



**CYNGOR TREF
YSTRADGYNLAIS
TOWN COUNCIL**

**Ordinary Meeting of the Town Council held at the
Ystradgynlais Welfare Hall on Thursday 4th May
2023 at 6.30p.m.**

**Present : Councillor G Davies Chairman, Presided.
Councillors M Evans, M Allen, C Nickels, M Shrewsbury, A Williams,
G Burdett, L Evans, N Craddock, R Millington, M Donnelly, J Horrell
G Roberts and W Thomas.**

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION 6.15 to 6.30 p.m.

The Town council received a short presentation from Mrs Cynthia Davies, a local resident and business owner who was concerned about the impact on local businesses, of the cost to users of Town Centre car parks managed by the County Council and had several suggestions to address the issue.

Mrs Davies had engaged in correspondence regarding this concern and suggestions with Nigel Brinn of Powys CC. Mr Brinn had responded to advise that Car parking charges had seen no increase in the last three years and that there was expectation to “achieve an additional £50k income from car parks in 2023/24” in order to minimise council tax increases to Powys residents and deliver a balanced budget.

Mrs Davies requested that the Town Council consider supporting a local campaign regarding the matter.

The Town Council thanked Mrs Davies for her presentation.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors C Williams and J Morgan.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr M Allen declared an interest in the item relating to the Ystradgynlais Welfare Hall boundary wall matter.

3. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Resolved that Councillor G Davies be elected as the Chairman of the Council for the ensuing Municipal Year 2023/24.

4. VOTE OF THANKS TO THE OUTGOING CHAIRMAN

The new Chairman and Council Members thanked Councillor M Donnelly for the leadership and work for the Council during his term of office.

5. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN

Resolved that as no nomination had been put forward by the Cwmtwrch Ward, that the election for Vice Chairman of the Council for the ensuing Municipal Year 2022/23, be deferred to the Ordinary Meeting in June.

6. COUNCIL STANDING ORDERS AND FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

Resolved that the Standing Orders and Financial Regulations of the Town Council be reaffirmed for the ensuing Municipal Year.

7. COUNCILS BANK ACCOUNT – CHEQUE SIGNATORIES

Resolved that the Clerk and any other two Councillors be responsible for signing approved cheque payments on behalf of the Council. The following Councillors were approved as signatories to the Town Councils bank account, namely, Councillors M Donnelly, A Williams, and M Evans. It is noted that the main current payment method adopted and used by the Town Council is via the BACS banking system. This procedure is detailed in the Town Councils Financial Regulations.

8. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES

a) 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:

- a) To award works contracts for footpath, parks and open space maintenance / improvement works and Ward projects for path.
- b) determine Ward work programs and estimated expenditure, and the submission thereof to the Councils annual Budget meeting for approval in January of each year for the agreed works to be undertaken in the next financial year.
- c) carry out the works by engaging contractors identified on the Councils approved list.

d) allow any two of the Ward Members and the Clerk or in his absence the Deputy Clerk to issue, monitor, approve the contract.

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

f) i) Ward Committees in conjunction with the Clerk, be given plenary powers to award works contracts up to the value of £500 exclusive of VAT.

ii) Above £500 (excl. VAT), the Ward must seek approval from the Town Council for incurring the expenditure and works recommended by the Ward.

b) Urgent Action Committee

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 to provide a report to the next Ordinary Meeting of the Council in relation to the content of the correspondence.

d) Management Committee

Resolved that:

a) The Membership of the Management 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 Committee shall be appointed annually each year at the first meeting of the Management Committee following the Councils Annual Meeting.

c) A quorum for any meeting of the Committee shall be at least four Council Members. Should the appointed Council Member be unavailable for any reason to attend a meeting of the 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 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 Committee will be to assist the Council in the discharge of its services to the community and to deal with relevant financial and staffing issues.

f) The power of the Committee will be limited in that no direct decisions are taken on the issues addressed and it will be the responsibility of the Committee to make recommendations to the Council on all issues. The 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 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 Committee as deemed appropriate.

h) Membership of the Committee for the Municipal Year 2023/24 shall include the Chairman of the Council, Cllr G Davies, and Councillors R Millington, G Roberts and J Horrell.

Cllr Craddock appointed pro tem until a nomination is put forward by the Cwmtwrch Ward at the Council meeting in June.

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 G Davies, M Shrewsbury
Ystrad Welfare Hall	Cllrs M Allen, R Millington
Abercrave Welfare Hall	Cllr A Williams
Ystrad Volunteer Centre	Cllr M Shrewsbury
Tick Tock Community Bowls	Cllrs G Davies, C Nickels
Brecon Disabled Access Group	Cllr M Shrewsbury
Ystrad Focus on Health Committee	Cllr M Donnelly
Discover Ystradgynlais	Cllr L Evans
Recreational Grounds Steering Committee	Cllr W Thomas, G Roberts
Nant Helen Restoration Committee	Cllrs M Allen
Ystradgynlais Community Centre	Cllr M Allen
Cwmtwrch Welfare Hall	Appointments deferred for receipt of nominations from Cwmtwrch Ward at the Ordinary Meeting in June

10. CHAIRMANS CIVIC BUDGET

Resolved that the Chairmans' Civic Budget be confirmed for £3,000 for the Municipal Year 2023/24.

11. ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Resolved that the requests for the payment of annual subscriptions to outside organisations be considered as and when received during the financial year.

NOTE : The Annual Meeting of the Council terminated at 7.30 pm following which the Council proceeded with the Ordinary Meeting of the Council.

12. MINUTES

Resolved that the Minutes of the Town Councils meeting on the 13th of April be confirmed as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman subject to the following amendments:

- a)** that Cllr Craddock confirm in writing his proposal for an amendment to Minute 276b regarding the Management Sub Committee meeting of the 20th of March 2023.
- b)** that Minute 294.4 be amended to reflect Cllr G Roberts “concern over email conversations”.
- c)** that Minute 257 of the Council Ordinary meeting on 2nd of March 2023 be amended as requested at the meeting on the 13th of April to include the following: - “ c) That the Clerk provide a breakdown of Town Council expenditure at Coronation Park for the preceding two financial years”

MATTERS ARISING

13. WELFARE BOUNDARY WALL

Further to Minute 278, the Clerk updated the Council that a meeting with the adjoining resident had taken place to present evidence relating to 1918 historical map. The Council was of the opinion that this evidence indicated the Boundary was part of the adjoining property rather than the Town Councils property.

The resident would be forwarding the documentation to their solicitor for evaluation and further clarification.
Position noted.

Cllr M Allen declared an interest and did not comment.

14. WELFARE HALL MAIN ACCESS DOOR

The Clerk advised that a further quote for servicing and maintenance for the access was being sought and he would report back following receipt of this.
Resolved to await further information on this matter.

15. LLOYDS BANK CLOSURE

Further to Minute 288, the Town Council were advised that while Cllr Donnelly was still serving as Chairman to the Council, he had written a letter to Lloyds Bank to protest the planned Ystradgynlais Branch closure. This letter had been published on the Town Councils Facebook page. A Meeting had been arranged to address the closure, led by Jane Dodds, Member of the Senedd and Huw Williams, Powys County Councillor.
The Members discussed aspects of the proposed future provisions for banking services in the community.

Resolved to liaise with the organisers of the previous meeting to ascertain relevant contacts and attendees and to organize a possible public meeting inviting all Town Councillors, in order to move forward with the banking situation in Ystradgynlais.

16. COMPLAINT AGAINST CLLR SHREWSBURY

Further to Minute 290, the previous Chairman, Cllr M Donnelly advised the Town Council, that he had investigated a complaint made against Cllr Shrewsbury. Cllr Donnelly had responded to the Complainant to advise that Cllr Shrewsbury had been requested not to use the title Councillor when making public his personal and private

views, as those views may not reflect the views of the Town Council as an organisation. Cllr Donnelly also advised that the complainant also had the option to take the matter to the Ombudsman. Cllr Shrewsbury voiced his disagreement with the decision of the previous Chairman and was advised that the Code of Conduct required Cllrs not to bring the Council into disrepute by speech or conduct.

Resolved:

- a) to affirm the decision of the previous Chairman.
- b) that the Management Committee undertake a review into the Complaints Procedure with a view to establishing an appeal procedure for Council Members.

17. YSTRADGYNLAIS WELFARE HALL FEASIBILITY STUDY APPLICATION

The Clerk advised that the invitation to the July Meeting of the Town Council to receive and discuss a presentation on the Feasibility Study had been extended to the Hall Manager.

The Hall Manager had requested that if unable to attend that meeting, that the Town Council may receive the presentation at the meeting in September.

Position noted.

18. PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Resolved that the accounts as detailed in Appendix 1 be paid.

19. TOWN CENTRE VISITORS

The Council had requested an item be placed on the agenda to discuss ways of encouraging visitors into the Town.

The Members discussed the challenges, including the loss of banking services and car parking costs as mentioned in the Public Participation item.

Resolved that Cllr L Evans consults Discover Ystradgynlais and Cllr R Millington consult with local businesses for their views and report back.

20. TOWN COUNCIL ANNUAL GOVERNANCE & ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN 2022/23

The Members had received documents pertaining to the Town Council Accounts and Associated information for 2022/23.

Resolved to approve, subject to audit, the Town Councils' Accounts and Associated Information for the financial year 2022/23.

21. GORSEDD PARK FLAGPOLES – PRIDE FLAG

Cllr Craddock advised the members that he had approached the Royal British Legion to enquire whether the Town Council would be following correct protocol to recognize the contribution the LGBTQ+ community have made to the military by flying a Pride flag, on the flag poles over the War Memorial, on Sunday 25th June which directly follows Armed Forces Week, and coincides with the Pride celebrations in the Gorsedd.

It had been verbally confirmed to Cllr Craddock by the LGBTQ+ section for the Royal British Legion that at present there was no specific flag for these groups, so in the meantime the Pride flag was used in ceremonies within the Armed Forces.

It was resolved that Cllr Craddock request written confirmation of the correct protocol from the Royal British Legion and following receipt the Council would review the matter.

22. NOTICE OF MOTION FROM CLLR J HORRELL – WELSH LANGUAGE STREET NAMES

Cllr Horrell had requested the following Motion be considered and resolved by the Town Council.

“The Council congratulates the National Park Authority on the decision to put the Welsh language at the centre of the principle of community and environmental sustainability including adopting the name 'Bannau Brycheiniog' as the official one. The Council believes that the Welsh language belongs to everyone in our communities and that our local Welsh names reflect a wealth of history, our heritage, our cynefin and reflect our current sustainability priorities. Therefore, the Council undertakes to normalize, protect and implement the principle of sustainability, and promote Welsh place names through:

1. Continuing to suggest Welsh names for new housing and property developments where the Council's opinion is sought
2. Encourage residents to use Welsh names - historical, current and new - on houses, buildings and other places and stop the practice of changing traditional Welsh names
3. Encourage the use of local Welsh names on new bodies and initiatives in order to maximize the spirit and feel of the area.”

It was resolved to adopt the motion in full as written above.

CORRESPONDENCE.

23. MEETING WITH THE POLICE COMMISSIONER

Cllr M Donnelly advised that the Police Commissioner had accepted the Town Councils invitation to meet with Members to discuss local issues and concerns.

Resolved to hold an informal information gathering meeting with the Police Commissioner on the 3rd of August with members forwarding relevant queries through Cllr Donnelly for the Commissioners consideration prior to the meeting.

24. GURNOS TENANTS & RESIDENTS ASSOC. (TRA) GRASS-CUTTING GRANT REQUEST

Cllr W Thomas advised that the Cwmtwrch Ward had received a request from the Gurnos TRA, for financial assistance with the cost of

grass cutting at a well-used Children's' Playground in Cwmtwrch. The Ward requested that the Council allow a contribution of up to £500 from the Cwmtwrch Ward budget to the Gurnos TRA for this purpose.

Resolved to permit the request and that the Gurnos TRA forward the invoice for grass cutting to the Clerk for reimbursement from the Cwmtwrch Ward Budget.

25. ONE VOICE WALES AGM

One Voice Wales would be holding its AGM in September 2023 and had invited Town Councils to propose motions concerning national issues to be discussed at that meeting. The Clerk recommended any proposals be forwarded to Cllrs G Davies or M Shrewsbury as the One Voice Wales representatives of the Town Council.
Position noted.

26. BRYN Y GROES DEVELOPMENT – DUST ISSUE

Cllr Millington advised the Council that a local resident neighbouring the Bryn Y Groes development site was experiencing significant dust issues and requested assistance to approach the developers with the issue.

Resolved that the Ward pursue the matter with the resident.

27. PLANNING

Resolved to submit observations as detailed on Appendix 2.

28. MEMBERS AND OFFICERS REPORTS

28.1 Cllr A Williams expressed agreement with Cllr G Roberts previous comments in Minute 294 of the previous Ordinary Meeting

concerning email conversations between Councillors and ensuring they remain factual and civil.

28.2 Cllr L Evans asked for an update in relation to the acquisition of a replacement across-the-road Christmas illumination for the Aubrey roundabout. Clerk to contact the Council contractor, Centregreat on the matter.

28.3 Cllr W Thomas:

a) Cllr Thomas reported that a local resident had advised of issues with residents restricting access at Gwysfryn by parking near a bus stop. It was agreed that the Ward take the matter up with the County Ward Councillor.

b) Cllr Thomas had received reports that some local street names may be incorrectly translated or spelt. Agreed that the Clerk contact Welsh Heritage to query this matter.

28.4 Cllr M Shrewsbury:

a) Cllr Shrewsbury advised that a recent YstradPride meeting had been very successful.

b) Cllr Shrewsbury advised that One Voice Wales would be reopening training in Sustainability and Green Issues.

c) Cllr Shrewsbury reported that he had attended School Governor training concerning Religion, Value and Ethics. He advised the Members that Religious Education was a compulsory subject in school.

28.5 Cllr C Nickels reported that the Tick Tock Community Bowling Club had recently hosted the London Welsh Bowls Club at the Bowling Grounds. The event had been very successful.

28.6 Cllr G Roberts reported overhanging branches at Diamond Park. It was agreed that Cllr Roberts address the matter with the Town Council contractor and Clerk.

28.7 Cllr M Allen expressed concern that Enforcement Officers, now responsible for issues such as unlawful parking and dog fouling, were not more active in the local area.

28.8 Cllr M Evans:

a) Cllr Evans reiterated Cllr Nickels comment regarding the event at the Tick Tock grounds, but also expressed concern regarding the condition of the access road to the site. Position noted.

b) Cllr Evans reported that himself, Cllr Allen and a local Caretaker had carried out a litter pick along the Graig and the cycle path from Pen-Y-Bryn down to Teddy Bear Bridge, collecting over 20 bags of rubbish.

28.9 Cllr M Donnelly commended Cllr G Davies Chairmanship for the meeting.

28.10 Cllr R Millington had attended a recent Powys Arts consultation and was very concerned to learn that Powys Arts Budget was being cut to £50,000 per annum, for the entire County. Position noted.

28.11 Cllr G Davies advised that a Council contractor had cleaned out a culvert at Footpath 110A, and that the Sustainable Drainage Body at Powys CC was endeavouring to work with an adjacent site occupant to address the drainage issues impacting on the footpath.

Meeting concluded at 21.55 p.m.

PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

May 2023

HM Customs and Excise	NI Employers April	1,090.53
Powys C C/Stand Life	Pension Contributions April	1,486.17
D B Rees	Travel / Postage March/April	38.95
PSL Construction	Ystrad Hall maintenance various	840.00
T Hughes	Electrical work Wel Hall Ystrad	760.00

Signed ----- Chairman

----- Vice Chairman

**Planning matters to be considered by the Town Council for the month
of May 2023**

1.0 Applications granted consent

From information available on the Powys County Council website, the following applications the Town Council has been consulted upon have been granted approval.

23/0383/HH	Mr K Mulready Haulfryn Glyncynwal Road Upper Cwmtwrch SA9 2UN	Construction of new entrance porch to the front elevation and side/rear extension to the utility room to provide a boiler room for new eco-boiler
23/0354/HH	Miss R Coles 46 Glantawe Park Ystradgynlais SA9 1AE	Proposed single storey rear extension with integrated garage
23/0401/REM	Mrs J Aubrey-Hopkins 14 Maes-Y-Dre Ystradgynlais SA9 1HA	Section 73 application to vary condition 2 of planning permission 20/2102/HH (22/1862/NMA) in respect of approved plans

2.0 Applications refused consent

From information available on the Powys County Council website, an application the Town Council has been consulted upon has been refused approval.

22/1218/FUL	Building to the rear of 73 Brecon Road Ystradgynlais SA9 1HH	Conversion of a disused commercial building to a dwelling and associated works
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3.0 Applications for consideration

From information forwarded by Powys County Council, the Town Council has been consulted upon and are requested to give consideration to the following applications:-

23/0634/HH	G & J Morris 101A Tawe Park Ystradgynlais SA9 1GW	Single storey side and rear extension, and facade upgrades including render to front elevation and replacement of timber windows to match new existing PVC.
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Resolved ***No Observation***

23/0560/FUL	Land adj. to 2 Tan Y Graig Cottages Caerlan Abercrave SA9 1TA	Proposed detached dwelling together with detached garage and vehicular access
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Resolved ***No Observation***

23/0485/FUL	Powys County Council Land at Former flats Pen-Y-Bryn and Ael-Y-Bryn Ystradgynlais SA9 1JA	Demolition of four blocks of 24 flats and the erection of four blocks of 16 flats and all associated works
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Resolved ***No Observation***

4.0 Miscellaneous

No matter to report