

St Clears Town Council
Minutes of the St Clears Town Council Meeting
held in Bancyfelin Village Hall, Bancyfelin
on Wednesday 18th February 2015

Present:

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

In the Chair – Councillor RG Edwards (Town Mayor)

159. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillor PM Hughes due to ill health.

160. Personal Matters

Councillor LL ap T Davies noted that he was disappointed that an opportunity to convey the openness and transparency of the Council had been missed by not inviting the public to the meeting and restricting the invitation to the Village Hall committee. The Chair noted that all Council meetings were open to the public and that the meeting had been advertised as normal including a notice in Bancyfelin.

161. Declarations of Interest.

Councillor DR Phillips declared an interest in item 167 below – to approve accounts for payment due to an invoice from his company for equipment provided being included in the payment list.

162. To confirm the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 27th January 2015.

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

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of 27 January 2015 be signed as a true record of the meeting.

163. Matters arising (exchange of information only)

Item 144 – The Clerk noted that a card and flowers had been sent to Councillor Heather Witt and Rev. Canon Bryan Witt.

Item 148 – Councillor LL ap T Davies raised the matter of litter in Bancyfelin; the matter was discussed and the Clerk explained that the County Councillor had noted his intention to raise the matter with the County in the last meeting of the Town Council. Councillor LL ap T Davies proposed that the Clerk write to the County Council to check that the litter collections were being carried out as they should, Councillor DR Phillips seconded the proposal. Councillor CM Davies made a counter proposal that the matter be left for the time being until the County Councillor has time to raise it and the County Council has had time to act on it. Councillor PR Rogers seconded this proposal. A vote was held on the counter proposal in the first instance and the majority of Councillors were in agreement. **RESOLVED that more time**

be allowed to deal with the matter of litter collections in Bancyfelin.

Item 148 – The Clerk informed Council that an update had been received from John McEvoy, Road Safety and Traffic Management Manger, Carmarthenshire County Council. The update noted that black coloured antiskid material will be placed over the bay markings near to the County Stores in St Clears. It also noted that the traffic order to allow yellow lines to be placed will be published in early March. 7 days after the order is published the new double yellow lines will (in place of parking bays) come into lawful effect.

Item 149 – Councillor LL ap T Davies noted his wish to attend the joint One Voice Wales and SLCC conference on the 14th May 2015 in Llandrindod Wells.

Item 159 – Councillor PJ Rogers noted that the fence from Bethlehem Rd to the main road was in bad condition and that this was a matter for the Highways Agency. The Clerk agreed to contact them about the matter.

164. To receive the County Councillor's Update

The County Councillor had tendered his apologies for the meeting due to ill health.

165. To receive the Clerk's Report

1. Carmarthenshire County Council

i) Town and Community Council Liaison Forum. The next meeting will be held on 26 May 2015 at County Hall, Carmarthen. The letter asks Council to nominate a representative for the Forum.

ii) Public Notice - Off Street Parking Consolidation Order 2014 - Variation 1 - Transfer of Car Park Tickets. Notification of changes to regulations allowing valid tickets to be transferred to different car parks within grouped locations (e.g. Carmarthen Town and Llandeilo, Llandovery and Ammanford.

iii) Third Sector Funding Review. All organisations who are receiving funding from the County Council over the past few years are invited to complete an online impact assessment questionnaire at <http://online.carmarthenshire.gov.uk/thirdsector>

2. Welsh Government

i) Reforming Local Government: Power to Local People. White paper released on 3 February sets out the Welsh Government's vision for the future of Local Government which is more inclusive, accountable and shares power and responsibility with the communities it serves. The White Paper and the online consultation survey can be accessed via the Welsh Government website

<http://wales.gov.uk/consultations/localgovernment/power-to-local-people/?lang=en>. The closing date for responses is **28 April 2015**.

ii) Appointment of Members to Community Health Councils (CHCs). The closing date for receipt of applications is **23 February 2015**. More information can be viewed here:

www.wales.gov.uk/publicappointments

iii) **Wales to Remember First World War Key Events in 2015.** A press release from the First Minister of Wales regarding the Welsh Government's plans for the commemoration of the First World War in 2015. <http://www.walesremembers.org/wales-to-remember-first-world-war-key-events-in-2015/>

iv) **Invitation to a Welsh stakeholder event on the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) Programme of Measures consultation.** Friday 6th March, Room 6, 3rd floor, Welsh Government offices, Cathays Park, Cardiff, CF10 3NQ. Defra, the Northern Ireland Executive, Scottish Government and Welsh Government have published a joint consultation on the next phase of the implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD). The consultation sets out proposals for the UK Programme of Measures (PoM) to achieve or maintain Good Environmental Status (GES) in UK seas. The consultation documents are available until 24th April 2015 at: <http://wales.gov.uk/consultations/environmentandcountryside/marine-strategy-framework-directive/?lang=en>

3. Joint Council Meeting.

24th February 7pm, Hywel Dda Centre Whitland. Please let me know if you'd like to attend.

4. Kidney Wales Foundation.

Invitation to join the Walk for Life 2015 and organize a walk in the area on 26th April 2015.

5. Town Clock

Good Directions have noted their intention to visit on the 24th and 25th February to look at the clock. Written confirmation of the visit has been sought but not received. An update will be provided to the Environment Committee on 3rd March.

6. Website

New Welsh website up and running with bilingual intro page offering language choice to the reader. Some amendments to be made to the Welsh site. Feedback welcomed.

166. To receive financial report.

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

167. To approve accounts for payment.

The Clerk presented the Bank Reconciliation and Schedule of Payments Report as at 17th February 2015, which also noted the Bank Balances, un-presented cheques and receipts since last meeting. Councillor DR Phillips declared an interest in the item as a payment to his company was included in the schedule. The Clerk drew attention to some large payments which were due to be made this month, most notably the bill for the Christmas lights provision and also the footway lighting charges. The Clerk also noted that the cheque sent to HMRC for Pay As You Earn costs in December had gone

168. To receive reports of the committee meetings held on 3 February 2015

Councillor CM Davies noted that he had looked at the Rebecca sculpture and noticed water coming from the splits in the wood and ice on another occasion. As such he didn't believe that any treatment of the wood at this time would be effective. It was agreed to defer the matter to the next **Environment Committee** meeting where the purchase of materials ready to complete the work could also be considered. .

Councillor WEVJ Davies noted his surprise that no one had objected to the withdrawal of £40,000 by the Police & Crime Commissioner, as discussed in the last **Planning & Communities Committee**.

Finance & General Purpose Committee. The Clerk read an e-mail from Anthea Phillips of Lewis, Lewis & Co Ltd which gave further clarification as to the charges for legal services prior to the transfer of the Welfare Field to the trusteeship of the Council. **RESOLVED that the Council approve the payment of £620 to Lewis & Lewis & Co Ltd as detailed in the schedule of payments.**

169. Correspondence

i) Carmarthenshire RDP Sir Gâr. Letter from Emyr Price, Heritage Grant Officer to note that the Carmarthenshire Landscape and Heritage Grant has come to an end after almost 4 years and would like to thank the Council for the hard work and effort put in to developing heritage in the RDP area. The new website showing all of the projects can be seen at www.carmarthenshireheritageprojects.co.uk .

ii) Carmarthenshire Young Farmers Club, Carmarthen Youth Opera, and the Urdd. Letters of thanks for the donation authorised in the last council meeting.

iii) Heather Tiley, Planning Division CCC. Contacting the Council regarding the naming of the development in Pwll Trap, Clare Hill Cottages. Is the Council content with the name suggested by the developer?

RESOLVED that the Council note the correspondence and the Clerk reply to Heather Tiley to note that they would like the name to be bilingual and also to note that the Nant y Rhosyn development still had the same name despite them noting their reservations on the choice of name.

170. To receive an update on the Welfare Field.

Minutes of the previous Welfare Field Sub-Committee meeting had been circulated with other papers prior to the meeting. A discussion was held around the content of the minutes and next steps and it was

noted that the next meeting would be held on the 21st of April at 5.30pm with representatives from the Leisure Centre and the users of the field.

171. To discuss a replacement to cover the Clerk's maternity leave.

The Clerk noted that she had held an informal discussion with Mr Elfyn Williams about coming in as Acting Clerk during the Clerk's maternity leave. This matter had also been discussed at the Finance & General Purpose Committee who had been happy to recommend that Council discuss the matter with a view to proceeding. Councillor JSV Rees proposed that the Clerk invite Mr Williams for a discussion with herself and the Chair of Council. Council were in agreement. **RESOLVED that the Clerk and Chair meet with Mr Williams to discuss him covering the Clerk's maternity leave.**

172. To consider the draft response to planning application W/31493.

The draft response which had been circulated by the Clerk prior to the meeting was discussed. Councillor KA Major noted that the sewerage issues that had occurred in Pwll Trap were not likely to be relevant in this case. The Clerk noted that she would remove the specific reference to these problems. **RESOLVED that the Clerk send the letter, with the amendment noted above.**

173. To discuss an alternative use for the railings around the dead tree on Pentre Rd, St Clears.

Councillor P Lanc explained the background to an idea he had based on what had been done in European cities where people placed padlocks on the railings of bridges to note the initials of themselves and a loved one. The Council considered this option and also replacing or removing the tree and removing the railings. Councillor PJ Rogers proposed that the Clerk make enquiries with the County Council with regard to who was responsible for the tree and if it was possible for them to take it away. Councillor JSV Rees seconded the proposal. **RESOLVED that the Clerk contact the County Council about the matter.**

174. To consider nominations for the Eric Raymond Memorial Award and the Community Service Award.

The Mayor noted his intention to hold a presentation evening on the 28th April at 7pm in the White Lion, Pwll Trap to present the Eric Raymond Memorial Award and also the Community Service Award(s). The evening would also be an opportunity to present the two Mayor's charities with the money raised during the year. Council discussed the two awards and it was agreed that nominations and a short biography should be sent to the Clerk by the 3rd March ready for consideration at the next meeting. **RESOLVED that the Council consider and choose the recipients of the Eric Raymond memorial award and the in the March meeting of Council.**

175. To consider the vacant seat for the Llanfihangel Abercowin ward.

The Clerk noted that she had displayed the County Council notice in the notice board and that if ten electors hadn't contacted the County with signatures by the 27th of February to request an election then the Council may proceed to try and co-opt a member.

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

Councillor LL ap T Davies noted that he had attended two meetings, firstly a planning seminar run by Carmarthenshire County Council on 13th February and secondly a public meeting by Hywel Dda Health Trust where they noted that they were committed to maintaining four hospitals in the area.

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

The Mayor noted that he was currently planning upcoming events such as an awards and presentation evening. The Mayor also noted that he had met with the Chair of Finance & GP committee and the Clerk to discuss revising the financial regulations for the Council.

178. Any other business (exchange of information only)

Councillor Jane Rees noted that the St Clears Twinning Association would be hold a quiz on March 6th at 7pm in the White Lion.

Councillor PJ Rogers noted that there had been a number of break-ins to sheds and outbuildings in the area recently and enquired if the Council had received any notification of this from the police. The Clerk noted that she hadn't received anything about the matter.

Councillor LL ap T Davies noted that he had spoken to Reg Wyeth of the Taf QT Club and who had told him that they were looking to become a charity. Mr Wyeth also said he would welcome the opportunity to speak to Council again.

Meeting terminated at 20.49