



**Minutes of the meeting of Builth Wells Town Council held on
Tuesday 9th January 2024 at 7.00 pm
in The Strand Hall, Builth Wells.**

Present: Cllr's M. Hammond, A.Lewis, L.Hopkins, G.Goodwin, A.Waller, A.Bujok.

Town Council Officer/s present: Louise Hammond (Clerk).

Others present:

Apologies for Absence: C.Cllr J.Pugh and Cllr G.Davies.

Non Attendance: Cllr L.Pugh.

BW/001/24: DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

None.

BW/002/24 MINUTES:

To authorise the Chair to sign the minutes from the meeting held on **12th December 2023** as being a correct record. **Resolved** - minutes were correct.

BW/003/24: C.COUNCILLOR PUGH:

Apologies given.

BW/004/24: MAYORS REPORT:

- a) Chair was invited to a retirement event at the fire station last week. It was a great celebration of the commitment to the retained fire service by members of the community.
- b) Powys County Council parking fee's review: Final meeting being held tomorrow, which the Chair will be attending. (updates to follow next month).
- c) Barclays bank will be locating a cashless pop-up hub at the Strand from 1st March. They are also supportive of a banking hub within the town if the evidence develops to support one. Chair will be liaising with Fay Jones MP and Post office as things develop.
- d) Chair has been approached by a few people about the old hospital signs in Hospital Road, in respect to what is happening with them. Council advised that C. Cllr Jeremy Pugh was dealing with this matter previously. Chair will liaise with C. Cllr Pugh direct.
- e) Chair asked Council if he could approach Tony Caine and ask permission to spruce up the Croeso site. Council agreed – **Unanimous**.
- f) Chair has chased up Powys Council County regarding the Welcome to Builth Signs, which Council have already paid for. Update to be given next month.

BW/005/24: FINANCE:

- a) Precept request now sent and accepted by Powys Council County.
- b) Council resolved that Clerk requests the previous internal auditor to carry out our internal audit again this year.
- c) Grotto fund: Donations received = £145.00.
- d) Strand Hall charges review – To be brought back to PRF meeting next week.
- e) Art Exhibition: **Resolved** that they be asked to cover the costs of electric for the event £15.00. Cllr Waller will inform them.
- f) Sky Broadband – Now set for go-live on the 17th January.
- g) Direct Debits: **Resolved** - to remain the same.
- h) Payment Summary not completed due to no broadband.
- i) Accounts not reconciled due to no broadband.

BW/006/24: CLERKS REPORT:

- a) Councillor allowances: Clerk advised Councillors to think about taking this payment, particularly as the Welsh Government encourages this.
- b) Dementia Matters: Council will offer support to try and keep this much needed service going. Chair will liaise with Powys Teaching Health Board and James Evans MS
- c) Transforming grants: Clerk put a leaflet out to all business premises and posted a Facebook notice. A couple of people have made contact, but this does need to be a community led project. **Resolved** - to hold a meeting to see if there is any interest in this.
- d) Facebook Post to be put out with regards to “Fun day” for food and soft drinks supply.
- e) Standing Orders: **Resolved** - no change.
- f) Financial Regulations: **Resolved** - no change.
- g) Risk assessments: **Resolved** - no change.
- h) Long and in-depth discussions took place regarding the total loss of all the Strand Hall internet and telephony, and the knock-on issues in respect of the Clerk being able to undertake her role adequately. This situation has been going on for over two years with BT being unable to set up their systems correctly, resulting in multiple loss of working hours due to them erroneously cancelling the line and broadband. There has been no lift-line since the end of August, despite the Clerk being assured that it had been reconnected on several occasions. Clerk has now contacted Dyfed Alarms, who are sending over a quote to negate the need for a line in the lift. This, along with other issues, had resulted in a complaint to BT and the closure of the Council’s BT account.
- i) Discussed as above.
- j) Complaints received about the Groe Toilets over New Year: Clerk advised that two complaints were received on New Years Day regarding to the shower unit being in a dirty state. Clerk has replied to both. **NFA**.
- k) In-depth discussion about the possibility of having a flower memorial garden in December. Although Council was not against this idea, it would need further discussion via the Events working group.

BW/007/24: GRANTS:

- a) Scouts: **Resolved** - awarded £2000.00 – Clerk to advise.
- b) Pottery Hub: **Resolved** - awarded £2000.00 – Clerk to advise.

BW/008/24: EVENTS:

- a) Cllr Davies had previously requested that the Council formally express its gratitude for the support given towards the Christmas lights: **Carl Williams** for the loan of machinery, and **Charlie, Robert, Bubba** and **Robert Powell** for working all year on this project.
- b) Chair advised that this year on the 9th of July would be the 100th Anniversary of the dedication of the War Memorial. He stated that he was of the opinion that the Council should mark this event with a re-dedication ceremony. Council **resolved** that this did need a celebration. It was noted that the War Memorial still needs repairs. Clerk advised monies were ring-fenced for this, and asked Council if they wanted her to try and get a grant for these works. It was **resolved** that Council would use the ring-fenced amount to get the repairs started, as the stone was failing and needs doing. **Resolved** also that Clerk makes contact with John Protheroe who did put a tender in some time ago. Council also suggested an event in the Strand Hall for this occasion and invite Choirs to sing. The provisional date set for this was the 7th of July. Chair will contact the Builth group of Churches.

BW/009/24: HANGING BASKETS OUTSIDE SPACES: CLLR DAVIES/WALLER:

Hanging baskets tender: Council **resolved** to stay with same supplier as previous two years. Cllr Waller will advise.

BW/010/23 CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS:

- a) Staffing: **Resolved** - Hours to remain the same – Overtime at flat rate.
- b) Pensions: **Resolved** - Clerk to change contract.

THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 8.02pm

Signed on behalf of the Town

Council.....

Name.....

Date.....
