



**CYNGOR TREF
YSTRADGYNLAIS
TOWN COUNCIL**

**Extraordinary Meeting of the Council held at the Welfare Hall on Monday
10th August 2020 at 6.30 p.m.**

Present : Chairman Wayne Thomas Presiding

**Councillors R Lock, L Evans, M Gough, M Allen,
C Nickels, L Phillips, A Williams, R Millington, M Donnelly,
G Davies, T Davies**

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies were received from Councillors R Phillips, E Evans and M Evans.

**2. TOWN COUNCIL ACCOUNTS AND ANNUAL RETURN TO YEAR
ENDING 31st MARCH 2020.**

The Town Council Members received copies of the accounting documentation relating to the financial year 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020, the content of which was considered at the Council meeting on the 10th August 2020.

Resolved that the detail contained in the Accounting documentation and the Annual Return be approved by the Town Council and signed by the Chairman in appropriate place in the Annual Governance Statement.

3. ANNUAL MEETING

It had been requested by Cllrs Millington, Allen and Lock to call the Extraordinary Meeting. The Annual Meeting was requested to be added to the agenda. The Clerk had submitted a response to state that it was his

responsibility to call the meeting as per Local Government(Coronavirus) (Meetings) Regulations 2020 PART 3 Regulation 7 of the legislation which applies to Town and Community Councils. This regulation supersedes the Standing Orders and clearly states the following “ in 2020, the annual meeting is to be held on such a day in 2020 as the proper officer (Clerk in this case) of the council may determine. Also the guidance issued in relation to this matter is contained and reinforced in the One Voice Wales Briefing Notice dated 27th April 2020 which states the following ‘ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS – Councils will not need to hold their AGM in May and can be held on any date in 2020 as determined by the Clerk to the Council.

It was confirmed by the Chairman that the date of this years AGM will be organised in the near future in line with these regulations.

4. TO CONFIRM AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 5th MARCH 2020

The Minutes for the above Meeting had been circulated for information purposes as this meeting was called as an Extraordinary Meeting only.

Resolved that the minutes be recirculated at the next meeting of the Council and any matters arising be discussed at that meeting.

The Chairman then asked Cllr Richard Millington to take us through the remaining items as he was mainly responsible for calling this extraordinary meeting, including the specific wording of the agenda items listed as 4. a, b, c, d and e.

5. YSTRADGYNLAIS DESCRIBED IN THE PRESS & MEDIA AS MOST DEPRIVED AREA IN POWYS RE COVID

On the day that this announcement was broadcasted, Cllr Huw Williams, Cynthia Davis, the Chairman of YTC (amongst others) were contacted for their opinions on this news. It was stated by all that although the statistics may well show a very negative picture, nevertheless, our town was a progressive Town. Many examples of positive projects were given and the fact that so many people were making a very positive contribution to the Town and indeed the wider area. In fact in recent years we were receiving

many new visitors and tourists to the area as a result of projects such as 'Wales in Bloom' etc.

Resolved that :

- a) the Chairman contacts County Cllr Huw Williams, as he had raised the matter with Powys CC already.
- b) further information would be sought regarding the detail of the report that this media report was based upon, review the best options for pursuing this further in order to obtain funding for Ystradgynlais.

6. NANT HELEN LICENSE WITHDRAWAL

Councillors had a discussion regarding the concerns about why the licence had been revoked. Resolved that the Chair and Vice Chair contact the relevant County Cllrs and discuss the current situation regarding the planning decision and the security and financial scale of the restoration Bond.

7. CORONATION PARK

It was clarified that there had been an immediate response from the delegated powers to the initial complaint regarding this area. The Chair and Vice Chair arranged a site meeting and one member from the Ward had also attended. Immediately following this visit, contact was made with Martin Davies (PCC Enforcement Officer) and Sian Barnes (PCC Common Land) highlighting the concerns raised regarding the specific need to identify the routes of footpaths and also the legality of access to or across Common Land. There had been a delay in individuals from Powys assisting due to the Covid 19 situation. Resolved that the Chair would contact Martyn Davies directly to arrange site meeting. The intention would be to clarify where the legal boundaries and routes are established, discuss common land issues with Sian Barnes (Powys CC) and possible enforcement issues if so required.

Related Matter - The Chairman circulated correspondence, received from the owners of a section of the former haul road and some land alongside Coronation Park, which he deemed to be of such a serious nature that it

needed to be discussed and drawn to the attention of all Councillors at this meeting as requested. This correspondence related to a number of matters that required a response.

Agreed that:

a) Ystradgynlais Town Council was not responsible for the terminology and therefore was in no position to answer the specific questions or allegations contained within the correspondence.

b) a letter be sent to the Landowners explaining the Town Councils position on the matter as a Town Council.

Furthermore, Cllr Millington specifically asked that it be recorded in these minutes, the fact that during these discussions, he had been called ‘a liar’ by the Chairman and the Vice Chairman. This was in relation to a direct face to face conversation that was had during a site visit to areas surrounding footpath 51 & 75, he denied this. It was further emphasised that such behaviour could bring the Ystradgynlais Town Council into disrepute, he denied this.

8. WELFARE SPORTS GROUND

As the current lease was due to expire for the Welfare Grounds in September 2021, there was concern about preserving the ongoing use of it for the community. Resolved that the Chair and other representatives would continue to seek meetings and contact with the Landowners to pursue the possibility of a reasonable lease agreement from 2021 and to update the Town Council as appropriate. It was agreed to put this particular matter onto our agenda for every future scheduled meeting of the full Town Council.

9. CAR PARKING

Copies of an email that was sent to Cllr Heulwen Hulme PCC regarding concerns over the parking issues in the Town centre were circulated. A summary of the email was that the Town Council were asking that free parking should be given during the current Covid situation and also we felt that there was a greater risk of spreading the virus if the public were to use the paying machine and in particular the touch key pad. A response was

received making clear that Powys County Council were not prepared to grant the request.

The Chairman concluded by explaining that many councillors consulted had preferred not to engage in remote meetings and that this is why as the situation with Coronavirus had eased, the meeting was deemed able to be held in the Welfare Hall with strict protocols in place. However, he felt that if a resurgence was to occur it would be best to hold meetings via a remote platform.

The Chairman also acknowledged the concerns some may have had regarding the frequency of communication to all members regarding events being dealt with by delegated powers and it was agreed that updates would be circulated to all Town Council Members on a monthly basis.

Meeting concluded at 8.30 p.m.