Hay Town Council

Hay Town Council
Council Offices
Recreation Facilities
Brecon Road
Hay-on-Wye
HR3 5DY

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Minutes for the meeting of Hay Town Council on Monday 1st July 2024 at 6.00pm
in the Council office, Brecon Road, Hay on Wye, HR3 5DY.

Please note, under the new Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021, Councils are required to provide access to remote meetings for members of the public and the press. If you would like to access the meeting remotely, please see details at the bottom of the agenda on how to join via the Teams platform

1. Apologies for absence

   Present: Cllr F Howard, Cllr S Morris, Cllr R Golesworthy, Cllr G Williams, Cllr J Hall, Cllr J Morgan, Cllr A Powell, Cllr J Prothero, Cllr P Jenkins,
   Also present: Cllr G Ratcliffe, Clerk C Bunton and a member of the public.
   Apologies: Cllr W Bielska, Cllr A Bielski, Cllr R Golesworthy.

2. Declarations of Interest pertinent to this agenda.

   FH – HADSCAL
   SM – Allotments
   JM – HADSCAL

3. Questions from Members of the Public

   None

4. Minutes of the meeting dated 1st July 2024.

   Agreed as a true and accurate record and signed

   Estates survey moved to now as member of public and County Cllr can only stay for a short time.

   3 youths have damaged the stone bench at Black Lion Green, parents contacted Council through Cllr Ratcliffe and have offered to pay for the restoration. It was suggested that the youths could help with the repairs. Parents also reported to the police. Cllrs noted that it was very brave of the parents coming forward and all were very grateful that the parents had contacted HTC.

County Cllr Report:
Carparking review came out over the summer, concerns have been raised as they don't want to re-introduce the 1 hr parking – effects people visiting post office and library. £365000 a year is raised by the car parks in Hay which goes into Powys. Support paid parking in towns that are currently free.

Concerns raised that not looking to give any leeway for supporting local organisations with car park coaches.

Welsh Water are starting mid Sept to finish the last phase, will be traffic lights in sections. Concerns of people using Gispy Castle as a rat run, speeding and safety, GR to take that back.

Police have emailed, they are no longer police and community officers, they are now police, community and prevention officers.

There is a review of the bus service. Consultation for 2025.

Powys are looking to changing all the rails and redoing the pavement. They are being monitored, currently safe. Raised railed in front of Council office.

Fence down on Forrest Road, Cae Pound, it has been reported.

Question has been raised regarding street cleaning, when the two departments were split, waste team do not have access to the small street cleaning. In talks of returning small cleaners to the depts.

Gullys and drains have been cleaned in town. Gullies at bottom of main car park needs work, they are in talks with land owner.

Health board meeting with minor injuries unit, will be open 8am – 8pm in Brecon. No Xrays after 5pm. Closest A&Es Hereford and Abergavenny. PJ suggested writing a letter from HTC. Date has closed for consultation.

Cllr Ratcliffe left the meeting.

5. We do Tennis CIC
Cllrs FH, RG, SM, JM and clerk met with Mike Barton from this organisation, they would like to start running Tennis coaching sessions on Saturday afternoons in the courts. Launch session on 28th September between 1:30-4pm, run 6 weeks and then evaluate.
Proposal to support the trail sessions free of charge and then evaluate.
Proposed FH, seconded RG unanimously agreed

6. School Governor
Cllr James Prothero offered to become the Town Council representative on Hay Primary School Governors.

7. Signage at Recreation Facilities
New signs to be commissioned stating for Patrons of Facilities only, parking at own risk and a speed of 5mph.
Proposed JH, seconded JP unanimously agreed

8. Xmas Lights
   Email received, At some time the Xmas lights wiring was cut off (a redundant section), and the question is raised as to whose responsibility it is to remove it from the buildings (Chancery house across the lane to Gabbs solicitors).
   AP Proposed that the section is removed when lights are put up. Seconded SM unanimously agreed.

   Concerns were raised over the progress of the Xmas lights this year. Communication has been received from the Chamber asking for a Cllr or Cllrs to help arrange. Cllrs FH, SM, and clerk will attend a meeting.

9. Council Procedures
   A few comments have been received regarding the summer being very long, historically there was never meetings in August, that only started during Covid. Cllrs have felt they have not been involved or kept up to date. Everyone is part of sub committees, what has not been happening is the work has not been shared with sub committee members.
   No decision can be made by an individual, everything has to be shared with sub committee's.
   FH proposing that all subcommittees must meet every month, everything happening must be discussed and agreed. Proposals to be sent to clerk to be included in the agenda. If the chair doesn't comply, they will be asked to explain why. CB to print list of subcommittees on board.

   Finance: GW, RG, SM, PJ, JH
   Estates: JM, AP, AB, PJ, GW
   Prems: SM, RG, AP, JH

   As events could be run as projects we will dissolve Comms and Events. Max of 5 members per sub committee so that it is not a majority at full council. WB & AB to be asked which they would like to join. FH will be a non voting member at subcommittee. Sub Committees are now responsible for writing their own press releases, to be run through clerk.

10. Defibs
    Cllr GR has been checking defibs. Due to funding cuts WAST now not paying for pads or batteries. Costs approx. £50 per set of pads; Batteries £48. Currently 3 defibs are school, here, town clock. They do need to be monitored. There was 2 out last week. Regarding Defib at Pavilion Sports clubs to be contacted to see if they can contribute and to be discussed at Finance.

11. Cllr Projects
    Idea is that Cllrs team up and take on projects together.
    a) Suggestions – Hay In Bloom. Someone is needed to take on the flower boxes, organising the car for them.
    b) Play Area Teams – GW and PJ are happy to lead up on this. AP has done a lot of work on the play areas. Would like to include the residents.
    c) Land at Warren Close – Two current ideas, allotments or play area. The land is owned by HTC freehold. BBNP would need consulting. 4 estates near by the land. Going rate for allotment is £25 per year. Standard allotment size is 16 rods x 4 rods. As a rough estimate it may provide 6-8 allotments. Need to do a public consultation.
       CB to arrange visit to current allotments and site at Warren Close for Cllrs understanding

       Member of the public left the meeting.

d) Keeping Hay Tidy

PJ has emailed out regarding dates for best to start, 6th Oct confirmed, however this needs to be promoted as a town event. JP to help with organising and advertising. 10am – 12noon. Litter is a problem at year round. Hay Scouts are currently a Keep Wales Tidy distributor. PJ to arrange an evening meeting to arrange.

Cllrs to think for the next meeting, could be events. Easter Egg event was very successful.

12. Subcommittee Reports / Minutes

a) Finance

I) Asset Register – is quite out of date. At next finance meeting need to evaluate the asset register and look what should go into it.

II) Date of next meeting - TBC

b) Estates

I) Cemetery

Date to be confirmed 26th or 27th with Powys. AP, JM, RG and SM to attend. 12 Plots have been marked out and approx. 20 cremation plots.

II) Car parking area

Car parking area has been completed but not according to plan. There were a number of quality issues, some were sorted the next day. Concerns raised over self closing gate not closing and chippings raising.

Some patrons are still struggling to park sensibly. Suggestion that parking bays to be marked on the fence. Suggested letter forwarded to Cllrs.

III) Estates survey

Electronic copy to be kept, as a shared document.

IV) BBNPA funding, riverside steps etc..

Waiting for quotes to come in.

V) Login Brook footpath.

Woodland group clear it at least twice a year. Owned by Powys CC. Huge amount of work required.

VI) Gypsy Castle play area.

All work has been completed, basket swing replaced and is being well used. Thank you to SM and AB.

2 quotes have been received to clear along the wall, behind the wall, small post and rail fence, brambles, small silver birch, ivy and bramble growing up the wooden fence, fence between play area and allotments facing back and undergrowth cleared and removed.

Quote A £360+ VAT

Quote B £300

As an additional, who is responsible for the hedge between play area and allotments. Powys CC own allotments. Allotments have cut the side but the top needs taking out.

Proposed by PJ seconded by JH unanimously agreed to go with lowest quote.

Beam needs replacing as a safety rail, that's rotten.

VII) Dragon carving.

1 complaint received, is it a Welsh dragon or Lord of the Rings, lots of positive comments received. Lots of promotion, Hereford Times, B&R, County Times. Lots of people taking photos with it. Thank you letter to Danny to be written.

VIII) Fly tipping Warren Close.

Has all been removed.

IX) Litter picking update from PJ.
Covered above.

X) Date and time of next meeting - TBC

c) Premises

I) Clock Tower Toilets
Running reasonably well.

II) Oxford Road Toilets
Still having a few issues with paddlegates, usually first thing in the morning at weekends. They are old and worn, its going to keep happening. A few minor bits along the way that has all been dealt with.
Complaints regarding graffiti in the cubicles. A person has been employed to weekly flush out the toilets.

III) Toilet Maintenance contract – to be discussed at sub committee.

IV) Pavilion
Boiler needed resetting after taps being left on which had over heated the system and tripped it out.

V) Date and time of next meeting - TBC

d) Communications & Events

I) Recent press releases
Have not been done in a timely fashion.

II) Hay Summer Show
Thank you to everyone that donated and WB & AB for running the stall.

III) Date and time of next meeting – N/A

13. Report of the Clerk / RFO

a) Major Correspondence

i) Hay St Mary's Football
SM has had communication with a football representative regarding maintenance, Meeting to be arranged.
Meeting to be arranged with main committee to put in place some ground rules and manage expectations.

ii) Town Crier
Town Crier for Hereford City has been sacked as he wasn't in line with what Hereford wanted, he has emailed us. I have replied that we have a very active town crier and good luck with your future endeavours.

iii) Governors Association of the Republic of Korea
Want to find out more about how festivals run. Letter to be sent to the Festival.

iv) HADSCAL Request
Chief Executive are awaiting a reply from HTC. Clerk to send reply again.

v) Sustainable Powys
Email has been forwarded out, would Cllrs like to attend.

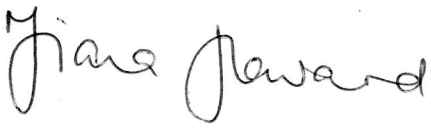
vi) Access for Cash
Last 2 Saturdays there has been no cash in Hay at all. Emails have been forwarded to Notemachine, the contact we had is no longer working in that department. Clerk has not been given a contacts details.

It was noted that HTC has no legal obligation to provide a machine, there is a telephone number on the machine asking for all problems to be reported directly.

b) Bank Reconciliations
No questions.

14. Reports of HTC Representatives:
    a) Gwynne's Almshouses – none.
    b) Dial a Ride – none.
    c) Dyfed Powys Police – email previously mentioned and forwarded to Cllrs.
    d) One Voice Wales – none.
    e) Cheesemarket – building work starting this week.
    f) Hay2Timbuktu – none.
    g) BBNP – none.
    h) Chamber of Commerce – none.
    i) Hay Summer Show – was a fantastic day for the community, a safe family day out and everyone had fun.
    j) Hay Markets – Have finished Saturday markets for the winter.

15. Date and time of next meeting: 7th October 2024.

16. IN CAMERA – Public facilities

Meeting closed at 20:56