

**Minutes from the ORDINARY MEETING of RHAYADER TOWN COUNCIL held at: 7.00pm on the 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2025** in the Council Chamber, Cwmdauddwr Old School Community Centre.

0125/01	<p><b>The meeting opened at 7pm</b></p> <p><b>ATTENDING:</b> Cllr C. Evans (CE) Chairing.</p> <p>Cllrs A. Davies (AD), C. Walton (CW), D.O. Evans (DOE), R. Smalley (RS), D. Lloyd (DL), J. Davies (JD), P. Roberts (PR), R. Thomas (RT), J. Stuart (JS), H. Hill (HH), C. Hamer (CH), O. Harries (OH) and Clerk J. Stephens (Clerk). The Finance Officer S. Lipscomb (RFO) attended up to and including section 0125/08</p> <p>K. Compton (press) attended remotely</p> <p><b>APOLOGIES:</b> None</p>																					
0125/02	<p><b>GUEST SPEAKER(S):</b></p> <p>Alasdair Adey, Senior Project Manager and colleagues Sophie Jones, Project Manager, Sophie Bloomfield , Associate Project Manager and Eluned Lewis, Community Investment Manager of Bute Energy; Banc Du &amp; Rhiwlas Energy Parks Project</p> <p>The team provided an update on the proposed Windfarms, Banc Du with 6 turbines and Rhiwlas with 13 and explained the broad timescales for the consultation and planning process. If successful, work could commence in 2027 with the turbines producing energy in 2030.</p> <p>Eluned Lewis outlined details of the community benefits fund; managed by a sperate team with a local panel to focus on local needs and will welcome ideas for innovative local projects. Key funding themes: Cost of Living, Environment, Jobs &amp; Skills, Heritage Community Energy Schemes.</p> <p>When questioned on the Grid connection it was made clear Bute Energy are responsible for the Turbines only, its sister company GreenGen is responsible for the Grid connection infrastructure .</p> <p>They agreed to forward details to the Council and explained all project information was available on their website. CE thanked the team on behalf of the Council for giving up their time and sharing details of the project.</p>																					
0125/03	<p><b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:</b> AD will leave the room during the Planning Application discussions.</p>																					
0125/04	<p><b>CHAIRS ANNOUNCEMENTS:</b> None</p>																					
0125/05	<p><b>MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION UNDER URGENT BUSINESS:</b></p> <p>Rhayader &amp; District Motor Club (see 0125/16a)</p> <p>Council Pound, Heat Pump request (see 0125/16a)</p>																					
0125/06	<p><b>MINUTES:</b></p> <p>a) The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on the 18<sup>th</sup> March 2025 were reviewed. Location information was clarified in sections 1224/07b &amp; Action points and it was made clear under section 1224/08j the increase was in size not the number of signs. The minutes were then approved.</p>																					
0125/07	<p><b>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE ORDINARY MEETING MINUTES NOT ON THE AGENDA:</b> The following points were noted:</p> <p>a) <i>Cleaners Hours and Pay:</i> The Clerk confirmed the Cleaner has agreed to the change in hours and rate of pay on a trial basis. It was noted the previous cleaner has offered to cover if required which could provide valuable holiday cover.</p> <p>b) <i>St John Defibrillator:</i> The Clerk confirmed the Defibrillator has been ordered</p>																					
0125/08	<p><b>FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE:</b></p> <p>a) The account balances (14/04/25) and payments (22/04/25) 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>£17,259.86</td><td>£71,994.72</td></tr><tr><td>Toilets</td><td>£4,683.10</td><td>£4,683.10</td></tr><tr><td>Allotment</td><td></td><td>£2,885.71</td></tr><tr><td>Bryntitli</td><td></td><td>£29,917.45</td></tr><tr><td>Investment</td><td>£130,781.91</td><td>£39,606.03 (Sports Hall Fund)</td></tr><tr><td>Recycling</td><td></td><td>£3,907.86 (Earned Income)</td></tr></table>	Account	Bank Balance	Cost Centre Balance	Current	£17,259.86	£71,994.72	Toilets	£4,683.10	£4,683.10	Allotment		£2,885.71	Bryntitli		£29,917.45	Investment	£130,781.91	£39,606.03 (Sports Hall Fund)	Recycling		£3,907.86 (Earned Income)
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Date

Chair: Councillor C. Walton \_\_\_\_\_.

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Total in Bank Accounts: £152,994.87

**Internal transfers to approve:**

Current (Allotments vat refund) to Investment account £94.55

Current (Allotments income) to Investment account £865

Current to Toilets re vat refund £814.40

Toilets to Current re Powys payment made into wrong account £82.62

**Previously approved payments to be signed:**

CURRENT ACCOUNT

Hafod Hardware, compost £100

**Invoices/ payments to approve:**

CURRENT ACCOUNT

Clerk salary, Apr 25, as contracted 20 hours per week

RFO salary, Apr 25, as contracted 9 hours per week

RFO additional hours Feb & Mar 29.5 hours

HMRC, Apr 25

HSBC (DD) charges for period 28/02/25 – 30/03/25 £8

BT (DD) broadband in Chambers Mar 25 £35.94

Milwyn Jenkins & Jenkins, Pump Track Lease £659.40

TOILET ACCOUNT

Caretaker salary, Apr 25, as contracted 14 hours per week at new rate

Nayax Turnstile card processing monthly Fee £24

Nayax Turnstile card processing fee £21.83

Milwyn Jenkins & Jenkins, Toilet Lease legal fees £600

Office Solutions Wales, supplies £42.73

Office Solutions Wales, supplies £169.09

Office Solutions Wales, supplies £87.37

EE Broadband for CCTV £17.28

HSBC (DD) bank charges for the period 28/2/25 -30/3/25 £8

British Gas (DD) Dark Lane Electricity bill ME 01/04/25 £92.74

British Gas (DD) Triangle Electricity bill ME 01/04/25 £51.71

Dwr Cymru (DD) Dark Lane monthly DD £100

Dwr Cymru (DD) Cwmdauddwr monthly DD £55.50

Dwr Cymru (DD) Cemetery monthly DD £18

ALLOTMENT ACCOUNT

Skip Hire £384

**Income:**

TOILETS

Cashless Transactions £614

Cash Banked £385

ALLOTMENTS

Allotments plot fees received £317.50

Additional invoices approved, P Walden £165 and M Hird £50 for repairs to the toilets, fixing new locks and toilet roll dispensers

The balances and payments were approved.

**b) Q4 Budget:** The RFO has provided a Quarter 4 budget update, to be circulated by the Clerk.

	<p><b>The RFO then left the meeting.</b></p> <p>c) <i>Funding Requests:</i> A general fundraising request to support the Llangollen International Eisteddfod has been received and noted. A request to support the renovation of the WI Garden at the bottom of Dark Lane with the cost of compost has been received. <b>Agreed to fund £50, Clerk to action.</b></p>
0125/09	<p><b>COMMITTEES, SUB-COMMITTEES and WORKING GROUPS</b></p> <p>a) <i>School Governors Meeting:</i> AD provided a short update on the recent meeting.</p> <p>b) <i>Smithfield:</i> CW provided a short update on the recent meeting</p>
0125/10	<p><b>INFORMATION AND UP-DATES FROM THE LOCAL COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBER.</b></p> <p>In addition to the monthly report, AD advised:</p> <p>a) <i>East Street Parking:</i> AD explained the rules around the “Yellow Box” road markings; the Boxes on East Street should not have been painted there, they should have been an “H Bar”. Business owners are not entitled to place Cones outside their premises.</p> <p>b) <i>PCC Community Fund:</i> AD explained the Community Fund is open for applications, information has been circulated</p> <p>c) <i>10 Year Service Medal:</i> AD suggested that PCSOs might in future be awarded recognition of long service with the award of a 10 Year Service Medal and asked RTC to support the proposal; AD to circulate further information on the subject. <b>AD to action.</b></p> <p>d) <i>Home Care Service Report:</i> AD congratulated the Home Care Service on the excellent report recently circulated. The report was extremely well written and presented. She asked JS to take back the Councils appreciation of the report and to offer congratulations on the amazing work done by the Home Care Service.</p> <p>e) <i>No 8 Clothing Award:</i> AD explained No 8 had been awarded Best Fashion Store at the 2025 Mid and West Wales Business Awards, a fantastic achievement. <b>Clerk to write and congratulate Rachel Evans on behalf of the council.</b></p>
0125/11	<p><b>PROJECTS, COMMUNITY ISSUES AND MEMBER DISCUSSIONS</b></p> <p>a) <i>Toilets, CCTV and handling issues:</i> It was noted there had been some examples of poor behaviour around the toilets. It was agreed if instances of poor behaviour but not necessarily malicious acts were observed and the young people and their parents were known to Cllrs then it may be appropriate to speak to them. If unsure or more serious offences were seen then Cllrs should refer back to Council for a decision that may involve the School or Police. RT reported the CCTV is up and running however the Cameras are at a high level and miss some areas. It was agreed 2 additional cameras could be purchased and added to the existing system. <b>RT to provide information to the Clerk to purchase.</b></p> <p>b) <i>VE Day plans:</i> CE outlined the plans for VE Day, the 8<sup>th</sup> May; A Service at the Clock in the evening to include; Welcome, Prayers, Proclamation, Laying of Wreaths and Songs by the Voices in Unity Choir. Revd Tudor Botwood-Thomas and Paster Ron Downey to officiate. JS to handle traffic management. JD outlined plans for the Family event on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May at the Leisure Centre which will be supported by OH. All Cllrs are encouraged to attend.</p> <p>c) <i>Cash machines and Banking Services:</i> CH raised the issue of the lack of available cash in the machines particularly at weekends and the lack of local banking services. AD explained she had raised the issue of lack of mobile banking services previously but would do so again. <b>AD to action.</b> It was agreed the Clerk would contact the Cash Machine operators to raise the issue of empty machines. <b>Clerk to action.</b></p> <p>d) <i>Welsh Government Tourism Tax proposals:</i> DOE raised concerns over the impact of the proposed Tax on Tourism. RT explained his concern was the proposal allowing Local Authorities to decide on implementation. If PCC decided to charge but adjacent Local Authorities did not it would put Powys at a disadvantage. The proposals will be put out to consultation in the Summer, when details become available, Clerk to write to the relevant AM to share concerns. <b>Clerk to action</b></p>

0125/12	<b>HIGHWAYS AND PCC MATTERS:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Traffic on St Harmon Road:</i> Concerns have been raised regarding the traffic management system near the junction with Bryntition Lane. Children are crossing at a point where the road narrows, the kerb drops with a crossing point and vehicles have to stop and give way to oncoming traffic all at the same place. It can be confusing for children who believe the traffic is waiting for them to cross. AD offered to contact PCC Highways to discuss possible solutions. <b>AD to action</b></li> <li><i>Traffic on Water Lane:</i> CE and the Clerk have been approached by resident concerned about fast moving traffic turning into Water Lane. The Clerk explained she had already contacted PCC highways who had offered to go and take a look to see if any improvements could be made. <b>Clerk to update the resident.</b> It was also noted there may be some visibility issues due to trees/shrubs. <b>Clerk to ask PCC to investigate when on site.</b></li> <li><i>Motorbike Parking at the Clock:</i> AD explained concerns had been raised with the parking of Motorbikes by the Clock. Noted by Councillors.</li> </ol>
0125/13	<b>PUBLICITY and EVENTS:</b> VE Day Celebrations. <b>JD to share with the Press.</b>
0125/14	<b>PLANNING:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>25/0401/FUL: Bike Shelter at CARAD:</i> The application was considered, Cllrs are pleased to support the application. <b>Clerk to notify PCC Planning.</b></li> </ol>
0125/15	<b>CORRESPONDENCE:</b> In addition to items already circulated: <b>No further items raised</b>
0125/16	<b>URGENT ITEMS NOT ON THIS AGENDA:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Rhayader &amp; District Motor Club:</i> Concerns have been raised by the club about the future of the Enduro GP of Wales and its impact on the local economy if it is unable to go ahead given the current NRW forestry access restrictions following storm damage. It was agreed to provide a letter of support from the Council, <b>Clerk to action.</b></li> <li><i>Council Pound, Heat Pump request:</i> A request has been received from the house owner whose property backs onto the Council Pound in Cwmdauddwr seeking permission to site their Heat Pump within the Pound. The matter was considered but due to its historic value the request was declined. <b>Clerk to notify the owner.</b></li> </ol>
0125/17	<b>UPDATES FROM THE CLERK:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Welsh Government Toilet Grant:</i> The Clerk explained WG are offering a grant to carry out refurbishment works on toilets in a small number of towns situated on Trunk Roads. Further details to follow.</li> </ol>
0125/18	<b>EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS DUE TO THE CONFIDENTIAL NATURE OF THE FOLLOWING BUSINESS ITEMS</b> <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:</i> <b>None</b>
0125/19	<b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING:</b> Ordinary Meeting; <b>Monday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2025, preceded by the Annual Meeting at 6.30pm</b> at Cwmdauddwr Old School.
CLOSE	The meeting closed at 09.35pm

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

Clerk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>WI Garden Compost:</b> Arrange purchase to a value of £50</li> <li>• <b>No 8 Clothing Award:</b> Write a letter of congratulations</li> <li>• <b>Cash Machines:</b> Contact the providers to raise issue with lack of available cash.</li> <li>• <b>WG Tourism Tax:</b> Write to AM and raise concerns when details know</li> <li>• <b>Traffic on Water Lane:</b> Ask PCC to check visibility by the shrubs and respond to the resident</li> <li>• <b>Planning Applications:</b> Respond to planning.</li> <li>• <b>Rhayader &amp; District Motor Club:</b> Produce a letter of support for Enduro GP of Wales</li> <li>• <b>Council Pound:</b> Respond to the residents enquiry</li> <li>• <b>PCSO:</b> Invite to a future meeting</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council Photo: Book for a future meeting</li> <li>• Council owned sites: Continue to progress with Solicitors &amp; follow up re the Pound at Tanners Row</li> <li>• Document Archives: (ongoing)</li> <li>• Llangurig Road Allotment Field: Check wording on documents (ongoing with Solicitors)</li> </ul>
AD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10 year service medal: circulate further information</li> <li>• Traffic on St Harmon Road: arrange meeting with PCC Highways</li> <li>• Mobile Banking Services: ask for a formal review of services</li> <li>• Road Sweeper Training: (ongoing with PCC)</li> </ul>
JD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• VE Day: JD share plans with the press</li> </ul>
RT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCTV Cameras: Provide information to the Clerk to purchase</li> </ul>
CW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Toilet door repairs and boxing in - arrange repairs</li> </ul>
DL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Memorial Stones on North Road Roundabout - lettering: Arrange for it to be repainted.</li> </ul>
CW/DL JS/PR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cwmdauddwr Car Park Working group: set up group to include CW, DL, JS &amp; PR to explore options and present a proposal to full Council</li> </ul>

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