

Minutes of meeting of Hay Town Council held at The Sports Pavilion, Brecon Road at 6.30pm on 7th January 2019

Present: Cllr T Stedman (TS) Cllr J Pearson (JP) Cllr F Howard (FH)
Cllr J Prothero (JPr) Cllr S Morris (SM) Cllr R Golesworthy (RWG)
Cllr D Price (DP) Cllr A Powell (AP) Cllr H Davies (HD)

Apologies: Cllr H Sawyer (HS)

In Attendance: N Lewis (NL) N Burdekin (NB) Cty Cllr G Ratcliffe (GR)

2181. Declarations of Interest & Code of Conduct.

FH – HADSCAL, Cheesemarket Trustee, The Warren, & Proposed Cycleway

RWG – HADSCAL, The Warren, niece is working on the Kingdom Project, Trustee of the British Legion, the Buttermarket

TS - Hay Woodland Group, Hay in Bloom

JP – BBNP Local Access meeting, Herefordshire Local Access Forum, Powys Local Access Forum

AP - HADSCAL, The Warren, Hay Woodland Group

SM - The Warren, Cubs and Scouts Leader 1st Hay Scouts, Explorers

JPr - Hay in Bloom

2182. Questions from the public

None.

2183. Police update

No-one from Dyfed Police was present, and AP said nothing to report. NB added that the latest electronic report has not yet come through.

2184. Food Banks – Janet Robinson

Janet informed Councillors about the current Food Banks situation, explaining that the closest food bank to Hay-on-Wye is based in Brecon, and there is also one in Hereford. Some people living in Hay are going to Brecon to use this service. Janet added that the Co-op, the Globe and Hay Vets are locations in Hay where people can make donations to the Food Banks. Janet has also spoken and given leaflets to doctors, district nurses, Hay Primary School/Library and adverts in Wye Local, as well as in Dial-a-Ride's Christmas newsletter. Janet gave NB a couple of A5 leaflets promoting the service. AP suggested putting the leaflet in HTC's noticeboard. NB to arrange.

2185. Minutes of meetings dated 3rd December 2018

The minutes of the 3rd December 2018 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

2186. Matters arising from the minutes not on the agenda

(a) Barclays Bank

TS hasn't had time to contact Cash Zone as yet. TS to follow up.

(b) Hay Reserve held by Powys CC

TS has e-mailed Cllr Phyl Davies in Powys CC to ask who HTC needs to approach to follow this up.

(c) Safety concerns Blue Boar junction

NB met Jo Lancey, Powys CC Highways Officer, on 4th December 2018. Jo explained the survey methodology to NB, which was very helpful. Jo also explained the minimum distances zebra crossings need to be from junctions. AP and NB measured the junction between Castle Street, Oxford Rd and Church Street, and found that there is a location almost directly in front of Jones' Hardware Store where a zebra crossing could be installed. The next step will be to carry out the 12-hour survey. NB to arrange later in the year. NB also said that Jo had suggested purchasing a Speed Activated sign. This could be used on Newport St, in front of the Blue Boar, and on Brecon Rd if all three sites have posts installed. The cost for the sign is £2,800.00. There would be a cost also for each time the sign is re-located. NB suggested asking other local councils to contribute to the costs of purchasing the speed sign if HTC decides to pursue this option. Put on hold pending results of the survey.

(d) TTOW

NL said that HTC hasn't received an invoice from the EU to date.

(e) Warren Close Steps – response from HTC

NB read out Mr Pratt's latest letter (dated 12th December 2019), which he has sent to HTC in response to the Council's letter sent on 29th November 2018.

(f) Town Councillor vacancy update

NB said that there have been no interests of expression to date. NB to send JP the Town Councillor eligibility checklist so JP can promote on social media.

(g) Any other items not on the agenda

NB mentioned Adam Parry's response regarding the postponement of replacing the parapets on Hay Bridge. This response had already been circulated to all Councillors.

NB also said that Mr Poole, who lives in Mill Cottage at the bottom of Mill Lane, had come into the office to complain about Mill Lane being closed. Mr Poole was advised to check his house deeds to see what access they provide for, as well as to put his complaint in writing to HTC. There has been no letter as yet.

SM reported that there will be a meeting to discuss Hay & District Agriculture Show on Thursday 10th January 2019, 7.30 pm, in Kilverts.

2187. Powys CC Cabinet Meeting 18th December 2018 – HTC response

TS said that Powys CC Cabinet didn't listen to HTC's requests. There will be no car parking income. HTC doesn't need to repay the loan. The toilets will be offered to HTC on a leasehold, but no 'gap' payment to make up the shortfall will be given. In terms of the Recreation Facilities, Powys has indicated that it will provide a 99-year lease to HTC for them. NL confirmed that a letter from Powys CC's legal section confirmed that HTC could sub-let office spaces in Council Offices. GR added that sub-letting the vacant rooms was part of the business case at the time.

TS and GR met with James Gibson-Watt the week prior to this meeting and James has sent a letter to Cllr Rosemarie Harris as a follow up to this meeting.

TS has spoken to two solicitors. One company has said they will look at the case initially, but the fee would be £1,500.00 to then consider the matter further. Subsequently this solicitor has said that in fact they cannot represent HTC. TS is waiting for a second solicitors to come back with a cost. TS has also spoken to the local Ombudsman and been informed that HTC cannot bring a case, it has to be an individual.

OVW is also seeking legal advice on behalf of HTC. The idea of taking this to the press was raised by Councillors and is an option HTC is considering taking at this stage.

Follow up actions:

Toilets – NL has asked Kirsty Williams what the next steps might be if HTC is not going to receive the car parking income in terms of providing adequate toilet provision in Hay. There will be a meeting with Kirsty to investigate options further.

Recreation Facilities – NL explained that there had been a meeting with NL, NB, FH, JP, DP and TS to discuss the budget for the sports clubs moving forward. By realigning certain elements of the budget, including asking the sports clubs to raise £1,750.00 for 2019/2020 (it was £1,500.00 for 2018/2019) which the clubs have unanimously agreed to, HTC's contribution to running the recreational facilities for 2019/20 will be reduced to £2,500.00 so this is a manageable amount. As such, the recreational facilities are not as big a concern as the toilets and Council Offices.

There then followed a general discussion about what are the priorities for HTC. RWG suggested walking away from the entire deal, but had no seconder to his proposal. GR asked if HTC was interested in staying in the Council Offices. Cllrs were not overly concerned about this. GR asked if HTC wanted to maintain the recreational facilities. Cllrs unanimously backed this. GR asked if HTC wanted to keep both sets of toilets open. There was also a strong backing for this.

NB was asked to write to Powys CC and ask them for the following:

- To confirm their decisions as made in the 18th December 2018 Cabinet meeting in writing;
- To include in the letter the inaccuracies made by Powys CC County Councillors in the meeting;
- To ask Powys CC what the implications are for the toilets, the recreational facilities, the Council Offices and the Council Offices tenants.

FH proposed that HTC holds a Public Meeting on 13th February 2019 to explain the issues. JPr said that we could add information about the Annual Report on boards in the meeting. SM will change the venue from Hay School on 13th February as it is a Wednesday. JP to ask Hay School if HTC can hold the event at the school.

2188. Sub Committee Reports/Minutes:

(a) Finance Sub Committee

(i) Precept for 2019/2020 (general consideration)

Cllrs gave a general indication of 10% precept rise as the upper limit of any rise that they would consider. RWG proposed 10%, JP seconded, *unanimously approved*.

There will be a Finance meeting on 14th January to come up with a recommendation based on budget projections for 2019./2020. A Special Council meeting was arranged for 21st September, 6.30 pm in order to consider Finance's recommendation and make a decision with Full Council

(ii) £150.00 allowance for Councillors (for costs incurred for consumables etc

NL said that nothing has come back from HMRC regarding exemptions, so if Cllrs would like to claim the £150.00 they will need to complete a form and be added to HTC's payroll. Anyone who wishes to opt out needs to put this in writing to NB. NL has said that the forms will be ready by 21st January 2019.

(b) Fishing and Estates

(i) Meeting held on 17th December 2018

AP said that there were no recommendations and asked if there were any points Cllrs would like to raise. SM said that he would like to replace the grey squirrel on the mammal interpretation board. It was agreed to replace the grey squirrel with a hedgehog.

(c) Town Events

(i) Senior Citizens' Party January 2019 – Outstanding actions

AP said that there are now no outstanding actions. GR has bought some prizes, Londis now has enough prizes, 35 people will be attending and the caterers have been informed of the numbers. NB added that Hay School will be bringing a choir. RWG is going to do the quiz. FH agreed to collect the money.

(d) Council Premises

(i) Duty of Care Waste Transfer Note Powys CC/waste collection C.Offices

NL reported that there is a company that segregates the waste at the recycling depot, so all waste can be put in one bin. They come and collect on an as and hen basis. NL to find out the contact details of this organisation.

NB said that he has a Waste Transfer Note from Powys CC that needs to be signed. Cllrs agreed that NB can sign and return the Transfer Note.

(e) Communications

(i) Meeting held on 18th December 2018

COM132. Hay Citizen of the Year

Cllrs discussed the costs of Hay Citizen of the Year Award 2018 and made the following recommendations:

Recommendations:

1. That Hay Town Council funds the Citizen of the Year Award with the same prizes as in 2018 up to a maximum of £350.00
2. That Hay Town Council uses the Town Events budget for this award

FH proposed both recommendations, JPr seconded both, *unanimously approved*

COM133. HTC Annual Report

Cllrs discussed HTC publishing an Annual Report for residents and made the following recommendation.

Recommendation:

1. That Hay Town Council produces an Annual Report based on May 2018 to April 2019 and that this is repeated annually. The report will focus on what was achieved in the previous 12-months and also outline HTC's aspirations for the coming 12 months.

DP proposed, FH seconded, *unanimously approved*

2189. Sports Management Committee

(i) Fundraising meeting 20th December 2018 – feedback

JP reported that all sports clubs have agreed to raise £1,750.00 for 2019/2020. At the meeting, there was a discussion as to how to move forward to try and gain rate relief and to be constituted, so as to be able to apply for grants. No-one from the sports clubs

was willing at this stage to be Chair, Treasurer or Secretary of any proposed newly constituted group. NB has contacted PAVO to arrange a meeting the sports clubs in order to try to sort out these issues.

(ii) Gas supply agreement

NL said that the current contract is about to run out. NL has asked for a revised, lower rate that has been offered by the supplier.

2190. Hay Community Woodland Group – grant application

TS and AP declared an interest. It had previously been agreed that HTC would give HCWG a grant, it was the amount that need to be determined and HCG was asked to provide an application with a breakdown of costs, which they have now done. Pro rata, the amount requested for the remainder of 2018/2019 is £1,096.00. DP recommended approving the grant, RWG seconded, *unanimously approved*

2191. Planning

(a) Urgent Mayor and Deputy Mayor Authorisation

(i) Application Ref: **18/16871/FUL & 18/16872/LBC** - 7 Castle Street - *Replace step at entrance door with ramp, install wall-mounted refrigeration unit, internal cladding: No objections*

(ii) Application Ref: **18/16879/FUL** - National Westminster Bank, Oxford Road, Hay-on-Wye HR3 5AJ - *Change of use from a former bank (A2) to part business (B1) and part residential (C3): No objections*

(b) Planning Applications for Comment

(i) Application Ref: **18/16955/FUL** - Tredegar House, The Pavement, Hay-on-Wye, Hereford HR3 5BU - *Change of use of marked areas of Tredegar House only from A1 Retail to Residential. No objections*

(ii) Application Ref: **18/16892/FUL** - Cottage at former Lion Garage, Lion Street, Hay-on-Wye - *Renovation (part retrospective) and change of use of former dwelling to C3 holiday let, as ancillary accommodation to the main garage dwelling and to be used temporarily for 2 years as owner's accommodation & office whilst adjacent garage development is carried out. JP asked NB to add in the response that the changes need to be in line with the Disability Act. Otherwise, No objections*

2192. Bryntirion Planning Application - RWG proposal

RWG has been approached by the resident affected by this planning application. The resident has been running a micro brewery for approximately 2 years and is his livelihood. He has asked RWG for support. GR confirmed that this application has now been refused. However, GR said that three principal objections were raised by planning officers, and the resident now has one year to address these concerns, which are hopefully not insurmountable.

2193. Date and time of next meeting

Monday 4th February 2019, 6.30 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.10pm.

Signed:

T. Shedman

Date: 4th February 2019