

Cyngor Tref Llanfair Caereinion Llanfair Caereinion Town Council

MINUTES

of a meeting of the Full Council held on
Monday 19th December 2022 at 7pm in the Youth
Room of the Institute Llanfair Caereinion

Present were:

Cllr Ian Davies Chair
Cllr Sarah Astley
Cllr Cadvan Evans
Cllr Gareth Jones
Cllr Mark Owen
Cllr Sam Webster

Cllr Rob Astley Vice Chair
Cllr Hazel Davies
Cllr Ursula Griffiths
Cllr Melvin Jones
Cllr Geraint Peate

In attendance Robert Robinson Town Clerk
(Two local residents were in attendance)

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Viola Evans.

125. Welcome by the Chair

The meeting received a welcome from the Chair.

126. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest recorded.

127. Public Question Time and Participation

The subject raised by a resident attending the meet was that of the future of the Leisure Centre at the school. It was noted that a reprieve was given and that there would not be a temporary closure until 31st March 2023. However, it was noted that there was to be a review.

The particular interest in the centre was for the 'walking football' although many other groups feel the same.

The Town Council was asked what they were going to do to ensure the centre stays open and improve the facilities.

Cllr Gareth Jones (County Councillor) outlined the position as he understood it to be. He also confirmed that he had suggested a community interest company to take the centre forward, however this is at an early stage. This would enable grant aid to be found, also volunteers could help run the centre. The substandard heating and toilets were also sited.

It was also suggested that a 3G pitch is needed for the centre to be viable.

There will no doubt be a consultation on the future of the centre and the Town Council confirmed that they would be taking an active part in that process. It is now 6 years since the last threat the centre was averted.

The Chair confirmed that the Town Council would be supporting keeping the centre in place.

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128. Minutes of the last meeting

The meeting considered and **approved** the minutes of the last Meeting.

Proposed by Cllr Melvin Jones and seconded by Cllr Cadvan Evans. The vote was unanimous.

129. Council decisions and actions

The meeting noted the list of approved actions/maintenance items and their current status.

129.1 St Mary's right of way path

Noted was that the path through St Mary's churchyard which needs resurfacing was a PCC responsibility and that the Town Clerk should contact them for a status report.

129.2 Wi-Fi for the Town Centre

The County Council had confirmed that grant aid had now been gained for the whole project and that tenders for the work were now to be sought. When the scheme is finalised final Town Council approval will be required supported by a full report on the proposals.

130. Finance and Governance

130.1 Bank balances

The current balances were reported to the Council as follows:

Current account	£29,620.89
Deposit account	£60,179.48
VAT	£3,159.71
Total money available	£92,960.08

130.2 Management Accounts

The management accounts and bank reconciliation were received

130.3 Orders for payment

The meeting considered and **approved** the orders for payment as attached to the agenda.

Proposed by Cllr Sam Webster and seconded by Cllr Gareth Jones.

The vote was unanimous.

130.4 Full Welsh Government Audit

The Town Clerk gave an update on the Welsh Government full audit of the Council. The only information asked for which could not be provided was if we had death certificates with each burial notice. Cllr Geraint Peate explained the system in place.

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The Council could see not need for such certificates and was happy with the current process.

130.5 Budget for 2022-2023

The council considered and **approved** the budget for the year ending 31st March 2024 as following with a 5% increase to be adopted for this period.

		CUURRENT	- 2023 TO 2024 BUDGET FIGURES -				
		ESTIMATED	NIL INCREASE	3 PERCENT	5 PERCENT	10 PERCENT	20 PERCENT
INCOME	PRECEPT	44000	44000	45500	46500	48500	52800
	FROM RESERVES	0	0	0	0	0	0
	BURIAL SERVICES	5000	5000	5000	5000	5000	5000
	TOILETS/STREET SCENE	5000	5000	5000	5000	5000	5000
	RECREATION	10	10	10	10	10	10
	MOUNT FIELD	160	160	160	160	160	160
	DERI WOODS	4000	0	0	0	0	0
	MARKETING	600	600	600	600	600	600
	PROJECTS-youth club	0	9950	9950	9950	9950	9950
	TOTAL	58770	64720	66220	67220	69220	73520
EXPENDITURE	BURIAL SERVICES	5300	7125	7125	7125	7125	7125
	TOILETS (STR SCENE)	6660	9600	9600	9600	9600	9600
	RECREATION	1950	2650	2650	2650	2650	2650
	MOUNT FIELD	6100	7150	7150	7150	7150	7150
	DERI WOODS	5400	2400	2400	2400	2400	2400
	ADMIN GENERAL	7150	9496	9496	9496	9496	9496
	ADMIN INSURANCES	1500	1500	1500	1500	1500	1500
	SALARIES	7100	7100	7100	7100	7100	7100
	AUIT/PROF/H&S	1500	2500	2500	2500	2500	2500
	PUBLICITY/EVENTS	4650	7250	7250	7250	7250	7250
	SCHOOL CROSSING	5300	5600	5600	5600	5600	5600
	YOUTH CLUB	0	7500	7500	7500	7500	7500
	PROJECTS	30485	2500	2500	2500	2500	2500
	LIBRARY/DONATIONS	4450	3450	3450	3450	3450	3450
	TOTAL	87545	75821	75821	75821	75821	75821
	BALANCE	-28775	-11101	-9601	-8601	-6601	-2301

Various aspects of the budget were discussed including:

- A proposal by Cllr Ursula Griffiths that should be no increase in Council Tax and that any balance should come out of reserves.
- Concern expressed that if the Council did not raise the precept it would just build up the case for a larger increase in the future to compensate.
- The list of items included was approved except for the Town Clerk salary which is to be subject to an increase to be approved at the next meeting. (The NALC scales to be considered)
- The deficit in the budget is to be met by reserves if needed.
- The meeting was informed of an email from Powys County Council about the budget report and increase to Council levels being considered.
- It was noted that Powys County Council was likely to impose a 6-7% increase. Although there was an increase in budget from the Welsh Government it was also noted that the money towards the fire service provision had been removed or reduced.

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g) The full list of items included are:

- i) General delivery of services including an allowance for annual repairs and maintenance.
- ii) Provision of a youth club.
- iii) An event to celebrate the King's coronation.
- iv) Provision of £2,500 for delivery the Christmas Lights.
- v) A newsletter with translation.
- vi) Tourism Map Boards. Refurbishment of the public toilets.
- vii) Works to trees in Goat Field.
- viii) No increase in existing staff salaries.
- ix) Employing a regular repair person.
- x) £2,496 for Councillor allowances as per IRPW 2023-2024
- xi) Investigations leading to the introduction of a street market (as per Town Plan programme).
- xi) School crossing point (upper one).

The precept was approved at £46,500 (5% increase).

Proposed by Cllr Gareth Jones and seconded by Cllr Cadvan Evans.

The vote was 9 in favour, 2 against and no abstentions.

The budget is to be posted on the website as required by the guidelines.

130.6 Independent Review Panel of Wales

The Council considered within the budget report the allowances for the year to 31st March 2024. It was **agreed** that the optional allowances would not be paid by the Council but the statutory allowances would be paid unless the Town Clerk is informed in writing that an individual councillor does not wish to receive same.

130.7 Christmas lights provision in the budget

A larger sum that previously had been included in the budget in support of the Christmas lights. A discussion followed with concerns expressed around safety with the traffic passing through the event.

It was agreed that Cllr Ian Davies, Cllr Rob Astley and Cllr Gareth Jones would meet with Cllr Viola Evans to see how both the Christmas Lights Committee and the Town Council can work closer together. The Councillors to report back to the next Council meeting on 23rd January 2023.

131. Deri Woods and Goat Field

131.1 Ash Die Back disease

The meeting received the report on the ash trees which are diseased.

The meeting **agreed** that work should proceed in the early spring of 2024. A formal quote for removal of the trees is to sought ready for final approval by the Council.

The Town Clerk confirmed that the form required for tree removal in a Conservation Area has been submitted to Powys County Council which runs for 10

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weeks. This is a notice and on expiry of the 10 weeks the Council can proceed if Powys County Council has not responded.

131.2 Sale of part of Goat Field

The meeting considered a request from a resident who owns a house next to Goat Field to purchase part of the woodland. The reason for the request was that the removal of the trees would leave the boundary between the house and woodland area more open with a security risk.

The Town Clerk informed the meeting that although the Town Council owns the freehold of the Goat Field it was completed by asset transfer from Powys County Council. This means that if any part is to be sold it is to be offered back to the County Council for £1 and only if they do not wish to take it back may it be offered for sale.

The members considered the request and declined to affect any sale of any part of the Goat Field

132. Erw Ddwr - Tree report

The meeting considered the report on tree's at Erw Ddwr.

The advice is that the works recommended can be completed over 5 years. The works for the year ending 31st March 2023 could be the clearing of deadwood branches and the area inside the clump of fir trees.

The works can be covered year on year within the budget set for this service.

133. Hockey Club

The meeting considered a request from the Hockey Club to locate a storage unit on Mount Field. The Council is supportive the request by wishes to be assured that a further container is not going to breach any planning regulations.

Cllr Sam Webster outlined what the container was needed for and that it would be a 20ft container similar to those already on site.

The Town Clerk is to research what is needed and report back to the Council meeting on 23rd January 2023.

134. Tourism display Boards

The meeting considered an update on the designs for the town map boards. All were asked to pass any comments to Cllr Sam Webster as soon as they can. The boards are planned to be in place well before Easter 2023.

135. Youth Club

The meeting considered an update on progress. Cllr Sarah Astley is meeting some pupils from the school to ascertain what they would like to see in the youth club and what would be the preferred night.

The Town Clerk confirmed that a grant had been received in the sum of £9,950 to aid the starting up of the new club. A full report will be prepared for Council as soon as all the information has been collated.

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136. 2023 celebrations

136.1 King's coronation:

The meeting considered taking forward a plan for the King's coronation in May 2023. The meeting **agreed** that a sub committee comprising Cllr Rob Astley, Cllr Ursula Griffiths, Cllr Sam Webster and the Town Clerk to take a proposal forward.

136.2 D Day landings

The meeting considered taking part in the beacon ceremony for the 80th anniversary of the 'D Day Landings'. This was approved and the Council will be looking to follow the guidelines issued by Bruno Peake at the proper time.

137. Documents review

The meeting received an update on the document review.

The meeting was asked to consider the 'quorum' for a meeting. After discussion it was **agreed** that a quorum in the revised Standing Orders should be 5.

138. St Mary's Clock

The meeting considered an update on the Church Clock and the Community Committee.

As required for the Community Committee the Council is to appoint its representatives which are to be Cllr Ian Davies, Cllr Rob Astley and Cllr Sam Webster. The Town Clerk is acting as secretary to the group with no voting rights.

139. County Council Matters

The meeting received an update on affecting the Town from Cllr Gareth Jones County Councillor.

Subjects covered included:

- a) The proposed new medical centre in Watergate Street.
- b) Candidate sites proposed in the revised Local Development Plan.
- c) Hafen Dog – some issues around vacancies and heating.

140. Town Clerks report

The following items were considered under this heading as follows:

a) Bridge Street

A local resident has asked if anything can be done to improve the street lighting in Bridge Street. Cllr Gareth Jones is to contact the appropriate department at PCC.

b) Mount Field

It has been suggested that the ivy be removed from some of the posts holding up the netting at Mount Field. It was **agreed** that Cllr Melvin Jones can arrange this.

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c) independent review panel for Wales

The Town Clerk is to write to each Councillor asking if they wish to take the allowances which are statutory unless a Councillor confirms that they do not wish to take such allowances as laid down in the annual report of the IRPW.

d) Deri Woods

A request has been received to seeking approval to start the tree thinning as per the plan. It was **agreed** that works may proceeds following a meeting on site between the FODW and the 3 Councillors allocated Deri Woods as their area of interest before works starts to agree the scope.

141. Correspondence (not covered under agenda items)

All correspondence was covered the under-agenda items.

142.. Dates of next meeting

To note the date of the next meeting which is to be Monday 23rd January 2023 at 7pm in the Youth Room of the Institute.