

Cyngor Tref Sanclêr – St Clears Town Council

Minutes of Meeting of St Clears Town Council held at the Gate on 24th January 2023 at 7.00pm

PRESENT: Cllrs CMDavies, Dr WEVJDavies, RGEwards, GADavies, KMajor, TMcDermott, PJRogers, County Councillors CJones and PHughes.

205. Apologies for absence. Apologies received from Cllrs JMiller, OGrant, IPrice

The chair permitted questions from the floor in relation to the proposed budget cut survey undertaken by Carmarthenshire County Council (item 219ii). The County Councillors urged residents to respond to the online survey as these were proposals for consideration. Town council confirmed that the leisure centre served the wider community than just St Clears and that it was used for several activities other than sport.

The County Councillor congratulated the Town Council on being proactive and engaging with the County to undertake the day-to-day management of the Gate and their actions to secure the library as a resource for the town.

206. Personal Matters. Council expressed their condolences to past Council member Brian Newcome.

207. Declarations of Interest. All councillors - Item 214i the Gate and Item 216 Ten Towns project.

208. To confirm the minutes of the meetings of the Town Council held on Monthly meeting 20th December 2022. Cllr Dr WEVJDavies proposed and Cllr CMDavies seconded the motion that the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 20th December 2022 be confirmed as a true record. **RESOLVED to confirm the minutes of the meetings of the Town Council held on 20th December 2022 as a true record.**

209. Matters arising (exchange of information only)

Item 172 - Committee members. Seven members on Environment and five on Community, Finance and General-Purpose. Due to imbalance of numbers recommended that one member move to CFGP committee. **RESOLVED that Cllr PJRogers would join the CFGP committee and that the times of the meetings would change to aid proceedings.**

Environment at 7pm

Community Finance and General Purpose at 7.45pm

The Gate meeting at 8.30pm

210. To receive the County Councillors' Update.

The speed limit through Bancyfelin will be reduced to 20mph. One of the first villages to adopt the roll out of this scheme.

Support sought for Bancyfelin Hall.

St Clears Railway station. There are some concerns regarding the financial shortfall to the scheme, which inevitably will result in a delay, but the project will proceed.

The County Councillor thanked the town council for their commitment, input and support to this venture.

Refuse collection. There are changes to the practice and the latest timetable may be printed from Carmarthenshire County Council's website. They may be some teething problems initially, but all domestic waste will be collected from the doorstep.

Concerns expressed to the changes to the closing times and reduced days open for the recycling/civic amenity as this could impact on those working.

Education budget has been protected for several years with grants made up from Welsh Assembly. Budget given to schools based on per-capita (number on roll).

Small schools, those with less than 100 pupils may require support.

211. To receive the Clerk's Report

I. Carmarthenshire County Council

(i). Planning/Licensing.

PL/05230 21/12/22	Solar PV array to existing roof	Old Board School Guest House, High Street, St Clears, Carmarthen, SA33 4DY	Dyddiad Dechrau Ymgynghori: 2 1/12/2022	Dyddiad Gorffen Ymgynghori: 11/01/2023
PL/05197 19/12/2022	Full planning permission Outbuilding for storage	Cilgwyn, St Clears, Carmarthen, SA33 4NE	Under Consultation	Consultation Period
PL/05230 20/12/2022	Householder planning permission Solar PV array to existing roof	Old Board School Guest House, High Street, St Clears, Carmarthen, SA33 4DY	Under Consultation	Consultation Period
	PROPOSED BASE STATION INSTALLATION UPGRADE	CORNERSTONE 12812022, PENLAN FARM CO-LOCATION, BENCYFELIN, CAEMANTHEN, DYFED, WALES, SA33 5NS. NGR: E: 231591, N: 217970		

RESOLVED that there are no adverse objections to the planning applications PL/05230, PL05197 and PL/05230.

ii) Carmarthenshire's Public Services Board (PSB) is seeking your views to find out what matters within your local communities. The PSB has developed its Well-being Objectives and draft actions to deliver them, based on feedback received on its Well-being Assessment. The results of a survey at that time gathered views and helped shape the PSB's understanding of the economic, social, environmental, and cultural factors that impact the well-being of individuals and communities within Carmarthenshire. Please see attached a link to the Carmarthenshire Public Services Board draft Well-being Plan.

[Draft Well-being Plan - The Carmarthenshire We Want](#)

The consultation is open until **25 January 2023**. We look forward to hearing your thoughts and ideas.

2. One Voice Wales

a) Historic Environment and Climate Change related work in Wales. Take part in the Historic Environment and Climate Change Adaptation Activity Survey for 2022

- We are keen to hear examples of relevant activity that you are involved in or know about.
- We are also keen to hear from you if you do not have relevant activities to report, is there a reason for this?
- This is a valuable opportunity to contribute to the future management of our historic environment.
- The results of this survey will help us to prepare a report in Spring 2023 for Welsh Government which will be distributed across the Historic Environment Sector later in the year. Interim Reports of Activity for 2020 and 2021 are available here. <https://cadw.gov.wales/advice-support/climate-change/adapting-to-climate-change>
- The survey information documents and link to contribute evidence of activities are available from: [Historic Environment and Climate Change in Wales | Cadw \(gov.wales\)](#)
- You can submit your views and an example or examples of activity here: <https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/0fedc895e38c4096b8eb6b9a731ad6a4>
- The consultation will close at **14:00 on 10 February 2023**.

b) At the last Partnership meeting, members were informed that they are looking to get a grant scheme off the ground to support activity in improving democratic engagement across Wales. They are pleased to announce that as of today, applications from organisations are welcomed for funding from our "Democratic Engagement Grant". Applications are split between those requesting funding under £1000 and those requesting funding over £1000. The links to the website which has all the additional information, the guidance for the grant is contained within the application forms.

[Democratic engagement grant | GOV.WALES](#)

[Y grant ymgysylltu â democratiaeth | LLYW.CYMRU](#)

Further questions should be addressed to **Gareth Chestney**

3. **Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service** are supporting the Association of Manufacturers of Domestic Appliance's (AMDEA) campaign this week to remind

appliance users to register appliances with the manufacturer, be they small or large, and bought, 'adopted' or 'inherited'. As the cost-of-living crisis prompts more people to consider buying second-hand large domestic appliances, we are urging householders to register all appliances, whether brand new or pre-loved. Registermyappliance.org.uk provides free and easy access to 60 leading brands sold in the UK. Many accept registration of products at least 12 years old and no proof of purchase is needed.

4. Keep Wales Tidy

Tree planting Workshop, Saturday 18.2.23
Cwmaman Community Centre, Glanaman 10 – 3

5. Training & Conferences

- One Voice Wales – February & March training events

- **Responding to Planning Applications - Part 2 (Online)**



Wednesday 25th January 2023 6 to 8pm

Building on the 'Responding to Planning Applications' taught course, this interactive workshop will explore several real planning applications to help participants identify the common things to look out for when responding. **You can attend this course even if you haven't completed Part 1.*

[For more information, and to book on, please click here>>](#)

212. **To receive the financial report. RESOLVED to accept the financial report.**

Exclusion of press and public. In view of the confidential/sensitive nature of the matters to be discussed in the following items. Item 213, 215, 216, 218 and 220, Council is advised to resolve to exclude the press and public from the meeting for the items, pursuant to s.1, Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960. These items are confidential/sensitive in nature due to staffing, contracts, grant application information and individual details.

213. **To approve accounts for payment. RESOLVED to approve the accounts for payment.**

Bank Reconciliation & Schedule of Payment			
ST CLEARS TOWN COUNCIL			
Financial Year ending: 2022/23			
Prepared by (Signatory 1): Catherine Lloyd-Jenkins Date: 20/12/22			
Authorised by (Signatory 2): Date:			
Bank statement date: 30 /12/23			
Reconciliation date:			24-Jan-2023
STATEMENT BALANCES			
Current Account	Community Account		2,802.30
Current Account	Business Saver Account 828		86713.75
BALANCES TOTALS			89,516.05
General (Precept) Reserves 506			30652.47
Allocated Project Fund			26947.93
TOTAL			57600.40
Deposits not on statement			
1			
2			
3			
Sub-total			
Un-presented cheques:			
Cheque number	Payee	Details	Cost

SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS		Dec 2022		
Cheque/BACS/DD	Payee	Details	Cost (inc VAT)	VAT £
BACS 782	Staff	Salaries etc	3141.95	27.53
BACS 783	JN Williams	Grounds Maintenance at St Clears	700.00	116.67
BACS 784	JN Williams	Grounds Maintenance at Welfare Field	300.00	50.00
BACS 785	Maqqie James	Poverty Fund provisions	50.83	2.63
BACS 788	CWM environment	Charges 01/01/23 to 31/03/23	153.74	26.62
BACS 789	W3Designs	Updates to Website	50.00	
BACS 783	W3Designs	Annual Hosting of Website	238.00	
BACS 783	W3Designs	Updates to Website	30.00	
BACS 790	CCC	Replacement Lanterns for 2023	2043.30	340.55
BACS 791	CCC	Grounds maintenance @2 to skate/play park	151.48	25.25
BACS 792	Dewi Page	Christmas event	350.00	
BACS 794	Bowen & Weaving	Toner Cartridges	734.40	122.40
BACS 795	Bowen & Weaving	Stationery	34.20	5.7
BACS 796	Air Ambulance Wales	Donation	100.00	
Cheque 103384	Y Cardi Bach	Donation	50.00	
Cheque 103385	Carmarthenshire & District Youth Op	Donation	50.00	
BACS 793	City Illuminations	Removal of Christmas Lights	2700.00	450
Cheque 103383	White Lion	Christmas event	123.11	
BACS 801	Maqqie James	Poverty Fund provisions	18.03	
DD	Three	Mobile phone	6.00	1.00
DD	The Gate	Rental, Hire of Unit 3 at the Gate	450.00	
			11541.10	1168.35
NOTES		Reimbursement:		
Receipts since last meeting date :				
Payee	Details	TOTAL AMOUNT		
CCC	Precept	33,653.40		
Barclays	Interest 506	32.10		
Barclays	Interest 828	36.16		
HMRC	VAT reclaim 2021/22	7235.96		
	Use of Welfare field			
	Total	£40,359.62		

214. **To receive the Committee reports**

- i) **Gate committee.** Cllr PJRogers led on this and informed members that the Heads of Terms were discussed during the meeting with Carmarthenshire County Council on 16th January 2023. As the building was part funded by the Arts Council any outstanding terms relating to the grant agreement need to be addressed. It is hoped that the Heads of Terms agreement will be signed by the Mayor and clerk prior to the next meeting on the 13th of February 2023. It's important that all appreciate the enormity of this project for a small-town council. Copies of proposals for commercial element for leasing the units were circulated for consideration. The clerk has received a few enquiries regarding the availability of renting units. Further discussion regarding this aspect, tendering and staffing matters are required.
- ii) **Environment Committee**
- iii) **Community, Finance and General-Purpose Committee**

RESOLVED to accept the Committee minutes held on 10th January 2023 as a true record of proceedings.

215. **To finalise Council's budget and set the precept for 2023/24.** Following further discussion, the Council's budget for 2023/24 was finalised and accepted. The precept was discussed and an increase of 7.5% for 2023/24 to cover the proposed activities was agreed. **RESOLVED to accept the finalised budget and the precept set at £108,532.22 for 2023-24.**

216. **To receive an update regarding the Ten Towns application.** The council have secured the £10,000 revenue funding. The brief for utilising this is to gather information by undertaking further consultations as required. Four firms have been earmarked and approached to see if they have the capacity to undertake such a project within the tight timeframe. The proposal is that they meet with local businesses, tenants and the youth to gather their views and collate the outcome with

the information already collected. Create an engagement plan outlining ideas of how to get the different demographic to use the building and what the day-to-day management will look like. As well as ideas for enhancing the website to provide a better story of what's on offer and rebrand the building. All reports to be bilingual.

217. **To discuss the provision of a Youth Service in St Clears.** During the budget discussion it was noted that funding had been secured to approve the provision of a Youth Service in St Clears for the forthcoming year. One evening per week with x2 members of staff for up to 30 weeks. **RESOLVED to approve the provision of a Youth Service in St Clears for the forthcoming year.**
218. **To discuss the Scouts Hut.** It has become apparent that the Scouts Hut is being used on a regular basis by several different societies/groups, which is in breach of the agreed lease agreement. **RESOLVED to arrange a meeting with the branch committee to discuss the matter.**
219. **Correspondence.**
- i) Bus Shelter survey – NOTED and details collected.
 - ii) Carmarthenshire County Council Budget Consultation. Members to complete survey. Council to monitor the outcome and write a letter if the decision to close the leisure center is upheld.
 - iii) Peter Stopp – information circulated regarding the request from Carmarthenshire Antiquarian Society. **RESOLVED to offer £100 towards the Gate QR plaque and consider the additional plaques at a later meeting of the council with consideration of the budget and including the information on the Ten Towns application.**
220. **To consider the vacant seats at Council.**
There were three applications for the vacant seats on council. Council members read the application letters and discussed the experience, merit and benefit each candidate could bring to the work of council. **RESOLVED to accept the three applications and co-opt to Council.**
221. **To receive reports from representatives on meeting of outside bodies, seminars etc.**
Cllr GADavies informed council about the Welcome space project. During December they had a Christmas carols event and with the generous donation of holly and foliage made table decorations. There are approximately twelve volunteers who manage the morning and afternoon shifts. Numerous organisations have been informed and the space has some regulars who attend weekly. The Over 50's social group will be attending every fortnight as of 26th January. The Gate is a period poverty centre.
222. **To receive the Town Mayor's Report on civic events, engagements etc.**
223. **Matters for the next agenda (exchange of information only)**

The Mayor closed the meeting at 9.05pm

