

Minutes of the meeting of Hay Town Council held in the Council Chamber at 7.30 pm on 4th January 2010

Present:

Cllr F Howard (FH) Cllr M Fellowes (MF) Cllr D Gittins (DG)
Cllr K Showler (KS) Cllr J Kramer (JK) Cllr R Golesworthy (RG)
Cllr P Lloyd (PL) Cllr S Like (SL) Cllr N Birch (NB)
County & Town Cllr G Ratcliffe (GR)

Apologies: Cllr A Lloyd-Penny (ALP)

In Attendance: Nigel Lewis, Clerk to the Council

663. Declarations of Interest

GR – all planning issues, Warren Close. PL – Community Enterprise CIC, Hay Parochial Church Council, Hay 2 Timbuktu Co Ltd

664. Bronllys Hospital Update

Talgarth Town Councillor Bob Martin sent his apologies as he was unable to attend to provide an update. GR advised that Mr A Cottom, CE Powys LHtB, had agreed to organise public events to help formulate how the services that are currently provided at Bronllys Hospital should be delivered in the future. This group would include two representatives from local Councils and it was agreed that KS and FH should represent HTC.

Concern was expressed that residents had experienced delays in receiving treatment over the Christmas/ New Year period and that there were no beds available in Bronllys Hospital during January.

It was agreed that any cases of delays/problems should be reported to Maggie Sims via either KS or NL, with a copy to GR.

665. Traffic Warden Update

FH welcomed Alan Jones who gave an update on parking issues in Hay. He reported that he had received complaints about parking violations around the town and he asked for any areas of concern that Councillors may have. It was agreed that the two main areas of concern were vehicles parking on pavements and parking opposite the river bridge in Broad Street. GR advised that Derek Price was looking to review the traffic flow in Hay and he suggested that AJ liaise with him.

666. Minutes of Meeting dated 7th December 2009

The minutes of the meetings held on 7th December 2009 were signed as a correct record subject to the following amendment: -

Item 646 d(2) – amend to "...and also KS and Gordon Lawrence for their sterling work in the kitchen."

667. MATTERS ARISING

a. Black Lion Green

DG and NL had met with Mike Harris who explained the position in detail and advised that he had written to obtain a quote for a Barrister's opinion on this issue. It was agreed that he should be authorised to proceed providing the Barrister's cost did not exceed £750. Mike also detailed the position regarding the Deeds held on the areas of land owned by HTC and advised that the Council should apply to the Land Registry to obtain registration.

b. Office Lease Debt

NL stated that he had written to PD requesting payment in full but offering the option for payment by instalments. She had been given to 11th January to respond but to date no communication had been received. It was agreed that if no response was received by 11th, a Statutory Demand under section 268(1)(a) of the Insolvency Act 1986 form should be issued.

c. Vintage Sports Car Club

NL advised that Powys CC had not yet responded to the FOI request concerning the Jaguar Car Club using a car park in Brecon in September or October.

d. Childrens Play Areas

It was agreed that a sub-committee comprising FH, GR and RG meet on Wednesday 13th January to progress this matter.

e. Christmas Lights Invoice

It was agreed that NL would meet R Gardner and advise him that HTC were not prepared to pay for any tools purchased and the value of these items would be deducted from the 2nd instalment due in respect of the

erecting of the lights.

f. Any Other Matters arising not listed

Additional Bench – GR advised that he had spoken to the officer at Powys CC and was still awaiting a response as whether the spare bench which they had previously indicated that they had, was still available.

668. Precept 2010/11

NL explained the Estimates and Proposed precept for 2010/11 as recommended by the Finance sub-Committee. He pointed out that on current projections it was likely that there would be an overspend this year in the region of £6500 and although this was partly due to payments made in this year which related to 2008/09 there were still some areas of overspend in 2009/10. These included :-

(a) Clerks Salary costs – this was due to insufficient amount included in the Estimate to cover the full salary costs plus the Employers National Insurance.

(b) Christmas Lights – the full cost of this years lights including the “switch on event” was expected to be in the region of £4500, whereas the figure included in the estimates amounted to £3300.

The following Finance sub-Committee recommendations were considered: -

(1) to increase the precept by 4%, this being in line with the Powys County Council increase.

Decision - Agreed

(2) to consider for approval the proposed Estimate for 2010/11.

Decision - Agreed

(3) if the estimates are approved by the full Council, NL to meet with RG to advise him that due to the budget limitations the Council will be unable to commit to the proposed fee for his services for the erection and taking down of the lights for 2010.

Decision – GR, SL, DG and FH meet with the Chamber of Commerce to discuss the Christmas lights display for future years.

It was also agreed that

(1) the Snr Citizens Christmas Party be put on the agenda for the February meeting.

- (2) GR to arrange a meeting with officers of Powys CC to discuss the income that Hay receives in respect of the Recycling scheme.

669. Audit Report for Year ended 31st March 2009

NL reported that BDO had completed the Audit for the year ended 31st March 2009. They raised the following matters to the attention of the Council: -

- (1)Accounts not approved by the statutory deadline of 30th September 2009.
- (2) Fixed Assets disclosed as at a £nil value in the Annual Return.
- (3) Fidelity Guarantee cover appears to be insufficient.

Agreed action :-

- (1) Complete and approve Accounts and Annual Return for year ending 31st March 2010 by the July meeting to ensure that the statutory deadline is met.
- (2) Declare a value for all fixed assets in the 2009/10 Annual Return.
- (3) Increase Fidelity Guarantee cover to £45,000.

670. IT

FH, MF and NL had met with Giles to discuss improvements to the website. Agreed improvements included a HTC News area, an archive facility to access minutes from previous years, links to other Organisations and details of which HTC representatives are on various bodies. Giles also suggested that the Clerk should have access to the site so that Minutes, Agendas and News items could be added without the need to involve the Site Administrator. It was agreed that Giles would set up a "Demo site" to obtain the Council's views prior to the live launch.

671. Outstanding Invoices – Powys County Council

NL reported that Powys CC had advised that there were 4 invoices which had been outstanding for a period of at least nine months. These were: -

- (1) Cleaning Council Offices Apr 08 to Sept 08 - £2675.06
- (2) Lease of Land at rear of Cartref for 2009 - £50.00
- (3) Erection & Dismantle of Christmas Lights Dec 2008 - £307.71
- (4) Community Election Recharges 2008 - £264.58

It was agreed that (2) and (4) should be paid but Councillors were of the opinion that (1) and (3) had been queried and understood that Powys had agreed that they would be cancelled. NL to liaise with Officers at Powys.

672. Dates of Council Meetings 2010

It was confirmed that the Council Meetings would be on the first Monday of every month unless this was a Public Holiday when the meeting would be held on the second Monday in the month. There would be no meeting held during August.

673. Questions from the Public

No questions submitted.

674. Correspondence

- a) BBNP – Public Footpath No 20 (Temp Prohibition of Pedestrians) Order 2009
- b) BBNP – Proposed replacement Cattle Shed, Brynteg Farm, Forest Road – Permission Granted
- c) BBNP – Retention of portacabin site to be used as a locker room Hay-on-Wye Bowls Club, Playing Fields – Permission Granted
- d) Royal British legion – Letter of thanks
- e) Roger Williams MP – Requesting support for a feasibility study for a Footway/Cycleway from Hay to Glasbury

Agreed that NL to write confirming HTC support for a feasibility study.

- f) Powys CC – BT Consultation on Adoption of Payphones
- g) Hay & District Community Support – Letter of thanks re grant
- h) Ombudsman – Code of Conduct Consultation Document

Cllr P Lloyd agreed to read.

- i) Urgent correspondence received after agenda circulated
 - (1) Thank you letter from Organisers of “Amalgamation Revisited”.
 - (2) Invitation to launch of Flexible Support for Business.

675. Finance

Balances

Current Account: £13765.69

High Interest Account: £18695.10

Council Offices Account: £9257.93

Schedule of Cheques Issued/to be Issued

Period

8th December 2009 - 4th January 2010

Date	Cheque Number	Payee	Details	Sub-total £	Amount £
Main Account - Cheques Issued					
17/12/2009	102208	FJ Williams	Inv 161611 Xmas Lights extras		480.08
17/12/2009	102209	Herefordshire MIND	Hire of Mini Bus - Xmas Party		35.00
17/12/2009	102210	EH Cumbes	Gardening etc		292.50
17/12/2009	102211	Jones Home Hardware	Inv Hay 16 - Barrels & Keys		68.33
21/12/2009	102212	Hay & Dist Comm Support	Grant		2500.00

Main Account - Cheques to be Issued					
04/01/2010	102213	Hay & Dist Dial-a-Ride	Grant		2500.00
04/01/2010	102214	D Wynn Brown	Mole Control - BLG & Warren Clse		115.00
04/01/2010	102215	Rest for the Tyred	Plants and compost		110.00
04/01/2010	102216	Powys County Council	Hire of Hay CP School Hall		30.00
04/01/2010	102217	M Budd	Dec Salary		118.48
04/01/2010	102218	K Wilding	Dec salary		148.08
04/01/2010		N Lewis	Dec Salary	638.95	
	102219	N Lewis	Dec Expenses	5.43	644.38
04/01/2010	102220	BDO	Audit yr end 31st Mar 2009		327.75
04/01/2010	102221	Andrew Powell	Advertising Contrib - Food Fair		150.00
04/01/2010	102222	HMRC	PAYE qtr ending Dec 09		708.99

For information - Standing Orders

		MJ Eager	Tidying Recycling Area		50.00
			TOTAL		8278.59

Council Offices Account - Cheques Issued

21/12/2009	100021	Scottish Power	Electricity Annexe - Apr - Nov 08		39.65
21/12/2009	100022	Dwr Cymru Cyf	Water - June - Nov 09		113.26

Council Offices Account - to be Issued

For information - Standing Orders

		OTM	Grass Cutting		273.33
			TOTAL		426.24

676. Council Offices – FH declared an interest in this item and MF took the Chair.

NL reported that he had received an estimate from Jamie Howard for carrying out the inspection of the electrical system in the building amounting to £400 - £450.

It was agreed that this was acceptable and that Jamie should be asked to carry out the work.

677. County Councillor's Report

GR issued a Powys CC Financial Planning document for information. He also reported that due to the exceptional spell of cold weather, Powys' salt supplies were very low and as a result with effect from 4th January until further supplies are received, they had stopped salting pavements and filling salt bins.

678. Chairman's report

FH advised that she had recently attended the Fair Trade for Hay at the Butter market.

679. Sub Committees

Finance – see earlier agenda item
Fishing and Estates – nothing to report
Christmas Lights – see earlier agenda item
Christmas Party – nothing to report.
Recycling Grants – nothing to report.
Twinning – nothing to report.

680. Reports from Representatives

Tourism Group – meeting to be held on 5th January.
Dyfed/Powys Police – nothing to report.
Community Support – meeting held after Christmas was well attended.
Gwynne's Almshouses – nothing to report.
Dial-a- Ride – nothing to report.
Hay Youth Club – nothing to report.
Hay School Governors – nothing to report.
Community Centre Committee – a meeting of the Trustees had recently been held advising them of the latest position on the new Community Hall and the School. Confirmed that PL was the HTC representative.
Gwernyfed Sports Centre – nothing to report.
One Voice Wales – nothing to report.
Health Focus Group – meeting scheduled for next week.

PACT – Fean not present.

Cheesemarket –in response to a request to meet the Town Council, it was agreed that DG arrange a meeting with representatives of the CIC at the Council Offices on Monday 25th January at 7pm.

681. Planning

GR left the meeting for this agenda item.

(a) Urgent Mayor and Deputy Mayor Authorisations

(1)09/04217/FUL – Proposed alteration and extension to existing dwelling
– 40 Warren Close – No comments

(b) Planning Applications for Comment

None received.

682. Date of Next Meeting

Monday 1st February 2010.

There being no further business, the meeting was declared closed at 10:15pm

Signed



Date 1st February 2010