



Ordinary Meeting of the Council held at The Welfare, Ystradgynlais on Thursday 4th of November 2021 at 6.30 p.m.

Present : Chairman A Williams, Presided

Councillors T Davies, L Evans, M Allen, W Thomas, S Thomas, M Evans, G Davies, R Jackson, C Nickels, M Donnelly, R Lock and R Millington

114. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M Gough and E Evans.

115. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No Interests were declared.

116. MINUTES

Resolved that the Minutes of the Councils meeting held on the 7th October 2021 be confirmed as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

MATTERS ARISING

117. BUDGET MATTERS

Further to Minute 102, the Clerk advised the Members that the Management Sub Committee had requested to review the Budget prior to the Budget Meeting.

Resolved that the Sub Committee undertake a review of the budget as requested. Also that the Sub Committee undertake a review of the Councils Publication Scheme, Small Grants' Scheme and Model Protocol on local resolution issues.

118. CORONATION PARK DRAINAGE

Further to Minute 95, the Members were updated that the agreed drainage works had commenced and were proceeding according to plan.

Resolved to note the position.

119. CHRISTMAS ILLUMINATIONS

Further to Minute 96, the Clerk advised members that the lights in Cwmtwrch and Ystradgynlais had been installed. The date was to be arranged with the contractor for testing and switch-on, close to the date of the 27th of November, when Discover Ystradgynlais would be overseeing the switch-on of the lighting in the Gorsedd Park.

Cllr A Williams informed the Town Council that the Abercrave Ward lighting had been arranged and details of arrangements and an invoice was to be received from the contractors imminently, which would be forwarded to the Clerk on receipt.

Resolved that the Clerk make the necessary arrangements for the Ystradgynlais and Cwmtwrch Ward lighting to be switched on as detailed.

120. PLANTERS

Further to Minute 99, the Clerk updated members that the planters had now been located to their final positions.
Cllr R Millington informed the Members that several planters were currently in place in front of a local public house which had not been arranged by the Town Council.

Resolved that the Clerk ascertain more information regarding these extra planters and update the Town Council.

121. ASH DIEBACK DISEASE

Further to Minute 108, the Members were notified that the arboriculturist inspection for Footpath 110a had been booked to take place on 23rd and 24th November 2021.

Resolved to await the findings of the inspection.

122. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – DIAMOND PARK

Further to Minute 110, the Members had received a copy of the final response to the FOI request as agreed. Copy to be placed on the Town Councils website.
Resolved to note the position.

123. DISCOVER YSTRADGYNLAIS – BANNER GRANT

Further to Minute 113b, further information had been received from Discover Ystradgynlais in relation to a funding request for Banners to use in the local area.

Resolved to award Discover Ystradgynlais with £500 towards the banners for the town on condition that proof of expenditure be supplied and with a request that the Town Council receive acknowledgement.

124. SMART TOWNS FREE WIFI

Further to Minute 113e, Cllr Millington informed the Members of the findings of a meeting with the Powys Community Broadband Officer.

In summary, there would be no cost to the Town Council and the routers would be supplied and financed in full by a combination of Welsh Government's Transforming Towns Placemaking Grant and then match funded by the Regeneration team in Powys with half the cost coming from each. This would include 5 years costs for maintenance and administration. After 5 years, Powys would review whether to continue funding the service and if so, cover the costs involved.

Resolved to proceed with the application through the Powys Community Broadband Officer and to nominate Cllr R Millington as the Town Council point of contact.

125. PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

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

126. BUS INTERCHANGE TOILETS

The Members discussed an email received from Powys County Council enquiring whether the Town Council would be disposed towards taking over the running of the Bus Station Toilets in the town. The costs could be alleviated initially by funding from transition and Covid 19 recovery grants.

Resolved to request copies of a recent building inspection to gain further clarity of the condition of the toilets and hold further discussions on the potential benefits and implications of the proposal.

Resolved to obtain the annual costs and arrangements involved in providing this service. To also ascertain whether the local group

responsible for the public conveniences in the Town centre were interested in operating these also.

127. COUNCIL MINUTES/ REPORTS AND RELATED MATTERS

The Town Council received e mails dated the 10th of September, 15th, 22nd and 25th October 2021 from a local resident in relation to the above matters. The content of the emails were discussed and considered by the Council Members.

Resolved that the Clerk responds to the e mails as agreed and directed by the Town Council at its meeting on the 4th of November.

128. YSTRADGYNLAIS COMMUNITY CENTRE

The members discussed correspondence received from the Ystradgynlais Community Centre. The Centres' Committee were due to sign the lease from Powys County Council for the Centre and Skatepark. However, it was having concerns as to what future financial support may be available from Powys County Council and Ystradgynlais Town Council.

Resolved to invite representatives for the Community Centre Committee to the next Town Council meeting and request a presentation of a business plan.

129. MODEL RESOLUTION PROTOCOL

A Model Resolution Policy had been received from One Voice Wales which outlined methods of internal resolution and of disputes between Members/Officers, etc not involving the Ombudsman.

Resolved that the Management Sub Committee review the document and report back to the Town Council as to any recommendation for adoption.

CORRESPONDENCE

130. ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING POINTS

Notification had been received from Powys County Council of its plans to install 2 x fast 22Kw electric vehicle chargers at Heol Eglwys Car Park. This was to be part of a wider roll out at a further four Powys car park sites, which was being funded by a grant received from the Welsh Government's ultra-low emission vehicles transformation fund. Installation was planned to be completed by March 2022.

Resolved to note the position.

131. LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME

Notification of the date and an invitation to the Annual Employer Pension meeting to be held virtually had been received.

Resolved to note the position.

132. POLICE OPERATING MODEL BRIEFING

The Divisional Commander for Powys Police had forwarded an email to the Town Council including information of upcoming policing changes and inviting the Members to meet virtually for a briefing.

Resolved that a physical meeting be requested to take place in the new year 2022.

133. POWYS PRIDE

The Town Council had received an email from an organisation called Powys Pride, the aim of which was to draw attention to an event taking place in June 2022. The organisation wanted to ensure LGBTQIA and Powys issues would be represented in this community event and were requesting any information on local events or meetings to speak to the community about local involvement in the event.

Resolved to forward details of local organisations involved in community events to Powys Pride.

134. WOODLAND TREES

A representative of Blodau Ystradgynlais had contacted the Town Council regarding the possibility of another opportunity to receive another 105 trees via Woodland Trust Wales. The organisation was happy to make the application but was requesting permission from the Town Council to enhance the planting on either the Diamond Park or Coronation Park. The Town Council discussed the previous outcome from tree planting and some reservations were expressed over which types of tree specimens may be available.

Resolved that the Clerk in conjunction with the Chairman and Vice Chairman ascertain further information regarding the type of stock available in order for the Council to determine its suitability for the local area.

135. YNYSCEDWYN – DUMPING ON TOWN COUNCIL LAND

The Clerk informed the members that he had attended a site visit investigate a report of fly-tipping of garden waste on land owned by Town Council adjacent to Path 112 in Ynyscedwyn Ward and results for the feeder canal in that location.

Resolved that the Ward inspect the area.

136. COUNCILLOR LISA PHILLIPS RESIGNATION

Cwmtwrch Ward Councillor Lisa Phillips had sent formal notification of her resignation from the Town Council effective from the 7th of November 2021.

Resolved to accept Cllr Phillips resignation and forward thanks for her service to the community.

137. ABERCRAVE WELFARE HALL GRANT REQUEST

The Board of the Abercrave Welfare Hall had submitted a request for Town Council to release £10,000 grant funding for capital expenditure previously approved within the budget for the 2021/22 financial year.

Resolved to release the £10,000 award and that the Chairman contact the Board to request its anticipated grant requirement for the Hall for 2022/23.

138. YSTRADGYNLAIS WELFARE HALL

The Ystradgynlais Welfare Hall submitted a request for the Town Council to release the third instalment of £15,000 from the previously approved grant funding for capital expenditure within the budget for the 2021/22 financial year.

Resolved to release the £15,000 award.

139. REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE

The British Legion had sent information regarding the arrangements for the annual Remembrance Day Service at the Gorsedd Park to be held on Sunday the 4th of November.

Resolved that the Chairman attend the service and place a wreath on behalf of the Town Council at the Cenotaph.

140. HYBRID MEETINGS

One Voice Wales had sent guidance pertaining to the Elections Act Wales 2021, indicating that as far as possible Town and Community Councils should provide access to physical meetings through a remote platform, also termed hybrid meetings.

Resolved that the technology be sourced and tested and for hybrid meetings to commence as soon as possible.

141. PLANNING

Resolved to accept Planning as detailed in Appendix 2.

142. MEMBERS AND OFFICERS REPORTS

a) Cllr W Thomas raised an issue with 2 Christmas illuminations not working in the Cwmtwrch Ward. The Clerk advised this was in the process of being resolved.

b) Cllr W Thomas circulated a document summarising some initiatives regarding Cwmtwrch Welfare Hall which in part acknowledged a grant paid from the Chairmans' Allowance during Cllr Thomas' term as Chairman in 2019-2021.

c) Cllr L Evans asked whether a Cwmtwrch Legion cabinet that had previously been agreed for installation at the Ystradgynlais Town Council, had in fact been installed. The Deputy Clerk advised that she was waiting for a suitable date from the contractor to install.

d) Cllr L Evans acknowledged that the Town Council had previously agreed to set up a working group regarding matters concerning the Coronation Park. The Members agreed that as there was no urgency in the matters, it would be advisable to leave them until after elections for the new Council in May 2022.

e) Cllr Evans reported that he had not been invited to Committee Meetings at the Cwmtwrch Welfare Hall for some time. Clerk to investigate and report back.

f) Cllr L Evans expressed concerns over the recent arrangements made locally for Covid-19 vaccinations, resulting in traffic congestion on the A4067. Position noted.

g) Cllr Millington advised the Town Council of a large amount of Government grant funding in the sum of £6.4 million is soon being injected into Brecon Town. It was advised that Cllr Millington would investigate further and report the findings back to the Council.

Meeting concluded at 9.15 p.m.