

Welshpool Town Council
(Welshpool Projects)

**BUSINESS FORUM
MINUTES**

**Of a meeting held on
Monday, 17th, August, 2015 at 7pm in the Council Chamber**

Present were:

Councillor Steve Kaye (Chair), Cllr Graham Breeze (minutes), Yolande Breeze (Mid Wales Trophies), AJ Flintham (Flaunt It), Christine Holmes (Flaunt It), Mr & Mrs Tom Harris (Nibbles), Melvyn and Heather Parkes (Lamplite Antiques), Alan Crowe (Ala Cra Entertainments), Ros Jones (Celtic Company), Julie Anthony (Tuck Box), Freda Davies, Val Edwards, Cllr Heather Sherlock (M&Co), Ffion Davies (WTC), Duncan & Carol Alexander (Alexanders), Cllr Derek Simms, Cllr Brendan McWhinnie, & Reflections Hairdressers.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from: Robert Robinson, Town Clerk; Simon Embrey (Monkey Puzzle), Howard & James Watkins (Rally Marketing), Jan (Jan's Interiors), Cllr Hazel Evans, Cllr Estelle Believas.

2. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting were approved and signed by the chairman.

3. Puzzle Square

Scheme: There was a long discussion about the project :

- a. CCTV cameras to be installed in August
- b. Councillor Kaye agreed to urgent need to complete the puzzle sculpture.
- c. Councillor Kaye to visit site to agree positioning of sculpture.
- d. Maps to be positioned in four areas of the town with Puzzle Square highlighted.
- e. Request for signs to be re-printed in pre-agreed colours because they do not stand out.
- f. Request for sign at bottom of Boot Street to be re-positioned under street sign at entrance.
- g. Meeting requested with newly formed Puzzle Square Group.

Winter Festival: Puzzle Square Group formed by shop owners.

- a. Request for funding to Town Council to stage events and decorate Puzzle Square area.
- b. Confirmation of date required for next Christmas & Winter Festival meeting to be attended by Puzzle Square Group.
- c. Councillors McWhinnie and Simms asked that Town Council Events Committee be represented at Christmas & Winter Festival Committee Meeting.
- d. Ideas discussed included: Bake-Off event, school choirs, leaflet to carry more emphasis on events than on street stalls.

4. One Way System Update

- a. Edwina Hart agreed to meeting. Date to be finalised.
- b. Glyn Davies MP supporting Town Council scheme.
- c. Town Council proposals completed for sending to the Minister.

5. Town Services Update

Discussions ongoing with Powys County Council.

6. Town Update

- a. Tesco site: Contract thought to be agreed with a non-food store.
- b. Poundland: Opening date moved to Saturday, August 29.
- c. National Eisteddfod: Disappointment expressed by Ros Jones (Celtic Company) at lack of support by town for Eisteddfod.
- d. Ros Jones to provide free Welsh flags to any shopkeeper wishing to display one outside their premises.

7. Rail Service

- a. Request for Town Council to take up issue of malfunctioning ticket machine.
Taking money but not issuing tickets.
Alarm constantly going off.
- b. Request for Town Council to take up access improvements issue.
Wheelchair users unable to cross bridge and report of one forced to travel to Newtown to access train.

8. AOB

- a. Request for Town Council to ask Powys County Council for Hall Street light (on side of Town Hall) to remain on through the night. Matter raised following recent break-in. It is the only light in the street and currently switching off at 1am.

Date of next meeting: Monday, September 21st, 2015 at 7pm.