

St Clears Town Council
Minutes of the Town Council Meeting
held in Meeting Room 1, Y Gât/The Gate, Pentre Road, St Clears
on Tuesday 19th November 2013 at 7.30pm

Present:

Councillors L L ap T Davies, Mrs CM Ingleton, EH Eynon, Dr WEVJ Davies, DR Phillips, PJ Rogers, C M Davies; RG Edwards, Mrs JSV Rees, County Councillor P Hughes and E Williams Acting Clerk.

In the Chair - Cllr JSV Rees (Town Mayor)

The Chair welcomed Helen Williams, the St Clears & Whitland Projects and Events Development Co-ordinator. Ms Williams gave a presentation on her role as a Co-ordinator of activities within the areas of St Clears and Whitland. Her main tasks to date were mapping activities, collating information on key contacts, group activity schedules with a project calendar having been compiled which was accessible on a Facebook page and was a good tool to communicate and promote activities together with aid planning of events and avoid duplication or date clashes and would be put on the websites of each town council. Other forms of promotion having been engaged in were articles in the local media, Facebook, attendance at Leisure and Tourism Cluster meetings and direct mail. There were established events which were being supported such as the St Clears Fireworks display, St Clears Winter Celebration, Bwrlwm Beca, Carnivals in both towns and the holiday sports club.

Projects which Helen was initiating include a Whitland Cycling Club, contribution to the Walk on Wales, Monday Coffee Club at Annie's Café St Clears and a Whitland Walking Well Club. Initiatives being researched included a bike track at Whitland; a walking event, Geocaching and walking bus for both towns; opportunities to develop a Celtic Lowland Games; and to link with the existing sporting events, music events, markets, youth clubs, sports clubs and community voluntary groups.

Ms Williams was thanked for her presentation and it was suggested that councilors could support Helen in the distribution of a consultation form throughout the community.

150. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors K A Major, SJ Runnett, Mrs H Witt and P Lanc.

151. Personal Matters

The Chair congratulated Councillor DR Phillips on the birth of his son, expressed best wishes for Thomas Eynon following his recent illness and wished Councillor C M Davies a speedy recovery from his recent illness.

152. Declarations of Interest

No formal declarations recorded

153. Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 15th October 2013 be confirmed and signed as a true record.

154. Matters Arising - CCTV

The Clerk stated that the offer had been accepted from Inspector Craig Templeton to assess the CCTV system at no cost, with the results of the assessments to be reported to a future meeting. A discussion arose around the need to re-invest in new technology with a possible vehicle recognition camera being part of the review.

RESOLVED to include budget for CCTV on next agenda of Finance & Resource Committee.

155. Naming of Development on Pwll Trap

RESOLVED to contact the Planning Department for an update on the naming of the site.

156. Independent Remuneration Panel

RESOLVED that the Council adopts a scheme and referred to the Finance & Resource Committee for development and implementation.

157. Pension provision

RESOLVED for Finance & Resource Committee to consider costings of pension provision for employees.

158. Policy Committee

RESOLVED to include on the agenda of a future council meeting an item to consider clarifying the role and remit of the Policy Committee and if there is a need for the committee.

159. Increase Membership of Finance & Resources Committee

RESOLVED to include on the agenda of a future council meeting item to consider to increasing membership of Finance & Resource Committee to six members.

160. Parking at Lon Cowin

County Councillor Philip Hughes reported that the issue of not enough parking area in the Lon Cowin area is a difficult situation to resolve.

RESOLVED to write to the Housing Services to investigate a remedy also to John McEvoy from Carmarthenshire County Council.

161. Town Clerk's Report

1. Carmarthenshire County Council

i) Planning Application W/29167 – Change of Use of Ground Floor Dental Surgery to a Residential Flat and Alterations (Resubmission of W/27836 Refused 27/03/2013 – Flat 1, Bank House, Pentre Road, St Clears

Observations were made by members that many commercial properties in the town were being converted to residential dwellings, which was effectively shutting the town down with not many day to day businesses.

RESOLVED to make a formal statement requesting that town centre development should be retained as commercial.

ii) Consultation on the Review of the Regional Technical Statement for Minerals for South Wales

iii) Small Lottery Returns Form

iv) Christmas Toybox scheme

v) Temporary Road Closure – St Clears Level Crossing

Request for the temporary road closure of St. Clears Level Crossing from a point 2 ½ miles south of its junction with the B4298 (Meidrim), for a total distance of 20 metres.

vi) Tyre & Waste Amnesty

Lon Hafren – 28th November 9am-1pm

2. Carmarthenshire Local Development Plan Examination

Planning Inspectorate Wales appointed by the Welsh Government to conduct an Examination, which will include a series of hearings from February 2014. A Pre-Hearing Meeting scheduled for 10am on 11th December 2013 at Parc-Y-Scarlets to discuss the management of the examination.

3. Centenary Commemoration Organiser (Richard J Goodridge MBE.JP)

Ecumenical Service of Commemoration at Carmarthen Park – Sunday 3rd August 2014 at 2pm. Contributions of £10 requested towards cost of staging the event.

4. One Voice Wales

i) The Wales Illegal Money Unit (WIMLU) a specialist Trading Standards unit that deals with the problem of illegal money lending across the whole of Wales.

ii) The British Association of Local History (BALH) – 83rd Anglo-American Conference, 3-4 July 2014 at the Institute of Historical Research, University of London.

iii) Wales Audit Office - Guidance On Auditing Requirements

Wales Audit Office recent presentation and report of the Wales Audit Office on the 2012/13 audit of accounts.

iv) The Ombudsman's Casebook - latest edition of The Ombudsman's Casebook. This edition contains summaries of reports issued by the Ombudsman between July 2013 and September 2013.

v) Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

Minister for Natural Resource and Food has issued a Written Statement: The 5th report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and its implications for Wales.

vi) Mobile Infrastructure Project

vii) Citizens Advice Bureau

Carmarthenshire Citizens Advice Bureau has forwarding documents for

information – including statistics from 2011 to 2013.

5. Public and Commercial Services Union

6. Welsh Government Nature Funding

Request for ideas to best use the new £6m Nature Fund by 16th December.
naturalresourcemanagement@wales.gsi.gov.uk.

7. Police & Crime Commissioner - Christopher Salmon

A request for you to help me as I work towards setting the 2014/15 Council Tax policing precept.

8. Welfare Field

E-mails received from Lewis & Lewis 16th October and 23rd October.
Highlighting various issues.

RESOLVED to have a site visit and meet with Welfare Field Trustees, County Council representatives, Leisure Centre manager and council members and legal representation to go through issues raised within correspondence from solicitors.

162 Approve Accounts for Payment

RESOLVED that the following Schedule be approved for payment:

Supplier	Cheque No.	£
Wrenvale Nurseries & Landscape (Inv 13103)	103326	264.00
H.I.Bowen (Inv ST0024/3)	103327	360.00
Glyn Edwards Office Equipment Ltd (Inv 071635)	103328	15.68
Eagle Signs (Inv 5877)	103329	96.00
Royal British Legion	103330	50.00
Bowen & Weaving (Inv 1988)	103331	44.65
Hayston Developments & Planning Ltd (281013)	103332	900.00
Phil Wait Design (Inv. 13-042)	103333	6,925.40
Phil Wait Design (Inv. 13-043)	103334	1,917.21
Phil Wait Design (Inv. 13-041)	103335	1,169.01
M P Window Cleaning Services (Inv 32)	103336	256.00
M Herbert (Inv 20443)	103337	142.80
Catrin Bradley - Expenses	103338	207.96
CLH Trailers	103339	455.00
Elfyn Williams - Salary Nov	103340	530.75
Catrin Bradley - Salary Nov	103341	1,092.28
Helen Williams - Salary Nov	103342	1,268.41
N&J James (271013)	103343	525.00
Mr & Mrs Evans (241113)	103344	200.00
Helen Williams - Expenses	103345	93.15
Pro Print (181113)	103346	182.40
J N Williams (Inv 577)	103347	125.00
		16,820.70

A late submission for inclusion included Cheque no. 103348 - £400 to D G Williams for painting war memorial railings.

Bank Reconciliation as at 19th November 2013

Bank Account		£
Community Account		550.00
Business Saver Account		34,500.75
Business Rate Tracker Account		67,159.76
		102,210.51

163. Finance & Resources Committee Report

The Chair of the Finance & Resource Committee stated that the December Committee meetings would focus on the final drafting of budgets. He stated that the council was now operating a more complex model of operation compared to previous councils in that there were four grant funded projects, three members of staff and contractors.

Councillor EH Eynon stated that there continues to be a disconnect between previous and current financial years.

RESOLVED

- i) to have financial tables at all Town Council meetings
- ii) ascertain if the 2012/13 end of year creditors have been paid.

164. Environment Committee Report

Water quality of River at Quay (as referred to in Section 106 meeting notes 17th Sept)

RESOLVED to write to the Kayak Club to ascertain evidence of the claim made that the water quality is poor.

The Environment Committee Chair Cllr PJ Rogers thanked the Clerk and the Projects and Events Development Co-ordinator for their work on co-ordinating the public meeting in relation to Bwrlwm Beca, which was well attended and provided some further ideas for the launch event. Next steps include collating the suggestions, hold a meeting in January/February to allocate areas of responsibilities to interested groups.

165. Heritage Panels Project

It was reported that two planning applications had been submitted, one for Peillac Way and one for the Car Park and War Memorial. It was confirmed that the County Council would put in posts at the car park at an estimated cost of £348. A meeting was scheduled for 2nd December with Emyr Price, Grants Officer to complete grant claim form. Members who had been involved in the project were reminded to submit the volunteer timesheets by 22nd November. It was noted that a report of the financial situation associated with the Heritage Panels would be submitted at a future meeting.

166. Safety Barrier at pathway under bridge

RESOLVED to be included in Environment Committee budget and remit.

167. Planning & Communities Committee Report

Reported that the arrangements for the Winter Celebrations were on-going, the Christmas Trees had been sourced and the Town Clock would be set.

RESOLVED that Council's preferred contractor be commissioned to remove the notice board and plaque on the Old Library.

168. Finance & Resources Committee Vice-Chair

The Chair reported that an e-mail had been received from Cllr SJ Runnett confirming his resignation as Vice-Chair of the Finance & Resource Committee.

169. Report on One Voice Wales Area Meeting

Councillor L L ap T Davies reported that he attended the meeting and had offered that St Clears Town Council to host the next area meeting.

RESOLVED to make arrangements at Bancyfelin Village Hall and cover the cost of refreshments.

170. Mayors Report

The Mayor reported that she had attended an Eisteddfod concert at Bethlehem, supported the Walk on Wales, introduced the St Clears Town Council Presentation Evening, attended an event of the Twinning Association, Bancyfelin School, Young Farmers Club, Fireworks display, Poppy Ball, Remembrance Service and Bwrlwm Beca meeting.

171. Residents Drop-In Session

There were no public members in attendance.

172. Quayside Documents

Cllr Dr WEVJ Davies requested that further investigation be made to find the documents.

Meeting terminated 9.45pm