Minutes of the Special meeting of Hay Town Council held in the Council Chamber at 6.00 pm on 24th February 2011

Present:
Cllr P Lloyd (PL) Cllr F Howard (FH) Cllr D Gittins (DG)
Cllr K Showler (KS) Cllr R Golesworthy (RG) Cllr S Like (SL)
County & Town Cllr G Ratcliffe (GR) Cllr J Kramer (JK) – from 7pm

Apologies:
In Attendance: Mr T Caine (TC) – Powys County Council
Nigel Lewis, Clerk to the Council

GR chaired the meeting

948. Declarations of Interest

GR – Planning, Warren Close
PL – Community Enterprise CIC, Hay Parochial Church Council, Hay 2 Timbuktu Co Ltd.
RG – Sports Association

949. Street parking in Hay

Mr T Caine, Powys County Council, had been invited to the meeting to discuss issues relating to street parking and to advise of the impending changes relating to street parking compliance.

Mr Caine advised that with effect from 1st April Powys County Council would be taking over the monitoring and enforcement of street parking in the County from Dyfed Powys Police. He advised that there would be nine Enforcement officers in Powys and that they would be taking a strict line with regard to anyone parking illegally. He explained that the benefits of this approach included:

1. Better compliance with restrictions
2. The restricted bays would be enforced creating more spaces for people coming into the town.

He also advised that in the future they will look at residents parking with a view to introducing a Residents parking policy. However he was unable to
give a timescale for this as Powys CC, for financial reasons, currently had a moratorium on traffic orders.

The Council expressed concern on the delay in implementing a Resident parking policy as there was a very limited amount of parking in Hay for residents. GR suggested that that parking fines should be used to provide funds so that a policy could be implemented.

TC suggested that the Town Council reviewed the current street restrictions and forward any suggested changes to Powys for consideration.

Councillors also raised concerns about the Heol-y-dwr junction with Broad Street. They were particularly concerned with the pavement and the safety of pedestrians and the splay opposite at the entrance to Mill Bank. TC suggested that Powys could consider replacing the cobble effect paving with a smooth pavement so that pedestrians didn’t have to step out onto the road.

SL pointed out that access to The Gardens in Heol-y-Dwr was often blocked by cars and as a result emergency vehicles would not be able to gain access. He suggested that bollards placed by the edge of the road would solve this issue.

Members of the public were given the opportunity to ask TC questions. The main concern was the enforcement of parking restrictions without the introduction of a Residents Parking policy. It was suggested that the current approach adopted by the police should continue until a residents policy was in place. However TC reiterated that the restrictions would be enforced. It was pointed out that in Church Street, for example, there were elderly residents who would be unable to use their cars unless they would be able to park outside their house and some residents would be constantly moving cars to avoid being fined which would increase traffic around the town and would not be environmentally friendly. It was suggested that the income generated from the introduction of a Residents policy would more than cover the costs of its implementation, but there was concern that any money raised would be channelled into other projects.

RG suggested that all parking restrictions in the town should be removed.

SL wanted to know whether Powys CC would support a Street Management plan if it was put forward by the Town Council.
950. Electricity Contract

NL advised that the Finance sub-C’tee had considered quotations from Electricity suppliers and were recommending that the Council accept a revised offer from Scottish Power which had a cheaper unit rate than the current contract and was fixed until October 2013.

It was agreed that the Scottish Power quotation be accepted.

951. Grant application – The Gliss Improvement project

SL explained that the Estates sub C’tee had recently met and put together a suggested scheme of works as the basis of a grant application to improve the appearance and facilities alongside the river at The Gliss. He outlined the proposals and asked for permission to continue with the application which had to be submitted by 4th March 2011.

It was agreed that the Estates sub C’tee proceed with the application.

There being no further business, the meeting was declared closed at 8.00pm.

Signed

Date 7th March 2011