



**CYNGOR TREF  
YSTRADGYNLAIS  
TOWN COUNCIL**

**Annual and Ordinary Meetings of the Council held at the Abercrave  
Welfare Hall on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2019 at 6.30p.m.**

**Present : Councillor Tristan Davies , Chairman, Presided Pro Tem  
Councillors A Davies, R Millington, E Evans,  
R Lock, M Donnelly, W Thomas,  
A Williams, N Craddock, Mrs L Phillips  
C Nickels, G Davies, L Evans, M Evans.**

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Ms Rhiannon Phillips.

**2. CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS.**

Before proceeding with the meeting, the Chairman Cllr Tristan Davies addressed the Council and thanked all the Members of the Council and the Officers for their support, guidance and co-operation during his term of office and wished the incoming Chairman a successful year in office. Also reference was made to the areas that the Council had been actively involved with during the year. The Chairman also circulated to Members a detailed breakdown of how he had spent the Chairman's Allowance during his term of office.

**3. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN.**

Resolved that Town Councillor Wayne Thomas be elected as Chairman of the Town Council for the Municipal year 2019/20

**4. VOTE OF THANKS TO THE CHAIRMAN.**

The new Chairman and Council Members paid tribute and thanks to the manner and leadership that Councillor Tristan Davies had given to the Council during his term of office.

**5. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN.**

Resolved that Councillor Adrian Williams be elected as Vice- Chairman of the Council for the ensuing Municipal Year 2019/20.

**6. COUNCIL STANDING ORDERS AND FINANCIAL REGULATIONS.**

Resolved that the revised Standing Orders and Financial Regulations of the Council be reaffirmed with one addition relating to the election of the Chairman of the Town Council as detailed below :

‘ That annually at the Town Councils meeting in May of every year, nominations on a Ward rotational basis for the position of Vice Chairman shall be received and ratified by the Town Councils Annual meeting. The person appointed as Vice Chairman shall automatically become the Chairman of the Town Council for the following Municipal Year’.

Note : Copies of the said documentation had previously been circulated to all Town Council Member Councillors.

**7. COUNCILS BANK ACCOUNT – CHEQUE SIGNATORIES.**

Resolved that the Clerk and any other two Councillors be responsible for signing cheques on behalf of the Council. The following Councillors were approved as being signatories to the Councils bank account, namely, Councillors Mrs B Paulett, T Davies, M Donnelly, A Davies, N Craddock, A Williams and M Evans.

**8. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES.**

**a) Planning Committee**

Resolved that :-

1) A Planning Committee be established to include all Council Members with plenary powers to decide on observations to be submitted to the Powys County Council on planning applications.

2) Meetings of the Planning Committee to be convened as and when necessary during each month so that observations are submitted to the Powys County Council within the prescribed period and reports of the meetings be submitted to the next suitable meeting of the Council.

3) In the event of Members present at any meeting of the Planning Committee not being unanimous on the observations to be submitted, or when the application is of an important nature, then the application shall be submitted for consideration to the next meeting of the Council.

4) The Technical Adviser be responsible for receiving planning applications from the Powys County Council, convening meetings of the Planning Committees, submitting observations to the County Council and report thereon to the next suitable meeting of the Council.

### **b) Ward Committees**

Resolved that :-

1) Ward Committees shall be established to include all Council Ward Members for the following Wards:-

Ystradgynlais Ward	-	5 Members
Ynyscedwyn Ward	-	4 Members
Cwmtwrch Ward	-	4 Members
Abercrave Ward	-	3 Members

2) Ward Committees shall have plenary powers under the Councils Small Contract Scheme for path, parks and open space maintenance to:-

a) determine work programmes and estimated expenditure, and the submission thereof to the Council for approval in January of each year for the contract work to be undertaken in the next financial year.

b) carry out the works by engaging contractors identified on the Councils approved list, subject to a maximum expenditure per contract of £3,000.

c) allow any two of the Ward Members and the Clerk or Technical Adviser to issue, monitor, approve and sign the contract.

d) to inform the Council regarding the letting of a contract, the name of the contractor so that the Council can approve the payment of the contract.

### **c) Urgent Action**

Resolved that the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Ward Members acting together be given plenary powers to deal with matters requiring urgent immediate action between the Councils Ordinary Meetings.

In addition, that where correspondence is received by the Town Clerk which is

deemed to warrant investigation by the Chairman and Vice Chairman, then the Ward Members to which the correspondence relates would be contacted in order to provide a report to the next Ordinary Meeting of the Council in relation to the content of the correspondence.

**d) Management Sub Committee**

Resolved that :

- a) The Membership of the Management Sub Committee shall consist of the Chairman of the Council and four Council Members, one from each Ward. Appointment on the sub Committee to be confirmed at the Annual Meeting of the Council held normally in May of every Municipal Year.
- b) The Chairman of the Sub Committee shall be appointed annually each year at the first meeting of the Management Sub Committee following the Councils Annual Meeting.
- c) A quorum for any meeting of the Sub Committee shall be at least four Council Members. Should the appointed Council Member be unavailable for any reason to attend a meeting of the Sub Committee then the Ward Chairman or in his/her absence the Ward Vice Chairman be authorised to appoint a substitute within the Ward to attend the said meeting.
- d) Each Member of the Sub Committee shall have one vote apart from the Chairman who in addition to his/her normal vote shall also have a casting vote in a situation where there is an equal number of votes on an issue.
- e) The main purpose of the Sub Committee will be to assist the Council in the discharge of its services to the community and also to deal with relevant financial and staffing issues.
- f) The power of the Sub Committee will be limited in that no direct decisions are taken on the issues addressed and it will be the responsibility of the Sub Committee to make recommendations to the Council on all issues. The Sub –  
  
Committee will also undertake a monitoring role on behalf of the Council on certain functions as required such as project management, financial control issues relating to the Councils accounts.
- g) Examples of other areas of work that the Council may discharge to the Sub Committee will include:  
Personnel/Training, Health and Safety, Project Monitoring  
Accounts Monitoring, Welfare Hall Matters

The above list is not exhaustive and the Council may from time to time allocate

other specific work to the Sub Committee as deemed appropriate.

h) in addition to the Chairman of the Council the Ward appointed Members on this Sub Committee for the Municipal Year 2019/20 shall be Councillors R Millington, Ms Rhiannon Phillips, G Davies and N Craddock.

**9. REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES.**

Resolved that the Council be represented on the under mentioned outside bodies by the following Members :

One Voice Wales	Cllrs W Thomas. Plus deferred nomination
Ystrad Welfare & Community Hall Cwmtwrch Welfare Association	Cllrs R Millington & R Lock Cllr N Craddock, plus one other Ward Member as Observer.
Ystrad Volunteer Service	Cllr G Davies, R Lock.
Tick Tock Community Bowls	Cllrs A Davies & G Davies
Nant Helen Open Cast Liaison Comm.	Cllr E Evans & M Evans
Brecon Disabled Access Group	Cllr L Phillips
Ystrad Focus on Health Committee	Cllr M Donnelly
Discover Ystradgynlais	Cllr L Evans.
Recreational Grounds Steering Committee	Cllrs W Thomas & T Davies
*Nant Helen Restoration Committee	Cllrs A Williams, E Evans and M Evans.

\* Note For the meeting arranged on the 9<sup>th</sup> December Cllr R Millington was appointed to attend as Cllr Meurig Evans had another pre booked engagement to attend.

**10.. CHAIRMAN'S ALLOWANCE.**

Resolved that the Chairman receives an allowance of £3,000 for the Municipal Year 2019/2020.

**11. ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS.**

Resolved that requests for the payment of annual subscriptions be considered as and when received.

**NOTE :** The Annual Meeting of the Council terminated at 7.10 p.m. following which the Council proceeded with the Ordinary Meeting of the Council.

**12. DISCOVER YSTRADGYNLAIS.**

The Town Council received Mrs Cynthia Davies in connection to the hosting of the Wales at Bloom competition in September of this year. Discover Ystradgynlais and the Heritage Society had put together new ideas for the event and one involved producing a Town map and guide. The Town Council was also asked to reconsider affording the Group a grant towards the purchasing of new street bunting. The event was extremely important in marketing the Town and surrounding communities.. With regard to the purchasing of the bunting it was agreed that the Town Council would purchase the bunting for all the community to have access to it for village events as required.

Resolved that up to £3000 be allocated for the purchasing of the bunting and the production and printing costs associated with the Town guide and map.

**13. MINUTES**

Resolved that the Minutes of the Councils meeting held on the 4th April 2019 be confirmed as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman subject to the following amendments/ insertions:

A) That Cllr N Craddock and Cllr R Millington to agree as discussed amendments to Minute 202 for the Town Councils consideration.

B) That in Minute 187 c) the word ‘Green’ be changed to ‘Grass’

**14. UNIT 14 WOODLANDS INDUSTRIAL ESTATE.**

Further to Minute 185 of the Town Councils meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> April the Clerk reported that the Director of the above Company was suggesting that the £500 grant should be awarded to the Ystradgynlais Community Centre at Penrhos. Town Council Members agreed with this suggestion.

**15. CORONATION PARK – PROPOSED MEADOW PROJECT.**

Further to Minute 187 a) of the Town Councils meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> April Cllr N Craddock advised Members that he had recently had a site meeting with representatives of from the local Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales and alternative suggestions were discussed. It was the view that an environmental scheme could be put together which would also involve carrying out work to the existing woodland to encourage wildlife in the area. The proposals were discussed in detail and it was agreed that the Cwmtwrch Ward arrange a further meeting with the Wildlife Trust and Mathew Thomas, local landscaping contractor.

A question was also asked by Cllr Craddock as to the status of the footpaths at Coronation Park. It had been alleged that one of the paths was also a bridleway. Agreed to check this matter with the Powys County Council Rights of Way Department.

**16. YSTRADGYNLAIS COMMUNITY CENTRE**

Further to Minute 188 of the Town Councils meeting on the 4th April the Town Council received a copy of the above Centre's constitution, which had previously been circulated to Members. During the discussions on the matters relating to the Community centre Cllr Craddock questioned Cllr Tristan Davies position in that his brother was a Committee member at the Centre and that Cllr Davies was involved in selling football kit to the local Ystradgynlais Junior Football club, who are at present funding the Centre. Following a discussion between the two Councillors on the matter, and the Clerks advice on the facts as stated, Cllr Davies declared a pecuniary interest in the item and left the meeting following which discussions continued in relation to the Constitution submitted.

A few Councillors expressed some concerns with respect to the content of the Constitution, such as its charitable status, its independence from the Ystradgynlais Junior Football Club, the appointment of Trustees and membership. It was also unclear as to whether the Community Centre had a lease or a licence.

Resolved that the Town Councils Management Sub Committee meets with representatives of the Community Centre to further examine their Constitution and legal status. Also the Clerk was asked to obtain information from the Powys County Council on the current arrangements in being at the Centre. Chairman of the Management Sub Committee to liaise with the Clerk on suitable dates for this meeting.

**17. PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

Resolved that the accounts as detailed in be paid.

**18. YSTRADGYNLAIS MINERS WELFARE AND COMMUNITY HALL**

The Town council received an application from the above organisation for the release of the first grant instalment for this financial year and the allocated grant for the community arts project at the Welfare Hall. A monitoring and financial report was received in support of the application and considered the Town Council.

Resolved that the first allocated grant instalment of £12,000 and the allocated be released to the Ystradgynlais Miners Welfare Hall.

**19. PAYMENTS TO MEMBERS OF COMMUNITY AND TOWN COUNCILS.**

Town Council Members received a copy of the above report for implementation. The basic allowance for Members has remained the same as in previous years at £150. Those members who wish to decline to receive part, or all, of the payment should do so by completing the opt out form and returning it to the Clerk.

In the of payments for Senior Roles Councils with income above £200k must make an annual payment of £500 each to a minimum of 1 and a maximum of 5 Members in recognition of specific responsibilities which is in addition to the £150 basic allowance. Agreed that the payment of a Senior Allowance be considered further at the next meeting of the Town Council. The Chairman to ascertain from One Voice Wales as to whether or not the Council needs to pay this 'Special Allowance'.

**20. DIAMOND PARK PROJECT.**

The Clerk reported that the Diamond Park Plinth project, which outlines the history of the collieries on the site and the park, was completed on the 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2019. The plaques on the plinth show the following:

- Map of the site showing footpaths and features
- Original Plaque unveiled in 2007 by Rhodri Morgan AM
- History of coalmines on the site
- Plaque listing the project funders
- Town Council and Park name in gold lettering on black background

**21. ONE VOICE WALES - CODE OF CONDUCT TRAINING.**

Notification was received with regard to the arrangements that had been made to hold the above Member training course at Builth Wells on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> June. Resolved that the Councillors interested in this course research the One Voice Wales web site to see if this particular course was being run locally.

**22. WORLD WAR ONE WALK IN YSTRADGYNLAIS.**

An e-mail was received from the Powys County Council seeking the Town Councils support for the development of a WW1 themed Walk in the town. Once in place funding will be available to develop a set of high quality promotional films about the WW1 walks. It is hoped that the Ystradgynlais Walk will be part of the film.

Resolved to fully support the initiative.



**23. MEMORIAL BENCH – GOROF CEMETERY.**

An e-mail was received from a local resident asking for permission to sponsor a public bench at the above Cemetery. The Clerk and resident had discussed a location for siting between the upper and lower parts of the Cemetery.

Resolved that permission be granted and that the bench be sited at the agreed location as stated.

**24. GOROF CEMETERY POLICY.**

The Town Council received a copy of a draft policy with respect to the above matter, which had been put together by Cllr Millington.

Resolved that the item be placed on the agenda of the next meeting.

**25. ALN SPECIALIST EDUCATION - POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL.**

Correspondence was received from a local resident explaining the problem that local families were suffering in that they were being denied access to the specialist unit at Maesydderwen Comprehensive School as it was already up to capacity. Concern and support was sought over the County Councils failure to take into account these pupils needs and make the appropriate provision for them.

Resolved that Councillor Lisa Phillips and the Clerk write to the Powys county Council on the problem and supporting the plight of the parents and the children in this regard.

**26.. PLANNING APPLICATIONS.**

The Town Council received the Technical Advisers report on the planning applications received from the Powys County Council.

Resolved that the Town Councils observations on planning applications considered as detailed be forwarded to the Powys County Council.

**27. MEMBERS AND OFFICERS REPORTS.**

a) Cllr Adrian Williams advised of his disappointment with the Council in changing its mind with regard to the decision taken at the Town Councils meeting on the 4th April not to afford a grant for purchasing new bunting for the organisation Discover Ystradgynlais. It was noted that the Town Council would be purchasing the new bunting, which would be made available to all the other communities within the area of the Town Council.

b) Cllr Evan Evans advised that the Ward would be siting a defibrillator near to the front entrance of the Abercrave Welfare Hall. Finance to be obtained from the Wards annual budget.

c) Cllr Nigel Craddock asked for the Clerk if he could again contact Simon Crowther on the landslip issues opposite the George IV Inn, Upper Cwmtwrch.

d) Cllr Nigel Craddock advised the Town Council of the proposed closure of the Doctors Surgery at Cwmllynfell. A public meeting had been arranged and Members were encouraged to attend.

e) Cllr Lisa Phillips advised that the roundabout sign at the New Inn Lower Cwmtwrch had been removed for some reason. Agreed to contact the local Highway Inspector on the position.

f) Cllr Wayne Thomas updated the Town Council on the position regarding the land outside the Dyffryn y Glowyr School at Lower Cwmtwrch The matter was currently with Mr David Pritchard of Powys County Council who would be writing to the Town Council offering a licence for the land so that the Mining Memorial project could be approved and commence. Members to be updated on progress. Also another licence was being pursued with the County Council in relation to a plot of land near the Tredegar Arms , Upper Cwmtwrch. A project for this land was currently being considered by the Ward.

The meeting terminated at 9.25pm