

St Clears Town Council

Minutes of the meeting of St Clears Town Council held in Meeting Room 1, the Gate, St Clears, on Tuesday 6th December 2016 at 7.00pm

Present: Councillors LL ap T Davies (Chair), T Austin-Brydon, CM Davies, Dr WEVJ Davies, RG Edwards, PM Hughes (Item 172 onwards), JSV Rees and PJ Rogers

Prior to the meeting, Council welcomed their new member Tracy Austin-Brydon to Council and the declaration of office was signed.

164. Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors KA Major and I McEwan.

165. Personal Matters.

The Chair congratulated everybody involved in the Christmas event and thanked everybody who had contributed to make the event a success. Bancyfelin was also congratulated on holding a successful Christmas event in the village on Sunday 4th of December. Councillor JSV Rees thanked the Mayor for his hospitality after the Christmas event.

166. Declarations of Interest

Councillor CM Davies and PM Hughes regarding the Community Events Chest application in item 174 below.

167. To confirm the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 15th November 2016.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of 15th November be approved as a true record.

168. Matters Arising

Item 152(1)(i) Councillor RG Edwards explained that he was unable to go to the Liaison Forum on the 7th December. **RESOLVED** that Councillor LL ap T Davies would attend the meeting.

169. To consider planning applications as notified by Carmarthenshire County Council.

- (i) **W/34717.** Land at Station Rd St Clears. Change of use of land to public open space. The application was discussed and some concerns which had already been expressed by Ysgol Griffith Jones regarding a second access to the school were reiterated by Council. **RESOLVED** that **Council comment on the application to echo the concerns expressed by the school.**
- (ii) **W/34745.** Gynnin View, High St, St Clears. Sub-divide existing single dwelling into 2 dwellings. **RESOLVED** that **no adverse comment be made.**
- (iii) **W/34752.** St Clears RFC. Extension to existing rugby club. **RESOLVED** that **no adverse comment be made.**

- (iv) **mmW/34779. Plot. Blewgyd, St Clears. Hard surface industrial site for the display / sale / storage of static caravans. RESOLVED that no adverse comments be made but that the apparent time lag on the consultation be queried.**

170. To receive an update regarding the inspections of the Skateboard & Play Areas.

The Clerk informed Council that there was no update on this matter despite correspondence having been sent to the County's Community Committee.

RESOLVED that a further letter be sent noting that the current situation means that the inspection contract will be considered carefully for next year.

171. To discuss the Town Council's budget for 2017/18.

Councillor RG Edwards led Council through the draft budget document which had been populated with figures during a meeting earlier that day. **RESOLVED that the draft budget be put back on the January meeting agenda when information about the precept would be available.** Council expressed their thanks to Councillor Edwards and the Clerk for their work to complete the document.

172. An update on the Community Conversation

The Clerk provided a brief summary of the comments received in the suggestion boxes. The Clerk also noted that two of the boxes had gone missing from the collection points. Council noted their disappointment with the level of response received. It was also commented that while many were ready to complain on social media, they didn't take up the opportunity to engage with Council when that opportunity was presented to the community.

173. To discuss the Grounds Maintenance, Welfare Field Maintenance and Planting Contracts for 2017/18 onwards

The revised contracts were discussed and small amendments made.

RESOLVED that the three contracts be put out to tender with a closing date of 31st January 2017.

174. To discuss applications to the Community Events Chest.

Councillor CM Davies and PM Hughes declared an interest in this item due to being a member of the organisation in question. A retrospective application was received by St Clears & District Community Association for the fireworks event on the 5th November. Council discussed the application and Councillor PJ Rogers proposed that in line with proper practice, a retrospective application could not be supported and was seconded by Councillor WEVJ Davies. Council agreed. **RESOLVED that the application should not be supported.**

175. To consider the Best Decorated Premises Christmas 2016 competition.

The Clerk updated Council regarding the advertising of the competition and other arrangements being put in place. **RESOLVED that the Mayor and Portreeve of Laugharne be invited to judge the competition.**

176. To consider attendance at meetings.

The Chair reminded Council that anyone who fails to attend Council for 6 months automatically ceases to be a member. Council asked the Clerk that she contact anybody who was likely to trigger this and inform them of the requirements. It was also requested that the Clerk seek clarification as to when Council will cease to exist prior to the election and what is the role of Mayor during purdah.

177. Correspondence.

- (i) Mr B.S. Britzman regarding family history archives. **RESOLVED that the matter be referred to the Town Trust.**
- (ii) J McEvoy, Carmarthenshire County. Site meeting at Salem Rd regarding speeding concerns. Councillors PM Hughes and LL ap T Davies noted that they would be attending.
- (iii) County Councillor PM Hughes. 2 items regarding the barriers at the car park.
- (iv) Mr Jeff Harries. Expressing thanks for the letter of congratulations.
- (v) Eiros Davies. Enquiry regarding the storage space at the Guide Hut. The Clerk informed Council that she was awaiting a response from County regarding the terms of the lease and hoped to provide an update in the next meeting.
- (vi) Ioan Bellin, regarding an assembly written question asked on behalf of Councillor LL ap T Davies about the reopening of the railway station.
- (vii) Christmas in Verse event. Members were invited to come along to the event at St Mary's Church on Sunday 11th December.
- (viii) Councillor Tracy Austin-Brydon thanked Council for the welcome.
- (ix) It was agreed that a dinner would be held in March to mark the end of term for Council.

Meeting terminated at 21:14