

Hay Town Council

Hay Town Council
Council Offices
Recreation Facilities
Brecon Road
Hay-on-Wye
HR3 5DY

01497 808019

townclerk@haytowncouncil.gov.uk

www.haytowncouncil.gov.uk



Draft Minutes for the meeting of Hay Town Council on Monday 13th July 2026 at 6.00pm in the Council office, Brecon Road, Hay on Wye, HR3 5DY.

1. Apologies for absence.

Present: Cllr F Howard, (Chair) Cllr G Williams, Cllr K Elleson, Cllr G Ratcliffe

Also present: Clerk C Bunton and 3 members of the public.

Apologies for absence: Cllr J Morgan, Cllr A Powell.

Cllrs questioned if in quorate, local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12, Paragraph 39 1/3 or 3 rounded up whichever is the greatest number. 4 is in quorate.

Cllr A Bielski & Cllr W Bielska joined the meeting at 6.05pm.

2. Declarations of Interest & Code of Conduct.

None

3. Questions from Members of the Public.

None

4. Minutes of the meeting dated 15th June 2026.

RESOLVED: Unanimously agreed that the minutes previously circulated of the Town Council meeting held on the 15th June be accepted as a true and accurate record.

Item 16 moved to next agenda item

Cllrs W Bielska and A Bielski joined the meeting.

5. Report from County Cllr.

Supporting Hay's Community Events with funding from Hay carpark income

A few weeks ago, I wrote to the Leader and Chief Executive of Powys County Council asking the Council to waive car park income charges for Hay's community events.

I argued that the approximately **£1,700** charged each year is small compared with the estimated **£407,000** generated annually from Hay's car parks. Waiving these charges would provide valuable support to the not-for-profit groups that organise many of the town's events and help boost the local economy.

I also reiterated my long-standing view that more of the income generated in Hay should be reinvested back into the town. While I welcomed the recent investment in the public toilets, I believe Hay deserves a fairer return from the significant income it generates for the Council.

I will continue to press for greater investment in our community and will provide an update once I receive a response.

Bridge Updates

Hay Bridge -Good progress is being made.

Quotations have now been obtained for the repair works and Powys County Council is currently confirming a start date, with works expected to begin later this month.

The project will include:

- Concrete repairs.
- Repairs to the pigeon netting.
- Removal of trapped birds and associated cleaning works.

I will share confirmed dates once they have been provided.

Glasbury Bridge

Work continues behind the scenes on detailed investigations and design development.

No construction work is expected during this financial year, but the Council anticipates having a clearer programme and timescale by late autumn, after which local consultation will begin.

Gipsy Castle Lane Planning Application

Powys County Council has now opened consultation on the planning application for the proposed development at **Gipsy Castle Lane (P/26/0488/FUL)**.

The application proposes:

- 84 new homes (full application).
- Employment development (outline application).
- Associated infrastructure and access works.

Residents wishing to comment can do so directly through the Powys County Council Planning Portal during the consultation period.

Reappointed as Chair of Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Authority

I was honoured to be reappointed as Chair of the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Authority for a further 12 months.

The Authority faces significant financial and organisational challenges over the coming year, but I look forward to working with Members, officers and our new Chief Executive to ensure the National Park continues to protect our outstanding landscapes while supporting the communities who live and work within it.

It remains a privilege to represent Powys on the Authority.

Child Deprivation in Hay-on-Wye

Following publication of research highlighting Hay-on-Wye as one of the most deprived areas in Powys for children and young people, I have written to the relevant Cabinet Members requesting an urgent meeting.

Although Hay is often perceived as an affluent town, high housing costs, low wages and the rising cost of living create significant pressures for many local families.

I am pleased that Powys County Council has agreed to meet with me, and I have also requested that representatives from Hay Primary School and Hay Town Council be invited so we can discuss what additional support and investment can be secured for our community.

Every child deserves the same opportunities, regardless of where they live, and I will continue to press for Hay to receive the support it needs

GR, GW, CB to draft a letter to reply.

SE requested details of link between child poverty and mental health.

Electric Vehicle Charging

I have submitted questions to Powys County Council regarding future provision for residents who do not have off-street parking.

In particular, I have asked whether the Council will consider introducing pavement charging channels (cable gullies), which allow residents to safely charge electric vehicles from their homes without creating trip hazards.

I have also suggested that Hay-on-Wye could be an ideal location for a pilot scheme, given the number of properties without driveways.

I look forward to receiving the Council's response and will provide a further update once available.

No other issues or questions.

6. 50 years Independence of Hay.

FH and CB met with Lyndy Cooke, Richie Taylor & Tom True, to brain storm ideas. HTC precepted £3,000 in 2025/2026 money held in Reserves.

Plan to start on April 1st and run through to Sunday 4th. Some of the original people are interested in coming and doing some classes, ideas include parade around the town, circus skills, competitions for the children, puppet making, unicycle Tour De Hay, Richard Booth the musical, Garden party for the disappointed.

FH Proposed:

- Council to permit 5 hrs a week of Clerks time to the project to include square space.
- Permission for Clerk to apply for funding for Richard Booth the musical.
- Permission from 6.30pm on Wednesday evening free for rehearsals.
- Requested an extra £5k on next years precept.

Concerns were raised about Clerks time and not taking on too much. It was noted that as HTC was unsuccessful with the Town of Culture bid Clerk has time in current project list although acknowledges that we are running close to the line. It was emphasised that Clerk should ask for help if feels is struggling.

Seconded by WB and unanimously agreed.

7. Place Plan.

23rd July we will be starting consultation, meeting Thursday 16th 7.30pm to discuss.

8. Surveys.

Completed and noted.

SE & HH to take on benches and assets survey. Benches allocation to be checked. Thank you to JM for compiling a list of all benches in the town.

9. Parish Hall.

Parish Hall Update

This month representatives from Hay Town Council, St Mary's Church, the Diocese, members of the community group exploring the future of the Parish Hall and I met to discuss the building's future.

The meeting was extremely positive and there was a shared commitment from everyone present to see the Parish Hall reopened for community use as soon as possible.

The Diocese provided a detailed explanation of the hall's history, legal position and current responsibilities, helping everyone gain a much clearer understanding of the issues involved. We also discussed the building survey and the work required before the hall can safely reopen.

Discussions will now focus on establishing the most appropriate governance arrangements, including trustee structures and the most suitable organisation to manage the hall in the future. I have already been working with Powys County Council and PAVO to explore the available options.

We have agreed to meet again in the coming weeks to continue progressing these discussions.

Although there is still work to do, I left the meeting encouraged by the willingness of everyone involved to work together towards securing a sustainable long-term future for this important community asset.

10. Martyn's Law.

Report from training previously shared. Clerk recommends to:

1. **Undertake an initial review of all council-managed premises and public spaces**
2. **Review existing event risk assessment procedures** to ensure public protection and emergency response arrangements are considered
3. **Consider terrorism awareness training** for relevant councillors, staff and volunteers involved in event delivery
4. **Ensure premises and public spaces have evacuation procedures.**

GR has done training, Clerk to look for a course for clerk and couple of Cllrs to attend, GR proposed, FH seconded unanimously agreed.

11. Friends of Hay Town Council.

Currently have 4 people, will be advertising in sept.

12. Community Group QR Code board.

Postpone to next meeting.

13. In Post Lockers

4 options of siting considered.

KE proposed end of building, WB seconded. Unanimously agreed.

GW to confirm if the unit comes with lights, if not CB Get a quote for sensor lights.

14. Open Meeting.

Clerk to talk to school in September. Plan for Nov.

15. Consultation Council Tax Premium Scheme for Long-term Empty Properties

There is no article 4, so no higher rate on second homes, this is closing the loop hole on Council tax reduction on second homes. Second home are still higher. 31 Air B & Bs in Hay, does not include other holiday homes. Cllrs to complete the consultation.

16. Cllr Co-option.

Expressions of interest in joining the council were previously shared.

KE proposed that both candidates are co-opted onto the council, seconded GW and unanimously agreed.

Declaration of acceptance forms completed by candidates and clerk. Welcome both Cllr Shelley Eugene and Cllr Hannah Horwood to Hay Town Council.

17. Café under bridge.

FH suggests that a lease is drawn up for the area to be used as a café and for him to maintain it. Lease maps CYM839388 the land is not owned by HTC. Investigate once work has been completed.

18. Lloyds Tour of Britain Women.

Tour of Britain Women 2026

I'm delighted that Hay-on-Wye has been selected to host the finish of Stage 4 of the **2026 Lloyds Tour of Britain Women on Saturday 22 August 2026.**

The stage will run from **Llanidloes to Hay-on-Wye**, bringing elite international cycling to our town for the first time. The event forms part of the UCI Women's World Tour and is expected to attract significant media attention, visitors and economic benefits for local businesses.

Following the announcement, I have requested a meeting with Powys County Council officers to discuss how we can maximise the opportunities for Hay. This includes community involvement, volunteering opportunities, local events and ensuring local businesses benefit as much as possible from hosting such a prestigious sporting event. With the Tour de France Grand Départ also coming to Powys in 2027, this is another exciting opportunity to showcase Hay-on-Wye on the international stage.

Clerk to write to Powys and ask why town council not being included.

19. Cllr Projects:

a) Play Area Team.

Met with Ben Wicksteed, had a look round and will draft 2 sites mock up. Need to hold consultation.

b) Town Enhancements.

Bench and Banners displayed, Clerk currently working on QR code history trail. GW proposed that banners are approved and can be sent to printers, WB seconded and unanimously agreed.

i) Lamp post signs

Need an opening launch. Clerk to ask grant managers if we can extend for 1st April for grand opening, everything else completed within timescales set out.

c) Remembrance

Town Crier – seamstress starting end of this month, stockings, shirt, buckles, and hat bought.

Badges: Town Council Logo & Royal Cipher agreed.

Band – to be paid

Clerk to chase police ask for meeting to discuss evacuation procedure.

d) Oxford Road Toilets

Meant to start on 2nd Sept.

Phase 1 main side of the building, Phase 2 24hr & DDA.

Building Controls have been completed

Trying to get some of the project paid in advance.

Meeting next Tuesday 5.30pm

KE to write a monthly report.

GR propose Clerk to monitor budget on weekly scale, KE & Clerk delegated powers up to the to max £90k if contingency is needed go to full council. WB seconded and unanimously agreed. Noted already used £500 from contingency for building regulations.

20. Subcommittee Reports / Minutes:

a) Finance.

i) Insurance renewal

Quote £25 less than last years. It is a specific policy for local councils.

AB proposed to renew insurance with Zurich, GR seconded unanimously agreed.

b) Estates

i) Updates on Works Completed

Week beginning 18th June Department for Transport railway heritage division repaired and refenced Spillmans Bridge HYB 64 (Warren track)

26-06-26 New sign fitted at canoe launch/landing site.

ii) Biodiversity packages

As far as I'm aware no one has come forward with any ideas on uses for these packages. That being the case, the Clerk and I will sit down in the coming weeks to see what will suit Hay to increase biodiversity locally.

iii) Parking Bollards

We've identified a more cost-effective bollard and will order two or three to trial.

Unsuccessful in Town of Culture bid.

GR talk to woodland group. Regarding Emergency access slipway clearance, if woodland group are unable to clear then quote provided is accepted. Proposed KE seconded WB unanimously agreed.

Premises.

I) Clock Tower Toilets.

Was deep cleaned last weekend, thank you to everyone that came to help.

Nayax account has moved to Danfo awaiting access to the portal.

II) Oxford Road Toilets.

a) Renovation project discussed above.

b) Drains. There is some confusion over who is responsible for what with regard to the drains, licence and plan only show HTC responsible for inside of the building. Clerk has been in contact with Mark Barnes, Powys CC who is investigating.

c) 24 hr toilet. Is in particularly poor state of repair. Discussed shutting down until renovations start.

III) Pavilion.

Working party to be held once everything calms down again.

b) Light Up Hay

Meeting 6.30pm Thursday here. Maps have been sent to 2 people. Clerk to send to Powys. Clerk to ask Talgarth team If they will quote.

21. Report of the Clerk / RFO

a) Office Hours and Annual Leave during summer holidays

Clerk has been able to arrange child care for Monday's and Thursday's excluding annual leave during the summer holidays and proposes works from home the remainder of the time.

Clerk left the room for discussion.

Agreed that Clerk would be in the office Thursday 9.30 – 2.30pm and will come in on Mondays if needed. Clerk to put notice on website.

b) Major Correspondence – all major correspondence has been dealt with as agenda items.

Powys submitted planning notice after agenda had been published. HTC to have a meeting regarding the 84 houses on Gipsy Castle planning application. Meeting Wed 22nd 7pm Teams, Clerk to send 10 material planning explanation.

c) RFO:

- i) The Schedule of Monthly Accounts was presented for consideration. It was **RESOLVED** that the Schedule of Monthly Accounts be approved. Proposed AB, seconded WB unanimously agreed.

- ii) Bank Reconciliation Statement

The Bank Reconciliation Statement was presented. It was **RESOLVED** that the Bank Reconciliation Statement be approved. Proposed KE, seconded GW unanimously agreed.

- iii) Clerk noted there has been an error on reserves, at the end of the 25 /26 financial year the £3,000 allocated to 50 years independence was spread out among the other reserved projects, can be fixed when get August precept.

22. Reports of HTC Representatives:

- a) Gwynne's Almshouses – None.
- b) Dial a Ride - Buddys shoppers system flyer.
- c) Dyfed Powys Police – None.
- d) One Voice Wales – HH to consider.
- e) Cheesemarket – None.
- f) BBNP – New chief Exec being appointed Fri, GR agreed to be chair for another year.
- g) Chamber of Commerce Tom and Tash will attend meeting for 50 years. Social evening coming up.
- h) Hay Summer Show – 19th July bring in any bottles.
- i) Hay Primary School – WB couldn't attend the last meeting.
- j) Warren Close Allotments – KE has made contact. If anyone contacts the council for an allotment please refer to Francesca.
- k) HADSCAL – Consultation is underway at the Show and have a video of what it will look like.

23. Date and time of next meeting:

14th September 2026

Meeting closed 8.59pm

