

Minutes of the
Communications Sub-committee meeting
of Hay Town Council held by Zoom on February 17th 2021 at 6.00pm

Present: Cllr James Prothero (JPr) Cllr Trudy Stedman (TS) Cllr Deb Landymore (DL)

Cllr Jeff Morgan (JM) Cllr Josh Boyd Green (JBG)

In attendance: Chris Watkins (CW)

Apologies: Cllr Isobelle Keith (IK)

COMM 211- Minutes of the Meeting dated 16th December 2020

These were agreed as a correct record.

COMMS 212 - Matters Arising from minutes of the last meeting

The Christmas cards were not sent out. Perhaps it would be best to explain why.

COMMS 213 - Paid Parking/ Ways to promote the scheme

The councillors discussed the Recreational Grounds parking scheme and decided it would be useful to advertise it further, perhaps with more details. If Dial-a-ride has a building in the car park, the number of available car spaces will need to be reduced from the 30 previously agreed. Four people have expressed interest in having an individual space costing £365, which is comparable to a season ticket in the main town car park. They would receive their own guaranteed car space with a key to the bollard. They would be able to sublet e.g. at festival times. Residents would be able to buddy up with other people and share on an ad hoc basis, if they arranged it between themselves.

TS has been in touch with the almshouses and 3 residents would like to take advantage of the reduced price of £200 to have their own parking space but would not be able to sublet the space.

It should be stressed that the idea behind the scheme is to provide money to develop community facilities e.g. an all weather tennis court.

The councillors also decided to open up the scheme to businesses in Hay e.g. the Swan. A flyer for business could be arranged and advertised on Hay Small Business Community FB page for example. TS volunteered to write the business flyer.

COMMS 214 - Citizen of the Year- Interviews with Nominators/ contact BBC Wales

The certificates are ready to go out but how should they be given? TS said she could arrange to present the certificates but was this the best idea while everyone was social distancing?

JBG suggested that this year's winners could present the certificates in next year's ceremony as a way of involving them.

Zoe has nominated Hay Lunch Club and Mac the Keith Leighton Neurological Fund for their charity cheques.

Interviews with the people who nominated the winners this year could be put on video or perhaps a virtual event on zoom could be done.

COMMS 215 - Promotion of road closures for Hay in 2021

TS has circulated a letter regarding road closures that she has written. This can be put onto the website along with all of the comments received back from the recent survey. They would be anonymised and residents would find them interesting. Two thousand surveys were sent out and c 200 replies received back.

The councillors agreed that it would be better to emphasize the positive effects of the road closures e.g. "sharing space" rather than "pedestrianisation". A full consultation will be done with Hay residents regarding their preferences on the road closures once the current social distancing is no longer necessary.

It would be worth stressing that cyclists need to dismount and walk through the centre of Hay.

This information can be put onto the website and FaceBook. As some people do not use social media, the councillors also discussed how to reach everyone. The councillors discussed using flyers or an article in Wye Local. They decided to print out flyers for businesses in Hay (to be distributed by JBG and DL) and an article in Wye Local. Information to also be put onto HTC's website and given to Hay Chamber of Commerce.

Contents of the article for Wye Local to be written by:

Road closures TS

Residents' parking JBG

Precept DL

Bag dispensers JBG

COMMS 216 - Engine Idling

Several businesses have raised with JBG the problem of motorists leaving their engines idling while going into shops.

Could a campaign be run to discourage this e.g. school poster competition?

The Welsh Government had discussed outlawing this and the councillors wondered if Powys and Fay Jones could be encouraged to back a campaign in Hay. Could a bylaw be introduced to deal with this problem? TS will look into introducing a bylaw regarding engine idling and dog fouling.

COMMS 217 - Dog Fouling

Incidents of dog fouling are increasing. When the Woodland group started spraying dog mess with paint and dog mess bins were introduced, incidents dropped. DL suggested that once lockdown lifted, the problem may lessen. Currently the dog mess bins are emptied twice a week by JM and placed by the normal bins for Powys to remove. Powys will not empty the dog bins as they say the mess could be put into ordinary bins.

JBG mentioned that dog mess can be used to power lights if used in a digester.

The councillors decided that a positive approach was the best way to try to reduce the amount of dog fouling. Perhaps dog walkers could approach a volunteer who had a badge on and could be given a bag for their dog's mess if they had forgotten a bag. Could walkers be rewarded for picking up after their dog e.g. with a raffle ticket on a draw once a month?

HTC or the Woodland group could hand out boxes of bags to dog walkers in an effort to encourage their use.

JBG suggested that Clare Fry of the Chamber of Commerce was eager to help and could provide some money maybe to provide bag dispensers or to sponsor a dog mess bin. Dispensers could be put in the town centre and by the bridge. It was agreed that the Chamber will be approached regarding their offer of help.

TS will also look into whether bylaws could be used as a tool to reduce the incidence of dog fouling.

COMMS 218 - Action Plan

The councillors asked that as Mr Greatrex was no longer connected with the Council, his services would not be needed and so his name be removed from the Action Plan.

JPr asked for more recent photos of the town for the website and TS stated she has some ready.

COMMS 219 - Updates for website/ FB page

Training has yet to be arranged.

COMMS 220 - AOB

TS has shared her letter to Fay Jones and the councillors were pleased with it.

JBG mentioned the side of the Spar and asked if the money put aside was ring fenced. There had been a £2,000 budget for improving the side of the Spar and TS thought it was ringfenced and so available. JBG will flesh out proposals and send them to the members for comments.

TS suggested that there are too many signs around Hay and they are unsightly and distracting. She thought that councillors could walk through Hay taking photos of things which needed improving and then they compare notes. The councillors thought that a good idea.

TS would like to see a hand drawn map in the main car park which showed the roads that are closed and the click and collect points. An attractive map could be used on the website and FaceBook etc.

TS wondered if a video should be made showing a walk through town so it was obvious which roads were open and which affected by road closures.

COMMS 221- Date and time of next meeting

Wednesday 10th March 2021 at 6.00 pm by zoom.

The meeting closed at 7.20 pm.