

Minutes from the ORDINARY MEETING of RHAYADER TOWN COUNCIL held at: 6.00pm on the 16th December 2025 in the Old School Community Centre, Cwmdauddwr.

1025/01	<p>The meeting opened at 6.00pm.</p> <p>ATTENDING: Cllr C. Walton (CW) Chairing. Cllrs A. Davies (AD), R. Thomas (RT), C. Evans (CE), D. Lloyd (DL), P. Roberts (PR), C. Hamer (CH), R. Smalley (RS), H. Hill (HH), O. Harries (OH), Finance Officer S. Lipscomb (RFO) and Clerk J. Stephens (Clerk) Cllrs D.O. Evans (DOE) and J. Davies (JD) attended remotely.</p> <p>APOLOGIES: Cllr J. Stuart (JS)</p>																		
1025/02	GUEST SPEAKER(S): None																		
1025/03	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: AD ref 1025/14a Planning Application.																		
1025/04	<p>CHAIRS ANNOUNCEMENTS:</p> <p>The Chair had the pleasure of attending the Luncheon Club Christmas meal. Its run by an amazing group of volunteers, it's clear how valuable the club is and the positive contribution it makes to peoples lives; an exemplary community group.</p>																		
1025/05	MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION UNDER URGENT BUSINESS: None																		
1025/06	<p>MINUTES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on the 18th November 2025 were reviewed and approved. b) The Minutes of the Short Agenda Meeting held on the 25th November 2025 were reviewed and approved. 																		
1025/07	<p>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE ORDINARY MEETING MINUTES NOT ON THE AGENDA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) <i>Road Sweeper:</i> RT to investigate suitable options further and present a proposal on appropriate model and budget required. RT to action b) <i>Pump Track MoU:</i> Revised MoU has been sent to the Rhayader & District Sports & Recreation Association (RDSRA), feedback yet to be received. Clerk to follow up. CW has carried out repairs to the small defects on the track surface as highlighted in the RoSPA report. CW/The Clerk advised they were waiting for a quote for a formal Tree Survey. Noted. c) <i>Old Pound, Tanners Row:</i> Meeting yet to be organised, photos of the Pound have been circulated. CW has now obtained keys. Clerk to action d) <i>Allotments:</i> To carry forward to the next meeting. Clerk noted 																		
1025/08	<p>FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The account balances to 11/12/25 and payments to 16/12/25 were circulated for approval. <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Account</th> <th>Bank Balance</th> <th>Cost Centre Balance</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Current</td> <td>£7,453.63</td> <td>£82,825.78</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Toilets</td> <td>£6,372.47</td> <td>£10,772.47</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Allotment</td> <td></td> <td>£2,160.42</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bryntifli</td> <td></td> <td>£46,226.19</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Investment</td> <td>£163,691.70</td> <td>£39,606.03 (Sports Hall Fund) £5,663.10 (Earned income)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Total in Bank Accounts: £187,253.99</p> <p>Previously approved payment to be minuted: Rhayader 2000 Ltd Precept award £500</p> <p>Invoices/ payments to approve:</p> <p><u>CURRENT ACCOUNT</u></p> <p>Clerk salary, Dec 25, as contracted 20 hours per week RFO salary, Dec 25, as contracted 9 hours per week HMRC, Dec 25</p>	Account	Bank Balance	Cost Centre Balance	Current	£7,453.63	£82,825.78	Toilets	£6,372.47	£10,772.47	Allotment		£2,160.42	Bryntifli		£46,226.19	Investment	£163,691.70	£39,606.03 (Sports Hall Fund) £5,663.10 (Earned income)
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<p>Starboard Systems (Scribe), Civic.ly monthly subscription £21.60 Powys CC, (DD) Green Waste Collections Nov 25 £17.44 Office Solutions Wales, stationery £81.24 Office Solutions Wales, stationery £4.16 JAX First Aid, Fist Aid supplies & Eye wash £18.51 Contractor Dave Hill, Town Caretaker duties 2/10/25-20/11/25 - 24 hours £510 BT (DD) broadband at Chambers Oct 25 £38.63 BT (DD) broadband at Chambers Nov 25 £38.63 Pixelhaze (DC) monthly website hosting £29.99 Note; In addition to the report already circulated: Refund to Clerk for purchase of plants £7</p> <p><u>TOILET ACCOUNT</u></p> <p>Caretaker salary, Dec 25, as contracted 14 hours per week HMRC, Dec 25 EE Broadband for CCTV, S/O payment made on account £25.63 HSBC (DD) bank charges for the period 31/10/25 to 29/11/25 £7.50 British Gas (DD) Dark Lane Electricity Bill M/E 1/12/25 £121.85 British Gas (DD) Triangle Electricity bill ME 01/12/25 £30.80 Nayax (DD) Service Fee for Oct 25 £24 Nayax (DD) Transaction Fee for Oct 25 £27.31 Nayax (DD) Service Fee for Nov 25 £24 Nayax (DD) Transaction Fee for Nov 25 £18.61 Dwr Cymru (DD) Dark Lane, previously signed £225 Dwr Cymru (DD) Cwmduddwr, previously signed £125 Dwr Cymru (DD) Cemetery, previously signed £18</p> <p>Income:</p> <p><u>TOILETS</u></p> <p>Nayax income Oct 25 £768.01 Nayax Income Nov 25 £521.20 Cash £400.25</p> <p><u>INVESTMENT</u></p> <p>Monthly gross interest earned to 05/12/25 £210.30</p> <p>The balances and payments were approved.</p> <p>b) <i>2026-2027 Budget presentation:</i> The RFO presented the draft budget for approval. Cllrs reviewed each item listed and agreed the following amendments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Green bins: increase to 3 unless other cost effect solutions can be found, Clerk to review in Feb. ○ Remembrance: Increase budget to purchase additional large lamppost Poppies and a further supply of leaflets. Total now £600. Clerk to liaise with CE & CW ○ Community Support: In addition to the groups already supported, £500 to go to Waun Capel for the Sandy Park and £250 to go to the Rhayader & District Sports & Recreation Association. Clerk to notify recipients ○ Tourism Support: Maintain at £800 ○ Street Scene: to increase this from £1k to £3k to allow for improvements around the town including plants. ○ Toilets: Despite the increase across all operating costs, including the significant increase to staff costs due to additional cleaning hours, the Precept will remain at the same level as last year as a direct result of the valuable income derived from implementing fees to use the toilets in Dark Lane.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Meeting Room Hire: To increase to £400 ○ In addition to the points noted in the budget, RT is to follow up on the Feed-in Tariff for the Solar Panels in Dark Lane. Cllrs to consider the condition of the Finger Posts around Town, Clerk to raise with the Asset Committee. Toilet Committee to consider the options for installing a Hard Wired Broadband line into the toilets in Dark Lane. Clerk to raise with the Toilet Committee <p>The 2026-2027 budget was then approved unanimously. Income required via the Precept was agreed as: £67,419.21 with a Band D rate of £71.97. RFO to notify Powys CC</p>
1025/09	COMMITTEES, SUB-COMMITTEES and WORKING GROUPS. It was noted the Cark Park Working Group had met. Minutes to be circulated, Clerk noted.
1025/10	<p>INFORMATION AND UP-DATES FROM THE LOCAL COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBER.</p> <p>AD referred to her monthly report already circulated, additional points noted:</p> <p>A meeting has been arranged with the Trunk Road Agency and PCC Highways to discuss concerns with HGVs using Caerherbert Lane. Meeting 6th January.</p> <p>The matter of the damaged railings on the A470 was raised. After discussion it was agreed AD/The Clerk would write to the Trunk Road Agency to raise the matter formally. AD/Clerk to action</p>
1025/11	<p>PROJECTS, COMMUNITY ISSUES AND MEMBER DISCUSSIONS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) <i>Councillor Co-Option:</i> Applications were considered, Cllrs then voted, the applicant with the most votes, Namrata Bhardwa was approved for Co-Option. Clerk to notify applicants of the results. b) <i>Transforming Towns Shop Frontage Scheme:</i> The Clerk reported that quotes for works to 32 premises had been received with 18 proposing works to replace windows and doors. The majority of these are likely to require planning permission. Due to the scale of the project, the importance to the town , scope of works and planning implications it was proposed a meeting be arranged with the PCC Planning Department to discuss before progressing further. It was agreed the grant application would be delayed by one month. Clerk to action c) <i>Clock Posts and Chains:</i> The posts and chains have been damaged again by another Lorry. It was noted Powys CC maintain the Bollards for the safety and protection of the Memorial but not the posts and chains. Cllrs considered the Pros and Cons of removing them permanently. After due consideration it was agreed to remove them for 3 months; in that time to obtain quotes to replace them with a more robust version and to assess likely ongoing costs of repairs if they were to remain in place. CW to follow up on quotes. Clerk to add to the April agenda. d) <i>Bowling Club Proposal:</i> Further to the meeting held on the 25th November 2025, Cllrs discussed the proposed plans and the specific requests raised by the Bowling Club. Cllrs were supportive of the plans to relocate to the Weirglodd and were keen to ensure the Bowling Club work with RTC and other community groups to make best use of any shared facilities and work towards a collaborative site plan. Further discussion is required to confirm location and likely facilities in conjunction with other groups. It was suggested the Bowling Club contact Powys CC Planning team for Pre-planning advice. Clerk to notify the Bowling Club e) <i>Planting:</i> PR advised Powys CC Biodiversity Office would be providing native plants and seeds to a number of areas. PR will provide a further update when plants are available.
1025/12	HIGHWAYS AND PCC MATTERS: None
1025/13	PUBLICITY and EVENTS: None
1025/14	<p>PLANNING:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) <i>25/1789/FUL: Commodore Yard, East Street; Erection of building, improvements to access and associated works:</i> After due consideration of the plans, Cllrs were pleased to support the application. Clerk to respond to Planning.
1025/15	<p>CORRESPONDENCE: In addition to items already circulated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) <i>Wales Air Ambulance:</i> A general funding request has been received. Noted by all

	b) <i>Urdd Summer Camps</i> : A general funding request has been received. Noted by all c) <i>Urdd 2026 National Eisteddfod</i> : A general funding request has been received. Noted by all
1025/16	URGENT ITEMS NOT ON THIS AGENDA: None
1025/17	UPDATES FROM THE CLERK: a) <i>One Voice Wales, AGM</i> : The Clerk noted the AGM will be held remotely on the 21 st Jan 26. Further details will be circulated. Noted.
1025/18	EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS DUE TO THE CONFIDENTIAL NATURE OF THE FOLLOWING BUSINESS ITEMS under the <i>Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 (3) it was resolved to exclude members of the public during discussion of the following agenda items: None</i>
1025/19	DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Ordinary Meeting; Tuesday 20th January 2026 at 6.30pm at the Cwmduddwr Old School.
CLOSE	The meeting closed at 8.40pm

ACTION POINTS: Actions from the meeting and carried forward from previous meetings:

Clerk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pump Track MoU: Follow up with the Sports Association and arrange to sign. Allotments: add to the next agenda. Councillor Co-Option: Notify applicants of results Green Waste: review alternative methods of disposal, decision to be made in February Remembrance: Purchase additional Poppies and leaflets in conjunction with CE/CW Precept Awards: Notify recipients Transforming Towns; Shop frontage Scheme: Arrange meeting with PCC Planning Department Bowling Club: Notify the Club of the outcome. A470 works and missing railings: Contact the Trunk Road Agency in conjunction with AD. Planning Application: respond to Planning Water Harvesting System: arrange meeting with CW and RT in the new year Council Pound/Garage Repairs: Arrange to meet on site and assess works required. PCSO: Invite to a future meeting Clock Posts and Chains: Add to the April Agenda
RFO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2026-2027 Budget: Update and notify PCC of the approved Precept request. Reconciliation: share access with PR and arrange date to review
RT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Road Sweeper: Liaise with Town Caretaker on purchase and present a proposal to the Council Water Harvesting System: To meet with CW and the Clerk in the new year Solar Panels on Toilets: Follow up on Feed in Tariff
AD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A470 works and missing railings: Contact the Trunk Road Agency to follow up on issues raised.
CW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clock Posts and Chains: Obtain a quote to replace and likely ongoing maintenance and repair costs Water Harvesting System: To meet with RT and the Clerk in the new year
DL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Memorial Stones, North Road Roundabout lettering: DL progressing

CW, DL, JS, PR & CH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cwmduddwr Car Park Working group: Initial meeting held, to present proposals to the full Council
Toilet Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Broadband: Consider installation of hard wired Broadband to Dark Lane
Asset Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finger Posts: Poor condition, consider improvements