

Minutes of the meeting of the **Environment Committee**
held at the Gate on **Tuesday 03rd October 2023** at
7.00pm

Members of the Environment Committee summoned and present:

Councillors GADavies (Ex-officio), Dr WEVJ Davies, O Grant via Zoom (Chairman), FLanc, TMcDermott, IPrice and JRees. All other members of Council for information

In attendance: Press (0), Members of the public (1), Carmarthenshire County Councillor (0)

486. **Apologies for absence. Cllrs CMDavies, JMiller, IThomas-Wigley**

487. **Declarations of interest. Item 493 and 494, War memorial area – Cllr JRees.**

Item 494, War memorial area- Cllr IPrice

Item 495, River Pollution – Cllr OGrant

Item 498g, Footpath – Cllr FLanc

Cllr IPrice joined the meeting.

488. **To consider any matters arising from the minutes of the meeting of the Environment Committee held on 4th July 2023. (Exchange of information only). None.**

Exclusion of Public and Press

Action: To consider that, under the Public Bodies (admission to Meetings) Act 1960, Sec 1 (2), the public and accredited representatives of newspaper be excluded from the meeting for whenever publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted. **The following items of business 489 and 490 were determined in the absence of the press and public** on the grounds that involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

489. **To consider the planting tender applications and appoint a contractor.** There was only one application for the planting tender. Council discussed the proposal and Cllr Dr WEVJ Davies proposed and Cllr IPrice seconded that the contractor, Wrenvale Nurseries & Landscapes be appointed for the planting contract. Cllr FLanc to provide a list of potential plants/flowers (bee friendly pollinators) the Council would like to see used in the planters to align with the Council's biodiversity plan. This information to be shared with the contractor. **RECOMMENDED that Wrenvale Nurseries & Landscapes be appointed as the planting contractor and the Council's wish list of plants/flowers to be used for the planters is shared with the contractor to align with the Council's biodiversity plan.**

490. **To consider the general maintenance tender applications and appoint a contractor.** Following publication of the tender, the Council received one tender application. Following discussion, Cllr Dr WEVJ Davies proposed, and Cllr IPrice seconded that JNWilliams be

appointed for the general maintenance contract. **RECOMMENDED to appoint JNWilliams as the contractor for the general maintenance works for the forthcoming year 2023-24.**

491. **To receive the Skate and play park reports. NOTED.** Reports circulated to members. Outstanding works as highlighted in the reports completed by Carmarthenshire County Council.
492. **To discuss improvements to the Play Park. RECOMMENDED to formulate a working group that includes other community association members to address the play park issue and contact various companies with a view to improving the provision in future.**
493. **To discuss the War memorial area.** The War Memorial area was discussed. The response from the Council's solicitor is that the area is unregistered, but Town Council have approved that it will maintain and ensure the memorial is safe. It was **RECOMMENDED that the Christmas lights in the trees be removed so that the trees could be pruned.**

Exclusion of Public and Press

Action: To consider that, under the Public Bodies (admission to Meetings) Act 1960, Sec 1 (2), the public and accredited representatives of newspaper be excluded from the meeting for whenever publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted. **The following items of business 494 were determined in the absence of the press and public** on the grounds that involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

494. **To further consider improvements to the railings behind the War memorial.** Various quotes had been sought to refurbish and or replace the railings behind the war memorial with new. These were discussed and it was **RECOMMENDED that a third quote to be sourced and the item considered during a future meeting of Council as a project for the next financial year 2023-24.** St Clears Men's Shed offered to undertake the work but this was not viable. Council thanked the group again for the wonderful work they have done painting the bollards and repairing the bench. Cllr JRees sought permission on behalf of the Royal British Legion to decorate the railings with poppies. Cllr IPrice proposed, and Cllr Dr WEVJ Davies seconded that permission be granted to decorate the railings from 26th October 2023 until after Remembrance Sunday. Cllr Dr WEVJ Davies proposed, and Cllr TMcDermott seconded that a community event be organised to clean the area. **RECOMMENDED to have a community event to clean the War memorial area and ask Mr Price if he was able to power wash the area.**
495. **To discuss concerns regarding river pollution.** The matter was discussed. This issue forms part of a future water safety and pollution project being undertaken with the Youth club. Cllr TMcDermott proposed, and Cllr Dr WEVJ Davies seconded and **RECOMMENDED that Council write to Natural Resources Wales to inform them about the issue with river pollution so they may further investigate.**
496. **To consider the Ystadau Cymru survey regarding Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC). Noted.** No known buildings owned by the Town Council has Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC).

497. **To consider One Voice Wales's 'Pethau Bychain' network. Noted.** St Clears Town Council is a member of the network. Cllr OGrant (Chairman of Environment committee) and Cllr Flanc attend to discuss what councils are doing in respect of biodiversity. Information and updates shared during committee meetings.
498. **Correspondence.**
- a) OGrant – potential project with West Wales Housing Association for transform land at the rear of the new housing estate on Station Road. **NOTED.**
 - b) River Pollution – See Item 495.
 - c) E. Thomas-Wigley - Dog mess along footpaths and lack of bins. **NOTED.** Members of the public can dispose of bagged dog mess in any refuse bin (look for the yellow sticker).
 - d) Local Places for Nature, funding update letter. **NOTED.**
 - e) CWM Environment, separate Collection of Waste Materials for Recycling information – A Code of Practice for Wales as of April 2024. **NOTED.**
 - f) S. Wilkinson – requested an update regarding the potential of allotments in the area. **DEFERRED.**
 - g) M. Barnikel, concerns as to issue with Public Rights of Way over footpath. Signage restricting access. **NOTED.** Council is aware and a Public Rights of Way officer has visited the path. The matter is under review.
 - h) A. Nicholas (Carmarthenshire Food Network Officer), CAVS. Proposal for a Food Network project at the Gate, St Clears discussing the community needs and wants in line with the following strands, i) community growing advocates, ii) community cooking advocates, iii) linking the community with wider support organisations for alleviating factors contributing to food poverty. **RECOMMENDED to proceed with the project, proposed date Tuesday, 24th October 2024.**
499. **Matters for the next agenda (exchange of information only)**
500. **To receive the Skate and play park reports.**