

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 25th June 2013 at 7.35pm

Present:

Councillors L L ap T Davies, Dr WEVJ Davies, RG Edwards, EH Eynon, Mrs CM Ingleton, DR Phillips, PJ Rogers, SJ Runnett, and Mrs JSV Rees

In the Chair - Cllr Mrs JSV Rees (Town Mayor)

Prior to the commencement of business all present observed a minute's silence in memory of Mr Lynn Bowen, Clerk to the Town Council

26. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors C M Davies, K A Major, P Lanc, Mrs H Witt and P M Hughes, County Councillor

28. Personal Matters

The Town Mayor expressed Council's sympathy with Huw and Marc Bowen and Mrs Marian Hughes, mother-in-law and all members of Lynn's family in their sad loss. Members of Council were thanked for their support and in ensuring that Council business continued at this difficult time.

She welcomed Councillor Dr W E V J Davies following his stay in hospital.

Congratulations were extended to Councillor D R Phillips who was attending his first meeting following his election as a member for the Llanfihangel Abercowin Ward

29. Postponement of Meeting

RESOLVED that the action taken to postpone the meeting from the 18th to the 25th June following the death of Mr Lynn Bowen be approved.

30. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest recorded

31. Minutes

RESOLVED that i) the minutes of the meetings of the Town Council held on 28th May and 11th June 2013 be confirmed and signed as a true record

32. Matters Arising

21. Items referred from the Annual Meeting i) Committee membership
It was noted that Councillor D R Phillips would serve as a member of the Environment Committee

25. Post of Clerk

The Acting Clerk proceeded to update members on progress since the special meeting of the Town Council on 11th June.

Members noted that the agreed website advert was in place on the County Council and One Voice Wales websites but the use of the Pembrokeshire County Council website would be available to the Town Council. The advert would appear in the Carmarthen Journal at a cost of £150 for 1 week, no advert would appear in the Western Telegraph as the cost was prohibitive. The advert would also appear on lgjobs.com which was a free jobs site. The members nominated had met and a person specification finalised. Councillor S J Runnett confirmed that work to enable background information had been completed at a cost £25 plus vat work and that the advert would appear on the Town Council website within a matter days. The meeting discussed the cost of advertising with the SLCC.

RESOLVED that i) the action taken be approved and ii) the advert be included on the SLCC website until the closing date for applications at a cost of £90

33. County Councillor's Report

The Acting Clerk reported that County Councillor P M Hughes had tendered his apologies but had requested details of any issues he could assist with.

34. Clerk's Report

a) Welsh Government

Commission on Public Service Governance and Delivery

RESOLVED that i) it was important to consider the submission of possible observations on the performance and delivery of public services and ii) the offer of Councillor S J Runnett to prepare a paper for debate by members at a future meeting be accepted

b) Carmarthenshire County Council

i) Choosing your housing options - applying for social housing in Carmarthenshire

ii) Election of Town Councillor - 13th June 2013, 'Declaration of Result of Poll'

iii) Ira "Taffy" Jones

Communication asking if Council wishes to pursue with this potential centenary event

iv) Marketing & Tourism; flag raising ceremonies during of armed forces week

v) Carmarthenshire Environment Partnership Grant Funding 2013/2014

RESOLVED that i) further interest be shown in the County Council's offer of assistance to organise a potential event as part of Carmarthenshire's commemoration of World War I, ii) the communication be referred to the Environment and Planning & Communities Committees for further consideration and iii) the potential event be discussed with the local branch of the Royal British Legion.

c) Planning

i) Applications

W/28365 renewal of existing outline planning permission W/22673 (approved 15.6.2010) land opposite Llys Ostrey, Llangynin Road for Mr Bryan Adams

The Acting Clerk drew attention that since the preparation of the report additional applications W/28405; W/28421 and W/28438 had been received.

RESOLVED that i) no adverse comment be submitted in respect W/28365; and ii) applications W/28405; W/28421 and W/28438 be referred to the Planning and Communities Committee for consideration and iii) the Committee be granted delegated authority to submit observations before the end of the consultation period should it wish to do so .

ii) Approval

The meeting noted that application W/28190 in respect of Sheaf House, 28 High Street, Bancyfelin had been granted planning permission.

d) Canolfan Tywi / Tywi Centre

Open invitation to the Sustainable Buildings Fair on Saturday 13th July at Canolfan Tywi Centre, Fferm Dinefwr Farm, Llandeilo SA19 6RT

RESOLVED that the communication be noted

e) St Clears War Memorial

Members noted that a collector from Gwent had forwarded to Council an image of the unveiling of the St Clears Memorial Cross which he had picked up at an Antiques' Fair at Malvern.

RESOLVED that the arrangements for the Town Mayor to convey the image to the St Clears Branch of the Royal British Legion be confirmed

f) Wales Rural Observatory

The meeting note the Rural Services Survey 2013

g) Angela Burns AM

In response to the request for an update regarding future plans to re-open St Clears Railway Station, members noted that Councillors L L ap T Davies and S J Runnett would be convening a meeting in probably 6 to 8 weeks, of interested parties with the aim of generating support for the campaign.

RESOLVED that the update be conveyed to Angela Burns AM

h) Informative Material

The following items were noted for information i) Fields in Trust - Wales ezine June 2013 ii) SLCC - June News Bulletin iii) One Voice Wales - training courses; iv) Simon Hart MP - Constituency surgeries July to December 2013

35. Payments

RESOLVED that the following accounts be approved for payment
103266 - Carmarthenshire Cty Cl - £25.50 - Room hire, Mayormaking
103267 - Glyn Edwards Office Equipment Ltd - £16.28 - Photocopier

charges

103268 - J N Williams Ground Maintenance Ltd - £583.00 - 2nd Inst.
Summer ground

maintenance contract

103269 - J N Williams Ground Maintenance Ltd - £100.00 - Market Sq./
Leisure Centre Play area and Skateboard Park litter

picking

103270 - W3 Web Designs Ltd - £30.00 - Update for website

103271 - Wrenvale Nurseries & Landscapes - £720.00 Hanging baskets,

plant containers

15

36. Environment Committee

Councillor P J Rogers reported on the meeting of the Environment Committee held on 3rd June 2013

He proceeded to update the meeting on various issues

i) Heritage Grant Projects

The meeting noted that a meeting of the Heritage Trail Group had taken place on 10th June . The majority of the panels had been prepared with two still requiring texts. He thanked Councillor H E Eynon for his assistance in preparing the panels in book format. He anticipated a meeting with the designer in the very near future.

ii) War Memorial and Surrounding Area

The Acting Clerk reported that he had taken up the quotation received and following consultation with the Chairs of the Environment and Finance and Resources Committees had asked the contractor by virtue of health and safety concerns to make safe the coping on the wall attached to the Ira Jones Memorial.

iii) Floral Displays

Councillor P J Rogers updated members that 20 flower baskets were in place with various flower beds and tubs planted. Work on plants in various containers in Bancyfelin was expected in the coming days. Members noted the two season planting programme with the summer planting followed by a floral display that should last to the end of the year. Members in response emphasised the importance for the displays to be fairly distributed across the community.

iv) 2013 Best Garden Competition

Members noted that no steps had taken place to date in respect of this summer's competition

v) Peillac Way

Members drew attention to the increase in dog fouling and recent graffiti
RESOLVED that i) the report be accepted (Appendix A attached); ii) the action taken to make safe the wall attached to the Ira Jones Memorial be approved; iii) the Best Garden Competition be not held this summer; iv) a belated awards evening be held in the Autumn after the appointment of a new Clerk and v) the problems of dog fouling and graffiti be referred to the County Council.

vi) Children's Play Area and Skateboarding Area Inspections

RESOLVED that the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting to enable Council to consider contractual arrangements relative to the provision of inspections etc

The Acting Clerk referred to the current practice with regard to the inspection of the various items of equipment and the reporting as the condition of items. He referred to the receipt of quotations to ensure that adequate monitoring takes place during the financial year and offers from interested parties to meet with members to discuss various inspection procedures. He also drew attention to the interim arrangements on litter picking at the two sites. He also pointed out to the monies held by the County Council under Section 106 agreements on provision of playground equipment and to the quotation

received for certain works to be carried out. Consequently instructions were now required on how to proceed

16

RESOLVED that i) the quotation £1200 per location for a fortnightly inspection service from Carmarthen County Council with an independent annual inspection at a cost of £120 for each site be accepted for the current financial year; ii) the position to be reviewed in advance of the 2014/2015 financial year; iii) that the County Council be asked to provide costs in respect of the repair of a footplate on an item of equipment in the children's play area adjoining the Leisure Centre; iv) the present litter picking arrangements remain in place until the end of the current season; v) the frequency of litter picking be ascertained vi) the County Council be requested to carry out the agreed work as per the quotation received and vii) the Environment Committee be asked to consider how best to proceed with regard to the balance of Section 106 monies held by the County Council.

37. Planning & Communities Committee

In the absence of both the Chair and Vice Chair Councillor R G Edwards reported on matters appertaining to Planning & Communities Committee held on 3rd June.

St Clears Community Association

Members focused on the item in respect of the transfer of monies from the former Swimming Pool Fund to the St Clears Kayak and Water Sports Committee. Several members referred to how the Fund was established in response to a vision of a swimming pool in St Clears. Whilst the fund had never been under the control of the Town Council nevertheless there was a feeling of responsibility to ascertain how the present position had materialised

RESOLVED that i) the report and recommendations be accepted (Appendix B attached) and ii) the Town Council's representatives on the St Clears Community Association endeavour to ascertain at its next meeting the present status of the former Swimming Pool Fund.

38. Finance and Resources Committee

Councillor R G Edwards reported on the meeting of the Finance and Resources Committee 11th June 2013

Financial Assistance

The meeting noted that Committee had endorsed the recommendation from the Planning & Communities Committee for the consideration of the Town Council to provide financial assistance of up to £421 to help stage the Party in the Park specifically to meet the costs of the erection of stalls, the erection of a marquee and the event insurance. Members discussed the strong arguments for greater funding put forward by a representative of the organisation during the 'drop in session' held prior to the meeting.

RESOLVED that i) the report and recommendations be accepted (Appendix C attached) and ii) the Association be requested to plan events requiring financial support from the Town Council some eighteen months in advance in order that appropriate consideration may given to the funding thereof.

39. Bank Mandate

Councillor R G Edwards reported that following a recent visit to Barclays Bank it was now appropriate to review Council bank mandate.

RESOLVED that any two of the following be authorised to act as signatories on Council's accounts with Barclays plc ; Councilors R G Edwards, K A Major, Mrs J S V Rees and S J Runnett

40. Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2013

Councillor RG Edwards updated members with regard to the Town Council's accounts for the year ended 31st March 2013. He referred to the meeting with the internal auditor which he had attended together with the Acting Clerk when various books of account and ancillary documents had been left for examination and an update was now awaited.

41. Role of the Steering Committee

Councillor H E Eynon indicated that he had prepared a document for discussion on the role of the Steering Committee which was circulated to all present but was mindful of the time to enable constructive discussion thereon.

RESOLVED that in order to give members time to read the discussion paper that the item be deferred to the next meeting and timed for 8.30pm

42. Reports on meetings of outside bodies, seminars etc

Councillors L L ap T Davies, R G Edwards and C M Ingleton reported on the Code of Conduct training event convened by the Monitoring Officer

RESOLVED that the Acting Clerk make arrangements to distribute electronic copies of the 'PowerPoint' presentation together with information on the availability of the statutory instrument on the code of conduct for members.

43. Town Mayor's Report

The Town Mayor reported on recent varied civic events and engagements.

44. 'Protocol for working relationships between Community Councillors and the local County Councillor'

RESOLVED that this item be deferred for further consideration at a future meeting of the Town Council

45. Residents Drop-In Session

It was noted that a resident representing the St Clears Community Association had attended the Drop In Session held prior to the meeting and the observations made had been considered when the recommendations as to the level of contribution to Party in the Park had been discussed when receiving the reports of the relevant committees.

46. Motion to the One Voice Wales Annual General Meeting

RESOLVED that the following motion be submitted to the One Voice Wales' Agenda Committee for consideration as suitable for debate at the 2013 Annual General Meeting

“We, St. Clears Town Council, hereby call on Un Llais Cymru/One Voice Wales, to instigate a campaign to make each and every planning application to a planning authority, local or otherwise, the subject of a statutory consultation by the relevant water/sewerage authority within Wales”

47. Any other business (exchange of information only)

i) Mayor’s Civic Service

The Town Mayor reminded colleagues relative to arrangements for the Civic Service on Sunday 21st July

ii) Welsh Learner Classes in St Clears and Bancyfelin

Councillor L L ap T Davies queried whether Carmarthenshire County Council ran classes for Welsh learners in St Clears and Bancyfelin

RESOLVED that the Acting Clerk ascertain the situation with regard to local classes for Welsh learners

iii) Freedom of Information Act

Councillor L L ap T Davies sought confirmation in respect of a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The meeting noted that the matter had now been dealt with

iv) Un Sir Gâr/One Carmarthenshire Rural Roadshow

The Acting Clerk drew attention that the Roadshow providing advice on jobs, apprenticeships, training and volunteering would be at the Craft Centre on between 10am and 3pm on Friday 11th July. The Town Mayor indicated that she would endeavour to attend.

v) Projects and Events Development Coordinator

Councillor R G Edwards referred to the attendance earlier in the evening of Ms Helen Williams the newly appointed Projects and Events Development Coordinator for St Clears and Whitland Town Councils to meet members of the Town Council. He confirmed that Helen was expected to start on 2nd September when initially she would be finding out about local organisations, making the connections within the communities and mapping existing and potential events.

48. Date and Time of Next Meeting

RESOLVED that the next ordinary meeting of the Town Council be held on Tuesday 16th July at 7.30pm

Meeting terminated 10pm