



**CYNGOR TREF
YSTRADGYNLAIS
TOWN COUNCIL**

Meeting of the Council held at the Ystradgynlais Welfare Hall on Thursday 2nd January 2020 at 6.30p.m.

Present : Councillor Wayne Thomas, Chairman, Presided.

**Councillors E Evans, M Evans,
C Nickels, A Davies,
R Millington, L Evans.
A Williams**

134. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors G Davies, R Lock and M Donnelly.

135. MINUTES.

Resolved that the Minutes of the Town Council's meeting held on the 5th December 2019 and the Councils Extraordinary meeting held on the 21st November 2019 be confirmed as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES AND CORRESPONDENCE

136 SITING OF PURPLE PLAQUE AWARD IN MEMORY OF EUNICE STALLARD

With reference to Minute 121 of the Councils meeting on the 5th December a proposal had been received to install a plaque on the

outside of the Welfare Hall dedicated to a Mrs Eunice Stallard from the Swansea valley area. The Council discussed the application and was of the opinion that the lady did not have widely known prominence within the Ystradgynlais area and may have had stronger links with Pontardawe area.

Resolved to issue a letter to the proposers to inform them respectfully that the Town Council, in cognisance of the above facts, is unable to support and grant permission for this proposal unless stronger evidence is supplied to corroborate a direct link to Ystradgynlais itself.

137. GORSEDD PARK/ CENOTAPH – SOFT LANDSCAPING.

Further to Minute 130 of the Councils meeting on the 5th December 2019 a letter was received from the Ystradgynlais Heritage Society pledging £200 towards the cost of the above project. The Town Council discussed the matter at length and concern was expressed over the projects financial commitment and who had agreed to the landscaping work. The Clerk advised that the County Council had been involved in the project and had advised that it would contribute financially on a partnership basis with the Town Council.

Resolved that the Clerk discusses the matter further with the County Council to ascertain if they had approved this landscaping work and to determine who will be financially liable for the ongoing maintenance work for this area in the future.

138. APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE – LEG CLUB

A letter dated 19th December was received from Powys Teaching Health Board seeking up to £500 in financial assistance towards the purchase of pressure relieving cushions and new chairs. No financial information was received.

Resolved that a grant application form be forwarded to the Club and that it be considered further by the Town Council once the required information is received together with other applicants in the new financial year.

**139. ENVIRONMENT (WALES) ACT 2016 Part 1- Section 6.
THE BIODIVERSITY AND RESILIENCE OF ECOSYSTEMS
DUTY REPORT 2020.**

The Clerk appraised Council Members of the requirement of the above Act and confirmed that a draft report was currently being prepared for the Town Councils consideration and approval. The final draft would hopefully be available for consideration in the next couple of months. The Town Council Members noted the position.

140. ABERCRAVE AND CWMTWRCH WELFARE HALLS.

Cllr W Thomas appraised the Town Council of a query raised at the Ordinary Meeting in November from Cllr L Evans regarding an oversight to his name being absent from the Cwmtwrch Welfare Hall Committee Board of Trustees List. Cllr Thomas confirmed that this error had now been corrected. A query had also been raised in regard to CISWO and its position in relation to the legal ownership of Cwmtwrch Welfare Hall. A lengthy detailed presentation was received from Cllr W Thomas on the matters concerned and it was confirmed that after legal changes made over the years that CISWO have now secured final ownership of the Abercrave and Cwmtwrch Welfare Halls and others throughout the UK. Therefore, upon closure and the consequential sale of these buildings, land or property (once debts had been paid off) all the profits of sale would go to CISWO.

Resolved to note the position.

141. PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Resolved that the accounts presented be agreed and paid

142. TOWN COUNCIL WARD BUDGETS FOR 2020/21

a) Ward Members advised the Town Council that the Abercrave and Cwmtwrch Wards had been unable to convene their Ward meetings to

discuss their budgets. Consequentially it was agreed that these Ward budgets/estimates for the financial year 2020/21 remain the same as those agreed for the financial year 2019/20.

b) Ynyscedwyn Ward Minutes dated 3rd October 2019 were confirmed as an accurate record and budget estimates for 2020/21 were agreed as detailed in the Minutes.

c) Ystradgynlais Ward Budget was discussed at length and the terminology raised a query regarding the issuing of plenary powers within Wards to grant financial assistance to third parties and that any financial commitment had to be allocated to a particular defined expenditure. Consequently the £6000 as allocated in the Ward Minutes towards 'Ward Project Allocation 2020/21' was not acceptable to the Council. Ward Members reviewed the position and allocated the said expenditure to the following :-

1) Maintenance Skateboard park	-	£1000
2) Community enhancement	-	£2000
3) Tree/ Pruning Rights of Way areas	-	£1000
4) Contingency	-	£2000

Resolved to accept all proposed Ward Budgets for the financial year 2020/21 together with the amendments.

143. GOROF CEMETERY INTERMENT/BURIAL CHARGES.

The Clerk gave a detailed report to the Council on the above matter and it was noted that there had been no increase in charges for this income heading item since 2016. The Town Council reviewed the charging policy and charges

Resolved that the current burial charges as detailed be increased by 10% as from the 1st April 2020. Local Funeral Directors to be informed accordingly.

144. COST SAVING PROPOSALS – CLLR R MILLINGTON

Cllr R Millington tabled a report for the Council to consider containing the following four cost saving proposals for the 2020/21 budget year :-

1. Storage Unit – The proposal referred to outright purchase of a new storage unit to replace the current unit which was on a rental agreement. Estimated cost of purchase was in the region of £1750 and £2,300. There would be a long term saving in agreeing to this proposal. Resolved that this proposal be investigated further and that a financial provision be made in the Councils budget for this proposal.

2. Gorof Cemetery Loan – The loan refers to the works undertaken by the Town Council in 2008 where the Cemetery was extended .The initial loan was for £70,000 and an estimated £40,000 remains as an outstanding balance. Long term this proposal would according to Cllr Millington save an estimated saving of £25K over the remaining term of the loan. It was proposed that the finance required be obtained from the estimated end of year balance of accounts. It was resolved not to pursue the proposal at this stage and that an item be placed on the Town Councils meeting agenda in June / July of 2020.

3. Coronation Park Grass Cutting Maintenance– Following a discussion on the proposal the Town Council was of the opinion that the Park should continue to receive the existing maintenance allocation of £4000 per annum and it was resolved accordingly to maintain this level of expenditure in the future and the proposal was rejected.

4. Tick Tock Community Bowling Club – The Town Council reviewed whether it was appropriate to continue funding the Club to the extent it had done so over the past years and whether the area was needed in addition to the other Club at the Welfare Grounds. Following discussion, **it was resolved** by the Town Council that the proposal be rejected and was of the opinion that the bowling club was well used and supported by various generations locally and that it was beneficial to continue financially supporting the Club on an annual basis.

145. TOWN COUNCIL BUDGET AND PRECEPT FOR 2019/20.

The Town Council considered the Clerks report in relation to the 2020/21 financial year. The financial report contained information on the following matters, which were discussed and considered by the Town Council: -

- a) Accounts for the Year Ended 31 March 2019.
- b) Finances and Estimates for 2019/20.
- c) Budget and Recommended Precept for the financial year 2020/21 together with a copy of the draft budget worksheets in relation to actual and estimated income and expenditure proposed for the financial year 2019/20.

Following consideration and an in-depth discussion of the budget report and worksheets provided for the 2020/21 estimates **it was resolved** that:

- 1) The following **revised estimates** of expenditure and income for the 2020/2021 financial year be approved: -

Parks & Open Spaces	71,400
Gen Administration	96,000
Gorof Cemetery	19,000
Grants	21,000
Paths	51,500
Welfare Halls	55,000
Council Property, Market & Insurance	37,350
Business Reserve/Vac Post	55,000
Vacant post – Tech Adviser	5,250
Gwys River landslip Reserve	10,000
TOTAL	<u>421,500</u>

2) The above-mentioned total expenditure and reserves of £421,500 for 2020/21 be achieved as follows: -

Estimated Balance as at 31/03/20 for 2019/2020	£ 110,000
Estimated Income for 2020/21	£ 17,500

Precept for 2020/21	<u>£ 294,000</u>
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3) A precept demand of £294,000 be served by the Clerk on the Powys County Council for the financial year 2020/21.

4) The Clerk be thanked for his detailed and comprehensive budget report and presentation.

146. CASUAL VACANCIES -CWMTWRCH AND YSTRADGYNLAIS WARDS.

Correspondence was received from the Powys County Council that no request had been received for an election to fill the above vacancies. Therefore, in accordance with the Local Elections (parishes and Communities) Rules (1986) the Council was now in a position to fill the vacancies by co-option.

The Town Council received the following applications:-

For the Cwmtwrch Ward – Mr Mathew Gough

For the Ystradgynlais Ward – Mr Michael Allen

Resolved that both the above individuals be co-opted to the Office of Councillor for the respective Wards as detailed . Personal particulars of the co-opted Councillors be forwarded to the Powys County Council for information.

147. PLANNING APPLICATIONS.

Resolved that the observations determined in respect of the planning applications received be forwarded to the Powys County Council.

Meeting terminated at 10.05 pm.

**YSTRADGYNLAIS TOWN COUNCIL
CYNGOR TREF YSTRADGYNLAIS**

Planning to be matters considered by the Town Council on Thursday 2nd January 2020

1.0 Applications granted consent

From information posted on the new Powys County Council web site the following applications have been granted approval.

19/1361/FUL	Mr D Evans Unit 9 & 10 Woodlands Business Park Ystradgynlais Powys SA9 1JW	Erection of extensions to warehouses 1 & 2, creation of internal infrastructure and all associated works
19/0668/HH	Mr Greenway 69 Heol Gleien Lower Cwmtwrch Swansea SA9 2UF	Proposed rear double storey extension
18/1082/FUL	Mr Purvis 74-76 Commercial Street Ystradgynlais SA9 1LA	Change of Use from ancillary building (A1) to café (A3) and erection of extension

2.0 Applications refused consent

From information available on the Powys CC web site no application has been refused consent.

3.0 Applications for consideration

From information posted on the Powys County Council web site the following applications require consideration:-

19/1933/DIS	Mr V Rees Land Adj To 22 Heol Twrch Lower Cwmtwrch Ystradgynlais SA9 2TD	Application to discharge conditions 5, 6, 7, 8 and 17 of planning approval P/2018/0293
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Resolved:

No Observations

19/1912/HH

Mr T A Bevan
50 Wind Road
Ystradgynlais SA9 1AF

Proposed extension to
enlarge first floor bathroom

Resolved:

No Observations

4.0 Miscellaneous

No matter to report