

WELSHPOOL TOWN COUNCIL

BUSINESS FORUM

MINUTES

**Of a meeting held in the Council Chamber of the
Town Hall on Monday 20th October 2014 at 7pm**

Present were:

Cllr S Kaye (Chair), Cllr E Bleivas, Cllr A Bowen, Duncan Alexander, Carol Alexander, A J Flintham, Christine Holmes, Tom Harris, Mervyn Parkes, Heather Parkes, Freda Davies, Alan Crowe, Val Edwards, Heather Sherlock, and Robert Robinson Town Clerk.

1. Apologies for absence:

There was apologies received for absence from Simon Ebrey, Suzanna Lindsey, Tony Brooks and Rhian Humphreys.

2. Minutes of the last meeting:

The minutes of the last meeting were approved as a correct record.

3. Actions from last meeting:

The following were carried over from the last meeting:

3.1 Christmas Lights and Winter Festival

The meeting was updated on the above two events taking place on 5th and 6th December.

3.2 Scooter awareness

There is no further action on this item.

3.3 Pigeons in Hopkins Passage

This matter was discussed again and a letter was read out from a pest control person. The letter is to be send to Mr Major to see if any action can be prompted.

3.4 Sirolli Project

The meeting was updated on the Sirolli Project and its progress.

3.5 Town Centre Lidl's proposal

The meeting was able to see the plans submitted regarding the above. The Business Forum approved to support the scheme in principle at the last meeting. The formal letter can now be sent.

4. Town Centre

4.1 Puzzle Square/Hopkins Passage scheme

The Town Clerk outlined the latest position with regard to the scheme proposed with plans being due to arrive on Friday 24th October.

The meeting agreed the best way forward for consultation on the scheme is for the traders to meet, possibly at the Monkey Puzzle Cafe at say 5pm one day.

5 Main Line Railway

5.1 The Town Clerk updated the meeting on the improved rail services to start in May 2015.

5.2 It was suggested that a Town Council notice board should be included on the station with tourist information on it. The marketing of the Town and the rail service is being prepared by Rhydian Mason (the Mid Wales rail co-ordinator)

5.3 The idea of better signage to the Town Centre was suggested.

6 Community Plan - Bus Stops

The Town Clerk updated the meeting on the bus stop maps being taken forward.

7 DPPO

The Town Clerk gave an update on the progress (or lack of it) of the DPPO.

8 Tourism

The Town Clerk updated the meeting on the new VISIT WELSHPOOL web site which is due on line in the next month. Events should be included on the web site, face book, My Welshpool and the newspapers.

9. Budget Cuts

The Town Clerk outlined the latest on the budget cuts affecting Welshpool and the stance of Welshpool Town Council with regard to services. There will be a more clear picture at the next meeting.

10. Mount Street

The meeting received a letter from a trader in Mount Street. It was agreed that the Town Clerk should write on behalf of the Business Forum to ask that the County Council is less aggressive when giving out parking tickets and that a residents parking scheme should be brought forward.

11. Puzzle Square Parking

The Town Clerk is to find out if PCC has granted parking permits to the flat owners to park on the land close to some of the Puzzle Square shops.

12. One Way System

The Town Clerk reported that the Minister had said approval was expected from her Officers to the alterations to the One Way System by the end of September. The Town Clerk is chasing this up.

13. Salop Road Severn Trent Works

The meeting discussed the works and the delayed completion.

The Town Clerk is to ask PCC to try and chase up completion of the works.

14 Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting is to be Monday 17th November 2014 at 7pm in the Town Hall.

15. Actions taken forward

The following actions are to be taken forward:

- a) **Letter to be send on Lidl application.**
- b) **Chase up alterations on one way system.**
- c) **Take forward the idea of a notice board on the station platform.**
- d) **Seek out information on parking permits at Puzzle Square.**
- e) **Send letter of support regarding parking in Mount Street and support the Council in gaining parking permits.**
- f) Arrange meeting with Puzzle Square and Hopkins Passage retailers.
- g) Send letter on pigeons to Mr Major
- h) **Seek to get the entertainers at the Winter Festival to make more trips to the side streets.**
- i) **Town Clerk to contact PC regarding the Severn Trent Works in Salop Road.**