

St Clears Town Council
Minutes of the St Clears Town Council Meeting
held in The Gate, Pentre Road, St Clears
on Tuesday 16 December 2014

Present:

Councillors RG Edwards, CM Davies, LL ap T Davies, Dr WEVJ Davies, JSV Rees and PJ Rogers.

In the Chair – Councillor RG Edwards (Town Mayor)

127. Apologies for absence

Councillors PM Hughes, KA Major, P Lanc DR Phillips and H Witt.

128. Personal Matters

Councillor Dr WEVJ Davies congratulated the Clerk who is expecting a baby in June of next year.

129. Declarations of Interest.

No declaration were made.

130. To confirm the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 18th November 2014.

Council agreed that the minutes were a true record of the meeting held on 18th November 2014.

131. Matters arising (exchange of information only)

- i) It was noted that the summary of accounts provided in the financial update could be read incorrectly. The Clerk agreed to make it clearer.
- ii) Access to the Quay via Manordaf was raised and the Clerk informed Council that she had been in touch with the Ranger who had directed her to another officer at the County Council. The Clerk was waiting to hear back from the officer regarding a visit to the area.
- iii) The drains on Gothic Corner were still proving to be an issue despite having been raised on several occasions in the past.
- iv) Councillor Dr WEVJ noted that the 2015 calendar of events produced by the Town Council with support from local sponsors was excellent and congratulated those who had worked to produce it.
- v) It was enquired if there was any news regarding the timing of the traffic lights at Spar. The Clerk noted that a holding reply had been received but not a full response as yet.

132. To receive the County Councillor's Update

Councillor PM Hughes was not present at the meeting but had been in touch to draw to the attention of Council the publication of a Transport Infrastructure Plan. The document refers to St Clears and the possible

reopening of the railway station. Councillor LL ap T Davies noted that a feasibility study was still being carried out and noted the need for something visible, on the ground in St Clears to be carried out.

RESOLVED that the County Councillor would be reminded about the issues at the Quay, the drains at Gothic Corner and also the parking bays outside the Factory Shop on Pentre Rd in St Clears.

133. To receive the Clerk's Report

1. Carmarthenshire County Council

i) **Planning Applications – None.**

2. Welsh Government

Consultation on a **new national transport plan** started on the 10th December. Document can be found at:

<http://wales.gov.uk/consultations/transport/draft-national-transport-plan/?lang=en>

Closing date for responses **11 March 2015.**

3. One Voice Wales

i) The Wales Audit Office, the National Assets Working Group and Good Practice Wales are holding free seminar on '**Making better use of Public Assets**'. This seminar will provide delegates with practical examples of innovative and collaborative approaches to asset management. Delegates will be able to identify opportunities to drive efficiencies and improve the way in which services are delivered in Wales. This seminar is aimed at public and third sector officers in the following roles:

- Chief Executives
- Directors of Finance
- Heads of Housing
- Heads of Regeneration
- Heads of Partnership
- Registered Social Landlords (RSLs)
- Directors of Estates

0900 - 1300

Thursday 15 January 2015

Wales Audit Office, 24 Cathedral Road, Cardiff CF11 9LJ.

ii) **Revised NJC payscales.** The latest pay scales for 2014/16 which have been agreed by NALC and SLCC. The revised scales will take effect from January 2015 with a one off payment in December 2014.

4. Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

Christopher Salmon requests help as he works towards setting the 2015/16 Council Tax policing precept. He is eager to understand what

the public wish to pay for their policing service, and with this in mind, I am running a survey asking a small number of key questions. This can be found online here – <https://dpopcc.typeform.com/to/zfGJFw>. As this process impacts on every member of your community, I'd be most grateful if you could do all you feel you can to encourage local residents to have their say. The survey ends on 4th January 2015.

5. Simon Hart MP

Update from the MP including concern about the on-going uncertainty over the future the 24 hour A&E at Withybush.

The "My 'pub politics' sessions are coming to an end with over thirty of these events and at least 25,000 people were invited. They will be replaced by a series of public meetings and an invitation to the new series will be in the post in the New Year.

6. Llanddowror Community Council

Computer Classes will be starting in the Meeting Room in Llanddowror on Tuesday 6th January and will last 6 weeks. Each Class will be held on a Tuesday from 10 am to 12 noon and refreshments will be provided. The course will cover aspects of word processing, spreadsheets etc if required; sending emails, printing photos, use of the internet for research, social networking and online shopping etc etc. Beginners are welcome but those who are familiar with the computer and wish to know more are also welcome. The course can also be adapted to suit the requirements of the participants.

The cost of the whole course of 6 weeks is £10, payable in advance, before the end of December. You may bring your own laptop, iPad etc along but there will be sufficient computers available for all participants. Paper and ink will also be provided.

Anyone who would like to attend should contact Jean Cory, Clerk to Llanddowror Community Council.

7. Events Calendar

The calendars have arrived and distribution has begun. Councillors are requested to help with distribution if they are attending any community events or simply by giving some to friends, family and neighbours in the area.

8. Town Clock

Good Directions has e-mailed and acknowledged that more work needs to be carried out to remedy the problems with the Town Clock. *"Obviously there is some more to this than Richard had initially thought and as such we will get someone back to site. We will cover the labour charge for this within our initial invoice and will keep you notified of the visit and our findings in due course."* Invoice is still outstanding.

RESOLVED that payment be made when the visit and necessary work has been carried out.

- 9. Christmas Lights**
Since the switch on there have been a couple of issues with the lights not coming on in Bancyfelin and Pwll Trap. City Illuminations have visited and remedied the situation quickly in both areas.
- 10. Notice Boards**
Eagle Signs are currently researching notice board options for the other areas in the Council and are expected to provide options and price prior to the next Environment Committee meeting on 13th January.
RESOLVED that a strategy for how the notice board should be used and what should be included in it will be looked at in January.
- 11. Skate and Play Park inspections**
All reports have been received and the files are up to date. No major problems identified. Invoice for July to September still outstanding and a reminder has been sent. Full update to be provided for Environment Committee's January meeting.
RESOLVED that the invoices for the inspections should now be paid.
- 12. Christmas Toybox Appeal**
The Christmas lights switch on collection raised a total of £181.26 for the Christmas Toybox Appeal. The money has since been delivered to the Carmarthenshire Youth Service as they were able to save the VAT off purchases. It will be used to buy presents for older children (teens) to address a shortage in suitable donations. A letter of receipt has also been received.
In addition to the money collected, a generous amount of presents were left by local people at the Gate, these have also been delivered to the Youth Service.
RESOLVED that letter of thanks for donation be displayed on the notice board.
- 134. To receive financial report.**
Members were provided with information relating to the expenditure for the period 1st April 2014 to 28th November 2014 including total spend, total budget and variance for all allocated budget headings and projects.
RESOLVED that the Clerk would look at the financial report to produce a simplified version of the Budget & Actuals spreadsheet which could be placed on display in the notice board. This document would also assist those Councillors who had difficulty with the current format of the financial report.
- 135. To approve accounts for payment.**
The Clerk presented the Bank Reconciliation and Schedule of Payments Report as at 28th November 2014, which also noted the Bank Balances, un-presented cheques and receipts since last meeting.

Reconciliation date:	28 November 2014
STATEMENT BALANCES	
Current Account Community Account	500.00
Current Account Business Saver Account	25234.59
CURRENT ACCOUNTS TOTALS	25,734.59
Investment Account (Reserves)	57183.34
RESERVES ACCOUNT TOTAL	57183.34

RESOLVED that the following Schedule be approved for payment.

Cheque number	Payee	Details	Cost
103582	Carmarthenshire County Council	Rent & Room Hire	830.00
103583	Eagle Signs	Amendments to Banners	48.00
103584	Malcolm Herbert	Generator & Lights Hire	80.88
103585	Wrenvale Nurseries	Winter bedding	616.80
103586	Emma Smith	Salary (December)	1715.60
103587	HMRC	PAYE (December)	392.49
103588	AEGON	Pension (ES)	154.63
103589	W3 Web desgns	Amends to website & stationery	125.00
103590	Phil Wait	Calendar	1244.00
103591	Jonathan Williams	Ground Maintenance	420.00
103592	Jonathan Williams	Litter picking	120.00
103593	Jonathan Williams	Christmas Tree collection & erection	240.00
103594	N&J James	Fireworks Night set up	235.00
103595	N & J James	Craft Stall Set Up x 3	600.00
103596	N&J James	Xmas lights set up	235.00
103597	Emma Smith	Reimbursement	251.94
103598	Cash	Petty Cash	99.77
103599	Carmarthenshire County Council	Skate Park inspections	396.00
103600	Carmarthenshire County Council	Play Park Inspections	396.00
103601	Roy Watkins Photography	Clerk photograph	69.00

136. To receive and discuss the report of the budget setting meeting held on 2 December 2014.

It was noted that the current forecast spend for 2015/16 was substantially more than the projected income. Final projected income for next year wasn't possible as the precept figures hadn't been received yet. It was agreed that the final budget needed to be decided prior to the January meeting of the Town Council so that it could be discussed and approved during that meeting.

Further discussions were held around how to reduce the forecast spend for 2015/16 and it was agreed that the committee meetings on

13th January should look at their individual budgets in details and look to make savings.

RESOLVED that each Committee look to save 20-25% on the current forecast spend for 2015/16 and that the Chairs of Committee meet with the Clerk after the meetings to form the final budget before the Town Council meeting on 27 January 2015.

137. Correspondence

1. E-mail from Helen Thomas from Perth in Western Australia . She is trying to find out some information about Bancyfelin in the 19th Century to help her with a family history project. In short, she is trying to locate a place called "Gate" in Llanfihangel Abercywyn parish, probably in the vicinity of Bancyfelin, in the 1840s.

RESOLVED that the Clerk contact Helen and inform her of sources of information suggested by Council and also put her in touch with a local historian.

2. **Andrew Deptford.** Offering a special Council only deal for a Public Access Defibrillator **RESOLVED that the correspondence be noted.**

3. **Tom Brown, St Clears Historical Protection Society.**
Thanking Council for their support for his e-mail regarding the Victorian Water Pumps. Also wishing all on the Council a Merry Christmas and a Healthy and Prosperous New Year.
RESOLVED that the correspondence be noted.

4. **Wyn Cross.** A request for footway and street lighting be supplied for the Maes Cynin road, leading down to the town centre of St Clears.
RESOLVED that the Clerk pass on Mr Cross's e-mail to the County Council with a letter of support.

138. To receive an update on the Welfare Field.

It was noted that the meeting held prior to the Town Council meeting that evening had agreed 3 actions.

1. To clarify the terms with the solicitor and receive an interim bill before the end of the financial year.
2. To meet with representatives of the Leisure Centre and the County Council department responsible for it.
3. The Clerk will contact the Scouts to note that the lease agreement will be enacted and to decide what should be required of the Scouts in order to satisfy the terms of the lease.

139. To consider the co-option of a member to fill the vacant seat for Llanfihangel Abercowin ward.

A letter of application had been received by the Clerk from Mr Irfon Price and circulated to members prior to the meeting. The applications was discussed and Councillor LL ap T Davies proposed that the application be accepted and was seconded by Councillor CM Davies. **RESOLVED that the Clerk contact Mr Price to notify him that his application had been successful and to invite him to the next Town Council meeting on 27th January 2015.**

140. To receive reports from representatives on meeting of outside bodies, seminars etc.

Councillor JSV Rees noted that she had attended the heritage grants evening in Dinefwr Park which included an exhibition of all the projects that had been funded by heritage grants. Councillor Rees noted that it had been an enjoyable evening.

Councillor RG Edwards noted that he had attended a meeting about the Swansea Bay region in Carmarthen and noted concern that the meeting saw the economic development of the wider area as being dependent on the success of Swansea. Councillor Edwards noted that he had brought West Carmarthen to their attention on numerous occasions during the meeting.

141. To receive the Town Mayor's Report on civic events, engagements and Tuesday morning drop in sessions.

The Mayor noted his attendance at the following events / meetings:

- Christmas lights switch on event on the 28th November.
- Joint Council meeting with other local councils on 25th November at the Gate. **RESOLVED that the Clerk would circulate the notes from the previous meeting.**
- Christmas event at Dol y Felin where the Corran singers choir performed.
- Capel Bancyfelin concert where Cor Tonic had performed.
- Heritage Grants evening at Dinefwr Park.
- Ysgol Griffith Jones Christmas Fayre.
- Ysgol Bancyfelin Christmas Fayre.
- Bancyfelin Christmas lights switch on 7th December.
- Scouts presentation evening on 11th December which included presentations to all groups of Scouts.

The Mayor thanked Council for their support over the last month which had been essential to enable us to be able to achieve so much.

The Mayor noted that the drop in sessions on Tuesday morning had included a visit from Mr Wyn Cross to discuss his correspondence noted in section 137 above and also provided an opportunity to catch up on Council business and with individual members.

142. Any other business (exchange of information only)

Councillor JSV Rees enquired if any planning applications had been received regarding change of use of a property in Backe which has recently been changed to a home for young people with disabilities. The home had previously been in Login. The Clerk agreed to look into the matter.

The need for a joiner to carry out work to the Mayor's roll of honour board in the meeting room was discussed. The Clerk agreed to make enquiries.

Meeting terminated at 20.38