

St Clears Town Council
Minutes of the St Clears Town Council Meeting
held in the Gate, Pentre Rd, St Clears
on Tuesday 21st April 2015

Present:

Councillors LL ap T Davies, Dr WEVJ Davies, RG Edwards, PM Hughes (County and Town Councillor), KA Major, JSV Rees and PJ Rogers.

In the Chair – Councillor RG Edwards (Town Mayor)

Before the official meeting was underway, Council was addressed by a member of the public Mr Wyn Cross about problems he and other residents of Maes Cynin St Clears were experiencing. Mr Cross noted a lack of street lighting outside houses and no footpath provision between the estate and the centre of St Clears, speeding in the area was also a concern. Council discussed the matter which they had already contacted the County Council about, and considered what further steps could be taken. County Councillor PM Hughes agreed to look into the matter and the Clerk agreed to contact the County Council again and also contact the Police & Crime Commissioner about speeding concerns.

199. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors DR Phillips, I Price and CM Davies. The Chair informed Council that he had received Councillor P Lanc's resignation from Council due to personal circumstances. The process to find a replacement for Councillor Lanc was underway. The Clerk agreed to send a letter of thanks to Cllr Lanc for his contribution to Council and also for his kind donation of two holly trees for the Welfare Field.

200. Personal Matters

Council expressed their sadness at the death of a 22 year man from Laugharne who had been killed in an accident on a building site.

201. Declarations of Interest.

No declarations were made.

202. To confirm the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 17th March 2015.

Councillor KA Major proposed that the minutes were a correct record of the meeting and Councillor PJ Rogers seconded the motion.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting on 17th March 2015 be signed as a true record of the meeting.

203. Matters arising (exchange of information only)

Item 189. Councillor JSV Rees enquired if there were any updates regarding the change of use relating to a property in Backe. The Clerk noted that no further updates were available as yet.

Item 185(9). The Clerk requested that Councillors forwarded the telephone numbers for phone kiosks in the area to her in order to see if they were available to be adopted by Council.

Item 198. Councillor PM Hughes informed Council that the issue of parking at Rhydygors should have been resolved as the police had become involved in the matter.

Item 198. Councillor KA Major said that the issue of poor quality water had been resolved following some work in the area to fix the problem.

204. To receive the County Councillor's Update

Councillor LL ap T Davies enquired if there was an update with regard to the planning application in Bancyfelin. The County Councillor said that the play area had been added to the application as per the outline planning and the number of affordable homes now stood at four. The school drop off point was still under consideration.

Councillor Hughes noted that the work to change the double yellow lines outside a property on Corvus Terrace in St Clears had gone to the legal department of the County Council.

The removal / reduction of the parking bays outside the Factory Shop on Pentre Rd, St Clears was also discussed. A recent update had noted that the work would be carried out shortly after Easter, but as yet no progress had been made. The Clerk agreed to contact the County again and note the length of time it had taken and yet still no work had been carried out.

205. To receive the Clerk's Report

1. Carmarthenshire County Council

i) Planning applications – Savoy Country Inn, Tenby Rd, St Clears. Minor variation. Wish to open earlier to serve breakfast (9am), application has no impact on current arrangements for sale of alcohol at the premises.

W/31865 – Proposed installation of a base station for Vodafone at Bancyfelin. Existing antenna on site, planning application proposes upgrade which will include extension of antenna.

ii) Code of Conduct Training. Two further evening training sessions to be arranged in County Hall. Dates are as follows: Thurs 4th June and Tues 9th June, times to be confirmed but the sessions will start after 6pm. No charge.

RESOLVED that the Clerk make enquiries with regard to arranging a code of conduct training session for the Joint Council meeting, to be discussed at the next Joint Council meeting in June.

RESOLVED that Councillor JSV Rees and LL ap T Davies attend the Code of Conduct training on 9th June at County Hall.

2. Welsh Government

Review of Designated Landscapes – Stage Two. Inviting organisations to submit written evidence to them on designated landscape

governance up until **29th May 2015**. They also intend to conduct evidence gathering sessions with stakeholders in mid-late May. Please note that the Review Secretariat *may* approach you/your organisation in due course.

3. **One Voice Wales**

- i) Carmarthenshire Area Committee – next meeting Tuesday 28th April, 7pm, Village Hall, Llanddarog.
- ii) Y Llais / The Voice. Edition 26. Copy available from the Clerk.
Articles include:
Diversity in Local Government, Employment Law, Climate Change, the Planning System and Environmental Funding.

4. **Community Housing Cymru Group**

Julian Dobson, author of the newly published book 'How to Save Our Town Centres', will discuss the kind of investments which will create places where people want to live and socialise - and will specifically address the debate around....From 'me towns' to 'we towns'. Cardiff University on the **Tuesday 28th April**. More details can be found here: <http://bit.ly/1M3D2PI>.

5. **Angela Burns AM**

Campaign to find UK's lost playing fields. Between 1927 and 1935 the Carnegie Trust gave grants worth £200,000 to create nearly 900 playing fields across the UK. Grants were given to local councils and community groups. Precise location of fields not always recorded. Carnegie Trust and Fields in Trust have launched campaign to find lost fields. More information can be found at:
http://www.fieldsintrust.org/Carnegie_Fields.aspx

6. **Town Clock**

The clock has been amended to show the correct time, rather than being an hour behind. The changes made should ensure that future updates will happen automatically.

7. **Mobile Phone**

A new mobile phone has been purchased for the Clerk, the new number which should be used to contact the Clerk (in addition to the landline) is 07468 456077. This number will transfer to the Acting Clerk.

206. To receive financial report.

Members were provided with information relating to the expenditure for the period 1st April 2014 to 31st March 2015 including total spend, total budget and variance for all allocated budget headings and projects. Thanks was expressed to the Clerk for preparing the end of year finances and the audit.
RESOLVED that the report be noted by Council.

The sign for St Clears as you approach from the West was discussed and agreed that it should be put on the agenda of the June Environment Committee meeting.

The overdue skate and play park inspections were discussed and Councillor PM Hughes agreed to speak to the contact at the County Council to address the matter. It was noted that the past year had seen the poorest service in terms of communication from the County and had created a lot of extra work for the Clerk who had to keep chasing the matter.

The Clerk noted that a quote had been received for the work to stain the Rebecca sculpture on Market Square. Councillor PJ Rogers proposed that the quote be accepted and the work carried out as soon as possible, Councillor PM Hughes seconded the proposal.

RESOLVED that the quote for painting the Rebecca sculpture be accepted and the Clerk to make the arrangements so that the work can be carried out as soon as possible.

Council discussed the replacement of panels on Peillac Way now that the high tides had passed. Councillor RG Edwards said he would reattach one panel to the stand. The other panel also needed to have its stand replaced. Councillor PJ Rogers proposed that the previous suppliers be asked to put a bench next to this panel, the same as the other bench and that the contractor be asked to cement the stand for the panel into the ground also. Council agreed to this proposal.

RESOLVED that a new bench be placed on Peillac Way and that the contractor be asked to replace the stand for the heritage panel.

An update was sought regarding the discussion held on Section 106 money and the Clerk informed Council that she had spoken to One Voice Wales, who had recommended contacting the County Council to request the Section 106 register.

Planning & Communities Committee.

The minutes of the Planning & Communities Committee were considered and it was agreed that the recommendation to support the St Clears & District Twinning Association's application to the Community Events Chest.

RESOLVED that a payment of £300 from the Community Events Chest be added to the schedule of payments for the St Clears & District Twinning Association's visit from Peillac.

Finance & General Purpose Committee. Council gave their approval for the response to the Welsh Government's White Paper consultation to be sent. Thanks was expressed to the Clerk for preparing the response.

The trailer and marquees were discussed and a further update provided by the Clerk and Chair. It was agreed to put the matter on the agenda of the next Finance & General Purpose meeting in June.

209. Correspondence

1. Emily Thomas, Carmarthenshire County Council.

Re: Future Management of playgrounds, parks and amenity areas.

Response to e-mail requesting eligibility of St Clears Town Council to obtain grants for transfer of playgrounds, parks and amenity areas.

“Many thanks for your email. The County Council is only in a position to award improvement grants to Council owned land that is in the process of being transferred to various Town and Community Councils.

Unfortunately, the County Council does not own the land in St Clears and will therefore not be in a position to award any grant.”

210. To receive an update on the Welfare Field.

The Chair updated Council regarding the Welfare Field sub-committee meeting that had been held earlier that evening with users of the field and the manager of the Leisure Centre. The Chair noted it had been a beneficial meeting and progress had been made regarding areas of maintenance and storage and that costs of maintaining the field and the amount charged to users had also been discussed. The same group would meet again in July. Copies of the sub-committee minutes would be circulated with the papers for the next Town Council meeting in May.

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

The Clerk read an application which had been received from Mr Stuart Lane of Parc Llwyn Celyn, Pwll Trap. The application was discussed and Councillor WEVJ Davies proposed that the application be accepted, the proposal was seconded by Councillor LL ap T Davies. **RESOLVED that Mr Stuart Lane be invited to join Council in the meeting on the 19th May 2015.**

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

Councillor JSV Rees reminded Council of the visit from Peillac arranged by the St Clears & District Twinning Association on 13-16 May. Cllr Rees noted that the current Mayor would welcome the guests and the new Mayor would be saying goodbye as the Mayor making was due to be held on 14 May.

213. 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 Whitand Civic Service and also the Ysgol Dyffryn Taf prize evening where he had presented the prize sponsored by Council. He had also attended two teas for senior citizens in St Clears and Bancyfelin where various issues had been raised.

214. Any other business (exchange of information only)

Councillor LL ap T Davies raised the issue of parking in the turning point of Lon Cowin Bancyfelin. Councillor P Hughes agreed to draft a letter about the matter.

Councillor PJ Rogers suggested that Councillors be given a chance to express their preference for which committee they sit on during the next civic year. The Clerk agreed to make the arrangements.

Councillor JSV Rees drew Council's attention to a community event being held on Friday by the St Clears & District Choral Society. Tickets were still available and any donations should be made to the Choral Society who would in turn donate to the Bandi Appeal.

Councillor RG Edwards thanked Council for their co-operation during the year at the end of his last meeting in the chair.

Meeting terminated at 20.30