

Minutes from the ORDINARY MEETING of RHAYADER TOWN COUNCIL held at: 7.00pm on the 21st January 2025 in the Council Chamber, Cwmdauddwr Old School Community Centre.	
1024/01	<p>The meeting opened at 7.15pm having been preceded by a review of the current Council Asset list at 6.30pm. Clerk to update the list accordingly.</p> <p>ATTENDING: Cllr C. Evans (CE) Chairing. Cllrs A. Davies (AD), R. Thomas (RT), D.O. Evans (DOE), D. Lloyd (DL), J. Stuart (JS), P. Roberts (PR), H. Hill (HH), J. Davies (JD), Clerk J. Stephens (Clerk), Finance Officer S. Lipscomb (RFO) and new Cllr R. Smalley (RS)</p> <p>APOLOGIES Cllrs C. Walton (CW), C. Hamer (CH) and O. Harries (OH) K. Compton (Press) attended remotely from 7.25pm</p>
1024/02	GUEST SPEAKERS: None this month
1024/03	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: AD will leave during Planning discussions. RT declared a personal interest in planning item 1024/13a. RT, PR and DL declared an interest in elements of the Precept discussion
1024/04	<p>CHAIRS ANNOUNCEMENTS:</p> <p>CE opened by welcoming the new Cllr Rachel Smalley and thanked Lisa Lloyd for her service as a Councillor.</p> <p>CE announced she and AD were delighted to attend a recent event at Crosfield house providing the opportunity to engage with staff and experience wonderful food from across different cultures. CE and AD have offered to meet and discuss local housing and transport issues with the team.</p> <p>CE also had the honour of comparing the Voices in Unity Choir Concert in December.</p>
1024/05	<p>MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION UNDER URGENT BUSINESS:</p> <p>AD – Town Liaison Officer Consultation (see 1024/16a) AD - Meeting with Diane Reynolds, PCC (see 1024/16b) Clerk - New Planning Application (see 1024/13d) Clerk – Welsh Translation (see 1024/16c)</p>
1024/06	<p>MINUTES:</p> <p>a) The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on the 17th December 2024 were reviewed, after correcting the wording to note RT had declared an interest in item 0924/13a the minutes were then approved.</p>
1024/07	<p>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE ORDINARY MEETING MINUTES NOT ON THE AGENDA: The following points were noted:</p> <p>a) <i>Meeting with Waste Depo Senior Manager:</i> Invite to February Meeting. Clerk to action b) <i>Meeting with Nick Vent, PAVO re CIC:</i> Invite to March Meeting. Clerk to action c) <i>Community Interest Company (CIC):</i> JD is attending a PAVO event in Llanwrtyd and will seek additional information re CICs</p>
1024/08	<p>COMMITTEES, SUB-COMMITTEES and WORKING GROUPS:</p> <p>a) <i>School:</i> AD provided a short update on a recent meeting at the school re the condition and future of some of the buildings including the Coach House. The planning application for the demolition of the shed is covered under Agenda item 1024/13d.</p>
1024/09	<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>Leisure Centre:</i> AD continues to chase for a copy of the maintenance, repair and building upgrade reports for the Leisure Centre in advance of the forthcoming meeting. b) <i>Meeting with Emma Palmer, PCC CEO:</i> AD will be meeting Emma Palmer in Rhayader on the 5th March for a Ward visit to highlight opportunities and discuss challenges faced by Rhayader under “Sustainable Powys” c) <i>Residents Centenary Celebration:</i> AD noted a resident of Rhayader would shortly be celebrating their Centenary. Noted by all.</p>

	<p>d) <i>PCC Training Courses</i>: DOE noted that some of the PCC training courses would be of interest to Town & Community Councillors and asked, if appropriate, could the invites be extended outside PCC. AD noted.</p> <p>e) <i>Tourism Tax</i>: Information on a consultation has been circulated, follow up at February meeting. Clerk to note</p>
1024/10	<p>PROJECTS, COMMUNITY ISSUES AND MEMBER DISCUSSIONS</p> <p>a) <i>Councillor Co-option</i>: Councillor Rachel Smalley (RS) was welcomed formally to the Council and, having undertaken an induction with the Clerk to include the Code of Conduct, signed the Acceptance of Office Form. CE noted that fewer applications were being received over the course of successive vacancies and proposed a waiting period before issuing a new vacancy notice. JS asked the Clerk to check on guidelines relating to Co-Option, including those relating to vacancies leading up to Elections. Clerk to action. It was noted there was a vacancy on the Allotment Committee, RS and JD have now joined the Committee. Clerk to note.</p> <p>b) <i>Toilets, Cleaning and PHS Contract</i>: The Clerk updated the Council on recent issues with the condition of the toilets following acts of vandalism and subsequent complaints. Noted and will be reviewed on an ongoing basis but hoped the forthcoming installation of CCTV might help. RT is going to produce a poster for the toilets to explain why there is now a fee to use the facilities. RT to action. It was agreed the Clerk could go ahead and renew the Waste Handling contract with PHS for a further 3 years. Clerk to action.</p> <p>c) <i>2025-2026 Budget and Precept</i>: RT, DL and PR declared an interest in the Community Support funds and left the room during this section. The Budget and Precept were presented with the RFO explaining the new method of categorising some items to improve future reporting. The following points were noted: Accruals were included for future costs of Elections and IT equipment, Payroll calculations included allowances for NI increases and to reflect the appropriate hours for the RFO and funds were ringfenced in support of planned Community Asset Transfers. In addition, in recognition of the valuable service provided to the Town by local community organisations, it was agreed to make a funding award from the Precept. The Clerk to notify the organisations concerned. Clerk to action. After considering all items the Budget and Precept were agreed by all giving an income of £65,091 (JS/DL) Cllrs congratulated the RFO for her work on the budget.</p> <p>d) <i>NRW Forestry, impacts of storm damage</i>: JS shared his concerns over the cancellation by NRW of a number of recent events due to storm damage. While Cllrs understand the challenges of the storm damage, there are concerns over the economic impact of the cancellations. Clerk to write to NRW cc other parties to ask for details of their plans and priorities, to share concerns over the detrimental impact and to seek solutions. JS to provide the Clerk with forthcoming events at risk. Clerk & JS to action</p> <p>e) <i>Town Caretaker Recruitment</i>: The Clerk explained there had been no interest or applications for the vacancy and felt perhaps the role was too wide for one person with both groundworks and maintenance & repairs. HH noted that more information could be provided to clarify the expectations relating to the use & ownership tools. Clerk to review the advert and position and bring back to the next meeting, Clerk to action.</p>
1024/11	HIGHWAYS AND PCC MATTERS : No further items to raise.
1024/12	PUBLICITY and EVENTS : No additional points raised.
1024/13	<p>PLANNING: AD left the room for all discussions. RT declared an interest in item 13a and left the room.</p> <p>a) 24/1840/HH: 7 Maesmawr, LD6 5PL, Erection of a detached garage. Application supported</p> <p>b) 24/1851/HH: 18 Penmaes, LD6 5PN, Erection of a single storey extension . Application supported</p> <p>c) 25/0015/HH: 13 Penmaes, LD6 5PN, Erection of a single storey extension, Application supported.</p> <p>d) 25/0063/DEM: Church in Wales School, demolition of shed. Application supported.</p>

	Clerk to notify the Planning Department .																					
1024/14	FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE: The account balances (20/01/25) and payments (21/01/25) to be approved were circulated. <table><tr><th>Account</th><th>Bank Balance</th><th>Cost Centre Balance</th></tr><tr><td>Current</td><td>£24,569.05</td><td>£69,569.05</td></tr><tr><td>Toilets</td><td>£5,794.66</td><td>£5,794.66</td></tr><tr><td>Allotment</td><td>£2,607.39</td><td>£2,607.39</td></tr><tr><td>Bryntitli</td><td>£6,295.91</td><td>£31,295.91</td></tr><tr><td>Investment</td><td>£110,280.84</td><td>£39,606.03 (Sports Hall Fund)</td></tr><tr><td>Earned Income</td><td>£2,755.98</td><td>£3,430.79 (Recycling)</td></tr></table> Total in Bank Accounts: £152,303.83 Internal transfers to approve: Transfer from Toilet a/c to Current a/c Re; HMRC payroll liabilities for M9 24/25 £144.60 Current to Investment £15,000 Invoices and payments to be approved: <u>CURRENT ACCOUNT</u> Clerk salary, Jan 25, as contracted 20 hours per week RFO salary, Jan 25, as contracted 6 hours per week RFO additional hours Dec 25 13.5 hours HMRC, Jan 25, as advised by DD. HSBC (DD) charges for period 30/11-30/12/24 £8 JRB Enterprise Ltd dog waste bags £75.78 Cwmduddwr Community Centre, room hire Apr 23 to Mar 24 £357 Alan Southerby Planning Ltd, planning appraisal report £300 AJ Gallagher Insurance 14/1/25-13/1/26 £1,718.92 BT (DD) Broadband in Chambers Dec 24 £35.94 BT (DD) Broadband in Chambers Jan 25 £35.94 <u>TOILET ACCOUNT</u> Caretaker salary, Jan 25, as contracted 6 hours per week Caretaker salary, sickness cover HSBC (DD) bank charges for the period 30/11-30/12/24 £8 British Gas (DD) Dark Lane Electricity bill ME 01/01/25 £76.11 British Gas (DD) Triangle Electricity bill ME 01/01/25 £30.42 <u>RECYCLING ACCOUNT</u> HSBC (DD) charges for the period 6/12/24-5/1/25 £8 <u>ALLOTMENT ACCOUNT</u> HSBC (DD) bank charges for the period 6/12/24-5/1/25 £8 <u>BRYNTITLI ACCOUNT</u> HSBC (DD) bank charges for the period 9/12/24-8/1/25 £8 The balances and payments were approved.	Account	Bank Balance	Cost Centre Balance	Current	£24,569.05	£69,569.05	Toilets	£5,794.66	£5,794.66	Allotment	£2,607.39	£2,607.39	Bryntitli	£6,295.91	£31,295.91	Investment	£110,280.84	£39,606.03 (Sports Hall Fund)	Earned Income	£2,755.98	£3,430.79 (Recycling)
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1024/15	CORRESPONDENCE: In addition to items already circulated: Open Community Event re the proposed Lluest y Gwynt Wind Farm in Llangurig 30 th Jan. RFO hoping to attend. Reminder: Consultations re OVW Area Committee and PCC Sustainable Resource Strategy																					
1024/16	URGENT ITEMS NOT ON THIS AGENDA: a) <i>Town Liaison Office Consultation: AD and Clerk to compile feedback.</i>																					

	<p>b) <i>Meeting with Diane Reynolds re Leisure Centre:</i> Reminder the meeting is on the 27th Jan at 4.30pm via Zoom.</p> <p>c) <i>Welsh Translation:</i> The Clerk explained she required assistance with some translation. JS agreed to seek assistance from his local contact. DL agreed to try AI Co-Pilot. JS & DL to action</p>
1024/17	UPDATES FROM THE CLERK: No further items
1024/18	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>
1024/19	DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Ordinary Meeting; Tuesday 18th February 2025 6.30pm start at Cwmdauddwr Old School.
CLOSE	The meeting closed at 09.50pm

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

Clerk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waste Depot Senior Manager: Invite to the Feb meeting • Community Interest Company: Invite PAVO to the March meeting • Councillor Co-option: Check on guidelines with Electoral Services • Allotment Committee: Add RS & JD • PHS Waste Contract: Confirm with PHS • Precept: Contact Community Organisations with decision. • NRW Storm Damage: Using info from JS, write to NRW • Town Liaison Officer Consultation: Liaise with AD on response. • Town Caretaker: review role content and draft advert. • Welsh Translation: Liaise with JS & DL • Planning Application response: Feedback to the Planning Department • 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) • Drug Dogs; Follow up with PCSO, GM (awaiting answer) • Elan Valley Trust: Ask if a council rep can join them (awaiting answer)
RFO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bank Card & Debit Cards: Obtain a card to enable the Clerk to pay cash into the Toilet Account via the Post Office (ongoing) and purchase items when authorised. (ongoing) • Dual Authorisation: Set up this process with HSBC (ongoing)
AD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Road Sweeper Training: (ongoing with PCC) • Town Liaison Officer Consultation: Liaise with Clerk on response
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 • VE Day: Set up a Working Group • Welsh Translation: Forward document to be translated to contact
DL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welsh Translation: Test using AI Co-Pilot • 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