



**CYNGOR TREF
YSTRADGYNLAIS
TOWN COUNCIL**

**Annual and Ordinary Meetings of the Council held at the Welfare Hall on
Thursday 3rd September 2020 at 6.30 p.m.**

Present : Chairman Wayne Thomas Presiding

**Councillors M Gough, M Allen, R Phillips, E Evans, M Evans
C Nickels, L Phillips, A Williams, R Millington, M Donnelly,
G Davies, T Davies**

10. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies were received from Councillors R Lock, A Davies and L Evans.

11. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

To commence the meeting, the Chairman Cllr Wayne Thomas addressed the Council with a short statement as follows;

Colleagues, the Vice Chairman and I thought that it would be useful to advise you of our discussions, as a result of the unprecedented situation that we have found ourselves in, prior to tonight's discussions and decisions..

Adrian and I have discussed the fact that we are already six months into the annual term for a Chairman. I know it has not been the perfect solution for all Councillors, but we are in unprecedented times, not an excuse but rather a statement.

I fully understand the normal procedures for a change of Chairman and Vice Chairman on an annual basis. On this occasion, we would like to suggest something different and therefore I would like to take this opportunity to offer my logic on this matter.

Adrian has not been able to have the benefit of becoming the Chairman for

a full term as is normally the case. Therefore, I ask whether it is right or not that we ask someone to take the role on for only a six-month period? I know that some might say that he could have done it during lockdown, personally, I think that it would have been unfair to any individual to do so. There is also a real possibility that we will see a second spike of Covid 19 and our meetings may well be even more disrupted than they are now. Zoom meetings will then be held on a fairly regular basis of course. I sincerely believe that we have all learned lessons during this lockdown, myself included, on what and how to operate as a collective body. Therefore, I am going to suggest this evening that both Adrian and I remain in place until next year, to give everyone a fair chance at the Chairman's role. Also, to provide some stability during these strange times.

I hope that you would accept and understand my logic on this. Thank you all for allowing me to put this to you prior to dealing with our business for the evening

Consequently, the Chairman advised the Council that in accordance with Standing Order 13 he wished to be re-elected as Chairman of the Council for the remaining period of this Municipal year to May 2021. At this point in the meeting the Chairman then left the meeting and the Vice Chairman took the Chair for this item. The Council debated the address given and options available.

Resolved that Councillor Wayne Thomas be elected as Chairman for the remainder of the Municipal year, to May 2021.

12. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN

It was resolved that Councillor Adrian Williams be elected as Vice Chairman for the remainder of the Municipal year to May 2021.

13. COUNCIL STANDING ORDERS AND FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

With the onset of COVID, cheque payments had been unacceptable methods of payment for the majority of businesses and BACS had been used for most of the Councils transactions. This was the new preferred method with respect to the Councils banking arrangements.

Resolved that:

- a) the Standing Orders of the Council be updated
- b) the Financial Regulations be updated to include the BACS method of making payments and income receipts.

14. BANK ACCOUNT SIGNATORIES

Resolved that the Clerk and any other two Councillors be responsible for signing cheques on behalf of the Council. The following Councillors were approved as being signatories to the Councils bank account : Councillors T Davies, M Donnelly, A Williams, M Evans and A Davies.

15. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES

a) Planning Committee

Resolved that :-

- 1) A Planning Committee be established to include all Council Members with plenary powers to decide on observations to be submitted to the Powys County Council on planning applications.
- 2) Meetings of the Planning Committee to be convened as and when necessary during each month so that observations are submitted to the Powys County Council within the prescribed period and reports of the meetings be submitted to the next suitable meeting of the Council.
- 3) In the event of Members present at any meeting of the Planning Committee not being unanimous on the observations to be submitted, or when the application is of an important nature, then the application shall be submitted for consideration to the next meeting of the Council.
- 4) The Deputy Clerk be responsible for receiving planning applications from the Powys County Council, convening meetings of the Planning Committees, submitting observations to the County Council and report thereon to the next suitable meeting of the Council.

b) Ward Committees

Resolved that :-

1) Ward Committees shall be established to include all Council Ward Members for the following Wards:-

Ystradgynlais Ward-	5 Members
Ynyscedwyn Ward-	4 Members
Cwmtwrch Ward -	4 Members
Abercrave Ward -	3 Members

2) Ward Committees shall have plenary powers under the Councils Small Contract Scheme for path, parks and open space maintenance to:-

- a) determine work programmes and estimated expenditure, and the submission thereof to the Council for approval in January of each year for the contract work to be undertaken in the next financial year.
- b) carry out the works by engaging contractors identified on the Councils approved list, subject to a maximum expenditure per contract of £3,000.
- c) allow any two of the Ward Members and the Clerk or Technical Adviser to issue, monitor, approve and sign the contract.
- d) to inform the Council regarding the letting of a contract, the name of the contractor so that the Council can approve the payment of the contract.

c) Urgent Action

Resolved that the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Ward Members acting together be given plenary powers to deal with matters requiring urgent immediate action between the Councils Ordinary Meetings.

In addition, that where correspondence is received by the Town Clerk which is deemed to warrant investigation by the Chairman and Vice Chairman, then the Ward Members to which the correspondence relates would be contacted in order to provide a report to the next Ordinary Meeting of the Council in relation to the content of the correspondence.

d) Management Sub Committee

Resolved that :

a) The Membership of the Management Sub Committee shall consist of the Chairman of the Council and four Council Members, one from each Ward. Appointment on the sub Committee to be confirmed at the Annual Meeting of the Council held normally in May of every Municipal Year.

b) The Chairman of the Sub Committee shall be appointed annually each year at the first meeting of the Management Sub Committee following the Councils Annual Meeting.

c) A quorum for any meeting of the Sub Committee shall be at least four Council Members. Should the appointed Council Member be unavailable for any reason to attend a meeting of the Sub Committee then the Ward Chairman or in his/her absence the Ward Vice Chairman be authorised to appoint a substitute within the Ward to attend the said meeting.

d) Each Member of the Sub Committee shall have one vote apart from the Chairman who in addition to his/her normal vote shall also have a casting vote in a situation where there is an equal number of votes on an issue.

e) The main purpose of the Sub Committee will be to assist the Council in the discharge of its services to the community and also to deal with relevant financial and staffing issues.

f) The power of the Sub Committee will be limited in that no direct decisions are taken on the issues addressed and it will be the responsibility of the Sub Committee to make recommendations to the Council on all issues. The Sub-Committee will also undertake a monitoring role on behalf of the Council on certain functions as required such as project management, financial control issues relating to the Councils accounts.

g) Examples of other areas of work that the Council may discharge to the Sub Committee will include:

Personnel/Training, Health and Safety, Project Monitoring
Accounts Monitoring, Welfare Hall Matters

The above list is not exhaustive, and the Council may from time to time allocate other specific work to the Sub Committee as deemed appropriate.

h) in addition to the Chairman of the Council the Ward appointed Members on this Sub Committee for the Municipal Year 2019/20 shall be Councillors R Millington, Ms Rhiannon Phillips, G Davies. Nomination for the Cwmtwrch Ward to be confirmed.

16. REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Resolved that the Council be represented on the following outside bodies by the members as listed :

One Voice Wales	Cllrs W Thomas & M Evans
Ystrad Welfare & Community Hall	Cllrs R Millington & R Lock
Ystrad Volunteer Service	Cllr G Davies
Tick Tock Community Bowls	Cllrs G Davies & A Davies
Open Cast Liaison Comm.	Cllrs M Evans & E Evans
Brecon Disabled Access Group	Cllr L Phillips
Ystrad Focus on Health Comm.	Cllr M Donnelly
Discover Ystradgynlais	Cllr L Evans
Recreational Grounds Steering Committee	Cllrs W Thomas & T Davies
Nant Helen Restoration	Cllrs A Williams, E Evans and M Evans
Abercrave Welfare Hall	Cllr E Evans
Cwmtwrch Welfare Hall	To be appointed

17. CHAIRMANS ALLOWANCE

Resolved that the Chairman receives an allowance of £3,000 for the Municipal Year 2020/21.

18. ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

Resolved that the payment for annual subscriptions be considered as and when received

Annual Meeting concluded at 7.20 p.m. following which the Council proceeded with the Ordinary Meeting of the Council

19. MINUTES

Resolved that :

a) the minutes from the Ordinary Meeting of the Council on the 5th March 2020 be confirmed as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman

b) the minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the 10th August 2020 be confirmed as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman subject to an amendment to Minute 7b leaving it to read as follows “ Ystradgynlais Town Council was not responsible for the terminology and therefore was in no position to answer the specific questions or allegations contained within the correspondence.”

MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

20. FLOODING AT PANTYFFYNON ROAD

From the Minutes of the 5th March 2020, further to Minute 176, it was queried whether any progress had been made. The Clerk revealed that to his knowledge nothing had been undertaken due to the Covid-19 pandemic but he would make enquiries and update the Council accordingly.

21. YSTRADGYNLAIS DESCRIBED IN THE PRESS & MEDIA AS MOST DEPRIVED AREA IN POWYS RE COVID

The Chairman had been unable to contact Cllr Huw Williams by this meeting.

Resolved that the Chairman contact Huw Williams to obtain an update as to his contact with Powys.

22. WELFARE GROUNDS YSTRADGYNLAIS

The Chairman had taken the lead in contacting the landowners regarding the future use for the Grounds. It was proving difficult to arrange a meeting.

Resolved that the Chairman continues in his attempt to contact the landowner regarding this issue.

23. CORONATION PARK

The Chairman updated the Council that he had visited the site with Martin Davies (Powys CC). The Chairman was still awaiting information regarding the footpaths and relocation proposals and that the Landowner had communicated to the Chairman that he wished to have a meeting with the full council.

Resolved that once final proposals for the Footpaths are received that they be reviewed by the Council following which a meeting would be scheduled with the Town Council and the landowner. Also, to communicate with the Landowner to this effect.

24. DEFERRED FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AWARDS

The Town Council considered the Financial Assistance Award applications that had been received after the deadline or that required further consideration.

a) Resolved that the grants in the sums indicated be made to the organisations as follows:

Discover Ystradgynlais	Deferred
Ystradgynlais Ladies Bowling Club	£100
Credu	Deferred
Abercrave Senior Citizens	£300

b) Resolved that in accordance with the powers conferred under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1974 that grants in the sums indicated be made to the organisations as follows:

Ainon Chapel Sisterhood	£200
Eglwys Annibynol Sardis	£100

c) Resolved that due to the pandemic causing activities to cease thus far this Municipal Year, Gurnos and Penrhos Playschemes grant application would be noted for this Municipal Year.

d) Resolved to release the pre-allocated amount of £3000 to the Abercrave Welfare Hall

e) Resolved that as there were still funds remaining within the budget set aside for Grants to readvertise the availability on the Town Council Website for local organisations to apply.

25. PAYMENTS OF ACCOUNTS

Resolved that the accounts as detailed in Appendix 1 be paid.

26. COUNCILLOR JOHN COOMBES – ABERCRAVE WARD

The Chairman made a brief statement concerning the recent death of Mr John Coombes who had over 30 years service as a Councillor with the Town Council and had been a long time serving headmaster at Penrhos Primary School. The Council Members and Officers stood and observed a 2 minute silence as a token of respect to Mr Coombes.

27. COUNCILLOR ALLOWANCES

The Clerk reminded Council Members of their individual entitlement to a £150 annual member allowance. Reference was made to the fact relating to the need of councillors already opted out to continue to do so without completing a form on an annual basis.

Resolved that:

- a) Councillors who have previously opted out of the scheme would remain opted out until further notice to the clerk and there would be therefore no need to complete the opt out form annually,
- b) that the same procedure as in a) above applies also to those members that have opted to receive the allowance.

Meeting concluded at 8.05 pm

APPENDIX 1

PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

August/September 2020

Parker Plant Hire	Rent Storage unit August	52.80
Matthew Thomas	General maintenance paths/Parks	1182.00
Powys C C/Stand Life	Pension Contributions Employer Sept	1328.02
HM Customs and Excise	Ni Employer Contrib September	356.91
Adam Jones	Maintenance Path Abercrave	840.00
P Thomas	Gorof Cem maintenance/ Flood Clear	870.00
HM Customs and Excise	Ni Employer Contribution August	356.91
UK Debt Management	Repayment of Gorof Cem loan	2336.25
D B Rees	Computer Equip Printer & Ink	204.33
Powys CC/ Stand Life	Pension Contributions Employer Aug	1328.02
Parker Plant hire	Storage Unit -Rental September	50.40
BT	Telephone Account	166.07
Smith and Derby	Town Clock maintenance service	268.80
T G Jones	General Ward Maintenance Signs/ seating	220.00
Viking	Stationary/ Office supplies	
116.92		
Ladies Bowls Ystrad	Grant	100.00
Sardis Chapel	Grant	100.00
Chairmans Acc.	Allowance 2020/21	3000.00
Abercrave Senior Citiz	Grant	200.00
Dorma Uk	Annual Maint Contract Wel Hall door	856.80
Ainon Chapel	Grant	200.00

Signed - -----
