

**BUILTH WELLS TOWN COUNCIL
CYNGORTREFLLANFAIR-YM-MUALLT**



Minutes of the Meeting of Builth Wells Town Council held on **Tuesday 9th October 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. Reardon

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

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

BW/155/18 **Declarations of Interest:** None

BW/156/18 **Minutes:**

To authorise the Chairman to sign the minutes of meeting held on 11th September 2018 as a correct record.

Proposed Cllr B. Reardon and Cllr . M.Prynne, Unanimous

BW/157/18 **One Voice Wales report** Cllr. B. Reardon

Cllr. Reardon apologised for leaving early due to a conflict with another meeting.

He reported the content of AGM (Annual General Meeting) of OVW (One Voice Wales) held on Saturday 28th September 2018 at the Royal Welsh showground. The panel consisted of Gwenda Thomas Cllr Kathryn Silk and Edward Humphreys. The recommendations will be forwarded to Welsh Government. The brief was:

- Collect evidence of community engagement of local councils, there were 800 + responses in Wales.
- Conclusions from the panel
- Recommendations to Welsh Government

The questions ask about Council's role and effectiveness:

- What do you do?
- How do you do it?
- Funding arrangements
- Relationships with others (stakeholders)
- Accountability

It was decided that each council should relate to local considerations, that these matters be dealt with in a democratic manner and that each council should be financially viable.

The scope and vision of local councils should be uniform wherever possible, able to improve services and have impetus to act accordingly. The proposals in detail will soon be on the Welsh Government website.

Cllr Reardon was a little disappointed with the day he felt it could have been a little better.

BW/158/18 County Councillors Report:

Cllr. J. Pugh wondered if we had received the accounts for the Riverside? If we can obtain them he would like to finalise the matter and move forward.

BWTC are very concerned about dog fouling in places where children play. A team of people had to clear the Rugby field before any activity could go ahead recently. The level of dog fouling is unacceptable and a letter should be written to Powys County Council (PCC) complaining strongly about this and that we would like something done. Fouling is affecting other areas of Builth Town, 3 Bridges Walk for instance. Often it is the same people continually letting their dogs foul the public areas.

Wyeside Meeting Fantastic ideas were discussed regarding the Wyeside. It was proposed that the pitch of the roof could be raised so that it could accommodate solar panels for use in generating heat which would be a cost cutting exercise. Perhaps BWTC could think about this? A huge glass area at the rear of the building for use as a restaurant or public house was mooted.

Outside the cinema doors a fence could be installed so that the flow of people attending or leaving could be directed safely out of the building. A barrier of glass panels could also help with keeping the building clean from passing vehicles. A crossing could be installed by extending the pavement out by Cribbs causeway. This would make it safer to cross the road. The existing flower beds could be extended or moved to direct pedestrians to cross roads in a safer manner. At present there are two carriageways to cross negotiating traffic from various directions. Cllr. B. Reardon suggested that the speed of the traffic could be calmed by traffic lights at each end of the bridge. A speed and traffic flow investigation could be carried out.

BWTC, could the Rugby club have an advert placed there? Cllr. M. Prynne thought the younger people should take interest and join the council. Everyone was in agreement.

Flags are still around the town but will need to be removed if they are becoming tatty and used.

It was disappointing that there was no BWTC attendance at the Tri town meeting. It would be great if councillors could attend next time. A Cambrian way is developing with a Llewelyn train hoping to be placed at Builth Wells. Hopefully this will link up with other walks that will attract visitors and help generate tourism. It would be good to obtain some safety lighting for some of these areas.

Cty. Cllr. J. Pugh said that it was a brilliant meeting and needs to be attended. Like PCC there needs to be all contributors with a strong direction working together to make changes.

Cllr B. Reardon left the meeting at 8.00 pm.

Cllr m. Prynne announced that the table had arrived today. She thanked Cllr. G. Davies and Adrian Jones for all of their help and support today and Saturday with the hanging baskets.

Cty Cllr. J. Pugh left the meeting at 8.05 pm.

BW/159/18 Vacancies for three new councillors:

No applications so far. We need to try and encourage interest from the younger generation in Builth Wells to join us. Perhaps advertising needs to be implemented. We could advertise on Builth On-Line. Or the use of posters A3 size so they are easier to see. They could be placed about the Town, at the Wyeside, leisure centre, Cwtch, Library, Strand. A different approach should be considered such as: photographs of the current councillors with a sentence explaining the reasons why they are councillors for their community. This could be placed on-line. Cllr. D. Ronicle suggested promoting

the council and what it can do. Cllr. P. McNiffe felt a newsletter would be a good idea to reach more people.

BW/160/18 Current position regarding Town Clerk update

Three applications have arrived. Councillors are required for the interview panel to interview the prospective new Clerk. Three people will be ample. Cllr. P. McNiffe suggested a weeks' notice and suggested Thursday 18th and Friday 19th October with times of for each applicant. 10.00, 11.00 and 12.00 noon.

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

BW/161/18 Finance Cllr D. Ronicle

Internal Audit. Audit commission letter, Cllr. D. Ronicle spoke to them, it appears a standard generic letter was sent out, probably Grant Thornton started late. When we do receive the Audit it must be placed in the public domain for two weeks. Hopefully everything will be completed soon.

Audit Commission. The commission had a meeting with Diana Davies to interview her about the process she uses. Cllr. D. Ronicle was in attendance and Adrian Jones helped enormously. The Auditors said how they pleased they were with how Diana had dealt with the audit. However, Di has decided not to do this anymore. A new auditor will be required.

Update on finance. Cllr. D. Ronicle presented a finance summary from August. The precept is in. The reserve is about £9,000 but at the finance meeting Cllr. D. Ronicle attended held by one Voice Wales, they suggested £15,000 was a more workable figure. We need to know how much it costs to run the Strand hall, this should take place by November hopefully, as a year will have elapsed and we will have a better idea of outgoings. All councillors thanked Cllr. D. Ronicle for all his work on dealing with the accounts.

Rates Appeal. The appeal failed so we will need to approach Powys to re-appeal. This needs to go on the Agenda every month.

Rialtas. There needs to be training for the new Clerk, RFO and one other. The single user Rialtas is a very powerful package but requires training.

BW/162/18 Christmas Lights and High street Cllr. M. Prynne and Cllr. D. Ronicle

There is a working party tomorrow night. Cllr. M. Prynne has informed Cllr. R. Sweet and others involved. To meet at 7.00pm. The Licence has been completed and sent. Councillors are invited to attend. Cllr. M. Prynne announced that she may give up the chair so someone else will need to take over. Cllr. M. Prynne has asked Adrian Jones if he would like to help with the Christmas lights. All councillors thought this was a good idea. Mr. C. Bass is attending to moving of the boxes. Cllr. D. Ronicle mentioned that as lights are good to spectacular couldn't we have a switching on ceremony? The date for the lights is 18th November and switching the lights on will be Thursday 22nd November. Cllr G. Davies felt that a contingency date should be thought about in case the weather is poor. Cllr. M. Prynne was asked, we were having a 'new light'? as there is no monies collected this year.

BW/163/18 Report Access Meeting Cllr. M. Prynne

Cllr. M. Prynne read out the report. Items were:

Car Park charges – Powys opened discussion about charging Blue badge holders. They are still considering the proposal.

Disability Matters – Kirsty Williams AM and Claudia Currie, Welsh Government visited in February 2018. A meeting with the local AM and an officer of the Welsh Government took place to discuss problems facing the people of Builth.

Community information day – It was decided not to provide a stand at the Community Information day I Wyeside on 19th October but leaflets relating to Access Group's work would be available.

Radnor Wildlife trust – RWT were requesting that an access audit inspection be undertaken by the Builth Group on their shop in Llandrindod Wells. John Walker will arrange for this to be done.

A list of issues were also discussed:

Footways at the Groe and Thomas Lant sports field are starting to deteriorate and require some minor maintenance repairs.

A requirement to provide additional crossing places for wheel chairs and mobility scooters need to be progressed with the Trunk Road Agency for the roads and streets in the town.

The junction at Wyeside is very fast and affected by speeding motorists making crossing times long and frustrating.

The next meeting of the group will take place on: 22nd October at the Bowling Club at 11.00am.

It was proposed that the Clerk write to the Trunk Road agency asking if the camber in the road outside Magpie's shop could be attended to as it is or could be potentially dangerous to wheelchair users and mobility scooters.

BW/164/18 Music on the Meadow

Cllr. P. McNiffe will speak to Cllr. S. John

BW/165/18 Correspondence: Cllr. P. McNiffe

Royal British Legion invitation to their concert – 9th November at 7.00pm. Cllr. P. McNiffe to reply.

Poppy Appeal – Display will be held at the Strand Hall. Cllr. P. McNiffe proposed, seconded by Cllr. D. Ronicle.

£19.50 poppy appeal for the wreath. Also there is an invitation on Friday 9th November and afterwards at the Town memorial. Donation of £50 in total to be given to the poppy appeal. Proposed by, Cllr. P. McNiffe and seconded by Cllr. D. Ronicle. Everyone will be attending the Church service at 9.30 am.

Powys Samaritans – are asking for assistance to expand their premises in Builth wells town. They are not asking for funding but would like an acknowledgement of support via email. Clerk to attend to this.

Fire and Rescue service – Have your say day. There is a poster for display in the window of the Strand, Winter Fayre and Royal show ground.

Compliment – A letter was read out by Cllr. P. McNiffe, An overnight stay at the Groe was complimented on the facilities and town itself.

Christmas Lights – Some information read out that will be used for the meeting tomorrow.

Contract Renewal – Our current arrangement has expired with SSE. No renewal has been placed so variable business rates are being put in place for now. Cllr. D. Ronicle will deal with this tomorrow.

Complaint by Builth Wells public – A complaint was made about noise from the Strand Hall during a recent event. The event had finished by 11.30 pm. Sound levels were discussed by councillors. It was mentioned that the building was 80 years old. The situation will be monitored and a letter of apology sent. Cllr. D. Ronicle to deal with.

BW/166/18 Strand Hall

Wifi – this has now been found.

Service contract for the lift – Cllr. D. Ronicle assumes that the contract is now up and he will see about renewing it. He will also check to see if the lift was serviced at the same time that it was repaired recently. We need to look at PCC recommendation information.

Fire Extinguisher – Cllr. M. Prynne will contact Terry Mainwaring and ask him to come and service the fire extinguishers. Cllr. D. Ronicle proposed that if the technician does not attend to this we contact another operative. Cllr. P. McNiffe seconded.

BW/167/18 Groe Toilets update Cllr. P. McNiffe

Door has been fitted. CCTV signage needs to be in place on the wall in sight of the public so that the public are aware that they are in the vicinity of CCTV. The plumber has fixed the problem in the toilets. Two of the taps need to be replaced. The cost for this is £90.00 plus VAT.

BW/168/18 Wyeside Crossing update Cllr. B. Watkins

This was covered by Cty Cllr. J. Pugh in his section County councillors Report.

BW/169/18 Hedges along North Road Cllr. B. Reardon

Cllr. D. Ronicle and Cllr. M. Prynne to phone PCC Friday.

BW/170/18 Any Other Business

Current invoices to be paid were read out. TC Cleaning to pay plus they have been asked to re-new the contract as it does not meet the council's needs. This will take place soon. Cllr. D. Ronicle would like to know if we will obtain funding for the toilets. He will keep chasing the Assembly until we receive a reply.

Hanging Baskets – Pay all invoices

Citizens Advice - Do not attend to as they are not from this area.

Grant on Agenda for next Month – Request from South Powys Branch of Parkinson's UK a grant for £250.00. Cllr. P. McNiffe proposed and was seconded by, Cllr. M. Prynne.

Clerk to pay all invoices, proposed by Cllr. P. McNiffe and seconded by, Cllr. D. Ronicle.

BW/171/18 Chairman's Report/Diary

Wyeside proposals – various ideas were put forward one being to divide the cinema in to three different cinema's. Having an area where purchasing of local refreshments could be offered. Upstairs a a glazed area that would look out over the Wye. Proposal has been received, it should generate footfall but funding has not been established yet. Hopefully this project will go ahead.

Meeting closed at 9.50pm

Signed.....

13th November 2018

DRAFT