



CYNGOR TREF LLANWRTYD WELLS TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Virtual Council Meeting on Wednesday 15th July 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. Sue Lilly (Interim Clerk).

1. Apologies:

Cheryl Hood who is due to take over as Clerk on the 1st August sent her apologies.

2. Declaration of Interests:

There were none

3. Casual Vacancies:

The Chairman read out Peter James' letter of resignation. The Chairman was sad to accept his resignation as were the rest of the council. The Clerk was formally asked to inform the Monitoring Officer from Powys of both Peter and John Rowland's resignations.

4. Minutes of the meeting on June 17th 2020.

An amendment was made on page two, to Nikita Matthews' name. This having been done the Minutes were unanimously agreed, - proposed by Cllr Pigott and seconded by Cllr Davies. Cllr James queried the posting of draft on the website, which, as long as it is noted as a draft is preferable.

5. Finance

The accounts for the end of June were unanimously agreed and signed by the Chairman. The Clerk shared the accounts pages on Zoom so that all could see how the records are now being kept.

Invoices to the Clerk and PHS were agreed to be paid.

The signatories will now be updated to show the changes in the council. Cllrs Edwards and Parkinson agreed to become signatories. Cllr Davies wants a non-personal card for online banking. **Action Clerk**

The Clerk to contact PHS with regard to a discount for next year's invoice, since the toilets have been closed since March. **Action Clerk**.

6. Clerk/RFO

The information on the noticeboard at the Institute needs updating. This to be done when the new clerk takes over.

The Clerk explained the situation with regards to the current 'Site123' website, inasmuch as changes cannot be made to the platform to enable the site to meet Accessibility requirements. The Clerk has duplicated the site (created by Cllr Edwards) onto a WIX platform which can meet Accessibility requirements. It was unanimously agreed that the changeover occur and that the 'www.llanwrtyd-town-council.wales' URL be adopted. **Action Clerk**

Interviews took place for a new clerk last week. Cheryl Hood and one other were interviewed. Cheryl Hood's interview this time was very good and she has been a councillor elsewhere before. Cheryl Hood starts as the clerk on the 1st August, giving the summer break for her to familiarise herself with procedures.

7. Anti-Social Behaviour

The situation around Elizabeth Anne's is ongoing. The Victoria Hall committee has asked the council to write on its behalf about Right of Access. This the Council can do as it is a residual trustee of the hall. Proposed by Cllr Edwards and seconded by Cllr Davies. **Action Clerk and Cllr Van Rees.**

It was confirmed that the neighbours are moving back to Llanwrtyd so issues about their access and the Right of Way are becoming crucial.

Cllr Pigott confirmed he had received a letter from a resident, wishing to express their viewpoint. It has been circulated to all councillors.

Cllr Van Rees explained the situation as far as the law is concerned. This has many facets. Any purchase of Myrtle House would be done by auction as a charity is involved which precludes a private sale. He also confirmed that instructions have been received to protect the interests of both the church and Victoria Hall. There are potential issues of trespass, aggravated trespass and damage to church property.

The solicitor dealing with the property (from Buihth) also confirmed that he had only given permission for overhanging branches to be dealt with, nothing more. The resident has been written to, instructing the removal of fencing by 1700hrs on the 21st July 2020 or it will be removed.

Cllr A Jones reported that dogs have been seen on Dolwen on Friday. All notices have been ripped off. As from 20th the play area can be reopened, (with a suitable notice) and new dog fouling notices will be posted. Cllr Parkinson suggested that the resident who reports the dog activity needs someone to phone to check, that she would be willing to receive calls. Any photographs taken must not include people as the right to do this in public spaces could be challenged.

Cllr Pace Avery confirmed there were questions raised about numbers of people at Victoria Wells again, but Cllr Davies confirmed that these issues had ceased after the warm weather.

8. Feedback from Councillors

Cllr Davies introduced the issues concerning the caretaker. The Clerk confirmed that a contract is needed that gives clarity about what is done at whose behest, the number of hours etc. A contract is now available, but that the job should go out to tender. The Clerk shared the draft contract via Zoom. Issues concerning insurance and Health and Safety need to be addressed. Anyone who is self-employed must have their own risk-assessments. It was agreed to send the draft contract to Cllr Van Rees for his perusal. Cllr Edwards suggested that the Council make sure that anyone doing self-employed work for the Council is not liable to IR25 requirements, that is they are running a legitimate business and are registered with HMRC. The council agreed that it has to make it a formal relationship. Cllr Pace-Avery agreed to hold a socially distanced meeting in Dolwen, with the current caretaker.

Cllr Edwards - lights by the spar. The Clerk has already written to Highways Agency to focus their attention. It was agreed that the lights are actually dangerous. Cllr James agreed adding that at present a drain has had to be relined due to weight of lorries. The guttering on the side of the Drivers building on the roadside has been taken off 5 times this year. A suspended footpath/bridge had been discussed in 2018 with Edwina Hart for the side of the road bridge to increase space for lorries going through. There is fear about people being hit if the guttering comes off again. Traffic queuing on the New Inn side of the bridge is too close to the shops. This triggered off further discussion about traffic speeding. Could the Council get VA signs that flash? These

were assigned in 2018. The Go-Safe van only works when it is there. It was agreed to write to the Agency, copying in Kirsty Williams, Fay Jones, maybe Dafydd Llewelyn and David Rowlands who has been pushing for 20mph speed limit in residential areas. **Action Clerk**

Cllr James also reported that Claire Bidgood was keen to use the space in front of the of the pavilion for their course in August. It was agreed that a donation would be in order but that this, camping and use of the pavilion be discussed on Monday by the Dolwen Committee.

Cllr A Jones -

Cllr S Jones – asked about the pathway on the Penybont Dingle on the common. Cllr Pigott confirmed that this is being looked into by Powys CC.

Cllr Parkinson mentioned about the state of the hedge at places along the road to Abergwesyn The hedge just north of Neuadd Bwll on right hand side and the other is north of Cwm Irfon towards Washpool belongs to Cwm Irfon Farm.

Cllr Pigott asked about the tracks around Spion Kop. This area has been cleared and it used to be possible to walk from the top of Spion Kop and cut through to the forestry track. Although there is no right of way, might someone be approached to keep it open? Cllr Pigott to find out who owns it. The Ron Skilton half marathon has always used that footpath. It was suggested that Tillhill are the agents of the owners.

Arrangements for the library to open for collection of books to be returned, disinfected etc.

There are more than enough funds if needed, but there is no time for opening yet. There is 'Click and Collect' in Builth Library.

Cllr Van Rees spoke about the Danny Jones memorial (see item 11). He went on to report on the governors meeting of Dolafon inasmuch that the school numbers have been declining but that there are now 16 duckings which is positive. There is a need to keep the numbers up as education cuts may cause problems.

Fire service has been doing very well....in the hot spell our local responders were active in other areas as well as locally.

9. Planning

Cllr Van Rees clarified the situation with Loffwen. It has become apparent that the well is in the archaeological survey of Wales. Catherine James from Powys Planning has been asked what the planning thoughts would be, also with the conservation officer. Cllr Van Rees is meeting tomorrow with the owner to see what can be done to support the Lofftwen development. It depends what conditions need to be met. The well has historical interest and restoration would be important

10. Twinning

Jérôme Francois is new mayor of Meriel, so hoping twinning will continue.

11. Services

The Christmas lights have been stored with the gardening equipment, but now there are too many, having got extra from Brecon. The space is required, no-on expected there to be so many. Preferably they can be stored in town and not Dolwen. The council owns the shed, so it could be said that the gardening tools should be looking for alternate storage. There is still a shed at the back of the institute where the tools were there initially. There is other stuff stored in there at the moment. Cllr Van Rees to enquire.

Whilst on the subject, the future of the institute might be an issue as the current trustees are not young anymore. Trustee-ship is limited to ex-servicemen. The two flats could bring in income and ideally the council chamber needs to be on the ground floor (accessibility etc). they have a grant of £10k from Powys CC so in quite good position to do a refurbishment, but would need to temporarily re-house the caretaker.

Victoria hall would be OK for socially distanced meetings as shielding finishes on 16th august.

Cllr Van Rees confirmed that the Danny Jones Memorial at the cemetery is in the shed which will be removed. The cross is too tall for the cemetery but a small piece of ground just outside could be used, if the council would undertake its maintenance.

Dolwen - Local Places for Nature and Keep Wales Tidy & Welsh Government helped provide items for a wildlife garden, Cllr Pace-Avery, plus partner and a representative from Keep Wales Tidy have installed a raised bed near the pavilion. Cllr Pigott has negotiated £1K off the cost for the road and car parking, so it might be good news next week, after the Dolwen Committee has met. With the nettles and undergrowth down, the rail bridge could be seen (very beautiful). Two volunteers have offered to help with the clearing. The Railway has been contacted earlier in the year and Cllr S Jones thinks the bridge might be listed.

Vicar Watts bench needs replacing. It was proposed to replace the bench by Cllr Van Rees and seconded by Cllr A Jones to use a recycled plastic bench as Vicar Watts would have wanted that!. The Clerk read out a resident's letter about the state of the surroundings in Berthllwyd. Cllr Pace-Avery thinks that the steep bank might be a retaining bank. However, the concrete paths are in an awful state and need repair. **Action Clerk to email Housing and cc Cllr Van Rees**

Date of next meeting - 16/9/2020

The Chairman thanked the Clerk for her work over the interim period.

The Chairman also spoke of her grateful thanks to Cllr James on behalf of the council. Cllr Van Rees offer thanks too, on behalf of Powys CC.

Meeting closed at 2137