

Minutes of remote meeting of Hay Town Council held at 6.00 pm on 3 August 2020

Present: Cllr T Stedman (TS) Cllr J Prothero (JPr) Cllr R Golesworthy (RWG)
 Cllr F Howard (FH) Cllr I Keith (IK) Cllr S Morris (SM)
 Cllr D Price (DP)

Apologies: Cllr A Powell (AP) Cllr D Landymore (DL) Cllr G Ratcliffe (GR)

In Attendance: N Burdekin (NB)

2553. Declarations of Interest & Code of Conduct.

TS - Hay Woodland Group, Hay in Bloom
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
JPr - Hay in Bloom
SM - The Warren, Cubs and Scouts Leader 1st Hay Scouts, Explorers, Summer Show

2554. Minutes of remote meeting dated 8 June 2020

The minutes of the remote meeting dated 8 June 2020 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

2555. Implementation of Social Distancing Measures in Hay – initial feedback

NB reported that the Chamber of Commerce has outlined the following items:

- (i) Memorial Square Car Park – Several people have been asking if there will be any benches installed
- (ii) Memorial Square Car Park – Several people have asked if there will be any pop up businesses
- (iii) Market Day – one business owner (Greengrocers) has reported that several vehicles broke through the barriers on Market Day. Perhaps a Warden at Castle Street on a Thursday only would be beneficial
- (iv) Taxi rank – Louise and Mike have asked if one space could be allocated for taxis at the Clock Tower
- (v) Extra signs – there has been a specific request for additional signs that say “More shops open this way” to be displayed on the reverse side of the barriers, particularly for businesses opposite Blue Boar and Broad Street.

The Chamber of Commerce have put a message on the Community Noticeboard asking all businesses who would like to take part in the weekly evaluations to send their contact details to the Chamber, irrespective of whether they are members or not. The Chamber’s survey will also be available on-line. So all businesses will have the opportunity to respond. FH said that previously the CofC had said they will give out surveys to all businesses, but now the message is they will only be available on-line.

Feedback from Councillors:

SM reported an elderly person had been given a Fixed Penalty Notice near the Church and thought traffic wardens should be giving more flexibility. FH added she has spoken to two traffic wardens and received mixed messages. NB to ask Jo Lancey how many Fixed Penalty Notices have been issued within the road closure areas and if the wardens are still

giving a period of grace – it was agreed that they would be more lenient for the first week or measures. The week has now passed.

SM said that the CoC's figures given in the previous remote meeting were based on only 17% of chamber registered businesses.

SM added that there is virtually no social distancing taking place and that the mirrors have still not been installed. TS said that Powys CC won't put the mirrors in place as it is not a highway and have asked HTC if they would do this. This to be looked into.

TS and FH both raised the issue that some businesses outside the road closure area have asked for additional signage on the inside of the barriers to say that more shops are open. Action: NB to see if additional signage can be displayed to this effect.

RWG said that there is an issue with the barriers being put out at different points. RWG suggested spraying the correct locations on the ground to ensure consistency of placements. Action: RWG to speak with Jo Lancey about this.

NB said that one resident has asked if the results of the weekly evaluations will be made public. TS thought publishing results weekly might be too onerous, but suggested doing this monthly.

Resolution:

TS proposed that the evaluations be published monthly. FH seconded. *Unanimously approved. Resolution passed.*

FH said that she was strongly opposed to any pop-up businesses from outside Hay using Memorial Square car park. IK agreed that the area should be prioritised for existing businesses, and added that she would like the area to also be used for additional tables, planters and so on.

Resolution:

FH proposed supporting existing businesses in Hay to use Memorial Square car park but not new pop-up businesses. TS seconded. *IK, JPr, DP voted in favour of resolution. RWG and SM declared an interest as business owners in Hay and did not vote. Resolution passed.*

NB to inform Jo Lancey of this decision by HTC.

NB reported that the A5 flyers for residents have now arrived. TS said that the leaflets invite residents to feedback to HTC by either e-mail or letter. TS, IK, JPr, RWG, FH and NB volunteered to help deliver the flyers around Hay.

2556. Process and Procedures – Cllr FH

FH expressed her concerns and dissatisfaction with how comments from Councillors were seeming to be overturned or ignored. For example, the chicane idea for Castle Street that has been put in is not what she thought had been agreed. FH thought the chicane would be a precursor to permanent infrastructure, and should not be a closed barrier. TS asked NB about the chicane also, thinking it was not fully as agreed. NB said that his interpretation of what was previously discussed was that a chicane at Castle Street has been put in place. So it seems to be a misinterpretation. RWG said that he was there with Powys CC Highways on the morning the measures went in (Tuesday 28th August) and the engineers had said where the chicane barriers could and could not go. They could not go any further apart because if another vehicle parked just before or after the barrier, they would effectively block the whole road. IK added that she thought the chicane at Castle Street was in the place agreed.

FH added that, at the time of leaving the meeting, Memorial Square car park was only going to be closed from 11.00 am – 4.00 pm. However, FH did accept that after she had left the meeting, Councillors agreed that Memorial Square car park should be closed permanently.

TS asked NB to send out minutes as quickly as possible, even if they are just initially summary bullet points, so Councillors can read them to reduce any misinterpretations. There was a general consensus that communicating remotely was more difficult. TS confirmed that One Voice Wales' guidance is for council meetings to remain remote until further notice.

2557. Hay Town Council – Offices Move to Sports Pavilion

(i) Agree short-term new office build in which room(s)

NB had prior to the meeting circulated possible new plans for offices at the Sports Pavilion. The plans indicate two new offices in the Sports Pavilion and three new offices in the Saints Bar. RWG also said talked about the other end of the building where the toilet block is located. RWG feels that not all these toilets are necessary and that some toilet units could be removed and instead an all-mobility use toilet could be installed. TS added that perhaps it could be a full adult-changing toilet and if so, would there still be enough space to have at least one other toilet unit. RWG thought that there would almost certainly be enough room for at least one other toilet unit. There are currently 5 toilet units and 4 urinals. There are also single toilets in both changing rooms and the referee's room. RWG added that the plans need to include a raised ramp access to all rooms on site. FH didn't think it was legal for toilets to be accessed by going outside. RWG wasn't sure on this point and agreed to check the details and legality of this. It might be that the raised ramp area has to be closed in.

Councillors agreed the following:

- To leave the Sports Pavilion in its current form (to enable the sports clubs to use the room for fundraising and so on)
- RWG to ask CO2 Architects to amend the plans for the Saints Bar to show 2 offices rather than 3
- RWG to ask CO2 Architects to provide a plan for the proposed new toilet block area complete with raised ramp access and to determine if this needs to be closed in.

(ii) Medium-long term new office build

To be deferred until office move to the Saints Bar has been completed.

TS declared an interest as a member of HCWGG and updated Councillors regarding the garage site. HTC had previously agreed that HCWGG could obtain 3 quotes for repairing the garage. However, so far only one quote has been obtained which is almost £4,000. An alternative would be to purchase a container unit which would be approximately £2,000. No decision on this was made as this item was not on the agenda. To be discussed at a later date.

2558. Hay Cemetery

(i) Latest update on legal situation re. land purchase / sub lease to Powys CC

NB explained that despite numerous attempts to contact the vendor's solicitors, Jeffreys and Powell, by Mike Harris, there has still been no response. Action: NB was asked to contact the solicitor, James Anderson, directly.

NB added that Vickie Julien had sent HTC information on 14 July 2020 which had been circulated. Mike Harris has raised two areas where he would differ from Powys CC's approach – he would request a simultaneous exchange of monies and the lease and sub lease if both are applicable. Mike has also said that he doesn't think we need a lease and

sub lease. Action: NB to arrange a meeting with Mike Harris and TS to go through the proposed lease/sub-lease in detail.

Specification for new cemetery access roadway, turning circle and pathways – NB said that RWG and SM had suggested the following contractors to be asked for quotes.

- "Coast to Coast" (based in Talgarth)
- Joyce's (based in Kington)
- Nash Rocks (based in Kington)
- John Jones Civil Engineers
- WW Bowen
- Coyle's (based in Builth Wells)

Action: RWG and NB to meet to discuss and draw up the specification for tenders based on the information given and approved in the BBNP's Planning Permission. NB to circulate draft specification when completed.

Cllr DP left the meeting at 7.15 pm

2559. Covid-19 Recovery Meeting (15 July 2020) with Powys CC – update from Cllr TS

TS said that she and NB attended a Covid-19 Recovery Meeting on 15 July 2020. TS reported some of the main points:

- There is still some money available up to £2,500 for businesses affected by the flooding;
- Powys CC has a deficit of £10million in the first quarter;
- The road between Talgarth and Crickhowell should be completed by November 2020;

TS said she found the meeting useful in terms of communication between Powys CC and Town/Community Councils and there may be more of such meetings moving forwards.

2560. Correspondence – any urgent items from June/July 2020

(i) Invite from Llandrindod Wells Town Council re. Climate Change

Prior to the meeting, NB had circulated an e-mail from Llandrindod Wells Town Council's Clerk requesting HTC to complete a short survey and to consider joining a new county-wide Climate Change Group.

Resolution:

TS proposed HTC has a representative on this new county-wide group if it comes into being. FH seconded. *RWG abstained. All other Councillors voted in favour. Resolution passed.*

IK agreed to act as the representative for HTC.

(ii) Letter from residents of the Gliss

TS said that in response to the initial letter from residents of the Gliss (dated 26th July 2020), NB had sent a holding response as agreed by Councillors. The letter from residents requested a meeting with HTC.

Since HTC's letter was delivered (31st July), there have been two responses;

Response 1: Residents of the Gliss (dated 2nd August from Miss B Herman on behalf of the residents). Miss Herman referenced a meeting with HTC in October 2017 and attached notes from that meeting, and outlined various issues including canoe traffic, traffic and parking issues.

FH said that at this stage, HTC doesn't have a plan. RWG added that it is difficult to provide a firm plan as HTC still doesn't have the whole area of the Gliss registered with Land Registry.

Action: NB to write to the residents of the Gliss saying that HTC has not formally agreed to carry out any actions at the site and when it comes to the time, residents will be fully consulted. RWG asked NB to add in that HTC recognises there are problems at the Gliss and will monitor the canoes and traffic. *Cllrs unanimously approved this letter*

Response 2: Anita Wright (e-mail dated 3rd August)

Anita's letter referenced an Expression of Interest to the National Lottery via Powys CC and a possible route from the Gliss to Co-op. TS has already responded to say that nothing has been agreed and this was actually a reference to safe travel from the Old Railway Line to Co-op via Newport Street.

Another point raised related to the land behind the pumping station. TS has replied to this as well, saying that nothing has been agreed with this land, and that this isn't a priority at the current time. Before anything happens here, residents would be fully consulted.

Anita Wright has also written to HTC on the issue of flooding on the Dulas Brook and a Flood Plan that has been developed. FH said that flooding of the Dulas Brook/properties is caused by the height of the river and is completely un-related to the other issues outlined by residents of the Gliss. FH asked that this is made clear in any response to Anita. TS added that Anita has referenced the flood plan, but not given HTC sight of it. Action: NB to write to Anita including FH's point and to request a copy of the Flood Plan.

2561. "Access to Cash" Project – update from Cllr TS

TS attended the first meeting to discuss the "Access to Cash" project and circulated the minutes prior to the meeting. Whatever is agreed, there will be no cost. One example being looked into is removing the cost of cash back charges through negotiation with the banks. Some of the representatives on the group include: TS, JP, Jane Dodds, Hay Chamber of Commerce and Hay Festival. TS added that the group is looking to approach the National Farmers' Union (NFU) to represent the farming community. TS is hoping another Councillor will take her place on this group and suggested DL. Action: TS to ask DL if she will become a representative on this group.

2562. Any Other Business (for information purposes only)

FH congratulated the Hay Community Woodland and Gardening Group (HCWGG) for the wooden sculptures along the riverside. FH suggested a "Sculpture Trail" booklet be put together which could be given out at the Tourist Information and other public places.

FH raised the issue of lots of vehicles going to Warren Close and asked if any signage could be installed to say, "Access Only" or as appropriate. Action: NB to ask GR about the possibility of signage being installed.

NB reported that David Pritchard, Powys CC, will be holding an open viewing at Council Offices on Thursday 20th August in the afternoon.

2563. Date and time of next meeting

To be determined.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.45 pm.

Signed:

Date: To be determined