

**St Clears Town Council**  
**Minutes of the St Clears Town Council Meeting**  
**held in the Gate, Pentre Rd, St Clears**  
**on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2015**

**Present:**

Councillors CM Davies, LL ap T Davies, Dr WEVJ Davies, RG Edwards, PM Hughes, P Lanc, KA Major, DR Phillips, I Price, JSV Rees and PJ Rogers.

In the Chair – Councillor RG Edwards (Town Mayor)

**179. Apologies for absence**

No apologies for absence were received.

**180. Personal Matters**

Councillor RG Edwards read a statement reminding members of the correct way to behave in meetings. He noted that the February meeting had not been a good reflection on the Town Council, especially with members of the public present.

**181. Declarations of Interest.**

Councillor JSV Rees noted her interest in the change of use at the Minstrels Property at Backe as there may be an update during the meeting.

**182. To confirm the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2015.**

Councillor JSV Rees proposed that the minutes were a correct record of the meeting and Councillor Keith Major seconded the motion.

**RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2015 be signed as a true record of the meeting.**

**183. Matters arising (exchange of information only)**

Councillor LL ap T Davies enquired as to whether he would be attending the Joint SLCC and One Voice Wales conference in May. The Clerk noted that she hadn't booked it as yet but there was plenty of time to do so. Councillor KA Major noted that he was willing to step aside as the One Voice Wales representative on the Council to allow Councillor Davies to attend. The Clerk said she would book the event.

Item 165 – Councillor LL ap T Davies enquired if there was an intention to arrange the Kidney Wales walk for life in the area. The Mayor noted that he wasn't available on the date specified and that a walk would not be arranged.

Item 178 – Councillor LL ap T Davies asked if it had been arranged for Mr Wyeth of the QT Club to speak to Council. The Chair noted that this hadn't been arranged.

**184. To receive the County Councillor's Update**

Councillor LL ap T Davies enquired if there was an update regarding litter picking in Bancyfelin. The County Councillor noted that the department had been informed but no report was available as yet. Councillor Davies said there had been an improvement.

**185. To receive the Clerk's Report**

**1. Carmarthenshire County Council**

i) Carmarthenshire County Council is consulting about changes to the monitoring of its CCTV cameras. Please give your views on proposals by clicking here:

<http://ilocal.carmarthenshire.gov.uk/consultations/> Consultation closes 29th March 2015.

ii) Planning applications – **W/31493** Proposed Change of Use for a Caravan and Tent Holiday Touring Park at Land Adjoining A40 SA33 4Ax – **REFUSED** on 05/03/15.

**2. Welsh Government**

i) Consultation on Exemptions to the Council Tax Premium for Long-Term Empty Homes and the Consultation on Exemptions to the Council Tax Premium for Second Homes. Both consultations are open for 12 weeks from 13 March and will close on 13 June 2015.

<http://gov.wales/consultations/localgovernment/council-tax-premium-second-homes-consultation/?lang=en>

<http://gov.wales/consultations/localgovernment/council-tax-on-long-term-empty-homes-consultation/?lang=en>

ii) The Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014 will come into force on 31 March. Guidance notes now available, more info:

<http://gov.wales/topics/localgovernment/finandfunding/publications/accouunts-audit-guidance/?lang=en>

**3. One Voice Wales**

i) April Training Sessions, start time is 6:30pm until 9:00pm.

09/04/15 Module 12 - Community Planning (Brecon)

16/04/15 Module 17 – Making Effective Grant Applications (Llanelli)

23/04/15 Module 16 – Use of IT, Website and Social Media (Brecon)

28/04/15 Module 4 - Understanding the Law (Montgomery)

28/04/15 Module 9 – Code of Conduct (Haverfordwest)

30/04/15 Module 12 – Community Planning (Course will be run in Welsh - Ammanford)

iii) Consultancy Services Available to Member Councils

Details of the fields in which One Voice Wales are able to provide consultancy services – Personnel and Employment Law, Health & Safety, Internal Auditing. More details from the Clerk.

**4. Age Cymru Sir Gâr.**

Help people get online 50+. One to one home visits. Contact Peter McIlroy on 01554 784040.

**5. National Energy Action Cymru**

Guidance issued to town and community councils across Wales to help them address local issues relating to heating and energy bills. Copy of guidance available from the Clerk.

**6. Natural Resources Wales**

Find out more about becoming a Board member, information sessions to be held at Merthyr on 17<sup>th</sup> April, Llandudno on 30<sup>th</sup> April and Aberystwyth on the 19<sup>th</sup> May, from 12.30pm. More information from the Clerk.

**7. Resource Efficient Wales**

Resource Efficient Wales is a single point of contact to help people and to save on energy and water and to reduce and re-use waste.

**8. Women in Public Life**

Rosemary Butler AM invites you to attend a lecture for Sylvia Hewett, leading economist and founder and CEO of the Center for Talent Innovation, New York. Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March, P205ierhead Building, Cardiff Bay, 18.00-19.30.

**9. BT Payphones Planning Office. Adopt a phone box for £1. 9000 red phone boxes that can be adopted this year.**

**RESOLVED that Council look to take this forward if possible and that members would forward the phone numbers for the kiosks to the Clerk.**

**10. SLCC West Wales branch meeting. Meeting held in Tenby on March 7<sup>th</sup> to discuss the Welsh Government's White Paper on reforming local government. The meeting gave a helpful insight to the paper and the intentions of the government and also provided an opportunity to ask questions and discuss areas of concern. A response will be drafted and present to the Finance & GP committee on 7<sup>th</sup> April for approval by Council on 21<sup>st</sup> April. Closing date 28/04/15.**

**186. To receive financial report.**

Members were provided with information relating to the expenditure for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014 to 17<sup>th</sup> March 2015 including total spend, total budget and variance for all allocated budget headings and projects. **RESOLVED that the report be noted by Council.**

**187. To approve accounts for payment.**

The Clerk presented the Bank Reconciliation and Schedule of Payments Report as at 17<sup>th</sup> March 2015, which also noted the Bank Balances, un-presented cheques and receipts since last meeting. Councillor Dr WEVJ Davies proposed that the schedule of payments be accepted and was seconded by Councillor JSV Rees.

**RESOLVED that the schedule of payment and bank reconciliation noted below be approved by Council.**



The Clerk informed Council that Lynn Bowen's family had noted 9<sup>th</sup> May as their preferred date to dedicate the bench on Peillac Way to Lynn's memory. It was agreed that this date should be confirmed.

Possible locations for additional or replacement benches were noted as Peillac Way near the furthest heritage panel, Llandelyn, and on the way to Pwll Trap where the Cefn Maes estate finishes.

Planning & Communities Committee. The Chair of Council noted that he and Councillor DR Phillips had been down to the storage hut to assess the condition and the contents and drew up an inventory of the work required. Of particular concern was the two missing panels at the back of the compound which meant that it was open to the dual carriageway on the other side. The Clerk agreed to speak to the Cadets in the first instance and report back to Finance and General Purpose Committee who would also look at the other issues identified.

Finance & General Purpose Committee. Council noted their agreement to proceed with the revised financial regulations. Councillor KA Major expressed his opinion that experts on the areas under discussion should be sent along to the joint council meetings in order to get the best out of the meeting. Councillor RG Edwards noted that he felt that there should be one regular attendee also in order to ensure a continuation.

The Chair noted that a member of Council had been in touch with the incoming Acting Clerk after it had been agreed at the last Council meeting that the Chair and Clerk were to meet with him in order to firm up the arrangements and discuss any questions or concerns. It was noted that this additional contact and the comments made could have jeopardised the position with the individual and that this was a matter of concern for Council. It was also noted that the current way of working with the Clerk with regard to reasonable hours of availability would also apply to the Acting Clerk.

## **189. Correspondence**

1. Daniel Hosker, Principal Planner, Wilkinson Helby. PROPOSED UPGRADE TO BASE STATION INSTALLATION AT CTIL 123808, VF 06078, TEF N/A, LLANDELLYN ROAD, ST CLEARS, CARMARTHENSHIRE, SA33 4BB. **RESOLVED that the Clerk responds to note that Council will wait for the formal planning application and consider the details then.**
2. **Carys Vaughan, Planning Division, Carmarthenshire County Council.** Re: CHANGE OF USE TO RESIDENTIAL CARE HOME AT MINSTRELS, BACKE ROAD, ST CLEARS, CARMARTHEN, SA33 4EU.

"Following your letter dated the 18<sup>th</sup> of February, I have had a look at the planning history and there seems to be no application made for a change of use of this property from a private residential use to a

residential care home. I have passed your letter and concerns to Mr Carl Atkins our enforcement officer to look into the issue further.”

3. **Carmarthenshire County Council Planning Division.** PROPOSED CHANGE OF USE FOR A CARAVAN AND TENT HOLIDAY TOURING PARK AT LAND ADJOINING, A40, PWLLTRAP, ST CLEARS, CARMARTHENSHIRE, SA33 4AX FOR MR JAMES REEVES. Planning Permission refused on 05/03/2015.
4. **Mark Hadley, Chair of Local Access Forum.**

“If your Community Council has any issues regarding access that you feel the LAF may be able to support or assist with please let myself or the LAF Secretary know.

The LAF is also currently looking to recruit some new members so if Please contact the LAF Secretary Jonathan Tudor on 01554 747511 Ext. 3811 or e-mail [jptudor@carmarthenshire.gov.uk](mailto:jptudor@carmarthenshire.gov.uk) for an application form.”
5. **Linda Fox, Cardigan.**

Contacted Council to note how much she enjoyed the Heritage Trail on a recent visit. Ms Fox also enquired as to the whereabouts of the Stanley Phillips archive. The Clerk agreed to contact Ms Fox with some suggestions made by Council.
6. **B R Jubin, Bridgend.** Letter about his family history in the area, plus a donation. Council considered the matter and suggested that the Clerk contact the St Clears Historical Protection Society to see if they could assist with the matter.
7. **Ysgol Dyffryn Taf.** Writing to enquire whether the Council would consider continuing to donate £50 towards an award for achievement in Design & Technology. The 5 year agreement is up, would Council continue for a further 5 years? Councillor JSV Rees proposed that Council agree to continue the donations and was seconded by Councillor WEVJ Davies, Council were in agreement. **RESOLVED that the donation continue for a further five years.**
8. **Y Cardi Bach** – Letter of acknowledgement for financial contribution agreed in January meeting.
9. **Heather & Bryan Witt.** Card thanking the Council for the flowers and best wishes.
190. **To consider applications to the Community Events Chest.**

The Clerk presented an application received from St Clears & District Community Association requesting financial support for the Carnival and Fun Day to be held in June 2015. The application was discussed and potential other sources of funding were noted that still needed to be explored by the Community Association. Councillor PJ Rogers proposed that the Council offer to underwrite the event up to the total of

£1000, subject to all other sources of funding being explored. In addition items owned by the Council such as market stalls and crowd control barriers would also be provided at no charge. If the £1000 total were to be given, no other funding would be given to the Association during the 2015/16 financial year. Councillor KA Major seconded the motion and Council was in agreement.

**RESOLVED that Council offer to underwrite the St Clears & District Community Association's Carnival and Fun Day up to a total of £1000, in accordance with the conditions noted above.**

**191. To discuss potential winners for the Eric Raymond Award and Community Service Award and choose the winners.**

The Clerk presented the nominations for the Eric Raymond Award and the Community Service Award. The nominations were discussed and Council agreed to split the Eric Raymond award into a senior and junior category. **RESOLVED that the awards be given as follows:**

**Eric Raymond Award (Senior Category) – Rhian Griffiths (Darts)**

**Eric Raymond Award (Junior Category) – Josh Hancock (Bowls)**

**Community Award – Peter Griffiths (Development of football in the area).**

**Community Award – Gwyndaf Williams (Development of rugby in the area)**

**Community Award – Reg Wyeth (Taf QT Club's contribution to the Community)**

Council also discussed the whereabouts of the Eric Raymond shield and that all avenues had been explored last year to try and find the shield. The provision of a new shield for both of the Eric Raymond categories was discussed and agreed. **RESOLVED that two new shields be acquired for the junior and senior categories of the Eric Raymond Memorial Award.**

**192. To elect a Town Mayor 2015/16 Civic Year.**

Councillor Dr WEVJ Davies proposed that the current Deputy Mayor, Councillor CM Davies be elected Mayor for the 2015/16 Civic Year.

Councillor PJ Rogers seconded the motion and Council were in agreement. **RESOLVED that Councillor CM Davies be elected as Town Mayor for the 2015/16 Civic Year.**

**193. To elect a Deputy Town Mayor 2015/16 Civic Year.**

Councillor PM Hughes proposed that Councillor DR Phillips be elected as Deputy Town Mayor for the 2015/16 Civic Year. Councillor I Price seconded the motion. The nomination received unanimous support from Council. **RESOLVED that Councillor DR Phillips be elected Deputy Town Mayor for the 2015/16 Civic Year.**

**194. To receive an update on the Welfare Field.**

The Chair updated Council regarding developments with the Welfare Field and noted that the Clerk had contacted the Scout Leader to note that Council would be in touch regarding rent for the hut soon.

**RESOLVED that Council should start charging in April 2015 and once every financial year thereafter.**

It was also noted that the Welfare Field Sub-Committee would meet prior to the next Council meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> April with the users of the field and the manager of the Leisure Centre.

**195. To consider the co-option of a member to fill the vacant seat in the Llanfihangel Abercowin ward.**

The matter was discussed and it was agreed that the vacancy should be widely publicised. **RESOLVED that the vacancy be placed in the Carmarthen Journal, on the Town Council website and also a leaflet produced to be distributed around new homes in the area to inform new residents in the area of the vacancy.**

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

Councillor JSV Rees presented a detailed update on the work of the Fair Trade Committee in the area. Councillor Rees also requested that Council sign a statement noting their commitment to Fair Trade and by following this in Council activity. **RESOLVED that the Fair Trade statement be signed by the Clerk, Chair and one other member.**

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

The Mayor noted that he had attended the rugby derby between St Clears and Laugharne which had been a very enjoyable afternoon. He had also worked to clear the permissive path by the school and to clear out the storage hut.

Tuesday morning sessions had included the usual update session with the Clerk and also a meeting to discuss the revised financial regulations with Councillor KA Major, Chair of the Finance & General Purpose Committee.

The Mayor noted that he had also met with the local police officer who noted that things were quiet in the area.

**198. Any other business (exchange of information only)**

Councillor PM Hughes informed Council that he had looked into the parking issues at entrance to Rhydygors in St Clears and that the Police were aware of it. Nothing has been done about the matter as the police need to be aware of an obstruction or an incident before they attend. Councillor Hughes noted there was nothing more he or the County Council could do about the matter.

Councillor I Price noted that he had received a complaint prior to the meeting about a gentleman urinating in a public place, the police were aware of the matter. Councillor Price also raised the issue of the bus stop coming out of Lon Hafren was obstructing the view up Station Rd in St Clears. Councillor Price noted that the Perspex was dirty and the Clerk agreed to follow this up with the Street Scene department of the County Council.



Councillor LL ap T Davies showed Council a loyalty card for customers of St Clears Pharmacy. He noted that Lampeter had a scheme for all businesses in the town. It was agreed to discuss the matter in the next Planning & Communities Committee.

Councillor KA Major noted that there had been poor water quality in the area recently with discoloured water coming from the tap. Councillor Major enquired if anyone had more information on this. Councillor PM Hughes noted that he was aware of the problem and noted that he understood that the water was safe to drink.

**Meeting terminated at 20.56**