

Minutes from the ORDINARY MEETING of RHAYADER TOWN COUNCIL held at: 6.30pm on the 24th March 2026
in the Council Chambers, Old School Community Centre, Cwmdauddwr.

1325/01	<p>The meeting opened at 6.30pm. ATTENDING: Cllr C. Walton (CW) Chairing. Cllrs J. Stuart (JS), C. Evans (CE), P. Roberts (PR), H. Hill (HH), A. Davies (AD) (from 8pm), Clerk J. Stephens (Clerk) and Finance Officer S. Lipscomb (RFO) Cllrs D.O. Evans (DOE), O. Harries (OH), J. Davies (JD), N. Bhardwa (NB) and Press, Karen Compton attended remotely. APOLOGIES: Cllrs R. Thomas (RT), D. Lloyd (DL), C. Hamer (CH) and R. Smalley (RS)</p>																					
1325/02	GUEST SPEAKER(S): None																					
1325/03	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None																					
1325/04	<p>CHAIRS ANNOUNCEMENTS: It was with deep sadness the Chair announced the passing of John Humphreys. John served the community for many years through his presence on numerous committees and in his role as a Councillor. His long and dedicated service has had a huge and lasting impact on the community, he will be greatly missed. Thoughts are with his family at this difficult time.</p> <p>Although unable to attend in person, the Chair passed on congratulations to all those involved in the recent school St Davids Day Eisteddfod. Feedback has been extremely positive, it was a fabulous event enjoyed by all.</p>																					
1325/05	<p>MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION UNDER URGENT BUSINESS: JS – Picnic Benches by the Lost Arc Car Park (see 1325/16a) Clerk- Town Investment Plan (see 1325/09b)</p>																					
1325/06	<p>MINUTES:</p> <p>a) The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on the 17th February 2026 were reviewed and approved.</p>																					
1325/07	<p>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE ORDINARY MEETING MINUTES NOT ON THE AGENDA:</p> <p>a) <i>Pump Track Trees:</i> The Clerk explained she had sent a request to Powys CC to help with potential tree works and would also liaise with the Football Club to incorporate works into their schedule. Noted by all.</p> <p>b) <i>Cemetery Toilets, Water Direct Debit:</i> The RFO explained the DD would continue on a monthly basis due to an increase in costs, now £22 pcm. Noted by all</p> <p>c) <i>Llangurig Road Allotments:</i> To be discussed by the Allotment Committee. Noted by all</p> <p>d) <i>The Old Council Pound/Garage:</i> Clerk to ask the Town Caretaker to take a look at the Pound and obtain an estimate of cost for different repair options. Clerk to action</p> <p>e) <i>Toilets, Dark Lane Water Harvesting System issues:</i> To be resolved as part of the forthcoming refurbishment works. RFO to review annual water usage and calculate the reduction in volume. RFO to action</p> <p>f) <i>Flags:</i> The Clerk to purchase replacement flags, 2no Welsh and 2no United Kingdom. Clerk to action</p>																					
1325/08	<p>FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE:</p> <p>a) The account balances to 23/3/26 and payments to 24/3/26 were circulated for approval.</p> <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>£8,797.40</td> <td>£90,368.46</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Toilets</td> <td>£4,564.52</td> <td>£9,975.64</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Allotment</td> <td></td> <td>£2,657.22</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bryntitli</td> <td></td> <td>£34,856.36</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Investment</td> <td>£170,377.78</td> <td>£39,606.03 (Sports Hall Fund)</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>£6,275.99 (Earned income)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Total in Bank Accounts: £183,739.70</p>	Account	Bank Balance	Cost Centre Balance	Current	£8,797.40	£90,368.46	Toilets	£4,564.52	£9,975.64	Allotment		£2,657.22	Bryntitli		£34,856.36	Investment	£170,377.78	£39,606.03 (Sports Hall Fund)			£6,275.99 (Earned income)
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Certified as a true record

Date

Chair: Councillor C. Walton _____

Internal Transfers to approve:

Investment to Current £10,000

Previously approved payment to be minuted:

Clerk Honorarium £2,000

Rhayader Town Football Club, Bryntitli & large grant awards £4,000

Rhayader Motor Club Bryntitli award £1,000

Invoices/ payments to approve:CURRENT ACCOUNT

Clerk salary, Mar 26, as contracted 20 hours per week

RFO salary, Mar 26, as contracted 9 hours per week

HMRC, Mar 26

Starboard Systems (Scribe), Civic.ly monthly subscription £21.60

OVW annual membership fee £501

D Hill, Contractor, Town Caretaker duties 15/01- 07/03/26 £360

BT (DD) broadband at Chambers Feb 26 £38.63

BT (DD) broadband at Chambers Mar 26 £38.63

Pixelhaze (DC) monthly website hosting £29.99

TOILET ACCOUNT

Caretaker salary, Mar 26, as contracted 14 hours per week

HMRC, Mar 26

EE Broadband for CCTV, S/O payment made on account £21.25

Rhayader Building Supplies, Gutter Bracket £1.13

HSBC (DD) bank charges for the period 31/01/26-27/02/26 £4.39

British Gas (DD) Dark Lane Electricity Bill M/E 28/02/26 £106.83

British Gas (DD) Triangle Electricity bill ME 28/02/26 £21.54

Nayax (DD) Service Fee for Feb 26 £24

Nayax (DD) Transaction Fee for Feb 26 £16.48

Dwr Cymru (DD) Dark Lane, previously signed £225

Dwr Cymru (DD) Cwmdauddwr, previously signed £125

Dwr Cymru (DD) Cemetery, previously signed £18

ALLOTMENTS

Dwr Cymru (DD) Llangurig Road allotments £24.20

Rhayader Skip Hire £408

Income:TOILETS

HMRC Vat refund £1,011.12

Nayax income Feb 26 £463.20

Cash £436.10

ALLOTMENTS

HMRC Vat refund £40

Annual fees to date £481

INVESTMENT

Monthly gross interest earned to 05/03/26 £193.61

The balances and payments were approved.

- b) *Solar Feed in Tariff:* The RFO explained she had checked rate from 3 suppliers, the existing Council supplier British Gas offered by far the most competitive rate of 15.1p per kwh. Agreed unanimously to go ahead with British Gas. RFO to go ahead and complete the application paperwork. **RFO to action.**

	<p>c) <i>National Living Wage Increase</i>: The Clerk explained the NLW is due to increase in April 2026. A 3% wage increase had been factored into the Council budget for the Toilet Caretaker, this figure is higher than the NLW. It was agreed to award the 3% increase. Clerk and RFO to action</p>
1325/09	<p>COMMITTEES, SUB-COMMITTEES and WORKING GROUPS.</p> <p>a) <i>Dolgerddon</i>: It was noted the Dolgerddon Working Group had met. CE to provide a further update under ref 1325/19</p> <p>b) <i>Town Investment Plan</i>: CW explained he had attended a recent meeting with Powys CC in County Hall with AD and RT. Details were shared on a new grant funding opportunity (see item 1325/11e below) It was noted that the grant is linked directly to actions detailed in the Town Investment Plan. The plan is now out of date and no longer reflect priorities for the town. It was agreed the plan would be reviewed by Cllrs and ideas incorporated at the next meeting. Clerk to circulate the plan, collate suggestions and add to the next agenda.</p>
1325/10	<p>INFORMATION AND UP-DATES FROM THE LOCAL COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBER.</p> <p>Monthly report has been circulated. No further updates</p>
1325/11	<p>PROJECTS, COMMUNITY ISSUES AND MEMBER DISCUSSIONS:</p> <p>a) <i>Project Updates from the Clerk</i>: - <i>Transforming Towns Shop Frontage Scheme</i>: The grant application is ready for submission, the scheme includes a total of 38 premises at a total value of £453k; 70% grant £317k</p> <p>b) <i>Toilet Refurbishment</i>: Powys CC have now agreed the funding will come directly to RTC to carry out the refurbishment works. Planned works to be undertaken w/c 11th May for 2 weeks. While toilets are closed, people will be directed to the Leisure Centre as previously. As part of the works, a payment function will be added to the new disabled toilet door. The Clerk continues to work on the Lease for the toilets at Cwmdauddwr, in particular the responsibility for the drains; to cover the building and outlet only.</p> <p>c) <i>Brilliant Basics Signage</i>: Designs being finalised ready for order to be placed.</p> <p>d) <i>Weirglodd</i>: The Clerk continues to expedite the Lease for Weirglodd Site and negotiate terms with regards sub-leasing. It was agreed unanimously the proposed cap on fees should be removed. Clerk to notify Powys CC. The Clerk advised Powys CC had agreed to fund £15k towards the track improvements, dependant on completion of the Lease. Noted by all.</p> <p>e) <i>Rugby Club Community Hub</i>: The Clerk has met with a member of the Rugby Club Committee, it has been confirmed the electrical works are still outstanding . A quote has been received to make the site secure, repair small leaks and upgrade doors at a cost of £13k. The Clerk explained she is still waiting for new plans for the site showing different possible options for refurbishment/rebuild. It was noted there is a new WG grant available; Pride in Place Investment Fund (PiPIF) offering up to £83k. The funding application has to be submitted by the 10th April with all works completed by March 2027. It was agreed the Council should bid for this fund for the Rugby Club Community Hub. The Clerk advised RT had been in contact with the National Lottery re additional funding for the project, early feedback has been positive. Clerk to work on this with RT</p> <p>f) <i>Community Newsletter Project</i>: RTC working in partnership with CARAD and the Arches submitted a bid £2,617.28 for the project. PAVO have confirmed the bid was successful and payment would be made to RTC. Noted by all.</p> <p>g) <i>BT Broadband Contract renewal</i>: The Clerk explained the Broadband contract is due for renewal. New cost £32.95 pcm for a 24 month contract. Approved. Clerk to action</p> <p>h) <i>Brynterion Coach House</i>: CE and DOE expressed concerns over the sale of the Coach House by Powys CC, with particular regard to land being retained by the school to allow for any changes to future access should this be required for any future developments. AD to follow up with the School and Powys CC.</p>

	<p>i) <i>Origin of Meat used in Powys Schools</i>: CE raised the question, the Council has since been provided with comprehensive feedback outlining details of meat procurement.</p> <p>j) <i>Policing in the Town</i>: Cllrs expressed their concern over recent incidents of groups of young people driving at speed and with a great deal of noise around town and out to the Elan Valley. It was noted there is a new Police Superintendent for Powys, AD to write to him to share the issue and ask for his response. AD to action</p>
1325/12	HIGHWAYS AND PCC MATTERS : None
1325/13	PUBLICITY and EVENTS : None
1325/14	PLANNING : None
1325/15	<p>CORRESPONDENCE: In addition to items already circulated:</p> <p>a) <i>Cambrian Mountain Signage</i>: A request to display their new signage has been received via a third party. It was felt this should be shared with the Rhayader Tourism Partnership. Clerk to action</p> <p>b) <i>Donation Request, Wye and Usk Foundation</i>: A general donation request has been received asking for £100. It was agreed the Council would donate £100 and ask them to come and talk to the Council, about their work and keep the Council updated on projects. Clerk and RFO to action</p> <p>c) <i>Parking Outside Cwmdauddwr Toilets</i>: The residents living opposite the toilets are still having problems with people blocking their drive when parking by the toilets. It was agreed after the toilet refurbishment has been completed, a sign could be placed on the wall "Residents Access Opposite, No Parking" Clerk to action.</p> <p>d) <i>Invite to OVW Brecon & Radnor Meeting 14th April</i>: Chair unable to attend, no one else available. Clerk to send apologies.</p>
1325/16	<p>URGENT ITEMS NOT ON THIS AGENDA:</p> <p>a) <i>Picnic Benches, Lost Arc Car Park</i>: It was noted the condition of the Picnic Benches had deteriorated. The Town Caretaker had previously noted this but felt the overgrown branches above them should be cut back to avoid them remaining damp. It was agreed the Clerk would find out who owns that stretch of river to discuss trimming of trees and discuss repairs with the Town Caretaker. Clerk to action.</p> <p>b) <i>Town Investment Plan</i>: (see 1325/09b)</p>
1325/17	<p>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)</i> it was resolved to exclude members of the public and press during discussion of the following agenda items:</p> <p>a) Dolgerddon – see attached appendix</p>
1325/18	DATE OF NEXT MEETING : Ordinary Meeting; Tuesday 21st April 2026 at 6.30pm at the Cwmdauddwr Old School.
CLOSE	The meeting closed at 9pm

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

Clerk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flags: Purchase 4 replacements • Pay review: Notify the Toilet Caretaker • Town Investment Plan: Circulate, collate suggestions and add to next agenda • Weirglodd: Liaise with PCC to expedite the draft Lease for the site. Request the sub-lease fee cap is removed. • Rugby Club Community Hub: Follow up on production of Plans and liaise with RT on the Pride in Place grant application. • Elan Valley Trust: Ask the Trust to consider a town council representative. • BT Broadband Contract: Complete the contract renewal • Cambrian Mountain Signage: Pass details to Rhayader Tourism Partnership to follow up
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wye & Usk Foundation: donate of £100 and invite them to share information on projects • Parking by Cwmdauddwr Toilets: Arrange for a sign once refurbishment is complete. • OVW Brecon & Radnorshire Meeting: Send apologies • Picnic Benches, Lost Arc: Ascertain ownership or trees (riverbank) to cut back and arrange repairs. • Pump Track: Liaise with Football Club on works to trees. • Council Pound/Garage Repairs: Obtain estimates of costs for different repair options
RFO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reconciliation: share access with PR and arrange date to review for the year end accounts • Pay Review: increase to toilet caretaker salary from April • Water usage at Dark Lane: Calculate volume reduction year on year. • Solar feed in Tariff: complete paperwork for British Gas Contract. • Wye & Usk Foundation: pay £100 donation
RT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Road Sweeper: Liaise with Town Caretaker on purchase and present a proposal to the Council (pending update from PCC)
AD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policing: Write to new Police Superintendent • Brynterion Coach House: Liaise with AD to contact school and Powys CC
CW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clock Posts and Chains: Obtain a quote to replace and likely ongoing maintenance and repair costs
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"> • Cwmdauddwr 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