

BUILTH WELLS TOWN COUNCIL

CYNGORTREFLLANFAIR-YM-MUALLT



Minutes of the Meeting of Builth Wells Town Council held on **Tuesday 14th August 2018** commencing at **7.30 pm** in The Strand Hall, Builth Wells.

Present : Cllrs P.Mcniffe (Mayor), Cllr G. Davies (Deputy), Cllr M. Prynne, Cllr D. Jones, Cllr B Watkins, Cllr D. Ronicle, Cllr B. Readon

Apologies for Absence : Cllr A. Powell, Cllr Simon John, Cllr R Sweet

In Attendance : Karen Compton (Press), County Cllr J. Pugh

BW/119/18 **Declarations of Interest:** None

BW/120/18 **Minutes:**

To authorise the Chairman to sign the minutes of meeting held on 10th July 2018 as a correct record.

Proposed Cllr M.Prynne, seconded, Cllr D. Ronicle, Unanimous

BW/121/18 **County Councillors Report:**

Cty Cllr J. Pugh reported that the Royal Welsh show went well. There was positive feedback regarding the toilets. Some did not like the pods but otherwise fine. The fence worked well and will be on-going. Police and safety staff urged Powys and BTC to work together to keep the toilets. Not many problems at all.

Groe lights – The lights will be moved to the right hand side instead of the left so they can shine on the river. However, some areas will still be unlit near the river and this needs addressing.

Rally – regarding no cones or road closure. Cty Cllr, J.Pugh looked into this matter and it appears that there was a road closure request made by Builth Town council but an application was not completed. Any road closure applications have to be costed by Powys County Council for workforce etc. Disability bays and bollards need to be placed in a forward plan with application information for future events.

Forging with other councils – Cty Cllr J. Pugh feels that BTC needs to join forces with other councils to work as one unit. This would provide more funding to develop and nurture projects. Forging closer links would create strength and support. Cllr B. Readon mentioned that this has been proposed before and has not been successful. Other councils need to commit fully for the project to work. Cllr J. Pugh suggested that a pre-meeting needs to be undertaken with a plan and proposal of how each town council can work together. All of the town councils will need to be kept informed and

part of the process. It was noted that when contribution of monies were considered in cluster meetings previously, town councils became reticent. Cty Cllr J. Pugh wondered if by using the regeneration scheme all participants would feel included and this would help commitment. The advantage of working together would become apparent as more could be achieved. Cty Cllr J. Pugh said that ‘we needed to think outside the box’ to get people ‘on board’ and tie it up with the business plan to promote Builth Wells Town. Cllr D. Jones mentioned that Llanwrtyd wells could teach us a lot in terms of developing the area. That said, ideas were not enough and people needed to commit and act on proposals. Cty Cllr J. Pugh stated the importance of finding a way to create a Cluster meeting. Perhaps by a Town Council regeneration meeting providing a business plan. It was decided that a regeneration meeting would be held for Builth Wells Town Council on 23rd August in the kitchen at the Strand Hall to discuss a business plan of where the Town feels its future will be. A detailed copy of accounts needs to be passed onto Cty Cllr J. Pugh for him to peruse and see where finances can be used to generate development.

It was also mentioned that the ‘top end’ of Builth Town is a disgrace and an embarrassment. A letter with photographs needs to be sent to Powys County Council stating very firmly that it needs to be addressed.

Cllr B. Reardon asked Cty Cllr J. Pugh about two trees that require clearing away by the vicarage. Cllr J. Pugh will look into it. Weeds also require removing from the Groe.

BW/122/18 Vacancies for two new councillors:

Vacancy notices have been placed in the Library, the Cwtch and The Strand. Cllr P. McNiffe will place one in community support and the Oaklands notice board,

BW/123/18 Current position regarding Town Clerk update

Vacancy notice needs to go out. Promoting the Strand Hall, viewing and invoicing need to be added to current job description. An increase in hours to 15 per week the core hours being 9.30 am to 12.30 pm daily.

Proposed Cllr. G. Davies, seconded Cllr. D. Jones, unanimously agreed.

BW/124/18 Finance:

Cllr D. Ronicle attended a finance course. It was deemed good practice to report Back to councillors about information learnt. Significant points raised were:

- Our reserves are about £30,000 which is good for the size of the council
- We need a 1/3/5 year plan
- Clerk’s job needs to be work assessed
- Rialta’s package is a very good software but requires training to use it
- We need an RFO, perhaps someone who is independent?
- Internal audit every six months
- We need to start working on the budget in September
- 2 councillors and the clerk need to be trained on Rialtas
- SLCC – clerk needs to be a member
- One Voice Wales – is good for governance & accountability and has useful basic tools and templates for employees

- **Rates** – Builth Town Council owe £10,000 in rates. It was suggested we pay a monthly breakdown until the matter is resolved.
 - **Strand** – a major income earner so requires a 1//3/5 year plan, drawn up. Any free use of Strand is not a good idea
 - Strand needs to be run as a business
 - Costing needs to be considered and worked out appropriately
Cllr D. Ronicle suggests looking at costs in October and generate a meeting about the Strand's promotion
- Internal audit** – Cllr D. Ronicle has gone through the accounts which have been audited by Diana Davies. Everything balances. The council need to sign it off so that it can be sent off for external audit. It was noted by Cllr D. Ronicle that Cllr A. Jones had done a fantastic job on the accounts. Cllr P. McNiffe thanked Cllr D. Ronicle for all the work and effort he has put in on the accounts.
- Request for the councillors go through the accounts, for them then to be signed by the Mayor and the RFO. Cllr P. Mc Niffe appointed Cllr D. Ronicle as emergency RFO.

Proposed by Cllr P. McNiffe, seconded by Cllr M. Pryne, all in favour.

Cllr D. Jones proposed we accepted the accounts and Cllr B. Reardon seconded

- **Helen Bozier** -Payment for extra hours worked by Helen to assist temporary Clerk was sanctioned.

Proposed by Cllr P. McNiffe, seconded Cllr G. Davies

BW/125/18 Riverside Community centre

Cllr P. McNiffe read out communications received from S.G Thomas regarding Riverside Community centre. It appears that clarification is required. Cllr B. Reardon proposed that the information needs to be sent to Powys county Council for clarifying as it is not clear who owns the property.

Historically, PCC had to provide a youth centre in Builth. BTC was asked to contribute additional monies. Over time PCC have reduced their contribution until it stopped altogether. The Riverside has gone very well but there is not enough usage anymore which may cause concerns in the future. Ideally the matter needs to be sorted out before September and it is used again. Letter to PCC and letter to S.G. Thomas need to be sent as soon as possible.

BW/126/18 Grant Applications

a, **Builth Wells Community Support** – They are looking for £1,000 to support the work of the organisation for office support and wages. LG to send an email to elicit where the Grant would be spent. Previously they have been informed that the grant should not be used for wages but could be used for Transport.

b, **Play scheme grant** – BTC will require the September accounts. The current

accounts do not reflect the last grant from BTC. If they received the grant after last September then it would appear that they are receiving 2 grants in the same year. Due to BTC auditing we would not be able to do this. We are answerable to the residents of Builth Town and are accountable for how the money is spent.

BW/127/18 **Correspondence**

a., **Cllr A. Powell has resigned** - BTC need to think about Strand Hall management and fill the vacancy.

b, **Wellbeing Workshop** – Cllr P. McNiffe read out information regarding a well being workshop. Tony Lewis the instructor, requires a suitable venue and at least 6 participants. LG to email for further information and costs.

c, **The Great British High Street Awards** – Entries close 23rd August. We are unable to participate as the information was received too late.

d, **Wellness Heart of Wales** – Jude Butle, BTC is unable to do anything.

e, **British Telecom price increase** – Cllr P. McNiffe read out price increases. They have increased by about £5.00. BTC have three Broadbands. It was decided to stay with BT.

f, **Brecon Advice Centre** – Information only

g, **Sanitary Cleaning** – It was decided to stay with current provider.

h, Builth Wells safety Group debrief form – Need to reply by 27th August. Cllr P.

McNiffe will complete it mentioning three things that went well: Traffic control, Street Pastors, Portoloo's/toilet management. Three things that were not so good were: Proper lighting on Riverbank, better traffic management on the Bridge particularly Sunday.

Covered, stand up urinals

Correspondence and Emails after closure of Agenda –

BW/128/18 **Strand update:**

Caretaker application - Cllr P. McNiffe and Cllr B. Watkins will interview. Job description needs to be worked out with an hourly rate. And conditions of employment. Cllr B. Reardon proposed a special meeting to be held this week for anyone who wants to attend to work out the above. Thursday 16th August was suggested.

BW/129/18 **Groe Toilets: update**

Cllr P. McNiffe proposed that the cleaning contract for the Groe toilets will be Carried out by the new caretaker. All agreed.

Cllr P. McNiffe informed councillors that the bill for the door to the toilets has been sent to the police. Cllr P. McNiffe to follow up with Barry (police). Repair should be commencing soon by Door Technik.

BW/130/18 Mayors Honorarium & seating update
Money is budgeted for the Honorarium. Seating can go ahead.

Proposed, Cllr P. McNiffe, seconded Cllr B. Reardon

BW/131/18 Removal of items from the Strand hall without prior agreement with council
It was agreed that no equipment of any kind should be hired, lent or removed from the Strand Hall for any reason whatsoever.

Proposed by Cllr B. Watkins and seconded by Cllr B. Reardon.

Cllr D. Jones suggested that the Rotary clock should be on display in the Strand Hall. Ideally wired in at a high level and the 'Slate' displayed in the entrance hall.

BW/132/18 High Street: Cllr A. Powell
Cllr A. Powell resigned

BW/133/18 Grass verges on Garth Road: Cllr A. Powell
Cllr A. Powell resigned

BW/134/18 Wyeside level Crossing update: Cllr B. Watkins
Currently nothing to report.

BW/135/18 Committee Membership: Cllr A. Powell
Cllr A. Powell resigned

BW/136/18 Chairman's Report/Diary
Nicky Grist Stages Rally: A good day and well supported.
Welsh audit office questionnaire, mandatory: This will be completed by Cllr. D. Ronicle

Meeting closed at 10.20pm

Signed.....

11th September 2018