completed and signed off by 30th June in line with requirements of Welsh Audit.
- To address the annual governance statement for 2020. This can be adjusted at any full council meeting. Queries were made about the amount the Clerk can spend without full council approval and the setting up a pre-agreed list of payments. (see example attached)
- Insurance quote from Zurich 1897.69...There was a discussion on how this compares with last year's premium, but no figures were to hand. It was suggested that it was probably best to stay with Zurich, unless any other offer can improve this by more than £100. It was agreed that full cover was priority. If no other cheaper quote was available, it was unanimously agreed that the Zurich offer be accepted. *Action Cllr Edwards*

- The sign post repair. Simon Powell quoted £320 and Steve Amor, £366. It was proposed by Cllr van Rees to thanks Steve Amor for his offer and to give the job to Simon Powell. Proposed by Cllr Van Rees and Seconded by Cllr Edwards. *Action Interim Clerk*
- With the clerk's resignation another signatory is needed for online banking. In the meantime, cheques will have to be used. Sue Maidment (Barclays Regional Manager at Merthyr) may be able to help as Covid 19 stops the usual procedures *Action Interim Clerk*.

5. Clerk/RFO

With the resignation of the Clerk it was unanimously agreed the council cannot be without one for any length of time. It was unanimously agreed that advertising should start immediately, as the council legally has to, but hoping that the other potential candidate from last year will again step forward. The council asked Sue Lilly if she would act as a temporary clerk, pending a new appointment. She said that she has permission from Llangammarch CC to do this type of temporary cover. It was unanimously agreed that Sue Lilly should fill the gap and overlap with the new appointee.

6. Anti Social Behaviour

Cllr Pace Avery confirmed that a resident was arrested 10 days ago for being drunk and disorderly in the Square.

An issue has also been continuing between residents and this recently escalated when one complained to police about an assault. The issue centres around the property formerly owned by Elizabeth Anne. Cllr Van Rees confirmed that there has been a breach in planning regulations and the new owner of Elizabeth Anne's property is now able to legally act to prevent any other work continuing. This is particularly relevant as some of her estate was left to the Victoria Hall and the parish church. Powys CC should act on the planning breach, but under Covid 19, many officers have been temporarily reassigned.

7. Feedback from Councillors

Cllr James – wondered if there would be any leeway on the insurance with so many things closed, as there would be a change in liability, Cllr Van Rees countered that the liability still there, damage, etc It might be useful to tell insurers that although venues not being used they are being watched over.

Cllr Davies – The Shane Davies mem tractor run is collecting, with donations going to the Powys Health Board. Contributions welcome via facebook.

Cllr Parkinson- nothing to report

Cllr Pigott - nothing to report

Cllr S Jones - nothing to report

Cllr A Jones - nothing to report

Cllr Van Rees – noted that many strangers have been seen around town, motor bikers too. Cllr s Jones confirmed that there are signs periodically near St Davids and Beulah stating that the Abergwesyn loop is closed. Cllr A Jones confirmed she had contacted the police but they said the had

no jurisdiction. It was unanimously agreed to contact the local policing team and ask for help. Many residents are in need of reassurance. Cllr Van Rees reported, the same concerns in Llangammarch. *Action Cllr Van Rees 21/5/2020*.

Cllr Pace Avery reported that Llanwrtyd scrubs were enquiring about the possibility of a grant from the council. The council does not have the ability under its budget to do this. For that amount anyway, it would need to be a company applying. Cllr Edwards pointed

out there was no shortage of scrubs at the moment. Cllr A Jones remember the Heart of Wales Line are offering grants, so that might be the best option for a grant.

There was also an enquiry about business start-up grant. Cllr Van Rees pointed out that Powys CC does provide those sorted of grants – up to £5K. He suggested an email to Jenny Thomas of Powys would be helpful.

Grow Llanwrtyd group wished to take part in Wales in Bloom.

Cllr James reminded that Paul and Cathy from the surgery had just celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary and maybe a letter from the council thanking them would be appropriate. *Action Interim Clerk*

Cllr Pace Avery had sent cards sent to the garage and pharmacy thanking them.

Cllr Edwards reminded everyone that there are outstanding items that will need to be incorporated in any post-Covid celebrations.

8. Planning

There is an application

<https://pa.powys.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?keyVal=Q9A64TMPGYW00&activeTab=summary>

This is for Ffos y fign to reinstate existing cottage. It was pointed out that it is a ruin, so how can it be reinstated. Cllr A Jones though that work had already started. Cllr Pigott confirmed that indeed, scaffolding was already up.

Cllr Van Rees suggested a letter to planning about the premature work and that it is not an existing cottage.

There was one abstention, others in agreement to object to the application. This is to be confirmed at the planning committee tomorrow.

9. Twinning

Meriel were due to visit in September. A reply was received from Jean-Louis Delannoy, agreeing that it should not go ahead until next year. This is Jean-Louis' last year as mayor.

Cllr Pigott confirmed that Powys CC have suggested that all mass events should be cancelled this summer, so there will be no Man v Horse.

Cllr Edwards had a letter from the Mayor of Cesky Krumlov, Dalibor Carda, to say that Ruth Halove had passed away.

Cllr Davies confirmed that the Twinning Group arranged to have flowers at her funeral.

It was unanimously agreed that the letter needed to be acknowledge and offering condolences to the town and formally to the family. The address of her grandson is known. Twinning are trying to get permission for one of her paintings to be acquired for the Heritage centre. *Action Interim Clerk*

10 Services

Work has started on the Spar/Premier, but no-one knows how long this will take.

11. Correspondence

- Cllr James declared an interest in the first topic and temporarily left the meeting.

There has been a complaint about the burning of building waste in Tai Cae Mawr, namely old treated timbers. Environmental Health Office Kevin Bray has been informed. Many

residents at Tai Cae Mawr are at risk from airborne pollution. It was suggested that the council contact the Environmental Agency to deal with this. A visit could be arranged under the current Covid19 restrictions on social distancing. Cllr Davies confirmed that the wood is considered classed as hazardous waste and needs licence to transport and to receive. Cllr S Jones confirmed that a license is needed for burning hedgerow cuttings. Cllr Edwards already has contact with Kevin Bray, so she agreed to approach him. *Action Cllr Edwards*

Cllr James returned.

- A request from Hope House in Shropshire for a donation. This is not budgeted for.
- A request for 'local electricity' support – but the date had already passed.
- The footpath near Tai Cae Mawr is not being maintained. The volunteer who was doing cannot do it anymore. There have been issues over keeping the green areas mown and the edges being strimmed. When the areas were mown or strimmed too early, the biodiversity of the plants was lost. The bottom line is that the path is owned by Powys CC and it is their responsibility to maintain it. It was agreed to send a letter to the volunteer thanking him for his efforts. *Action Interim Clerk.*
- Weedkiller is also an issue. Overuse of weedkiller in the area of Tai Cae Mawr by a resident. This is not needed as Powys CC deal with that. There were complains about a resident doing this on VE day. Powys CC does use glyphosphate still, but is reconsidering when its current contract runs out.
- Cllr Van Rees confirmed that at the moment there was no bill for the use of the Institute at the moment, but that it was agreed at £400
- Also, that allotments are available - to let people know. Cllr Van Rees said his staff can get the land sorted if it is too overgrown. Water is available. Access to the allotments was an issue and there are cattle on there at the moment. Cllr Pigott confirmed that some are happy to pay, but Cllr Van Rees confirmed that donation to the regimental museum in Brecon. There is no charge. Cllr Davies confirmed that there used to be an annual fee to pay for the public liability insurance, but Cllr Van Rees thought that might be covered under the estate policy.
- Cllr S Jones asked about John Rowlands leaving gift? The Clerk has the money. A garden voucher was suggested. So far nothing has happened, but Cllr Pigott confirmed that John might be moving in two weeks. Card and voucher to be sorted. *Action Interim Clerk.*
- A suggestion for a Covid recovery fund....thoughts please. Eg cubs, younger children. It was agreed to ask the community what they would like.
- A reminder that businesses with premises can get business rate grants - £10k. which could be a business-saver

12. Date of next meeting

Next council meeting is set for 17th June, likely a virtual meeting.

Cllr Pace Avery thanked everyone for their attendance

Meeting closed at 8.35pm