



**CYNGOR TREF
YSTRADGYNLAIS
TOWN COUNCIL**

**Ordinary Meeting of the Council held at the Welfare Hall,
Ystradgynlais on Thursday 4th December 2014 at 7.00p.m.**

**Present : Councillor Aneurin Davies, Acting Chairman, Presided,
Pro Tem**

**Councillors J D Coombe, R Curry, Mrs B Paulett,
E Evans, J Steadman, D Lewis,
L. Evans, W Thomas, M Evans,
Mrs A Jones, Goronwy Davies
Graham Davies**

143. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors C Nickels,
Mrs W Williams and Canon Dewi Roberts.

144. MINUTES.

Resolved that the Minutes of the Councils meeting held on the 6th
November 2014 be confirmed as an accurate record. The Town
Council also received a copy of the notes of the Meeting held on the
19th November 2014 with representatives of the Ystradgynlais
Welfare Ground Sports Association the content of which was noted.

145. JANUARY MEETING.

The Chairman confirmed that the meeting in January 2015 would be convened on the 8th January instead of the 1st as this date was designated as a bank holiday.

146. POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL - COMMUNITY DELIVERY OF SERVICES AND ASSET TRANSFERS.

Correspondence was received from the Powys County Council in relation to the above matters. Contained in the correspondence was a list of possible services that Town and Community Councils may wish to take over. Also a list had been compiled by the County Council of possible sites that the Town Council may wish to take over in the future from the Powys County Council. A number of Leisure Outdoor Recreation facilities in the area had been identified for possible transfer to the Town Council.

Resolved that the content of the correspondence be circulated to all Council members and that a meeting be convened sometime in the New Year with the local County Councillors and appropriate officers from the Powys County Council.

147. GWENT AND POWYS ARMY CADET FORCE.

An invitation was received from the above Cadet Force based at the Gurnos for all Councillors to attend the annual parents evening on the 9th December at 7.00pm in the Army Cadet Hall.

Resolved that as many Councillors as possible attend the event.

148. TOWN COUNCIL WEBSITE.

Further to the website presentation evening on the 17th November 2014 the minor amendments agreed at that meeting had now been incorporated into the new website.

Resolved that the Ystradgynlais website goes live within the next couple of weeks.

149. YSTRADGYNLAIS LIBRARY.

Correspondence dated the 14th November was received from the Powys County Council advising that the Cabinet had decided on Option A with regard to the future delivery of the library services in Powys. This option meant a 20% cut in the branch opening hours. This was the most favoured by those who responded to the public consultation. Copies of the new proposed new opening times for the Branch at Ystradgynlais were received for the Town Councils information.

Resolved to note the arrangements proposed.

150. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN FOR THE REMAINDER OF THIS MUNICIPAL YEAR.

Further to Minute 126 of the Councils meeting held on the 6th November 2014 the Town Council resolved to confirm the appointment of Councillor Aneurin Davies as the Chairman of the Town Council for the remainder of this Municipal Year and Cllr Wayne Thomas as the Vice Chairman.

151. FOOTPATH 4, 6 & 75 BRYN-Y GROES

Further to Minute 128 of the Councils meeting on the 6th November correspondence had been entered into with the County Council officers dealing with the problems relating to the above footpaths. Also essential maintenance work required to the paths had been reported to the County Council and notification had been received that these works had been placed on the community maintenance schedules. However no accurate timescale could be given as to when the works would be undertaken.

Resolved to note the position.

Note: Cllr Mrs B Paulett declared an interest in this item.

152. COUNCIL TAX POLICING PRECEPT.

An e mail dated 2 December 2014 was received from the Police and Crime Commissioner seeking the views of the Council and Members on what the public wish to pay for their policing service for 2015/16. A survey had been compiled on - line for individual completion.

Resolved that a copy of the e-mail be circulated to Council Members for completion and submission.

153. CHRISTMAS LIGHTS.

The Clerk and Chairman gave a detailed report to the Town Council over the problems experienced over the past two weeks with the return of the Councils Christmas lights, which had been damaged and sent last April to a local company for repair. A letter dated 28th November had been sent to the Company on outstanding matters. The Town Council considered and discussed the matter in detail.

Resolved that the action taken by the Officers and the Chairman be confirmed and that a letter be sent to the Company on the two outstanding matters as detailed.

154. WELSH FESTIVAL, YSTRADGYNLAIS.

Notification was received that a local Welsh festival was being organised in Ystradgynlais on the weekend of the 20th February. A request was made asking local Town Councillors to support the event. The money raised would go to Cancer research Wales and Ty Hafan.

Resolved that a grant in the sum of £100 be awarded towards the event.

155. PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS.

Resolved that the accounts as detailed be paid.

156. WARD COMMITTEE MEETINGS.

The Town Council received copies of the Minutes of the following Ward Committee Minutes:

Abercrave Ward	-	6 th November
Cwmtwrch Ward	-	17 th November
Ynyscedwyn Ward	-	28 th October
Ystradgynlais Ward	-	13 th October

Resolved that:

- a) the estimates and work programme recommendations contained in the Ward Minutes be approved subject to ratification at the Councils budget meeting in January 2015.
- b) a sum of £3000 be allocated from the remaining available funds in the Cwmtwrch Ward budget towards the purchase and installation of a new slide at Swn y Nant Park.

157. LANDSCAPING PROCUREMENT 2015.

Further to Minute 141 of the Councils meeting on the 6th November 2014, Cllr Graham Davies registered his disappointment with the Councils decision to award the parks grass cutting contract to the Powys County Council. This years contract had not been fully complied with in relation to the frequency of the grass cutting agreed and the poor quality of the cut. The Clerk had already raised the problem with the Powys County Council and had asked, in view of the problems identified, a reduction in the final bill for the grass cutting service provided to the Town Council in this financial year.

Resolved that further discussion on the matter be deferred until the final invoice is received from the Powys County Council.

158. YSTRADYNLAIS WELFARE HALL – GRANT APPLICATION

A letter was received from the Welfare Hall Board seeking release of the 3rd grant instalment for this financial year in the sum of £9000. A detailed financial and performance report of the Halls activities was also received and considered by the Council.

In addition to the above the Town Council in relation to the capital programme received a progress report from the Clerk. Members expressed their general concern over the delay in sorting out the tenders for the energy saving measures contained in the contract documents.

Resolved that:

- a) the sum of £9000 in grant assistance be awarded to the Welfare Hall as the final assistance in this financial year
- b) with respect to the capital programme and WREN grant a meeting be urgently convened between the Management Sub Committee and Hall Board representatives.

159. YSTRADGYNLAIS WELFARE GROUND SPORTS ASSOC. CORE FUNDING APPLICATION 2015/16.

a) Further to a meeting on the 19th November 2014 between representatives of the County Council, Association and Town Council an application had been received from the Association seeking core grant funding for 2015/16 in the sum of £14,000. Also received was information from the County Council about their level of funding for the Association and clubs for the same financial year and a copy of each sports clubs financial accounts. Members discussed and considered at length the various documents and information received.

Resolved that in cognisance of the above the Town Council noted the application for core funding received from the Association due to the grants committed by the Powys County Council for the next financial year. The Town Council was however prepared to review the position in twelve months time for the financial year 2016/17.

b) Details had also been passed to the Association about a Funding Fair organised by Coalfields Regeneration Trust at the Ystradgynlais Welfare Hall on the 10th December. This was another avenue for possible grant funding for the Association and local sports clubs to pursue.

160. 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 be forwarded to the Powys County Council.

Note : Cllr Mrs B Paulett declared an interest in the application numbered P/2014/1133 and left the room.

161. Sewerage Pumping Station at Woodlands Business Park

Hugh James Solicitors on behalf of Dwr Cymru Welsh Water in a letter dated 11th November 2014 formally issued two months notice that under the terms of the Water Industry Act 1991 – Section 102 and Section 105 Water Industry (Schemes for adoption of private sewers) Regulations 2011 the formerly private Sewage pumping station at Woodlands Business Park is being vested in the company. As a consequence the rising main which crosses the land in the Town Councils ownership (footpath 110A) will in future be adopted as a public sewer. The adoption comes into force on 11th January 2015. The Town Council noted the position and the new designation.

162. MEMBERS AND OFFICERS REPORTS.

Cllr W Thomas made a statement about certain accusations/ rumours made regarding himself and fellow Cwmtwrch Ward Members and asked for a statement from the previous Chairman Cllr Mrs B Paulett.

Cllr Paulett advised that she resigned from the Chairmanship of the Council due to the extreme pressure of the responsibility of the Office and the demands of home and other responsibilities.

The meeting terminated at 9.35pm

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Planning matters considered by the Town Council on Thursday 4th December 2014

1.0 Applications granted consent

From information posted on the Powys County Council web site the following have been granted approval:

P/2014/0935	Mrs K Hopton 5 Maes y Gorof Ystradgynlais	Proposed double storey extension to the side of the dwelling.
P/2014/0992	Powys Teaching Health Board Community Hospital Glan-Rhyd Road Ystradgynlais.	Construction of new footpath within the hospital grounds from the existing car park to the Patti wing entrance.

2.0 Applications refused consent

From information posted on the Powys County Council web site the following application has been refused consent.

No matter to report

3.0 Applications for consideration

P/2014/1068	Mr & Mrs Rees-Evans The Coach House Heol Giedd Ystradgynlais	Single storey extension to front of building
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Resolved: *No observation*

P/2014/1095	Mr D. Pickering Ysgol Gymraeg Ynysgedwyn Pantyffynnon Road Ystradgynlais	Change of use D1 School to C3 dwelling and B1 business, including external alterations and associated works.
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Resolved: *No observation*

P/2014/1146	Mr J.Owens Adj Bus Shelter Hendreladus Junction Brecon Road	Erection of a heritage interpretation panel
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Resolved: *To support the application but Abercrave Ward members requested than an opportunity to be consulted on the proposed wording be afforded to them prior to its implementation.*

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P/2014/1133

Mr M. Evans
Brynygroes Farm
Ystradgynlais

Outline (all matters reserved) : Demolition of existing buildings to allow for residential development (up to 138 dwellings) and associated works.

Resolved: *To offer a strong objection to this application on the following grounds:*

Although it is was recognised that there had been a small reduction in the number of properties, a minor adjustment to the site layout together with some landscaping mitigation to the proposed road access the application is still regarded to be fundamentally the same application as that refused under outline planning application P 2012/0346.

The reasons for that refusal - namely the proposed development would have an unacceptable landscape and visual impact on the locality - does in the view of the Ystradgynlais Town Council remain the case.

It is put forward that if Table 7 of the Landscape and Visual Assessment was undertaken with local consultation it is probable that the word significant impact would appear far more often than that suggested by the landscape consultant in his report. To suggest that the eventual impact on all receptors with mitigation would all be not significant is very unlikely when the same report indicates that residents in particular will suffer a high level of sensitivity.

The Ystradgynlais Town Council also continues to offer a strong objection to this application on the basis that it represents gross overdevelopment as the proposal now plans to include up to 138 properties from the around 65 properties indicated in the approved June 2009 B31 HA1 UDP Development Brief. It is noted that there are no current proposals in the Draft Local Development Plan to alter this and this would suggest that this application is therefore considered to be against planning policy.

The primary objection that this site lies on the wrong side of the A4067 remains relevant. The number of properties in this application will result in too much crossing of the A4067 by vehicles , cyclists and pedestrians which is considered undesirable.

It is a fact that the recognised access for this development in the approved design brief is via the former opencast haul road junction and it should be up to the developer to overcome any financial or other obstacles that its use may cause before considering proceeding.

In addition the failure of the developers to contribute the full appropriate financial contribution for this 138 house site should weigh against the development of this site in planning terms.

The Town Council also has concerns regarding the ability of the recently reorganised primary schools to be able to accommodate a housing development of this size.

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It is also firmly the view of the Ystradgynlais Town Council that should Powys County Council Planning not refuse the application then the planning meeting to consider this application should again be held in Ystradgynlais.

The Ystradgynlais Town Council resolves therefore to put forward that this application is contrary to the Powys Unitary Development Plan March 2010 policies GP1,HP5 and Env2, Planning Policy Wales edition 6 – February 2014 and should be rejected.

4.0 Miscellaneous

Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council have consulted on matters of detail submitted by the applicant to support planning application : P2012/1073 – The Lakes at Rhosamman - East Pit East Revised Opencast Coal Site

Resolved: To request that when considering this application the MTAN2 requirement for a 500m buffer zone is fully implemented to ensure that this becomes the norm for opencast coaling operations in the area.

J G Jones - Technical Adviser