

St Clears Town Council

Minutes of the meeting of St Clears Town Council held in Meeting Room 1, The Gate, St Clears, on Tuesday 18th September 2018 at 7pm.

Present: Councillors T Austin-Brydon, CM Davies, Dr WEVJ Davies (Chair), RG Edwards, KA Major, BC Newcombe, I Price, JSV Rees, PJ Rogers.

60. Apologies

Apologies were accepted from Cllr LL ap T Davies, I McEwan, I Richards.

61. Personal Matters

None.

62. Declarations of Interest.

None.

63. To discuss policing matters with a representative from Dyfed Powys Police.

The Chair welcomed PCSO Hefin Davies to the meeting to provide an update on policing matters in the community. Amongst the issues raised were:

- Crimes relating to farm machinery and tools.
- Speeding, especially in villages.
- Speeding agricultural vehicles.
- Concern about young people intimidating the public in certain areas.
- Sale of drugs in the town.

Cllr JSV Rees also congratulated PCSO Davies' colleague, PCSO Sarah Thomas on her work with the Dementia Friends campaign and expressed thanks on behalf of council.

64. To confirm the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on the 17th July 2018.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meetings held on the 17th July be approved as a true record.

65. Matters arising (exchange of information only)

None.

66. To receive the County Councillor's update.

The County Councillor was late to the meeting and unable to provide an update at this point. Members raised the following matters for the County Councillor's attention:

- A fallen tree from on the footpath from All Pumps (Blewgyd) to the A40, currently being propped up by a fence, needs to be removed.
- The speed bump agreed as part of the planning for the new development in Bancyfelin is not in place yet although the development is complete. Who is responsible for ensuring it is installed and when will it be completed?

67. **To receive the Clerk's report.**

1) **Carmarthenshire County Council**

- (i) LINC Project Mid Term Evaluation. The LINC project was introduced in November 2017 to pilot an integrated transport network, through enhanced collaboration and cooperation in rural areas of Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire. The aim of the evaluation is to assess the success and effectiveness of the scheme in meeting the project objectives. Capita were success in this bid. As part of the evaluation, Capita have been instructed to obtain views from both users and non-users to determine success to date. <https://www.snapsurveys.com/wh/s.asp?k=153441659184> Suvery closes **midday 21/09/18**.
- (ii) A request has been received for the temporary road closure of the C2039 at St Clears from a point 870 metres south of its junction with the TRA40 for a distance of 700 metres in a southerly direction. The closure is necessary to ensure public safety whilst USL Group Ltd replace BT telegraph poles from Wednesday 10th October, 2018 for a period of 3 days.
- (iii) A request has been received for the temporary road closure of St Clears level crossing, located on the B4299 Station Road, 900 meters north of its junction with Pentre Road for a distance of 10 meters either side of the level crossing. The closure is necessary to ensure public safety whilst Network Rail carry out essential maintenance work from 23:00 hours Saturday 29th September to 11:00 hours Sunday 30th September, 2018
- (iv) Carmarthenshire County Council has published Draft Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) for Wind and Solar Energy for public consultation. The Draft SPG is available on the Council's website at www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales and for inspection during normal opening hours the Customer Service Centre, 3 Spilman Street, Carmarthen. The consultation period on the SPG will end on the **5 October 2018**

2) **Hywel Dda University Health Board.**

We recently undertook a 12-week public consultation 'Hywel Dda – Our Big NHS Change', between 19 April and 12 July 2018, into the future of NHS health and care services. Following the consultation, we have received an independent report, detailing the extent and scope of views received from communities in mid and west Wales. The health board provided many different opportunities for people to voice their views, from completing formal questionnaires and writing in to attending events and face-to-face meetings, as well as debate on social media. This report provides the views of those who chose to respond and highlights some key issues for our Board members to consider as part of their decision-making. <http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/862/page/95249>

3) **Menter Gorllewin Sir Gâr.**

AGM, Monday 22nd October, 7pm at the Hywel Dda Centre in Whitland.
Contact the Clerk for registration details.

4) **Welsh Government.**

Enabling Natural Resources and Well-Being in Wales 2019-2023 – Call for Grant Proposals. The Welsh Government is setting in place revised grant arrangements to support implementation of the Natural Resources Policy, making clearer links between Wales' natural resources and well-being. The scheme will focus on supporting cross-sector collaborative projects that will achieve a broad range of environmental, economic, social and cultural benefits. The scheme has 3 themes of action under which grant applications can be made:

- Developing, regenerating and broadening access to sustainable green infrastructure
- Improving the quality of the urban and rural built environment
- Developing resilient ecological networks and nature-based solutions

The grant is open to a wide range of organisations working in a collaborative way to deliver activity under the themes of action and will provide both revenue and capital funding to support delivery. Deadline for applications is 03 December 2018. **RESOLVED that the matter be referred to the Environment Committee for consideration.**

5) **Carmarthenshire Tourism Association**

The Carmarthenshire Tourism Summit is the largest annual tourism conference in the region – bringing together a host of suppliers, tourism businesses, inspirational guest speakers, products and business support organisations all under one roof. **The 2018 Summit will be held on Wednesday 17th October, at the Parc y Scarlets Stadium in Llanelli.**

The County Councillor arrived at this point in the meeting.

68. **To receive the financial report and conclusion of audit update.**

The Clerk presented Council with the financial summary detailing expenditure against budgetary areas since April 2018. **RESOLVED that the report be approved by Council.**

The Clerk informed council that the conclusion of audit had been received from the external auditor and once again the Town Council had been issue with an unqualified audit report. There was one other matter regarding completion of the annual return that the Clerk reported to council. Council congratulated the Clerk on the successful conclusion to the audit. **RESOLVED that the notice of conclusion of audit be displayed in the council noticeboard.**

69. **To approve accounts for payment.**

RESOLVED that the schedules of payments and bank reconciliation noted below be approved by Council:

Reconciliation date:		17th September 2018
STATEMENT BALANCES		
Current Account	Community Account	586.33
Current Account	Business Saver Account	42858.94
BALANCES TOTALS		43,445.27
General (Precept) Reserves		27163.00
Allocated Project Fund		30187.95
		57350.95

SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS		18th September 2018	
Cheque/ BACS no.	Payee	Details	Cost (inc VAT) £
103870	AEGON	Pension (Sept)	214.26
103871	H I Bowen	Internal Audit Fees	390.00
103872	St Clears & Dist Comm Assoc	Community Events Chest donation	300.00
103873	Cash	Petty cash top up	120.81
BACS 312	Emma Smith	Salary (Sept)	
BACS 313	HMRC	PAYE (Sept)	602.47
BACS 314	Jonathan Williams	Grounds Maintenance and delittering	672.00
BACS 315	Jonathan Williams	Welfare Field Maintenance	278.40
BACS 316	Emma Smith	Reimbursement*	64.15
BACS 317	Bowen & Weaving	Printer Cartridges	418.84
BACS 318	Carmarthenshire County Council	Room Hire Community Meeting	32.00
BACS 319	Jonathan Williams	Help with Pressure Washer	72.00
BACS 320	Carmarthenshire County Council	Rent Apr-July 18	500.00
			3664.93

RESOLVED that a further payment for £45.00 to Roy Watkins photography for the Mayor's official photograph be added to the schedule.

70. To receive the Committee reports (i) Environment Committee (ii) Community, Finance and General-Purpose Committee. (iii) Welfare Field Sub-Committee.

(I) Environment Committee. Cllr PJ Rogers led members through the committee report and recommendations.

- Cllr Rogers noted, with regard to Item 4 of the minutes, that the report on the feasibility of a cycle / foot path along the A40 had been updated and was ready to send to SWTRA.
- The Clerk noted that a further price for a standard lighting column had been received for the Market Square. **RESOLVED that matter be referred back to committee.**

RESOLVED that the report be accepted, and recommendations approved

(II) Community Finance and General Purpose Committee. Cllr RG Edwards outlined the report and recommendations. A request was made that additional Christmas motifs in Bancyfelin be considered again alongside the

option to provide further motifs along Pentre Rd in St Clears. **RESOLVED that the Christmas lighting motifs be referred back to committee. RESOLVED that with the amendment noted above that the report be accepted and recommendations approved.**

(III) Welfare Field Sub-Committee.

Cllr RG Edwards gave a verbal update on the meeting which had been held earlier that evening. Members were advised that the TROT's had requested that training on the field continue throughout the winter and the track remain in place. **RESOLVED that the report be accepted, and the TROT's be continued to use the field if the football league approved of the track.**

71. To approve the disposal of assets as identified by Council committees.

In accordance with the recommendation of the Community, Finance and General Purpose committee, the Chair signed the forms to dispose of the old photocopier, printer and CCTV equipment.

72. To consider a strategy for the Town Council's role in the bid to reopen the railway station in St Clears.

Cllr T Austin-Brydon and the Clerk updated council on discussions with the County Council and a strategy to support the bid to reopen the railway station. Members were informed of plans to engage with local elected members and neighbouring communities to enlist their support for the bid. Publicity would also be sought with a public meeting to be held in January. **RESOLVED that the strategy to support the bid to reopen the station, as detailed above, be supported by council.**

73. To consider the Independent Review Panel's findings and recommendations.

The report of the Independent Review Panel had been circulated before the meeting for consideration. No response was required from council at this time but the recommendations, if implemented would have a sizeable impact on the future of council. No comment was made by council at this time.

74. To consider the draft proposals for Carmarthenshire of the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales

The report of the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales had also been circulated prior to the meeting. The report made proposals for the changes to Carmarthenshire County Council wards and included a recommendation for changes to the St Clears ward. Members noted concern that the current proposal wouldn't offer the most natural pairing of communities and that the recommendation of the Returning Officer to pair St Clears with Trelech was a better arrangement. **RESOLVED that the comment noted above be made on the report if there is an opportunity to respond.**

75. Correspondence (exchange of information only).

- (i) St Clears Explorer Scouts Unit. Correspondence from the leader of the unit to advise that it had been established and to offer support in the community with events etc.

- (ii) Royal British Legion, St Clears Branch. A letter to advise of the arrangements for Remembrance Sunday and events around the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War.
- (iii) Wi-fi Towns. The contract for the two-year pilot had been received by the Clerk. All terms and conditions were as expected and a reduction in the price was noted. **RESOLVED that the Clerk sign and return the contract.**

76. To consider the vacant seat on the Council.

No applications for the vacant seat had been received.

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

- (i) Cllr JSV Rees reminded members that a meeting for local businesses would be held on Thursday 20th September at 7pm in the Gate.
- (ii) A public meeting to discuss a community hub / drop-in centre would be held on the 1st October at 7pm in the Gate.

78. To receive the Town Mayor's Report on civic events, engagements etc.

Since the last meeting, the Mayor had attended:

- Launch of the anti-dog fouling campaign at Ysgol Griffith Jones.
- Flower show at St Cynin's Church.
- The departing of a delegation from the Royal British Legion, St Clears branch to Ypres.
- Concert at St Cynin's Church.
- Flower show and concert at St Mary Magdalene Church.
- St Clears Gardening Club Show.
- Meidrim Tractor Run.
- TROT's 10k (starter).
- Bandi Appeal event at Pethau Olyv.

79. Any Other Business (exchange of information only).

The passing of the former headteacher of Ysgol Griffith Jones, Mr Spencer John, was noted with sadness.

Meeting terminated 20:45