

Cyngor Tref Sanclêr – St Clears Town Council

Minutes of the Ordinary meeting of St Clears Town Council
held at the Gate on
16th May 2023 directly following the Annual meeting.

PRESENT: Cllrs Dr WEVJDavies, GADavies, RGEwards, OGrant, FLanc, JMiller, TMcDermott, IPrice, PJRogers, IThomas-Wigley and County Councillors CJones and PHughes.

358. **Apologies. RESOLVED to accept apologies for absence from Cllrs CMDavies and IPrice.**

359. **Personal Matters. NONE**

360. **Declarations of Interest. Item 362.** FLanc, Priory Fields.

361. **To confirm the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 25th April 2023.**

CORRECTIONS

Item 335 – Hospital consultation. Concerns raised were brought forward by residents.

Item 335 – planning consent and which trees are to remain as issued by Carmarthenshire County Council NOT Resources Wales.

Councillor Dr WEVJDavies proposed and Cllr I Thomas-Wigley seconded the motion that the minutes be confirmed as a true record of proceedings with the inclusion of the corrections. **RESOLVED to confirm the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 25th April 2023 as a true record of proceedings with the inclusion of the corrections noted above.**

362. **Matters arising (exchange of information only)**

Signage at Priory fields and site naming policy – Cllr C Jones has inquired about the signage etc, awaiting response from Carmarthenshire’s planning department. Copy of Arboricultural Impact Assessment, Land adjacent to Brynheulog St Clears report received and available for inspection.

363. **To receive the County Councillor’s Update.**

- Mrs Trefina Jones, Headteacher at Bancyfelin, Llanstephan and Llangain retiring at the end of the academic year. Best wishes and good health extended to her for a happy retirement.
- Education department at Carmarthenshire County Council due to receive an ESTYN inspection.
- Bancyfelin Park update – awaiting outcome for funding for final completion. Work on fence has commenced to try and move the project forward as the matter will not be signed off until the fence has been completed. Town Council wish to review the Section 106 funds for the town and what it may be used for in future. **RESOLVED to include this as an agenda item for future meeting of council.**

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- Sign erected regarding closure of slip road for four nights (South Wales Trunk Road Agency). Works may be linked to cabling for WiFi within the area.

364. To receive the Clerk’s Report

I. Carmarthenshire County Council

(i). Planning/Licensing.

PL/05870 28/04/2023	Proposed ground floor and first floor residential extensions and associated works	Brynawelon, St Clears, Carmarthen, SA33 4NB	Under Consultation	Consultation Period
PL/05197 25/4/23	Domestic garage	Cilgwyn, St Clears, Carmarthen, SA33 4NE	RE CONSULTATION: REVISED PLANS / ADDITIONAL INFORMATION RECEIVED	Dyddiad Gorffen Re: Consultation 16/05/2023

RESOLVED – no adverse comments in respect of planning application PL/05870 and PL/05197.

2. One Voice Wales

- a) Publication of the latest Standing Orders document for Town & Community Councils has been delayed.

3. Welsh & UK Government

Survey on twinning. Closing date 16th June 2023.

<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/KDKWB1/>

4. Training & Conferences

- b) CCC – Code of Conduct training for Town & Community Councillors
c) OVW May dates.

365. **To receive the end of year financial report.** The end of year financial report depicts a healthy balance as not all planned events were undertaken during the year and savings were made due to good financial management when procuring resources and services. The accounts are near completion and ready for the accountant and internal auditor to review.

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

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A Job advertisement for operations officer or coordinator will have to be drafted to manage the day-to-day operation of the building and a cleaner sought in the interim period to clean the communal areas and toilet facilities.

Requests for renting spaces have been received from Afallen (CEIC), Age Cymru & costs for these need to be considered and approved.

PLANED's Welsh Community Food Distribution is opening within the Gate building on Thursday, 18th May 2023 between 12noon and 2pm.

Mr Philip Astley has requested a licence for use of unit pending lease approval.

Cllr C. Jones and Cllr P Hughes left the meeting.

369. Correspondence.

- a) Philip Lanc – Mens shed request to use land at rear of Skatepark. **NOTED. Land earmarked for wildflower planting as part of Biodiversity plan.**
- b) Sustrans - 20mph Walking and cycling zoom session. **NOTED, see appendix i.**
- c) Philip Lanc – Further request to see all of Town Council's invoices and copies of auditor's reports for past three years. Validity of April meeting. **NOTED. RESOLVED** to confirm that the inform sought regarding all payments (invoices) is visible on the Ordinary monthly meeting of Council minutes under 'Schedule of Payments'. Annually the Council offer members of the public the opportunity (over a three-week period) to make an appointment to view the Auditors reports. There is a charge for copies. The auditor's report for 2020/21 is available to view. Council awaits the reports for 2021/22 and 2022/23.
- d) Faye Whiley (PhD student) PhD student at the University of Kent, exploring wildlife value orientations and attitudes towards a Eurasian lynx (*Lynx lynx*) reintroduction across the United Kingdom (UK). Wildlife value orientations are a list of statements used to understand how a person judges wildlife. Questionnaire, please click the link below:

https://kentpsych.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eDURgK464Bx4awe **NOTED.**

- e) Nicola Bowen – Issue with refuse collection near the Ford. **NOTED, issue passed on to Carmarthenshire County Council.**
- f) Colin Pearson (Carnival secretary). Request for funding to support Bancyfelin Carnival due to be held on Saturday, 1st July. **NOTED, Community Chest Grant form forwarded.**
- g) Lyn Cadwallader (One Voice Wales) – Motions for 2023 Annual General Meeting. **NOTED.**
- h) Susan Jones (Cefin Campbell, Member of the Senedd for Mid & Est Wales) office request for list of organisations that may be interested in attending a lottery application event. **NOTED. List of organisations received from Cllrs OGrant and FLanc forwarded.**
- i) St Clears AFC request for use of Welfare field for Annual seniors' event due to be held on 28th May 2023 and Junior festival due to be held on 10th & 11th June 2023. **APPROVED.**

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- j) Iola Wyn (Pwyllgor Apêl Sancler, Bancyfelin, Llangynin a Phwll-trap). Thank you for the donation to the Eisteddfod appeal. Committee passed the target and raised £6,210). Request for town to be decorated in the URDD colours. **NOTED. RESOLVED to reimburse the clerk for bunting purchased to decorate the Gate building.**
- k) Matthew Barnikel (Meidrim Community Council), request seeking permission to incorporate footpath within the St Clears jurisdiction as part of a circular trail. **APPROVED.**
- l) Andrew Myden (CCC) Guides Hut storage. **RESOLVED to consider alternative solutions.**
- m) Cllr.TMcDermott update regarding Youth Provision at St Clears. **NOTED. Provision due to commence after the Whitsun half-term holiday.**
- n) Circular Economy Innovation Communities report for St Clears Town. **NOTED. (Appendix ii)**
- o) Wales & West Housing open event due to be held on Wednesday, 17th May 2023 from 5-7pm. **NOTED.**

370. **Any other business (exchange of information only).** Community Grants – date of meeting 25th May 2023 at 2pm at the Gate.

The chairman closed the meeting at 09.05pm

Appendices

Appendix i

PLEASE JOIN OUR

Diolch am 20—Thanks for 20




Zoom session dedicated to


Walking and Cycling

Wednesday 17th May at 7pm

Hear from Stephen Cunnah of **Sustrans Cymru** and
Joshua James of **Living Streets Cymru**
on how the default 20mph limit is expected to
impact walking and cycling in Wales

Register free www.20splenty.org/diolcham20zoom

Diolch am
Thanks for 

www.20splenty.org/wales

Appendix ii

Sanclêr | St. Clears

Cyfarfodydd Cymunedol | Community Meetings

Canolfan Y Gât/ The Gate Centre, 6/11/22 & Ar-lein | Online, 18/11/22

Background Context St Clears is a market town, approximately 10 miles from Llanelli, the most populous town in Carmarthenshire. The most recent census data (2021) for St. Clears is not yet available through the Office of National Statistics, but previous data shows that the population is 2,995.

Local Assets that were mentioned as being significant contributors to community life included the local shops, the craft centres, library, Y Gât/The Gate. Other assets and services include the primary school, Ysgol Griffith Jones. Apart from the school, a few shops and the vet, there is little that attracts people into the town. It was therefore suggested that generating more energy and activities in the town, with a focus on the circular economy, would benefit St. Clears greatly.

Local Networks and Support identified within the community included the Gate Centre which has rooms that can be used for community use. The café in the centre will also soon reopen, and it is hoped will be used for community activities and as a warm space over the winter. The centre is in the middle of an asset transfer, so it might take some time before its management is settled once more for progression of community-based activities.

Circular Economy activities that have happened in the past and are currently active in St. Clears have been few and far between. Mention was made of local existing groups (such as the Zero-waste and 'Clear Up Crew' in Llansteffan). There is enthusiasm to ensure that The Gate as a centre is better promoted and that circular economy activities can be merged with things that are already happening at the centre. There is a group that has partnered with the local Coop who distribute food to those most in need in the area, working on a volunteer basis with volunteers for 2 nights a week.

Further Circular Economy activities to pursue in St Clears seem to focus on the following themes: textiles, food and community growing and flood mitigation.

Firstly, **wool** was considered to be a valuable local resource (in fact not only in St Clears but across the county) that has increasingly lost its worth, but could be revived as a circular economy resource – used for materials, local crafts, compost and insulation etc. There are a number of sheep farmers in the area that could potentially benefit from a circular economy project that makes use of wool that otherwise would go to waste. A mentoring scheme is currently available from the research project Gwnaed a Gwlân | Made with Wool¹ who could possibly explain how the town could pursue this novel idea.

Following from the above point, there was also an interest to develop **upcycling** projects – such as creating rag-rugs, using surplus or waste textiles from second hand shops.

A **growing project** was also of interest – particularly creating a community garden and or a tree planting space for the community. The latter would potentially help with some flooding issues that could occur on the

¹ [Made With Wool - Gwnaed A Gwlân](#)

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flood plain behind the new estate in the town (Jones Construction for W&W Housing). This could be done with the help of the local school.

There was also an interest in establishing a **Men's Shed** and a **Repair Café** and that The Gate could accommodate these actions. Repairs could happen on site, and involve the training and upskilling of residents, sharing skills and making links with departments at Coleg Sir Gâr.

Also, using the Gate as a central point for activities, a **community wardrobe** could be set up, to include a rack of warm coats during the winter. There is also the potential to **collect and reuse baby goods**, clothes, bottles, highchairs etc for babies for the Plant Dewi group (materials are currently going to Pembrokeshire but could be distributed in St. Clears). This is particularly significant as there is currently no family centre in St. Clears, so this could be an action that supports the circular economy and parents and carers in the area.

Circular Economy Projects identified as possible **goals** included:



Support The councillors who were present were supportive of all of the ideas and are willing and enthused to work with the community to develop and see through some of the discussed ideas. It was noted that activities need to be joined up and avoid replication – so there is a need to gather existing community activists and groups together. It was hoped that the funding involved with the 10 Towns initiative could fund a person to do this work, pulling projects together, for the benefit of the whole town, not just the Gate as a community centre.

Obstacles for developing the circular economy in St. Clears included uncertainty about landownership of land – particularly what would be publicly available for tree planting. There is also a lack of a specific ‘environmental’ group to push ideas forward and keep the focus of all potential projects.

Further Support is needed to support the communities’ ideas if circular economy activities are to develop and thrive in St Clears. Support structures that are particularly needed are in the form of employing somebody to help establish some of the ideas that the community have (although this is potentially funded by the Ten Towns initiative). A local newsletter is needed to share information, help to share messages and join the dots between a number of circular economy ideas and actions, and to learn about other projects and groups in the town, and in the other towns that are a part of the initiative.

Access to knowing which council owned assets are available for communities to use would also be of great use (e.g land for growing projects, empty buildings for community use etc).

Other areas of support needed include:

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Local textile artist Identify creativity & textile reuse	Identification of land & asset ownership (and shop units)	Research opportunities around wool
An officer role to pulling projects together, for the town & help with communications	A way to gather more support to bid for renewable energy funding and projects	Support in identifying a theme for the town e.g. wedding upcycle destination