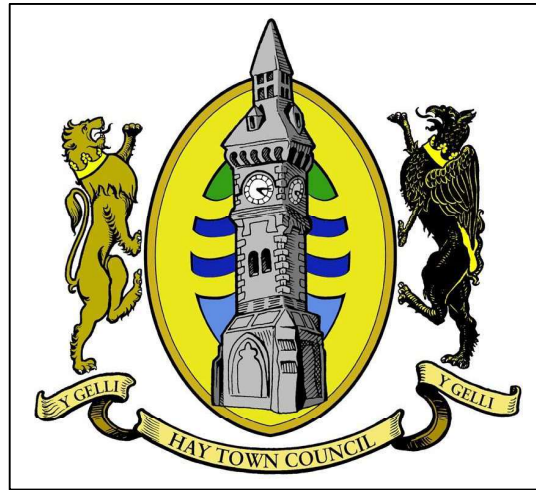


Hay Town Council

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

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Draft Minutes for the meeting of Hay Town Council on Monday 7th July 2025 at 6.00pm
in the Council office, Brecon Road, Hay on Wye, HR3 5DY.

1. Apologies for absence
Present: Cllr F Howard, Cllr S Morris, Cllr J Morgan, Cllr G Williams, Cllr A Bielski, Cllr Wendy Bielska, Cllr T Owen, Cllr Alan Powell, Cllr P Jenkins,
Also present: Clerk C Bunton. Cllr G Ratcliffe and a member of the public.
Apologies for absence: Cllr J Prothero
2. Declarations of Interest & Code of Conduct

None
3. Questions from Members of the Public
None
4. Minutes of the meeting dated 2nd June
RESOLVED: Minutes of the meeting were agreed and signed as a true and accurate record.
5. Request from Football Club
Request received from Hay ST Mary's football for their Wiz Fest on 3rd August. Yes to toilets but must be cleaned afterwards. No to Heras fencing as it's a public footpath.
Grass cutting for football pitches – are now planning to move to volunteers. Concerns raised that grass cutting will not be continued previously undertaken. Meeting with Football Club to be arranged.
6. EV Charging point
Being installed on Thursday.
2 vehicles have been abandoned at the Recreation Fields car park. There is a legal protocol that must be followed. CB to investigate and follow up on.
7. ATM – CB to arrange a meeting with NoteMachine again, currently they are not replying to emails.
8. Clock Tower – Currently waiting for pigeons to be removed for the workings to be cleaned.
9. PCC Meeting – The following concerns were raised with Powys CC:

Over recent decades, the town of Hay-on-Wye has experienced the gradual loss or reduction of several key public services and community facilities. Many of these have only survived thanks to the determination and hard work of local volunteers. Below is a summary of what the town has lost or had to take on itself:

Youth Club – Formerly run by PCC until service was removed, it is now entirely run by volunteers.

Community Centre – Closed with a promise it would be replaced as part of the new school. However, the allocated room was too small and the library provision was insufficient, so the library had to take over the entire space.

Library Hours – Significantly reduced. The library is now partly funded by the local community to remain open.

Public Toilets – Transferred to Hay Town Council with the threat of closure if not accepted. This has added approximately £11 per household to the local council tax precept. The toilets are still run at a loss, despite over 70,000 annual users, due to the town's high visitor numbers. No financial support is provided by the local authority.

Car Parking Charges – Charges were introduced at the Cattle Market car park, while other areas in the county remain free. Despite Hay putting forward proposals for equitable charging across Powys as part of the parking review, we were told no changes could be made to ensure fairness across the county as part of the review into parking. This is still to be completed, yet Hay is now being charged while others are not. The community does not oppose charges, as long as all towns are treated equally, as originally promised. This has removed our last free parking spot for workers and volunteers who support the town.

Market Event Parking Charges – Each year, the council demands £900 from Hay Markets for "lost income" from car park use during events. Yet these markets attract thousands of visitors and generate significant additional parking revenue for the council. This is not taken in to consideration despite requests,

Town Hall Offices – Despite a previously agreed deal to allow the Town Council to take over its former offices, the policy was changed, and the property was sold off instead.

Playing Fields – Responsibility was handed over to the local community.

Swimming Pool – Closed by the council, but reopened and now run entirely by volunteers. The pool now supports swimming lessons for around 400 children.

Car Park Revenue Sharing – An agreement was sought with the previous CEO for a share of car park income to return to the community. Although initially supported, this was later withdrawn by the then-cabinet.

Street cleaning - You really see any street cleaning? Such as a road sweeper, the vast majority is completed by volunteers.

Traffic Wardens - Traffic wardens are always in Hay. Something that seems to be a disbalance in time

Powys representatives are meeting communities to help them help themselves. It was felt that the Cllrs were just paying lip service. Have stated now don't allow things to hang from lampposts. They were of a like mind that the chamber should be supporting HTC with the toilets. 39% of there income goes to social care. Powys CC stated if HTC handed the toilets back to Powys they would be closed.

It was suggested that there is a need for a meeting with outlying community councils as they all benefit from the trade within Hay. Most shops are getting business rate relief as its calculated on shop frontage workable space. It was requested at a height restriction ramp put in at Cattle Market. Street cleaner only attends during the festival.

CB to write to ask for a follow up on these points and ask for Sharon Powell to meet with us.

10. Handyman position

Withdraw the £50 retainer that is being paid. SM proposed, JM seconded, unanimously agreed. All works to be brought to full council and allocated accordingly. CB to compile a list of possible handy people. Drains need to be checked weekly.

11. Flytipping – garden clippings are being left on Warren Close. CB to put a note of FB reminding people not to fly tip.

12. Garage clearance – concerns raised over the door and frame at the garage. 2 fridges that belong to football, they were meant to be removed last weekend. Add to meeting. New doors and roof to be arranged. Door to be boarded off until fixed. TO offered to do a run to the tip.

13. Cllr Projects

- a) Play Area Team – did facebook sponsorship which did work quite well. Project is currently £15,371.34 short with 4 grant applications pending decision. FH propose that the project go ahead with ground clearance starting in September new play area to be installed in the autumn and shortfall to be taken from reserves and repaid over 2 years. JM seconded, unanimously agreed.
- b) Land at Warren Close
Fencing all finished, SM has a meeting this week for a starting works with a contractor. 5 complaints received, everyone in the area did have a letter, knock on the door to discuss and facebook posts.
- c) Town Enhancements
3 quotes for banners on the lampposts 4 Brecon Road, castle street 2, bridge and car park. 17 have been identified, approx. £3k including design. Fabric or Mesh. GR to take up with Powys.
- d) Future Remembrance Events
Bench unveiling 3rd Aug 10am, please can all Cllrs attend.
Remembrance Sunday 2025 – The band have cancelled not due to events last year. AB has been searching for a band. Kelvyn has booked a piper. There is a Powys ACF band they are appearing at Brecon.
- e) Keep Hay Tidy (PJ) – PJ shared a plan, would anyone like to help run it. GR is currently running Keep Hay Tidy. Dog mess around the town is better, but its all down the Warren. GR to find out when we can have use of a sweeper.

14. Subcommittee Reports / Minutes

- a) Finance
- b) Grass Cutting Tenders – Will be advertised in October for a decision November for contract to commence 1st April 2026. Estates to review grass cutting specifications in September. Proposed by JM, Seconded AP, unanimously agreed.
- l) Date of next meeting – dates have been distributed.

- c) Estates
- I) Estates Walkaround
- Walk around was very constructive,
- Basket Swing – Brecon Road – parts orders
- Drainage investigation – Brecon Road drain on slope was clear. Safety barriers have been moved.
- Drain covers need replacing with heavy duty ones. 4 covers need to be replaced.
- CB to find out how much the covers are. Sort tenders.
- Pollarding – Black Lion Green – Ash, beech and cherries are noticeable.
- Dog Bin – Black Lion Green – CB to order a replacement bin.
- Grassland next to Gliss – waiting for Welsh water to get back. They are a lot of a balsam down there which Woodland Group will have a look at.
- Clear access to ramp @ The Gliss – SM has spoken to Josh and suggested that they cut it back to the actual ramp can be used.
- Disabled Bays @ The Gliss – Complaint received that there is no disabled area. CB to talk to Zurich, where do we stand if we marked the area as a disabled bay when it's not official a car park. Request received for another bin, however as it is private property it would be off Powys run area.
- Scraping – Old Railway Line Footpath – when it gets wet Sept – May it does get very muddy. There is a hard surface underneath. Scraping versus sweeping discussed.
- JM to get quotes for sweeping.
- Tri-annual Tree Survey – Approach the leaseholders and find out what they are doing.
- Thank you to SM & GR works already completed around the tennis courts.
- Suggestion to make walkaround quarterly – next one in Sept
- II) Estates survey – 4 areas completed, other Cllrs to complete their inspections.
- III) Gipsy Castle playground – Cllrs attended as a site visit at the end of the meeting.
- Premises Part of the climbing frame is currently unsafe and has had barrier tape. It was agreed that the climbing frame would be made safe for use over the summer holidays.
- d)
- I) Collection of toilet cash payments
- At the moment SM is collecting and counting. Previously it was agreed that 2 people. FH & SM to collect and count together.
- II) Clock Tower Toilets – been issues with people saying the door won't lock. The door will not lock if you do not pay. There is also an issue with air pressure stopping it shutting properly.
- Handyman has fixed today.
- Blockage on coin validators cleared today.
- III) Oxford Road Toilets – 3 CCTV signs installed. 2 toilet signs installed, not as much vandalism lately.
- IV) PHS – Defer to Finance Meeting.
- V) Pavilion
- New boiler has been installed.
- a) meet with architect – need to arrange a meeting.
15. Report of the Clerk / RFO
- a) Major Correspondence
- i) Complaints Re Fireworks @ The Globe – They said they are very sorry will now make it policy to not allow fireworks.
- ii) Puddles on Oxford Rd – Powys have marked it up and will be sorting.
- iii) Disabled Access in Hay – There are a number of shops in Hay that are not accessible, however it is a medieval market town. Comments have been forwarded to Powys.
- iv) Continental Street Markets – wanted to do a taster one, Wed, Thurs, Fri. Hay already have

its own market on Thursday. They have spoken to Hay Markets.

v) Request from Youth Club

Request to do a bouncy castle and BBQ. Agreed.

vi) Zurich Renewal

Proposed by TO, Seconded WB, unanimously agreed.

vii) Clock winding invoice has been received from April to end of June, however the clock has not worked since 7th May. This is currently waiting for Powys to schedule. GR to follow up with Powys.

viii) Black Lion Green Ecological Survey – yes would they also train a couple of Cllrs. SM & PJ to do a report.

b) Bank Reconciliations

i) Audit has been completed. We are due for a full audit next year.

16. Reports of HTC Representatives:

a) Gwynne's Almshouses – none.

b) Dial a Ride – none.

Dyfed Powys Police – GR met with 2 PCSOs Trudy is not coming back due to health issues. Emma is staying and they are advertising for additional PCSOs.

c) One Voice Wales – none.

d) Cheesemarket – none.

e) BBNP – none.

f) Chamber of Commerce – Working Group local residents story from the last 50 years, would like someone from HTC to attend. 50th Anniversary for Hay is also the 40th Anniversary of Festival. Would like Hay Vouchers refreshed.

g) Hay Summer Show – all welcome. Everyone donate a bottle to the Council asap.

h) Hay Primary School – none.

17. Date and time of next meeting:

1st September 2025

Meeting closed 8.45pm

