

# BUILTH WELLS TOWN COUNCIL

## CYNGOR TREF LLANFAIR-YM-MUALLT



### **Minutes of the Meeting of Builth Wells Town Council held on Tuesday 8th November 2016 commencing at 7.30 pm in The Strand Hall, Builth Wells.**

**Present :** Cllrs M.Prynne (Mayor), A.Jones, B. Watkins, G Thomas D Jones, D Ronicle, A Powell

**Apologies for Absence :** Cllrs B Reardon, J Price, T Layton. County Cllr A York.

**BW/183/16**    **Declarations of Interest**    Cllr A Powell declared an interest in Agenda item 12, Strand Hall.

**BW/184/16**    **Minutes**

To authorise the Chairman to sign the minutes of the meeting held on the 11 October 2016 as a correct record

**Proposed. Cllr G Thomas, Seconded Cllr B Watkins. Unanimous**

**BW185/16**    **Clerks Report:**

Notification has been received that the Data Protection Registration for the Town Council is due to be renewed on 12 December 2016.

Notification has been received that the renewable energy plan with British Gas for the electricity supply to the Groe Public Toilets is due to be renewed. British Gas should be notified by 3 January 2017 if the council wish to continue with the plan and be eligible for fixed price electricity. Failure to notify by this date will result in the Council's account being moved to a variable charge tariff.

Powys CC has issued introductory guidance in respect of the Community Council Elections to be held May 2017. The guidance contained indicative costs for contested and uncontested elections. Also highlighted was the fact that Community Councils will also be charged a proportion of the cost of Poll Cards this charge will apply whether the election is contested or uncontested. The cost will approximately 15p per card, which includes postage.

**BW/186/16 County Councillor's Report**

As County Cllr A York was not in attendance there was no report.

**BW/187/16 Co-Option of Councillors.**

The Council had received two letters from Mr Paul McNiffe and Mr Ashley Offa stating their interest in the two vacant Councillor positions. It was agreed to co-opt both Mr McNiffe and Mr Offa and invite them to the next Council meeting on 13 December 2016.

**BW188/16 Planning.**

**Planning Application P/2016/1038** - An application has been received for a change of use for 20 Market Street from Office and premises to Micro pub. After a discussion, it was agreed that the Council would make the following observations to Powys CC:

- a) There are already a significant number of licenced premises within the Town of Builth Wells and allowing for additional licensed premises could have a negative impact on existing businesses.
- b) There is already one licenced premises within Builth Wells that is no longer trading and this is located very near to 20 Market Street, the property subject of this planning application.
- c) There is a safety concern regarding the increase of people using this stretch of pavement to and from the proposed micro pub. The footpath passing 20 Market Street is narrow and next to a busy and dangerous road. There has been a noticeable increase in traffic on this stretch of road as larger and heavier lorries make use of it.
- d) There is a traffic safety concern in respect of vehicles parking on the narrow and busy road when making deliveries to the proposed pub. Delivery vehicles would be parking on a narrow road immediately after a blind bend.
- e) The area surrounding 20 Market Street is predominately a residential area.
- f) Agreeing to the application would be taking business away from the core business area of the Town.

**Proposed Cllr D Ronicle, Seconded Cllr B Watkins. Unanimous.**

**BW/189/16 Library**

Cllr Prynne reported that she had been verbally informed by the current librarian that the Builth Wells library would move to Antur Gwy in February 2017 although the opening hours for the library after the move were still to be decided. No formal notification from, Powys CC had been received,.



Cllrs M Prynne and A Jones attended a meeting with several other Town Councils in Rhayader. All Councils agreed that the deadline of 31 October set by Powys for Town Councils to come up with alternative proposals to maintain the library services in their areas was too tight. Furthermore with the minimal information provided by Powys CC it was very difficult to develop a detailed business plan or financial provision for the Town Council to take responsibility for the service.

Clarification was also still awaited on the legal advice regarding Section 137 payments. A recent Freedom of Information request for Powys to release information relating to the legal advice they had obtained in respect of Section 137 payments was turned down.

To protect the position of Builth Wells Town Council a letter was sent to the Chief Executive of Powys CC and County Cllr Brown confirming that the Council wished to see the continuation of a library service in Builth Wells, but that they were unable to make any firm proposals for how this would be achieved at the current time.

At the date of this meeting no reply or acknowledgment to the letters have been received.

#### **BW/190/16 Finance**

The following payments plus a payment in the amount of £656.14 to Powys CC for the hire of the hoist for erecting the Christmas Lights were approved.

#### **Proposed Cllr D Jones, Seconded Cllr A Jones. Unanimous**

<b>Cheque No</b>	<b>Payee</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Cheque Total £</b>	<b>VAT to be reclaimed £</b>	<b>Budget Expenditure</b>
2811	Nibletts	Extension lead	23.10	3.85	19.25
2812	S Pleszkan (Amazon)	Stationery	22.18	3.69	18.49
2813	Builth Fest	Fee for stall	10.00		10.00
2814	Powys CC	Business Rates	262.00		262.00
2815	Petty Cash	Petty Cash top up	100.00		100.00
2816	S Pleszkan	Salary	351.12		351.12
2817	Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal	Poppy Wreath	50.00		50.00
DD	BT	Telephone 551568	147.16	24.53	122.63
DD	BT	Telephone 551789	89.64	14.94	74.70
DD	BT	Telephone 553881	89.64	14.94	74.70
2818	T.C.Cleaning Services	Groe toilets cleaning 1/10/16 to 31/10/16	1,621.13	270.19	1,350.94
2819	T.C.Cleaning Services	Sundries Groe Toilets October	157.75	26.29	131.46
	<b>Totals</b>		<b>2,923.72</b>	<b>358.43</b>	<b>2,565.29</b>

### **Budget Report:**

- a) Bank reconciliations for all accounts have been completed and are up to date.
- b) Bank accounts have been set up for all relevant schemes.
- c) Budget reconciliation has been completed on the expenditure to date and making assumptions of spend for the period to the 31 March 2017. This currently shows most budget heads are underspent. Some budget virements are required but these need to be reviewed in detail by the Policy and Resources Committee for approval before actioning.
- d) The Public Works Loan Board loan for Phase 3 of the Strand Hall refurbishment has been agreed and will be drawn down on the 2 December 2016. The Clerk is to contact the PWLB on 30 November to agree final terms and interest rate for the loan.
- e) The Q1 and Q2 grant claims for the maintenance and cleaning of the Groe Public toilets has been submitted to the Welsh Government.
- f) One Voice Wales has issued new model Financial Regulations for Town and Community Councils. This needs to be reviewed by the Council before implementation as some monetary values need to be set.

### **BW/191/16 Grant Applications:**

British Red Cross – No grant to be awarded.

**Proposed Cllr G Thomas, Seconded Cllr A Powell. Unanimous**

Citizens Advice Bureau – No grant to be awarded.

**Proposed Cllr A Jones, Seconded Cllr D Ronicle. Unanimous.**

### **BW/192/16 Correspondence.**

- a. **Ministry of Defence** – Notice of Military Activity for November. Noted as received.
- b. **Bronllys Land Trust** – Newsletter and invite to AGM. (copy attached) It was agreed that Cllrs G Thomas and A Powell attend the AGM.
- c. **Llangollen 2017** – LA Welsh Autumn Newsletter. (Copy attached) Noted as received.
- d. **Powys CC** – Statutory Notice in relation to Builth Wells and Llandrindod High Schools. (copy attached) Cllr G Thomas informed the Council that a meeting would be held on Friday 11 November at The Greyhound for local people concerned about the school proposals. After discussion, it was agreed that Cllrs Thomas, A Jones and M Prynne would attend the meeting to support the local community.
- e. **Website feedback:** Francis McGuinness. (copy attached) Noted as received.

**Cllr A Powell declared an interest in the next item and left the room.**

### **BW/193/16 Strand Hall.**

Cllr A Jones gave an update on the progress of Phase 3 of the Strand Hall refurbishment. It was confirmed that Bryan Jones Associates and Bowen Consultants Ltd had been appointed to prepare the tender documentation and oversee the contract. Cllr A Jones



had met with the Bryan Jones and Steve Bowen and reviewed the plans for the refurbishment and it is anticipated that the specification will be written and tenders sent out by the middle of December to the four companies that expressed an interest in undertaking the work.

The closing date for tenders is expected to be early January 2017 with work starting later in the month. Because of the size of the project it is expected that work will continue after the 31 March 2017 into the next financial year.

**Cllr A Powell returned to the meeting.**

**BW/194/16 Christmas Lights**

Seven new displays were delivered on Monday; other lights had been repaired by Charlie Bass and Jim Evans who had done a very good job. The Council wished to thank both Charlie and Jim for their time and valuable help with the Christmas lights.

The hire of the hoist had been arranged with Powys CC and Cllr A Jones reminded everyone that the lights will be erected on Sunday 20 November. Everyone helping with the erection of the lights should meet at the Strand Hall at 4am on the 20 November.

**BW/195/16 The Groe**

As Cllr B Reardon could not attend the meeting this item was deferred to the next Council meeting.

**BW/196/16 Hanging Baskets**

It was confirmed that all hanging baskets were now in storage. A letter had been received from Midway Plants quoting £17.45 (including VAT) for planting up the hanging baskets for the 2017 season. There was a small increase on the 2016 price. It was agreed that the price was acceptable and that a letter is sent to Midway plants to confirm this. Cllrs also asked that Midway Plants are thanked for the wonderful baskets and flowers provided this year.

**Proposed Cllr D Jones, Seconded Cllr A Jones. Unanimous**

**BW/197/16 Town Survey**

A draft questionnaire was circulated by Cllr G Thomas; this was based around template provided for Community Councils and written in accordance with Aberystwyth University guidelines. It was confirmed the questions would be generalised and that the questionnaire would not be personalised in any way. There would be two versions, digital and printed. The printed versions could be used at the Christmas Fair and left in establishments such as Doctors and Dentist surgeries, Wyeseid and possibly in local cafes.

It was agreed that the draft was a good start and Cllr Thomas should move forward with the Survey.

**Proposed Cllr A Powell, Seconded Cllr D Ronicle. Unanimous.**

**BW/198/16 Local Schools - Volunteering**

Cllr G Thomas reported there was no further update and the matter was deferred to a later meeting.

**BW/199/16 Chairman's Report – Monthly surgery and Mayors Diary.**

Cllr Prynne and Cllr Watkins held the monthly surgery on 29 October, no complaints were received but an invite to the Powys Chair's Concert in the Alpha rooms was received. Cllr Prynne attended the concert which was poorly attended but successfully raised £842 for Diabetes Wales.

The Mayor, Cllr M Prynne, reported that she attended the following events and meetings on behalf of the Council.

- a) 12 October 2016 Strand Hall Meeting.
- b) 13 October 2016 Invited to join a meeting of seven other Town Councils in Rhayader to discuss PCC's proposals for meeting the £250K shortfall in their Library budget.
- c) 19 October 2016 Christmas Lights meeting
- d) 24 October 2016 Access meeting. As the Riverside Community Centre was unavailable the meeting was held in the Strand. The group asked if the Groe Public toilets could be opened earlier than 7:30am. Cllr Prynne explained this was not possible.
- e) 29 October 2016 Monthly Surgery.

Cllr Prynne reported she had received a complaint from a local resident who travels on a mobility scooter and had had several punctures due to glass on the pavement and in the road when travelling through the Town. The problem is generally over the weekend and she has had several punctures. It was agreed to investigate the situation and also to refer the matter to the Builth Wells Access group to see if this is problem experienced by other Builth resident.

Cllr A Powell explained she was unable to attend the Town Council surgery planned for 26 November, Cllr D Jones offered to attend in her place.


It was agreed there would be no surgery in December 2016.

**BW/200/16 Resignation of Town Clerk**

The Clerk left the room so that a confidential discussion could take place. It was agreed to accept her resignation with employment terminating on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2016.

**BW/201/16 Date of next meeting 13 December 2016.**

**Meeting Closed 21:30**

Signed..........

**13 December 2016**