

## **Minutes of the town council meeting held on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2019 in the council Chambers of the War Memorial Institute**

**Present:** Cllrs A. Jones, R. Hughes, T. Van Res, A. Edwards, J. Davies, S. Jones.

**Visiting speaker** : Mr Dafydd Wyn Morgan Project Manager for the Cambrian Mountain Initiative

**In Attendance:** Mrs L E Ball (Clerk and RFO)

As there was no Chair in place the Clerk welcomed Mr Morgan to the meeting and introduced him to members . He began by explaining his role as Project Manager for the Cambrian Mountain Initiative which is currently funded by European monies, three Councils, a Wind farm and the Elan Valley trust. The current team has been in post for two years and although the initiative was live for eight years previously the current team inherited nothing but an office space.

In the two years they have been in post much has been done to raise awareness of the Cambrian Mountain area as a place to visit and enjoy in Wales. Mr Morgan distributed the map which many Town Councils had helped to finance. It outlined the Towns and villages within the Cambrian mountains and gave a short resume of what each community offered. Mr M Morgan thanked the Town Council for their support in this initiative.

A website had been set up for the initiative, and much consultation had been had with the fifty two Communities to gauge their support and understanding of what was trying to be done. A feasibility study had been done, after consultation with many Communities, as to what status the Cambrian Mountain area deserves. It was the only area that, historically, was not designated as a National Park and Cllr Van Rees outlined the history of why this was so. Cllr Davies asked why Llanwrtyd had not been involved in the consultation for the feasibility study when Llanwrtyd is a vibrant Town with many world renown activities taking place here. It appears that the study, which is to be published and available to all communities in the near future, would be a document that did not consult with ALL communities. Mr Morgan took the point and said he would investigate with the team who carried out the study as to why Llanwrtyd was not consulted and give us some feedback. One of the ideas that came out of the study was that the area should be designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and this was welcomed by members.

The second initiative is to have Cambrian mountain signage in each of the communities to identify them as part of the Cambrian Mountains. Mr Morgan is currently gauging interest from the communities as there will be a cost involved approx. £80.00 for a small sign and £190 .00 for a larger sign. If there is enough support a great deal of work will then need to be done to test if existing signs could hold the weight of another sign being attached and permissions sought from the relevant agencies . Mr Morgan's feeling was that the designated status should be attained first then the signage should be put in place. Council members agreed in principle to supporting the signage and Mr Morgan requested an e-mail saying as such.

**Action** : Clerk to send an e-mail to Mr Morgan regarding the above.

The team would also like to promote the area as a "Dark Skies" discovery area with sites close to Llyn Brianne Dam.

Cllr Van Rees asked what contribution Powys County Council had made to the project but Mr Morgan did not have the figure and said he would e-mail Cllr Van Rees with those details. Cllr Van Rees was keen to get local Council and AMs at the Senedd more involved to highlight the work of the project and hopefully attract funding to keep the project and its team live.

Mr Wyn Morgan finished by thanking the Council for their support and suggested he come back again in the future to keep the Council up to date with developments. He was passionate about the area and hoped that funding could be secured to carry the project forward. We would receive the feasibility study in the near future and he would welcome any feedback from the document. Cllrs thanked Mr Wyn Morgan for his time and his enthusiasm for the initiative. Mr Wyn Morgan left the meeting at 8.05pm.

### **1. Apologies for Absence** Cllrs L. Pace-Avery, Cllr P. James, Cllr M. Pigott, Cllr J. Rowl

The Clerk informed members present that Cllr Lambkin had tendered her resignation and read out the letter she had sent. Members were keen to point out that there was no precedent set whereby the existing Deputy Mayor automatically takes over the post of Mayor and in law the Clerk pointed out that the Mayor "remains in office until his/her successor is elected unless he/she resigns, ceases to be qualified, or becomes disqualified."

With regret members accepted Cllr Lambkins resignation.

This leaves the Council without a Deputy Mayor and it was decided to defer appointment until the July meeting. It also leaves a Councillor Vacancy. It was agreed by members present that a Councillor vacancy notice be posted as soon as possible with an advert put into the Grapevine.

Due to lack of a Mayor and Deputy mayor the Clerk asked for a volunteer to chair the meeting . No such volunteer was forthcoming and the Clerk was designated to take existing members through the Agenda.

2. **Declarations of Interest** -Cllr Van Rees declared an interest in the planning application notice at item 11 in so much as he was the owner of the land in question.

3. **Minutes of the May meeting and matters Arising**- the minutes of the May Annual General Meeting were duly considered with copies having been sent to all Councillors beforehand . One item was brought to the attention of members by Cllr A. Jones regarding the dates of the Bromsgrove School visit. It had been minuted that she would try to change the dates of the visit, but she wished to make it known that this was not possible. After due consideration the May minutes were proposed as an accurate record by Cllr T. Van Rees and seconded by Cllr A. Jones.

**Matters Arisiing**-The Clerk read a series of e-mails from Mr D.Cain, a Llanwrtyd resident, regarding the bins on Irfon Crescent outside Britannia House . They remain an eye-sore and despite representations to Powys county council they remain in situ.

It was suggested that a letter be written to Mr Gordon Green, who is the owner of the flats, with a view to getting the matter resolved.

**Action:** Clerk to write letter to Gordon Green

The Clerk read a response form the "Access to Information team" regarding the felling of trees along the Abergwesyn Road. Members felt that once again there appears to be no accountability within the forestry industry with one agency passing the buck to the next agency. Cllr S. Jones was not satisfied that the area had been made safe and commented that the telephone lines along the Abergwesyn Road were still draped among the trees. It was requested that a letter be written to Openreach to get the matter sorted as a matter of urgency.

**Action:** Clerk to write above letter.

4. **Finance**- The Clerk presented the balance sheet for May. There were no unusual payments. Income for the month consisted of £100.00 toilet revenue and £100.00 from Green Events for the use of the toilets during Man v Horse. After due consideration the balance sheet for May was proposed as an accurate record by Cllr T. Van Rees and seconded by Cllr J. Davies.

5. **Appointment of new Town Clerk**- the Clerk informed members that they needed to appoint one more member to the appointment committee since the resignation of Cllr Lambkin. Cllr A. Jones volunteered for the role and Cllr Van Rees formally proposed that she be part of the appointments team. The proposal was unanimously agreed. Shortlisting will take place on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> June with interviews being held on 3<sup>rd</sup> July. The Clerk informed members that there had been four applications. Folders with all the relevant paper work to be delivered to Cllr Edwards on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> June in readiness for shortlisting.

6. **Traffic Calming** -in the absence of Cllr Rowlands this item was deferred until the July meeting.

7. **Feedback form councillors**-

**Cllr A. Jones reported that**

- The Bromsgrove school would visit the Abernant in July to discuss arrangements for the visit due to take place on the 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> September
- that she had contacted the Archdeacon and he had agreed to take a service in St James Church and he had agreed.
- that they would like to parade through Town and arrive at the War Memorial to lay a wreath. This was widely debated with concerns about risk assessment and child safety. It was suggested that they parade over the river bridge and up the Dolycoed Road with only one crossing of the main trunk road. This was the much-preferred option rather than marching along the main A483.
- that 40 children would be staying at the Abernant with many other dignitaries staying locally.
- that the Town should welcome them in some way as they have the Freedom of the Town. This was to be decided with a working party to formulate a plan for the weekend.

**Cllr R.Hughes reported** that a resident had complained about speeding along Station Road. It was suggested she ask the resident to put their concerns in writing to the Town Council.

**Cllr Van Rees reported**

- that he had attended a meeting regarding libraries and that Powys would pay for support for volunteers but the support would be shared between three libraries.

The Clerk informed members that Cllr James had had a visit from one of the volunteers to say that at meeting with officers from the Library service they had been told that in terms of footfall Llanwrtyd library was in danger of closure. The volunteers had said that they would take over the running of the Library completely rather than it close. Cllr Van Rees said he would follow this up.

### **Cllr Edwards reported**

- that since the meeting with the Police she had made enquiries with the Health board regarding the issue of referrals for support. She informed the table that officers are able refer to the Duty team with details. She informed members of the "Community Safety Partnership" which involves all agencies who are supposed to work together to protect their local communities from crime and help people feel safe. She gave contact details and it was felt that someone should be invited to speak to the Town Council in September.

Action : Clerk to write to the Powys Community Safety Partnership.

### **Cllr Davies reported**

- that the gutters throughout Llanwrtyd and in particular up at Berthlywd were not being and had not been swept for some time. He requested that the issue should be reported to Highways.

Action: Clerk to report issue via the website.

In their absence the Clerk read e-mails from Cllr Rowlands, Cllr Pace-Avery and Cllr Pigott .

### **Cllr Pigott reported**

- that the Town website had had 33,457 hits with 665 visits so far in June to the site. He said that the web address would be [www.llanwrtyd.com](http://www.llanwrtyd.com).

### **Cllr Pace-Avery reported**

- that she had spoken with PCSO Kelham regarding the incident in the memorial gardens. Action is going to be taken to prevent certain individuals from entering certain areas of town. Failure to comply could result in £100.00 fine.
- that she had managed to secure, free of charge, some Christmas light from Brecon Town Council. She thanked Cllr Davies and Simon Powell for collecting them. She requested that a thankyou letter be written to Brecon Town Council .

Action: Clerk to write above letter.

She had provisionally booked the Drovers restaurant for Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> August for the Clerks leaving.

### **Cllr Rowlands**

- clarified his thinking about finance that he suggested at the last meeting. He felt that the Council could set a spending limit below which they should not go. This would give an indication of monies available for pursuing unpredicted expenditure.
  - He requested that an annual sum of £150 be set aside each year to maintain the Town Website (it was decided to defer this decision until the July meeting)
  - He requested that the Town Square and Green be kept an eye on since there had been evidence of damage to the kite bed. Judging for Wales in bloom will be on the 5<sup>th</sup> July.
8. **Anti-Social Behaviour-** no further incidents were brought to the table but the situation will continue to be monitored.

### **9. Town Website update – this was addressed via the report from Cllr Pigott at item 7.**

The Clerk informed members that the Town Council website needed to comply with new legislation by September. The requirement requires all websites to be able to be readily and easily accessed by mobile phone and screen readers. The Clerk at Llangammarch Council suggested that between the two Councils we could buy a specialist piece of software which creates files called OCR files which would make us compliant. (This was deferred until the July meeting).

10. **CCTV update** - The Clerk informed members that two quotes had been received for the installation of CCTV with the cost in the region of £3-4000 .Cllr Davies outlined the meeting with Dyfed Alarms which was very comprehensive. Cllr Edwards raised the following questions:

- Who would be responsible for monitoring?
- Who on the Council would be prepared to give evidence in court if necessary, as a result of captured images?
- What ongoing costs would be incurred?
- Who would be the contact person to deal with any queries? Their telephone number would need to be displayed on any CCTV notices erected informing the public of their existence?

The Clerk suggested that the Council would need a specific protocol policy for CCTV and that any system would need a license from the Welsh government.

11. **Planning-**Cllr Van Rees declared an interest and left the meeting room. Members considered the planning notice 19/ 0593/OUT for the demolition of agricultural buildings and the erection of two private dwellings .After much debate it was decided that the council should offer the following objections

- a) the information submitted on the application form was wrong in many areas
- b) The proposed site is prone to flooding
- c) there are environmental concerns with hedges needing to be removed and habitats disturbed. Has there been an environmental impact assessment?

- d) there is already building in Llanwrtyd on two sites at present does Llanwrtyd need any more housing?
- e) concerns raised about possible future use of the surrounding fields
- f) access might be a hazard along a busy minor road.

**Action:** Clerk to relay these objections to Powys Planning.

**12. Twinning**-Cllr Davies reported a successful visit from Meriel for the Man v Horse race thanks to The Twinning Committee, Green Events and Meriel Town Council. It is understood that they wish to compete again next year.

**13. Councillor training**-this will be deferred to the July meeting.

**14. Services**

a) Library -The volunteers are keen to take over the library. Cllr Van Rees to talk to Mrs Hope regarding a meeting attended in Newtown.

b) Surgery- the Clerk read a letter received from the Builth Wells Medical Practice which outlined their difficulties in nurse staffing. All patients needing appointments with a practice nurse would need to go to Builth Practice as only one nurse had been recruited on a part time basis. Cllr Edwards suggested that we write to Mr J. Marchant director of Primary Community Care and Mental Health asking him to meet with the Town Council.

c) Pubic Toilets-Cllr Lambkin is no longer holder of the keys for the public toilets having given them to Cllr Pace-Avery prior to her letter of resignation. The public toilets were open for the Man v Horse event and there have been no reports of damage or misuse. Mr Mcloughlin is on holiday until the end of the week and will give them a good clean when he returns.

d) Dolwen Field – A brief update on the Dolwen Field informed members that planning permission has still not been granted. Cllr Davies informed members that many thousands of pounds in grant funding had been lost due to delays with this application and requested that a letter of complaint be sent to the Chief Planning Officer Mr. G Davies.

Action. Clerk to write the above letter.

e) Town Square and Green- This has been dealt with under item 7 “Feedback from Councillors”.

**15. Correspondence**

Item 1 on Agenda Letter of resignation from Councillor Lambkin

Item 3 on agenda

- e-mails form Mr Cain regarding Black bins on The High Street
- Response form NRW information team

Item 7 on agenda

- Councillor feedback from Councillor L Pace-Avery
- Councillor feedback from Councillor Rowlands
- Feedback re website from Cllr Pigott

Item10 on Agenda Letter from Crime commissioner re; grant

Item 11 on Agenda Planning notice 19/0593/OUT Demolition of Agricultural buildings and erection of two dwellings.

Item 14b on Agenda letter from the Builth Wells Medical Practice re; services

Item 15 on Agenda

a) letter from Llanwrtyd Show Secretary

The Clerk read a letter from Mr T. Jones Chairman of the Llanwrtyd Wells and district Show expressing their disappointment at not having been included in the civic reception and having been omitted from the town Website. Council felt that a letter of apology be sent to the Committee as soon as possible. It was felt however that the point of being omitted from the website was not wholly fair as all organisations were asked to submit articles and photos to those constructing the website and all who submitted things were included.

Action: Clerk to write the above letter.

b) E-mail from iBABS paperless solutions.

The Clerk concluded by thanking those present for their attendance and closed the meeting at 9:30pm.

Signed.....

Date.....

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY 17<sup>th</sup> JULY**

