

St Clears Town Council / Cyngor Tref Sanclêr

**Minutes of Meeting of the Community, Finance and General-Purpose
Committee held at Y Gât /the Gate
on Tuesday 04th April 2023 at 8.15pm**

PRESENT: Councillors GA Davies, KA Major (Mayor), TMcDermott, FLanc, JMiller, PJRogers.

Observing: Cllr Dr WEVJ Davies

The meeting commenced at 8.47pm following the Gate meeting. The chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologised for the late start.

318. Apologies for absence. Apologies received from Cllrs RGEwards, IThomas-Wigley

319. Declarations of interest. Item 321, Planning PL/05573 – Cllr FLanc.
Item 325, Scouts Hut – Cllrs FLanc and JMiller.
Item 328d, Letter regarding land at rear of carpark – Cllr FLanc.

320. To consider any matters arising from the minutes of the Community Finance and General-Purpose meeting held on 07th March 2023. None

321. To consider planning applications as notified by Carmarthenshire County Council.

PL/05371 24/3/23	To create tarmac off street parking to front of property with a 1.5 m timber fence between the tarmaced area and remaining front garden	Parc Yr Abbot, St Clears, Carmarthen, SA33 4NB	Dyddiad Dechrau Ymgynghori: 23/03/2023	Dyddiad Gorffen Ymgynghori: 13/04/2023
PL/05573 23/03/2023	Full planning permission. Construction of an access road to serve a residential development that already benefits from outline planning permission (PL/00629)	Land at Maes y Meillion, Llanybri, Carmarthen, SA33 5HF	Under Consultation	Consultation period
PL/05623 21/03/2023	Prior notification: Building (agricultural / forestry) Agricultural Machinery Store	Cwrt Malle, Llangynog, Carmarthen, SA33 5BN	Under Consultation	Consultation period
PL/04606 23/03/2023	Approval of details reserved by a condition. Discharge of Condition 10 on PL/03676 (Treated timber boarding and Concrete posts)	Vicarage Field, Llangain, Carmarthen, SA33 5AE	In Review	Awaiting Decision
PL/05371 23/03/2023	To create tarmac off street parking to front of property with a 1.5 m timber fence between the tarmaced area and remaining front garden	1 Lon Y Prior, St Clears, Carmarthen, SA33 4EF	Under Consultation	Consultation period

PL/05631 21/03/2023	Prior notification: Building (agricultural / forestry). Covered holding yard	Cwrt Malle, Llangynog, Carmarthen, SA33 5BN	Under Consultation	Consultation period
PL/05759 04/04/23	Proposed lean-to canopy structure to the north side elevation of the nursery building. The canopy would have a functional requirement of providing cover to an outdoor play area which serves the nursery	Dechrau Disglair, Station Road, St Clears, Carmarthen, SA33 4DF	Dyddiad Dechrau Ymgynghori: 04/04/2023	Dyddiad Gorffen Ymgynghori: 25/04/2023
PL/05736 31/03/23	Approval of details reserved by a condition. Discharge of Conditions 4 and 5 on PL/04474 (Lighting Plan and Biodiversity Plan)	Bryn Heulog, St Clears, Carmarthen, SA33 4LX	Under Consultation	Consultation Period

RECOMMENDED there be no observations raised in respect of the above planning applications.

322. To agree the grounds maintenance contract for tender. Deferred for members to consider in line with the finalised biodiversity report.

323. To discuss the Christmas Lights decorations contract. Council was satisfied and had received complimentary remarks regarding the level of decorations and illuminations during the past years. **RECOMMENDED that tender to be issued on same basis as previous years with the same number of lights to illuminate the town.**

324. To discuss improvements to the railings surrounding the War memorial. Members discussed the issue of peeling paint on the railings around the War memorial. Members agreed that regalvanising the railings would be better than painting. **RECOMMENDED to seek up to three quotes for sandblasting and regalvanising the railings surrounding the War memorial.** Cllrs GADavies and CMDavies offered to provide the clerk with names of local companies to contact for the work.

325. To discuss the Scouts Hut. Members discussed concerns that had been raised that the premises were being used as a commercial facility rather than per the lease agreement. Clerk had received a letter from the chairman of the Scouts Association. Council wish to work with the Scouts Association to address the issue. **RECOMMENDED that the clerk arrange a meeting between the chair of the CFGP, with another councillor to address the resolve the matter.**

326. To receive an initial end of year budget account. Deferred

327. To consider the Financial Toolkit. Deferred

328. Correspondence.


- a) CWM Environment price increase letter – **NOTED.**
- b) St Clears Football Association letter regarding condition of playing field and issue of litter and dog fouling **NOTED** – Item for further consideration during

- ordinary meeting of Council.
- c) David Peterson- letter of thanks on behalf of Mens Shed to Cllr GADavies and the volunteers who have made the Warm space welcoming and a success.
 - d) Philip Lanc – letter regarding ownership of land at rear of town carpark.
NOTED Area liable to flooding. Part of land used for Skate park and forms part of biodiversity report. Freehold owned by Town Council and land leased by Carmarthenshire County Council.
 - e) David Peterson – letter expressing disappointment regarding the open day held by Landsker Business Solutions and the costs incurred. **NOTED** - Event held formed one part of the wider Ten Towns revenue grant initiative.
 - f) Welsh Government Written Statement (see Appendix i).

329. Matters for the next agenda (exchange of information only).
Deferred matters

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.23pm

Appendix i


 Llywodraeth Cymru
 Welsh Government

**WRITTEN STATEMENT
 BY
 THE WELSH GOVERNMENT**

TITLE Electoral Reform White Paper

DATE 30 March 2023

BY Mick Antoniw MS - Counsel General and Minister for the Constitution

In July 2021 we published our framework for Electoral Reform, and last October I published a White Paper for consultation on detailed proposals for the modernisation of electoral administration in Wales. We received almost 150 responses to our consultation, and I am grateful to every individual and stakeholder organisation that shared their views on our ambition to improve democratic health.

Today I have published [a summary of the responses](#) received to that consultation and now set out the next steps on our journey to deliver this Government's commitment to reduce the democratic deficit in Wales and develop an electoral system fit for the 21st century.

We are building on what we have already achieved, including extending the franchise to 16 and 17-year-olds and qualifying foreign citizens in Wales and delivering a set of electoral innovations at the local elections last May that showed digital innovation can unlock more efficient and accessible elections without undermining integrity.

Respondents to our consultation expressed broad support for our ambitions set out in the White Paper. We will continue to work with stakeholders throughout this Senedd term as we progress our proposals and bring forward legislation in anticipation of the next major devolved elections in Wales in 2026 and 2027. We do so mindful of the views expressed about ensuring value for money, local authority capacity to deliver and the need to carefully manage differences between devolved and reserved elections – which should not be a brake on our modernisation agenda.

I would like to highlight some of the reforms we now intend to take forward:

- To simplify electoral registration, we will work with local authorities in Wales to design and pilot the automatic registration of electors for devolved elections.
- To strengthen electoral administration, we will establish an Electoral Management Board in line with the proposals in the White Paper.

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- We will also take forward reforms to the processes for conducting community and electoral reviews and for the transfer of the functions of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales to the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales.
- To build democratic health we will improve accessibility of devolved elections for disabled voters by placing duties on returning officers to provide equipment to help disabled people vote independently, according to Electoral Commission guidance.
- We will improve candidate safety by legislating to extend the scope of the offence of undue influence.

As we deliver these changes we will continue to work with stakeholders on our longer-term programme of electoral reform. In this longer-term programme of work, we will look to consolidate electoral law to improve clarity and accessibility, including by restating the franchise for devolved elections in one bilingual act.