



BUILTH WELLS TOWN COUNCIL

CYNGOR TREF LLANFAIR-YM-MUALLT

Minutes of a Extraordinary Meeting of Builth Wells Town on 6th January 2015 commencing at 7.30pm in The Strand Hall, Builth Wells.

Present: Councillors: A.Jones(Mayor), B.Reardon, J. Price. T.Layton, B.Watkins,M.Prynne
G.York,J.Richards,A.Richards

Others:

Apologies: Cllr D.Jones

Absent: Cllr D.Wellstead

Declarations of Interest: None

BW/001/15 Review of the Council's Fidelity Guarantee

Following a **proposal** from Cllr B.Reardon and seconded by Cllr G.York it was **resolved** that the Town Council's Fidelity Guarantee Insurance remain at £100,000, as this is normally sufficient to cover the amount of bank balances held at the Natwest Bank, Builth Wells.

Carried

BW/002/15 Review of the Council's Risk Assessment Schedule

Following a **proposal** from Cllr M. Prynne and Seconded by Cllr A. Richards it was **resolved** that the Town Council's Risk Assessment Register be approved.

Carried

BW/003/15 Review of the Council's Fixed Assets Register

Subject to the following:

- a) Removal of the Welcome Signs (recently renewed by PCC)
- b) Re assessment of value of property at Three Bridges Walk, the Strand Hall and Toilets
- c) Photographs of public seats on the register

A **proposal** from Cllr J. Price and Seconded by Cllr M. Prynne it was **resolved** that the Town Council's Fix Asset Register be approved.

Carried

BW/004/15 Review of Standing Orders dated 6th January 2015

Following a **proposal** from Cllr B.Reardon and seconded by Cllr B.Watkins it was **resolved** that the Town Council's Standing Orders dated 6th January 2015 be approved.

Carried.

BW/005/15 Review of Financial Regulations date 6th January 2015

Following a **proposal** from Cllr and Seconded by it was **resolved** that the Town Council's Financial Regulations dated 6th January 2015 be agreed.

Carried

BW/006/15 Income & Expenditure to 31st December 2014

Councillors were provided with copies of income/expenditure for the period 1/4/14-31/12/14 and these were monitored against the budget set for the financial year 2014/15.

It was **proposed** by Cllr G.York and seconded by Cllr B.Reardon, it was **resolved** that the Town Council's finances are in a satisfactory position compared against the planned budget for 2014/15

Carried.

BW/007/15 Planning Application;

To retain signage at the Co-Operative Food, Brecon Road. P/2014/1244. Proposed that the Council have no objections and the Clerk to inform the planning officer.
Proposed Cllrs J. Price/ A. Richards Carried.

BW/008/15 Budget 2015/16

The Clerk informed Builth Wells Town Council, that its members are required to set a budget¹ outlining its spending in various categories for the forthcoming financial year. As a general advice to the council, it would be that, provided the council has worked out a budget for the forthcoming year, (allowing for ongoing commitments, inflation and new projects) it would be reasonable to set a precept that it is needed to fulfil those requirements. In doing so, regards should be given to the level of balances of the unallocated reserves that *could* contribute towards project costs, if that was an appropriate consideration. Each expenditure heading should be considered in isolation, necessary and proportionate.

¹ Accounts & Audit Regulations 2005

The following points were discussed at length:-

- I. Strand Hall Conveniences, Cllr A. Jones recommended the planned refurbishment and access for the public during 2015 should go forward as planned. The funds are available and work could commence immediately. Cllr York raised the point that, *if*, and no decision has yet been made for the Council to take on the running of the Groe public toilets, the council could find itself funding two sets of public toilets in 2015 which it could not afford. Councillors felt that the conversion and upgrading of facilities to the Strand Hall toilets was within the complete plan for the Strand Hall and had been costed separately from this budget and only a small budget provision at this stage was required for cleaning costs. Its continued opening would be considered in Council when further commitments were known.
- II. School Crossing Patrol. The agreement of the Board of Governors to contribute half of the costs for the zebra crossing patrol, Garth Road for 2013/4 had not been received despite the Governors informing PCC. Neither was it clear whether this agreement was annually. In view of this and the importance of the crossing patrol to child safety, it was felt provision for the full cost had to be made. The Clerk to contact the Board Chairman, County Councillor D.Price.
- III. Community Delivery Projects. Cllr A. Jones outlined the serious position the Council were in from Powys County Council in their withdrawal of support for non-essential services. The Council had undertaken informing every resident of Builth Wells relating to the imminent loss of the Groe Public toilets facility. Cllr Jones went on to inform the Council that the replies from the community were positive and helpful and fully supported the retention of the facilities, but the initial cost was going to be high if the Council was to undertake this responsibility. Cllr G.York highlighted that the our Council is being required to make decisions in a budget without Powys County Council making clear with costs, all matters within the town that they will no longer support, and dealing with such matters with high costs involved, in a piecemeal way, was very unsatisfactory. Cllr York highlighted other matters that the Town Council could be approached by PCC in the forthcoming year, which would have cost implications, the Groe land, children's play area, and library services and possibly more. Cllr J.Price supported the concerns of Cllr York in the 'unknown' and suggested that instead of allocating funds to the running of the Groe toilets specifically, which Builth Town Council may not necessarily agree to do (31/3/15 being the closing date) that the budget heading should be 'Community Delivery Projects' enabling the Council to respond between budgets to matters effecting the town and community and to allocate £10,000 from reserves towards it.

2013/14	Budget 2015/16	Precept Request 2015/16
Expenditure		
Staff Wages	6,500.00	6,500.00
Insurance	2,500.00	2,500.00
Subs/Conferences/training	700.00	700.00
Mayor's Allowance	1,500.00	1,500.00
Admin/Sundries	2,000.00	2,000.00
Audit Costs	800.00	800.00
Grants & Sec 137 ² & Sec2 ³	12,800.00	12,800.00
School Crossing Patrol	2,000.00	2,000.00
Hanging Baskets/flowers/watering	3,500.00	500.00
Xmas Lights	2,900.00	2,900.00
Strand Hall Conveniences	1,200.00	1,200.00
Community Delivery Projects	30,000.00	20,000.00
Strand Hall	8,000.00	5,000.00
Public Loans Board(1)	3,800.00	3,800.00
Public Loans Board(2)	11,000.00	11,000.00
Three Bridges Walk	1,500.00	1,500.00
Information Technology	300.00	300.00
Total expenditure	<u>91,000.00</u>	<u>75,000.00</u>

Following a **proposal** from Cllr J. Price and seconded by Cllr M. Prynne it was **resolved** to inform Powys County Council that the precept for Builth Wells Town Council for the financial year 2015/16 would be £66,000.

BW/009/15 Next meeting, Tuesday 13th January 7.30pm

Meeting closed 2200 hrs

Chairman..... 13th January 2015

² Section 137 Local Authority Act 1972

³ Section 2(1) or 2(5) Local Government (Wales) Measure Act 2011