



Ordinary Meeting of the Council held via MS Teams on Monday 18th of January 2021 at 6.00 p.m.

Present : Chairman Wayne Thomas, Presided

**Councillors Adrian Williams, R Lock
L Evans, M Gough, R Jackson, L Phillips, M Allen,
Cllr R Millington joined during Minute 82**

78. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors C Nickels and E Evans.

Note: At this point in the meeting, the order of business was changed at the request of the Chairman. Council agreed to his request to consider the Minutes of 3rd of December first as item 2.

79. MINUTES

Resolved :

a) that the Minutes of the Councils meeting held on the 3rd December 2020 be confirmed as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

b) that the following statements be inserted into Minute 11.

From Cllr Millington: "At the AGM I raised the concern that we could not re-elect Wayne as we had a standing order stating that at the AGM the Vice Chairman must assume The Chairmanship. Ironically this standing order was proposed by the current chairman and I voted against it. I subsequently abstained as I believe this vote breached standing orders and the correct process to vary standing orders had not been followed. In response to my objection you (the clerk) told the meeting that, and I quote "Standing orders are not mandatory" When the minutes were produced this very important statement was omitted and I asked for

it to be included. A debate followed and you clarified your statement to say that “Standing orders recorded in bold are mandatory, but others are not.” I accepted this clarification. When the minutes of that meeting were produced this was not recorded. Therefore, two sets of minutes now need correcting AGM. To record your that I objected to the re-election for the Chairman as it breached a standing order and your advice that “Standing orders are not mandatory” The following meeting to record that I asked for the AGM meeting minutes to be corrected and that you clarified your statement to “Standing orders recorded in bold are mandatory, but others are not”.

From the Clerk:

“No, as Clerk I did not say, at any time, that 'Standing Orders are not Mandatory'. Also, the requested correction to the Annual Meeting Minutes of 5 September is way out of time and therefore 'Out of Order', as this correction should have been submitted in writing to the October meeting of the Council where the September Minutes were approved. This being in line with the Standing Order 31 which States the following : No discussion shall take place on the Minutes, except upon their accuracy. Corrections to the Minutes shall be made on the signing thereof. Proposed corrections thereto shall be submitted to the Clerk in writing prior to the meeting at which the Minutes are to be signed.'

Resolved that both statements be included in these Minutes of the 18th January and no further action taken.

MATTERS ARISING

80. CASUAL VACANCY – YNYSCEDWYN WARD

Further to Minute 59, Correspondence was received from the Powys County Council that no request had been received for an election to fill the above vacancies. Therefore, in accordance with the Local Elections (Parishes and Communities) Rules (1986) the Council was now in a position to fill the vacancies by co-option. Resolved to place a Co-option Notice/Advertisement within the Ward and on the Town Councils Website.

81. TOWN COUNCIL WARD BUDGETS FOR 2021/22

- a) It was noted that the Ynyscedwyn Ward were unable to convene a Ward meeting. It was resolved that the Ward budget for 2021/22 remains the same as in the previous year, 2020/21.
- b) The Abercrave and Cwmtwrch Ward Meeting Minutes were confirmed as an accurate record and the budget estimations for each Wards for 2021/22 were agreed as detailed in those Minutes.
- c) After discussion concerning the Community Enhancement Scheme and what it was allocated for, the Ystradgynlais Ward Meeting Minutes were confirmed as an accurate record and the budget estimation for 2021/22 was agreed with the following amendment;
 - that £6000 set aside for Community Enhancement Scheme – Town Conveniences, be removed, as this amount had already been set aside within the Town Councils main budget. The £2,500 allocation for Community Enhancement Scheme be reinstated in the Ward Budget.

82. TOWN COUNCIL BUDGET AND PRECEPT FOR 2021/22

The Town Council considered the Clerks report in relation to the 2021/22 financial year. The financial report contained information on the following matters, which were discussed and considered by the Town Council: -

- a) Accounts for the Year Ended 31 March 2020.
- b) Finances and Estimates for 2020/21.
- c) Budget and Recommended Precept for the financial year 2021/22 together with a copy of the draft budget worksheets in relation to actual and estimated income and expenditure proposed for the financial year 2021/22.

Following consideration and an in-depth discussion of the budget report and worksheets provided for the 2021/22 estimates **it was resolved** that:

- 1) The following **revised budget estimates** of expenditure and income for the 2021/2022 financial year be approved: -

Parks & Open Spaces	66,600
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83. PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Resolved that the accounts detailed in Appendix 1 be agreed and paid.

84. TRANSFORMING TOWNS

This item had been placed on the agenda prior to the Extraordinary Meeting urgently scheduled on 13th January. At that meeting, the Town Council had discussed an offer from the Valleys Task Fund to fund the Grant that had been applied for under the Transforming Towns Scheme in its entirety. The Town Council had resolved to accept that offer. A further update was provided to advise the Town Council that Powys would largely be dealing with business owners directly reducing the responsibility to the Town Council almost entirely. There would also be no financial liability placed upon the Town Council under this new offer.

85. POWYS HEALTH BOARD – VACCINATION CENTRES

The Town Council discussed information that had been received regarding mass vaccination clinics put in place within Powys. With the nearest clinic being over 30 miles away from Ystradgynlais and concerns regarding the distance a potentially great number of local residents would have to travel, it was resolved that Councillors would independently campaign and pursue any potential avenues, for requesting a clinic to be set up locally or at least much closer.

86. COMMON LAND SWAP – THE PATCH

The Town Council had been made aware through a local resident and a Powys Councillor on the 4th December 2020 about a Common Land Swap application submitted in respect of a piece of land locally known as “The Patch” at the access of the land at Bryn Y Groes/Haul Road by Coronation Park. This matter was investigated, and it transpired that the Town Council had not been statutorily consulted on the Common Land Swap.

In recognition of this, the Town Council were granted until the 4th February to submit observations.

It was resolved that the Deputy Clerk submit a response on behalf of the Town Council objecting to the proposal on the basis that:

- The purpose of the swap is unclear and until an explanation of the purpose, benefits and issues is made by the applicant (which could have been done either at a site visit or virtually had we been consulted) then the Council should not approve this swap.
- The advantageousness of the swap as well as impact on access and footpaths is unclear. It would be remiss of the Council to agree to such action without a clearer understanding.
- The Town Council as landowner to Coronation Park is concerned about what restrictions it may have in the future, as far as gaining any public access to the Park from the current Haul Road site end as well as whether footpath no 51, as the legal/authorised route into Coronation Park via the east elevation may be impacted.

CORRESPONDENCE

87. DELEGATED POWERS

An email had been received from Cllr Millington as follows:
 “In light of the confusion over the current meeting schedule of the council and that I note that our Ward Budget has been modified without discussion with the Ward by the Chairman, I wish to propose that the Council rescinds the Discretionary Powers voted to the Chairman and Vice last March and we return to normal operation of the Council at the regular meeting times.”

An animated discussion followed, during which the Chairman and Vice Chairman strongly denied any abuse of power.

The Town Council voted on the two requests and it was resolved that:

a) the Chairman and Vice Chairman retain the delegated powers to the May Annual Meeting in 2021, or sooner if the situation with the COVID19 pandemic improves.

b) the Town Council returning to regular monthly meetings using Microsoft Teams.

Note: agreed that support would be given to any Council members needing assistance to access and use the virtual meeting platform.

88. PLANNING

Resolved to accept Planning as detailed in Appendix 2.

89. MEMBERS REPORTS

a) The Clerk reported that the Christmas Lights supplier had failed to deliver the Wards agreed contractor with the ordered Christmas Lights by the required date and the Festive Lighting display failed to materialize for both Wards by the required date agreed for installation. Due to the failure, the contractor had apologized to the Wards and was prepared to offer a generous compensation package to each Ward in recompense for this unforeseen event.

Resolved that the Clerk be authorized to further discuss this compensation offer with the contractor for the individual Wards in order for each Ward to decide whether or not to accept the offer of the compensation and depending on this outcome, to decide to agree or not to implement the contract as it originally stood with the compensation element.

b) Cllr L Evans raised concerns regarding Ffordd Y Glowr and the presence of trees in the river not being cleared. It was to be discussed at the next Ward Meeting.

c) A query was raised regarding conditions at Diamond Park and the responsibility that had been left previously with the Ward to ascertain the needs. It was resolved to contact the Ward Members to ascertain what progress had been made on path improvements.

d) Regarding the Ystradgynlais Welfare Grounds Association the Chairman advised the Council that Heads of Terms had been agreed and a draft lease was being reviewed, yet due to the COVID 19 restrictions in place it was very difficult to set up a new bank account and it was likely to take some time to finalise the documentation and grant application which is to be forwarded to the Town Council for consideration and approval via the Associations' Secretary.

Meeting concluded at 9.30 p.m.

PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

January 2020

Parker Plant Hire	Rent Storage unit January	55.20
Audit Wales	Audit Fees 2019/20	308.25
UK Debt Management	Gorof Cem Loan	2298.80
Powys C C/Stand Life	Pension Contributions Employer Jan	1357.91
HM Customs and Excise	Ni Employer Contrib January	371.52
Viking/e buyer	Stationary/ Office equipment	149.36
HPL Wales	Wel Hall Add Repairs Boiler Flue	350.00
A Ll Jones	Path maint Abercrave	215.00
V Llewellyn	Audit Work/Advice	75.00
SLCC	Annual Membership	289.00
Ystrad Amenities	Grant Public Conveniences	2000.00

Signed - -----

APPENDIX 2

Planning to be matters considered by the Town Council for the month of December 2020

1.0 Applications granted consent

From information posted on the new Powys County Council web site the following applications have been granted approval.

20/1953/NMA	Mr S Rees Plot to the North of Afon Twrch Adj to 25 Heol Gleien, Lower Cwmtwrch SA9 2TW	Application for non-material amendment to planning permission 20/0178/RES (outline consent 18/0674/OUT) in respect of alteration of external finishes to approved dwelling
20/0736/DIS	Mr Barrie Davies Former Gurnos School School Road Lower Cwmtwrch Swansea	Application to discharge conditions 12 and 13 of planning approval P/2014/1022

2.0 Applications refused consent

From information available on the Powys CC web site no application has been refused consent.

3.0 Applications for consideration

From information posted on the Powys County Council web site the following applications require consideration:-

20/1956/HH Mr & Mrs A Singh
26-28 The Mimosa
Commercial Street
Ystradgynlais
SA9 1HD
Proposed rear ground floor
extension, new roof covering
and first floor dormer
extension

Resolved No Observations

20/2010/HH L Davies
106 Heol Giedd
Ystradgynlais
Powys
SA9 1LS
Proposed two storey side
extension and two storey front
extension, replacement roof
covering and internal
alterations to existing single
storey rear extension

Resolved No Observations

4.0 Miscellaneous

No matter to report