

Minutes from the ORDINARY MEETING of RHAYADER TOWN COUNCIL held at: 7.00pm on the 18th February 2025 in the Council Chamber, Cwmdauddwr Old School Community Centre.	
1124/01	<p>The meeting opened at 7.15pm having been preceded by a presentation detailed below.</p> <p>ATTENDING: Cllr C. Evans (CE) Chairing.</p> <p>Cllrs A. Davies (AD), C. Walton (CW), D.O. Evans (DOE), J. Stuart (JS), H. Hill (HH), C. Hamer (CH), O. Harries (OH), R. Smalley (RS), Clerk J. Stephens (Clerk) and Finance Officer S. Lipscomb (RFO)</p> <p>APOLOGIES Cllrs R. Thomas (RT), D. Lloyd (DL), J. Davies (JD) and P. Roberts (PR)</p>
1124/02	<p>GUEST SPEAKER(S):</p> <p>Ashley Collins, Senior Manager – Waste and Recycling Services took the Council through the PCC Waste and Recycling Strategy explaining the rationale for the planned improvements and expanded on the proposed initiatives to increase recycling rates and remove/reduce waste. He explained his team are open to open to ideas, suggestions and actions that help move towards achieving a 70% recycling target. Of particular note was the breakdown of waste showing how much still goes into peoples Black Bins that should and could be recycled. Everyone to help encourage increased recycling. He extended an open invite to contact him if anyone would like to visit the local Depot.</p> <p>It was noted that PCC have added the requirement for people to register and set up an account to be able to participate in consultations. This is adding a considerable barrier to participation. AD to raise the issue with PCC</p> <p>CE thanked Ashley for giving up his time to speak to the Council and for hosting the recent Depot visit.</p>
1124/03	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: AD will leave during Planning discussions.
1124/04	CHAIRS ANNOUNCEMENTS: None
1124/05	<p>MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION UNDER URGENT BUSINESS:</p> <p>Clerk – Banc Du Windfarm Consultation (see 1124/16a)</p> <p>Clerk – Public Transport Consultation (see 1124/11a)</p>
1124/06	<p>MINUTES:</p> <p>a) The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on the 21st January 2025 were reviewed and then approved.</p>
1124/07	<p>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE ORDINARY MEETING MINUTES NOT ON THE AGENDA: The following points were noted:</p> <p>a) <i>Meeting with Nick Venti, PAVO re CIC:</i> Confirmed he will attend the March Meeting. To commence at 7pm, Clerk to confirm new start time.</p> <p>b) <i>Councillor Co-Option:</i> Councillor position to be advertised with an open end date. Clerk to action.</p> <p>c) <i>Elan Valley Trust:</i> Response to request for a Council Rep received and has been circulated.</p> <p>d) <i>Drug Dogs:</i> It was noted the dogs had been seen in town and had resulted in a search.</p> <p>e) <i>Bank Changes and Cards:</i> The RFO confirmed she was now able to proceed with changes to the bank and provided paperwork for signature by JS and CE</p> <p>f) <i>Toilet Roll Dispensers:</i> Clerk to ask the Cleaner to move them to the Dark Lane Store room for CW. Clerk to action</p> <p>g) <i>PCSO:</i> It was agreed the Clerk would invite the PCSO to a future meeting to provide an annual update for the Council. Clerk to action</p>
1124/08	<p>COMMITTEES, SUB-COMMITTEES and WORKING GROUPS</p> <p>a) <i>Allotments:</i> AD advised an Allotment Committee meeting had been held, positive meeting and Allotments in good order.</p> <p>b) <i>Smithfield Trust:</i> CW provided a short update on the Trust and reminded Cllrs there was still a vacancy for a Council Rep. Clerk to notify all Cllrs of the vacancy to seek a new Rep. Clerk to action.</p>
1124/09	<p>INFORMATION AND UP-DATES FROM THE LOCAL COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBER.</p> <p>In addition to the monthly report, AD advised:</p>

	<p>a) <i>The School</i>: AD provided a short update on a recent meeting at the school regarding utility bills.</p> <p>b) <i>PCC Budget</i>: AD noted the Budget was due for review Thursday and reiterated the financial challenges faced by the Council.</p>																					
1124/10	<p>PROJECTS, COMMUNITY ISSUES AND MEMBER DISCUSSIONS</p> <p>a) <i>Pavement and Road Junction Works Public Information Event</i>: CE had attended the event which generated a significant amount of interest. She explained the proposed scheme to the Council, after due consideration the unanimous view of the Council was to oppose the scheme. Clerk to liaise with CE to formulate a formal response. Clerk to also ask for a copy of the feedback.</p> <p>b) <i>Appointment of Internal Auditor</i>: It was agreed to re-appoint Tracey Price as the Internal Auditor. Clerk to action.</p> <p>c) <i>Funding Request, Lost Arc Cooking Club</i>: The request was considered. It was noted the Council had funded the project previously, however the Council does not feel able to provide funding support on this occasion. Clerk to feedback.</p> <p>d) <i>VE Day Celebrations</i>: A short discussion was held, it was agreed road closures would not be necessary. Cllrs favoured the Lighting of the beacon in the evening. CE, CW, JS and JD will form a “task and finish” group to handle the event. CE,CW,JS & JD to action</p> <p>e) <i>Sharing Information</i>: It was noted that information presented on the Council Facebook page may not have a wide circulation, HH offered to share new items posted more widely to include Rhayader Solutions as appropriate. HH and the Clerk noted</p> <p>f) <i>St Davids Day</i>: JS confirmed Welsh Flags were now in place. Wreaths to be removed from the Clock and replaced with planters. Daffodils and small Welsh flags to be placed in the planters CW and Clerk to action.</p> <p>g) <i>One Voice Wales AGM</i>: No one is able to attend.</p> <p>h) <i>Leisure Centre review</i>: To keep the focus on the future of the Leisure Centre it was agreed to hold a further meeting in 2 weeks. CE to circulate potential dates</p> <p>i) <i>Town Caretaker Recruitment</i>: The Clerk thanks HH for her input into the job description. As some of the potential responsibilities involve Groundworks, it was agreed CW would approach the current contractor to see if they would like to expand their role and to check on Insurance status. CW to action and advise the Clerk</p>																					
1124/11	<p>HIGHWAYS AND PCC MATTERS: No further items to raise.</p> <p>a) The Clerk reminded Cllrs to feedback views as part of the Public Transport Consultation. Noted by all.</p>																					
1124/12	<p>PUBLICITY and EVENTS: Clerk to provide information to K Compton re Highways proposals on conjunction with CE</p>																					
1124/13	<p>PLANNING: AD left the room for all discussions.</p> <p>a) 24/ 1528/FUL: Construction of warehouse, storage yard and access on land South East of Brynberth Enterprise Park. Fully supported by Cllrs.</p> <p>b) 25/1891/FUL: Erection of freestanding Slurry Tank, Noyadd Farm. Fully supported by Cllrs. Clerk to notify the Planning Department .</p>																					
1124/14	<p>FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE:</p> <p>The account balances (13/02/25) and payments (18/02/25) to be approved were circulated.</p> <table><tr><td>Account</td><td>Bank Balance</td><td>Cost Centre Balance</td></tr><tr><td>Current</td><td>£21,855.70</td><td>£66,855.70</td></tr><tr><td>Toilets</td><td>£5,226.14</td><td>£5,226.14</td></tr><tr><td>Allotment</td><td>£2,599.39</td><td>£2,599.39</td></tr><tr><td>Bryntitli</td><td>£4,933.45</td><td>£29,933.45</td></tr><tr><td>Investment</td><td>£110,448.48</td><td>£39,606.03 (Sports Hall Fund)</td></tr><tr><td>Earned Income</td><td>£2,747.98</td><td>£3,590.43 (Recycling)</td></tr></table>	Account	Bank Balance	Cost Centre Balance	Current	£21,855.70	£66,855.70	Toilets	£5,226.14	£5,226.14	Allotment	£2,599.39	£2,599.39	Bryntitli	£4,933.45	£29,933.45	Investment	£110,448.48	£39,606.03 (Sports Hall Fund)	Earned Income	£2,747.98	£3,590.43 (Recycling)
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Certified as a true record

Date

Chairman: Councillor C. Evans _____

	<p>Total in Bank Accounts: £147,811.14</p> <p>Internal transfers to approve: Transfer from Toilet a/c to Current a/c Re; HMRC payroll liabilities for M10 24/25 £10.20</p> <p><u>CURRENT ACCOUNT</u> Clerk salary, Feb 25, as contracted 20 hours per week RFO salary, Feb25, as contracted 6 hours per week RFO additional hours Jan 25 13.75 hours HMRC, Feb 25, as advised by DD. HSBC (DD) charges for period 31/12/24-30/01/25 £8 Fastnet annual domain registration £60 SLCC Clerk annual membership fee £190</p> <p><u>TOILET ACCOUNT</u> Caretaker salary, Feb 25, as contracted 6 hours per week Nayax Turnstile monthly processing fees £24 Nayax turnstiles card processing fees £14.41 RBS, new tap for Cwmdauddwr £59.40 RBS replacement doors Dark Lane £217.68 Office Solutions Wales, supplies £232.75 Office Solutions Wales, supplies £143.93 HSBC (DD) bank charges for the period 31/12/24-30/01/25 £8 British Gas (DD) Dark Lane Electricity bill ME 01/02/25 £91.32 British Gas (DD) Triangle Electricity bill ME 01/02/25 £64.69 Dwr Cymru (DD) Dark Lane £100 Dwr Cymru (DD) Cwmdauddwr £55.50 Dwr Cymru (DD) Cemetery £30</p> <p><u>RECYCLING ACCOUNT</u> HSBC (DD) charges for the period 06/01/25-05/02/25 £8</p> <p><u>ALLOTMENT ACCOUNT</u> HSBC (DD) bank charges for the period 06/01/25-05/02/25 £8</p> <p><u>BRYNTITLI ACCOUNT</u> HSBC (DD) bank charges for the period 9/01/25-08/02/25 £8</p> <p>Income: Toilets, cashless transactions £401.20</p> <p>The balances and payments were approved.</p> <p>The RFO provided a Quarter 3 budget update. Councillors thanked the RFO for presenting the information. CE asked if the document could include a “total” column for ease of use and to show clearly whether the money was from Reserves or Precept. RFO to action</p> <p>JS proposed the Finance section is moved to the start of the Agenda so Cllrs are aware of the situation prior to making decisions. Clerk to note</p>
1124/15	CORRESPONDENCE: In addition to items already circulated: No further items
1124/16	URGENT ITEMS NOT ON THIS AGENDA:

	a) <i>Banc Du Windfarm</i> : They have advised the Clerk they will be opening the consultation in three weeks and have offered to come and share plans with the Council. Clerk to invite them to the meeting on the same evening as the Leisure Centre Meeting. Clerk to action
1124/17	UPDATES FROM THE CLERK: No further items
1124/18	EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS DUE TO THE CONFIDENTIAL NATURE OF THE FOLLOWING BUSINESS ITEMS <i>under the 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>
1124/19	DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Ordinary Meeting; Tuesday 18th March to start at 7.00pm at Cwmdauddwr Old School.
CLOSE	The meeting closed at 09.25pm

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

Clerk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Interest Company: Advise PAVO of new start time, 7pm • Banc Du Windfarm: Invite to the next meeting • Councillor Co-option: Advertise with an open ended date. • Smithfield Trust: Notify all Councillors of the Representative vacancy • Pavement and Road Junction works: Liaise with CE on formal response. Share with Karen Compton and ask for a copy of the public event feedback. • Internal Auditor: Write and confirm appointment of T Price • Funding Request: Provide response • Leisure Centre Meeting: Liaise with CE on dates, set up meeting • Town Caretaker: Liaise with CW. • Planning Application response: Feedback to the Planning Department • St Davids Day: Liaise with CW to get planters back in place • PCSO: Invite to a future meeting • Council Photo: Book for a future meeting • Council owned sites: Continue to progress with Solicitors & follow up re the Pound at Tanners Row • Document Archives: (ongoing) • Llangurig Road Allotment Field: Check wording on documents (ongoing with Solicitors)
RFO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget Report: Amend to include totals column and show precept spend/underspend
CE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pavement and Road Junction works: Liaise with Clerk to formulate a formal response
AD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Road Sweeper Training: (ongoing with PCC) • PCC Consultation process: Feedback on issues to PCC
CW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact PM re Groundworks and notify the Clerk • Planters: Move back into place
RT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Toilet Charges: Produce information poster
RT/CW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Toilet Roll Dispensers: arrange to fit new ones • Toilet door repairs and boxing in - arrange repairs
JS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flags: Arrange to put flags back up
CE/CW JS/JD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VE Day: Form a Task and Finish group to handle VE day plans
DL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Memorial Stones lettering: Arrange for it to be repainted.
CW/DL JS/PR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cwmdauddwr Car Park Working group: set up group to include CW, DL, JS & PR to explore options and present a proposal to full Council