



**CYNGOR TREF
YSTRADGYNLAIS
TOWN COUNCIL**

**Ordinary Meeting of the Council held at the Welfare Hall,
Ystradgynlais on Thursday 5th November 2015 at 7.00p.m.**

**Present : Councillor Aneurin Davies, Chairman, Presided,
Councillors W Thomas, Mrs A Jones, L Evans,
D Lewis, C Nickels, Mrs B Paulett,
M Evans, Goronwy Davies, R Curry,
J D Coombe, J Steadman.**

103. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs W Williams, E Evans and Graham Davies.

104. MINUTES.

Resolved that the Minutes of the Councils Ordinary meeting held on the 8th October 2015 be confirmed as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman on behalf of the Council.

105. SALE OF LAND AT REAR OF CARINGDALE.

A letter dated 23rd October was received from the Councils solicitor confirming that a total sum of £14,093 had been received following completion of the conveyance of land relating to the above property within the Ynyscedwyn Ward. As this amount is over the £10,000

cash receipt limit the Clerk recommended that the monies received should be allocated as a capital receipt and placed in the Councils business reserve for future allocation towards capital projects that the Town Council will undertake in the future.

Resolved that the Clerks recommendation be accepted.

106. CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL – 13TH DECEMBER 2015.

Correspondence and insurance documentation was received from a local community group to hold the above event on the 13th December at the Welfare Hall, Ystradgynlais and the car park area was also going to be used for a Hog Roast, small children's fun fair and various other stalls. Permission was sought to use the Town Councils car park for this purpose. Members discussed the application in detail and the insurance cover documents provided.

Resolved that the permission sought for the said purpose be granted and that any additional funds generated by the event be redirected as grants to local community charities and voluntary groups.

107. PENRHOS HERITAGE INTERPRETATION PANEL.

A letter was received from the local Heritage and language Society confirming that the sixth interpretation panel had now been erected in the village of Penrhos between the junction of Brecon Road and Hendreladis. An official unveiling of the panel had been arranged on the 6th November to which all Town Councillors were invited to attend. Councillors were encouraged to attend the event by the Chairman.

108. GRANT FUNDING – COMMUNITY AND TOWN COUNCILS.

An e-mail was received inviting the Town Council to send the Clerk and Chairman to a meeting with Welsh Government Officials with regard to a review, which was being undertaken into its grant funding for Town and Community Councils. The grant review will focus on investment in One Voice Wales, as the main beneficiary of the support so far. Agreed that the representatives mentioned above attend the meeting on behalf of the Council.

109. BOAT 7 AND HIGHWAY C202 CWMTWRCH.

Following delegation by the Town Council in October to the Cwmtwrch Ward the letter received from Powys County Council including the experts report on the matter were discussed at the Ward AGM held on Tuesday 3rd November 2015. Photographs were also tabled by Councillor Leighton Evans illustrating the cattle problems that were being experienced by users of the routes. It was concluded by the Ward that whilst the Solar Farm (if approved by the planning department) could provide a remedy to enclosing the cattle to the southern side of the routes the problem would still remain to the north. It was resolved therefore to recommend that the full Town Council pursue the option of requesting that the Highways Department to remove the alleged illegal gate on C202 as this would potentially create a scenario whereby the cattle would not be contained and may therefore require the landowner to fence in the animals. A site meeting of all parties was also suggested to try and find a suitable solution to this on-going issue.

Resolved to correspond with the Powys County Council regarding the removal of the alleged illegal gate on the C202 highway and to seek a future site meeting with all relevant parties at a date to be agreed.

110. BRECKNOCK PLAY NETWORK.

The above organisation was seeking to appoint new Trustees onto its Committee. The Town Council was asked to assist in the process by distributing an advertisement in connection with this matter.

Resolved to note the position.

111. VILLAGE HALL FUNDING.

The Town Council received a letter dated 9 October regarding the gradual reduction in grants to village halls over the next three years. The grants will eventually cease altogether from 2018/19. This notification was given now in order to give all concerned the maximum amount of time to plan for these changes.

112. LEASE – YSTRADGYNLAIS MINERS WELFARE AND COMMUNITY HALL.

A letter was received from the Councils solicitor stating that the tenants wished to include within the lease that the responsibility of the gas boiler at the Hall should be the responsibility of the landlord, which in this case is the Town Council. Members considered the request and were of the opinion that the Hall Board had had plenty of time to bring this issue forward and therefore declined to change the lease at this stage in proceedings. Clerk to advise the Hall Board at the Partnership meeting on the 9th November of the above position.

113. YSTRADGYNLAIS COMMUNITY PLAN STEERING GROUP.

Notification was received from the consultants Resources for Change that the next meeting of the Steering Group was to be held on the 17th November at the Welfare Hall Ystradgynlais. The purpose of the meeting was to look at the results from the Community engagement exercise and to plan the next stage towards the completion of an Action Plan. Group members noted the arrangements.

114. REGENERATION SCHEME – POTENTIAL FUNDING.

Correspondence was received from Powys County Council in connection with the above matter. The regeneration service were currently looking at potential schemes /projects for communities within Powys. The funding streams require a robust plan to support an application. Agreed that the Town Council consider the development and submission for a scheme at Coronation Park.

115. NEWS RELEASE – POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL NO EASY BUDGET CUT CHOICES.

The above news release circular was received from the Powys County Council stating that the Councils Cabinet had reached agreement on the difficult proposals it intends to take forward. A further £27m cut was to be made. Details of the services to be hit were detailed in the Circular.

Resolved that a meeting be convened with the local County Councillors on the detail contained in this Circular.

116. WHITE RIBBON DAY

Councillors received an invitation from Hafan Cymru a charity which support vulnerable men, women and children, to attend a celebration at St Cynogs Church, Ystradgynlais on November 25th at 1 pm. The service is conducted to acknowledge the achievements of the work done to prevent domestic abuse within the area.

117. ST CYNOGS CHURCH COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

Notification was received regarding the above Christmas event to be held at the Church from the 1st December to the 6th December. Local Councillors and the public were invited to view the event and the Church, which would be opened daily. The launch would take place on Tuesday 1st December at 12.30pm.

118. PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS.

Resolved that the monthly accounts as detailed be paid.

119. APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.

The following grant awards were made by the Town Council in the sums indicated:

- a) Cor Dathlu Cwmtawe - £500 towards the purchase of a new Baby Grand Piano to be kept and under the ownership of St Cynogs Church.
- b) Beulah Chapel - £400 towards the maintenance of the Cemetery.
- c) Gurnos Play Pod – Grant agreed in principle and further financial information to be obtained.

120. PROCUREMENT POLICY FOR 2016/17.

The Town Council received the Technical Advisers report and

recommendations in connection with the above matter. The Council discussed the matter at length including the performance of the existing contracts.

Resolved to re-award the 2016/17 works to the existing contractors subject to cost rates not being increased by more than 1%. With regard to the Councils playgrounds it was agreed that a final decision be made following the receipt of a quotation from the Powys DLO grounds maintenance team on the matter.

**121. BUDGET MONITORING REPORT
1 April to 31 October 2015**

The Town Council received the Clerks financial report in relation to the above period. A question was raised about the remaining £10,000 allocated towards the Gwys River landslip. The Clerk confirmed that this money had been allocated in the expenditure heading Council Property within the current years budget.

Resolved to note the content of the Clerks report and that the £10,000 allocation towards the Gwys River landslip scheme be allocated to the Business Reserve Fund in the new financial year.

122. PLANNING APPLICATIONS.

The Town Council received the Technical Advisers report on the planning applications received from the Powys County Council.

Resolved that the Town Councils observations on planning applications considered be forwarded to the Powys County Council.

123. MEMBERS AND OFFICERS REPORTS.

a) Cllr W Thomas advised that the local Army Cadets would now be participating in the Remembrance Day activities over the forthcoming week.

- b)** Cllr L Evans reported that in relation to the indiscriminate road parking at Upper Cwmtwrch the local County Councillor in conjunction with the Powys County Councils Traffic officer were looking at option in attempt to alleviate the problem. Also it was agreed to report the problem to the local police.
- c)** Cllr Mrs B Paulett advised of the lack of dog litter bins along the A4067 from the Trawsfordd junction to the Penrhos road junction. Agreed that the Powys County Council be requested to provide these litter bins on this stretch of road.

The meeting terminated at 8.45pm

**YSTRADGYNLAIS TOWN COUNCIL
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Planning matters considered by the Town Council on Thursday 5th November 2015

1.0 Applications granted consent

From information posted on the Powys County Council web site the following application has been granted approval:

P/2015/0801	Mr J. Richards Garddfa 116 Station Road Ystradgynlais	Replacement of ground floor and new first floor extension.
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2.0 Applications refused consent

From information posted on the Powys County Council web site the following applications have been refused consent.

No matter to report

3.0 Applications for consideration

P/2015/0434	Mr D. Lewis Land at Caerlan Abercrave	Outline: erection of a single dwelling (all matters reserved)
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Resolved: *To offer concerns regarding the possible presence of a main trunk water main through part of this site. In addition it was regarded as important that the perimeter tree screen be retained and adequate frontage area should be kept for a future footway.*

P/2015/0920	Mr A. Davies Land to rear 87 Gorof Road Cwmtwrch	Erection of two bedroom dormer bungalow
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Resolved: *Although it was recognised that the development could in part constitute backland development on balance it was resolved to offer no observation.*

P/2015/0803	Mr P. Vernon Ystalyfera Wind Energy Ltd Varteg Hill Land south of Ystalyfera	Construction and improvement of access track and improvement to the junction access point to serve wind farm comprising four wind turbines (with tip height up to 115m), internal access tracks, substation building, associated infrastructure.
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**YSTRADGYNLAIS TOWN COUNCIL
CYNGOR TREF YSTRADGYNLAIS**

Resolved: *To offer an objection on the grounds that as it appears the proposed Wind Farm is not being sited within the refined Strategic Search Area it suggests that the application is contrary to the Interim Planning Guidance for medium scale wind farms (NPTCBC) and therefore the need for the highway to serve the development can be regarded as unnecessary.*

In addition the Rhos Common is an unlit section of road subject to poor visibility in bad weather and prone to encroachment and crossing by farm animals. A road junction on the common could prove to be an unacceptable potential hazard to users of the highway. It is also noted that planning applications P/2015/0301 and P/2015/0343 were both recently been refused accesses onto this road and it would be consistent practice for this access road to be similarly refused.

It was further resolved to offer an objection to planning aspects of the Wind Farm proposal being determined by Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council Planning on planning policy grounds together with an objection to the imposing nature of the turbines on the community being considered unacceptable. Concern was also raised over the threat to bird life in general and peregrine falcons in particular.

4.0 Miscellaneous

A planning application only just received for an extension and alterations at 72/74 Heol Tawe Abercrave was referred to the Abercrave ward meeting on 16th November 2015 for the determination of any observation.

J.G. Jones - Technical Adviser