



CYNGOR TREF LLANWRTYD WELLS TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES

Minutes of the Virtual AGM Council Meeting on Wednesday 19th May 2021 at 7.00pm

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

Outgoing Mayor Cllr Pace-Avery

1. Apologies: None

- 2. Mayors Address:** Cllr Pace-Avery gave a review of the past two years in the office of Mayor, the challenges she had faced and the support she had been given throughout. There had been a change of clerk, which had been challenging, and a new clerk had been appointed in August 2020. There had also been a change of Councillors, some of whom we hoped to see again on the Town Council in the future. We also welcomed Cllrs Chattaway, Rickard and Watkins to the Town Council. During Lockdown we had lost two previous members of the Town Council, Pat Lambkin and June Parkinson, after whom the road in the Dolwen Fields Park had been named. The Dolwen Fields project had made great headway despite lockdown. There had been lots of fundraising prior to lockdown including a boot fair and manning of the charity shop in Llandrindod Wells. The precept had been increased in 2019 due to Powys Council cuts and the Police budget increase. A new Finance Committee was set up to meet quarterly and report back to the Council. Although no-one on the Town Council claims the Councillor's Allowance, we needed to make sure that finances reflected this in the budget. There were many challenges during the two years including vandalism, arson, hoax bombs, ATM not working, Temporary Traffic lights, speeding traffic through the centre of town and the ongoing problem of dog faeces around the town. We had hoped to have CCTV but were unsuccessful in our bid to get a grant from the Police and Crime Commissioners Grant. The toilets had now reopened and a new cleaning provider taken on. The Llanwrtyd Wells Town Council website was linked to our Facebook page and was a good way of reaching people. The residents of Llanwrtyd Wells had pulled together during lockdown, supporting people through the Covid 19 Facebook page, scrubs being made for the NHS, Light up Llanwrtyd and singing Carols on their own doorsteps. Cllr Pace-Avery thanked the Town Council for placing their trust in her to keep the Town Council on an even keel during these very trying times.

3. Finance;

3.1 & 3.2 The clerk had made available to all Councillors details of the Internal Audit carried out by Mr Richard Mears, along with the spreadsheets for the 2020/2021 accounts. Also included in the pack was the April 2021 account sheet.

After due consideration it was proposed as an accurate record by Cllr Van-Rees and seconded by Cllr A.Jones.

3.3 There had still been no word from Welsh Audit (Deryck Evans) regarding the 2019/2020 accounts.

Action: Clerk to email Welsh Audit to raise our concerns.

4. Election of New Mayor

There was one nomination, Cllr Jim Davies, Proposed by Cllr Van-Rees and seconded by Cllr A.Jones. There were no other nominations. Vote for Councillor Davies was unanimous.

5. Welcome to Incoming Mayor

Cllr Davies thanked the Town Council for their confidence and hoped he could do the post justice. Cllr Pace-Avery had done a fantastic job in very trying times, the potted history of the last three years in post is quite impressive. However, it felt like he was stepping into the deep end of the swimming pool watching Cllr Pace-Avery get out the shallow end with a big smile on her face.

Cllr Davies's wife has declined the role of the Lady Mayor for the year.

Cllr Davies asked that when Councillors meet with others outside, that decisions are not made by individual councillors but must be brought back to the table for a joint decision to be made.

Any complaints that may be brought up by residents are put into writing to be brought to Council. If any Councillor wanted support or queries, he is always contactable.

Also, thanks to the Clerk, Cheryl Hood, for her work.

Cllr Van-Rees wanted to move to a formal vote of thanks to Cllr Pace-Avery for the outstanding period in office at an almost super human level for the Town. We are in a better position than a lot of Authorities, even ones larger than us, only appropriate that we should record our gratitude in the manner I have suggested. Unanimous.

6. Election of Deputy Mayor

Nomination for Deputy Mayor, Sarah Jones, proposed by Cllr Pace-Avery and seconded by Cllr Van-Rees. No other nominations. Cllr Davies welcomed Cllr S Jones and looked forward to working with her.

6.1 Appointments to Committees

Chair went through current appointments and full amended list will be sent to all Councillors and posted on website.

7. Declarations of Interest

- Declaration of interest from Cllr Van-Rees (ref Rights of Way) and Cllr A Jones (ref Victoria Hall)

8. Minutes of April meeting and matters arising

Proper Cllr Pigott seconded Cllr A Jones

9. Anti-Social Behaviour

Cllr Pace-Avery: need to keep an eye on Dolwen Fields due to furniture being moved and rubbish left.

10. Town Square and Green – Culvert update.

Cllr Van Rees had met a while ago with Graham Astley of Powys Land Drainage and they were going to carry out investigations and proposed to put a camera down the culvert to see what state the pipe was in. Resident had sent an email with regard to flooding on their property which had been sent to Graham and urgent action is required.

Cllr Pigott last Saturday, the bungalow at Trawscoed Fach had to traverse the water away from their property and then the water flowed down through the back of his garden and then down into the Prices' property next door. Cllr Pigott sent an email to Graham Astley, and he came on Monday afternoon (17th May) to meet with residents affected by the flooding. Cllr Pigott guided him around within sight of the stream where it starts and how it moves through Llanwrtyd. Mr Astley had a thorough look at all the problems and he will investigate further and put cameras down the culvert. There are tons of gallons of water that come down the road and into the bungalow. It is a case of road and stream water overwhelming the drains, resulting in water flooding in the gardens.

Cllr Pace-Avery: Residents had mentioned in their email that they thought it was flooding because of the works that had been carried out at Trawscoed Fach. Cllr Pigott did not think this was the case. Cllr Davies reported that there was always an open stream until someone, many years ago piped it. We will wait to see what Mr Astley comes back with but the flooding is all on private property. Cllr Van-Rees was waiting for Mr Astley to come back to him and Cllr Davies asked to be included in any future meetings.

11. Dolwen Fields Update : Cllr Davies

Tarmacking completed all around the pathway just waiting for the resin to be applied before Sensory Garden can be completed. Paul Newman from Dol Y Coed agreed to donate £500 towards the arch that has been commissioned, which will be in recycled plastic. All the trees and hedges are doing well. Further funding needed for wheelchair access, which will be from School Road, not the main entrance. Cllr Pace-Avery asked if there were grants available to do this. Lynn Ball was completing an application for a grant for the disabled access. £50 worth of plants from Tesco. Cllr Watkins had taken the bench away from the under 8's park for refurbishment. Possible that a free concert was planned and part of the proceeds would go to funding for the park. Cllr S Jones reported that the Prince of Wales was giving away trees in regard to his Mother's Platinum Jubilee.

11.1 Hire Charges for Pavilion

Prices had been sought from other venues. There was a need to set the charges to take into consideration the cost of cleaning, electricity and water. Waste bins were also required for the Pavilion.

After further discussion it was decided to charge £25 per session.

Cllr Pigott proposed and Cllr Chattaway seconded.

Action: Cllr Davies to speak to Current cleaning Provider

Action: Clerk to order bins for Pavilion

12. Emergency Climate Change Bill – update Cllr Davies and Cllr Van-Rees

Cllr Davies reported back to the Town Council on the ECC Bill.

After a brief discussion it was decided to support the Bill.

Proposed by: Cllr Van-Rees Seconded by: Cllr Pace-Avery. Unanimously agreement

Action: Clerk to reply to State support of ECC Bill

13. Abergwesyn Broadband

Cllr S Jones met with Reece Simmons and Steve Ellis. Clerk to respond with a letter from the Town Council to move forward.

Action: Clerk to Complete the template letter and return to Broadway Partners, once signed by Cllr Davies and Cllr Van-Rees.

14. Feedback From Councillors

- **Cllr Pigott:** Nothing to report.

- **Cllr Watkins:** Cattle grid on the Pen Y Bank Road, full of water borne debris. **Cllr Van-Rees** to follow-up. Footpath near Victoria Wells had been blocked off because afraid someone would fall into the well. Cllr Pigott had walked this route with the Rights of way officer. People had not been following the path and this was due to be rectified.

Cllr Rickard – Letters had been sent out with ref to the Post Covid Celebrations, just waiting for replies to come in.

Cllr S Jones: Asking Cllr Van-Rees, With regard to working from home. Would it be possible to set up a hub for people to work in. Lots of people are being asked to work flexibly.

Cllr Van-Rees would take this up with the Powys Council as he thought it would be a good idea.

Action: Cllr Van Rees to report back next meeting.

Cllr A Jones: Possibility of having car charging points in Llanwrtyd Wells.

Action: Clerk to investigate further with PCC.

Cllr Van-Rees: Meeting with Jack Griffiths of Tilhill at Ty Gwyn, not just myself but also Town Council, Community Councils. Jack Griffiths came back to say wanted NRW present. Cllr Van-Rees asked for dates to meet, as we would also invite James Evans MS for Brecon and Radnor. Waiting for a selection of dates to have a joint meeting at Ty Gwyn.

Cllr Pace-Avery: Email received today calling it a consultation. Clerk also received this.

Action: Clerk to forward Email to Cllr Van-Rees.

Cllr Van-Rees also asked for the Institute to be put on the agenda for discussion next month.

Ash die-back has been noted on the school grounds and to ascertain which trees need to be brought down and which are to be preserved. Town Council need to be aware of where these trees are on Council owned land. Cllr Davies asked whether NRW are able to carry out a survey.

Clerk to investigate. Pink dots are appearing on trees and letters have gone out to people that have ash dieback on their Property. Charges will occur for work carried out, if landowner does not deal with it themselves.

Cllr Pace-Avery: Food Bank opens on 27th May in the afternoon. We will be called LW Community Association in conjunction with Llandrindod Wells Food Bank, Volunteers are being asked for.

- Update on current situation behind Berthlwyd. Cllr Van-Rees reported that the tenant had said they had been given permission to develop but nothing has been found in writing. Still under investigation.

- Enjoyed brief meeting with all last Monday and we have not had our Christmas meal get together.

Cllr Chattaway: Request from resident with regard to the open space on Tai Cae Mawr, could Anthony Crocker help with cutting of the grass.

- Cllr Pace-Avery: Not Council land. Residents would need to pay for it.

Action: Cllr Chattaway and Cllr Pace-Avery to meet outside of meeting to discuss.

- Wales is leading the world in vaccinations and Powys is leading Wales. Would have been nice to let Amanda Edwards know of this when we met with her on Monday.

- **Cllr Davies:** Gate in St David's Cemetery is still dragging and needs repair.

15. Planning: No planning applications or decisions for Llanwrtyd Wells

16. Twinning: Hoping to get an AGM for next month.

Action: Clerk to inform the Mayors of Meriel and Cesky of new Mayor, Deputy Mayor and anyone else that needs to know.

17. Toilets

New Cleaning Service provider interviewed and assigned, Kim Jackson, Toilets were looking very dirty after being closed for so long. New locks put on, toilets cleaned, signs all uncovered. The toilets are now looking very clean. Good job by Kim Jackson.

New Hygiene Provider – Starts July (not June). Previous supplier asked to remove their bins by 15th July 2021.

18. Correspondence

- Quotes for Insurance from Zurich : £2004.53 for 1 year, £1919.69 for 3 years p.a., £1836.07 for 5 years p.a..

Proposal to go for the 5 year quote of £1836.07 by Cllr Van-Rees and seconded by Cllr Chattaway.

Action: Clerk to contact Zurich Insurance with decision.

Emails:-

- From Susan Jones with regard to 'Slow Horses' signs, which were up years ago but have not been put back. I advised her that she could go through Powys. Have contacted Powys also but no response as yet.

- Request from Llanwrtyd Wells Gardening club for £280. A discussion took place and it was decided that the grant would be given this time under the following proviso: 1, The Town Council wanted to support promoting the Town due to the exceptional circumstances. 2, that perennial flowers must be planted. 3. Fund raising needed to continue.

Proposer Cllr Van-Rees seconded by Cllr Pace-Avery. Unanimous

- High Sheriff of Powys – letter to Town Council to advise that he supported the idea of the Post Covid Celebrations and would be happy to attend in his capacity as High Sheriff of Powys.

Copy passed to Cllr Rickard.

- Email from Network Rail regarding fence on Dolwen Fields. This had been repaired by Cllr Davies.

- Update on access to side of Victoria Hall. No response to letter sent in April.

Action: Clerk for write to Victoria House again.

- Clerk gave a list of other emails received which will be listed in an email to all.

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

19. A.O.B.

Cllr Watkins: Gave details of the number of instances where raw sewage went into the River Irfon. We need to be aware of these instances.

Cllr Davies: The sewer system was put in place in 1931 and it was adequate at the time. But with the number of houses that have been built since then, it is no longer fit for purpose.

Cllr Van-Rees asked for a copy of the information to take further with Welsh Water.

Cllr Van-Rees: Look forward to welcoming Councillors back to The Institute at the next Town Council meeting, so long as Social Distancing can be maintained.

Action: Clerk to visit Institute and check on ability for Councillors to Social Distance within the room.

Date of next meeting - 16/06/2021

Meeting closed at 21:46

Minutes Amended: Yes/No

Verified at meeting on the 16/06/2021

Signed off by Chair :