

**Pembrey and Burry Port Town Council**  
**Regeneration and Leisure Committee Meeting**  
**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2015**

**Present:** - Vice Chair Cllr Mrs Pat Jones, Cllrs John James, Mrs Moira Thomas, Hefin Williams and Ken Edwards (substitute for Cllr Graham Davies).

**In attendance:** Melanie Carroll-Cliffe (Town Clerk) and John Ridgway (TSO)

**(Former OAP Hall, Memorial Hall, Burry Port 9.30am – 11am)**

**1. Personal Matters.**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Mrs Shirley Matthews (Chair), Andrew Phillips (Mayor), Graham Davies and Michael Theodoulou.

**2. To receive Members' Declarations of Interest in respect of the business to be transacted.**

Members confirmed their usual declarations of interest.

**3. To confirm the minutes of the Regeneration and Leisure Committee meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2015**

The minutes of the meeting held on 5th March 2015 were approved as a true record.

**4. To consider any matters arising from the minutes.**

There were no matters arising.

**5. Update from Heritage Trail Sub Group**

Cllr Graham Davies was not in attendance but had notified the Clerk in advance of the meeting that the project enquiry had now been submitted on line to the Lottery Fund and a response is awaited.

**6. Update on Memorial Hall mood lighting**

The TSO updated members that an order had been placed and that it was anticipated that the lighting would be installed by the end of April.

**7. Update on marketing and promotion of the Memorial Hall**

The Clerk updated that following the last Regeneration and Leisure Committee meeting, she had arranged to meet with a representative from the Carmarthenshire Tourism Association and had since joined the Council as a member of the organisation. An email had also been received from the membership officer of Carmarthenshire Tourism Association, advising that

if the Council already has a calendar of events for forthcoming months, then this could be emailed through, for inclusion in the monthly newsletter.

## **8. Update on entry to Wales in Bloom/Britain in Bloom 2015**

The TSO advised that the various flower beds are in the process of being prepared, ready for planting. He also advised that he had ordered three large Welsh dragons which are going to be placed in the flower beds on Moreb roundabout. It was indicated that Cllr Mrs Shirley Matthews had obtained sponsorship for the purchase of these dragons. The TSO also advised that further sponsorship is being sought.

The ideas which Glan y Mor School have are progressing and their flower beds will become a permanent feature. The TSO advised that Pembrey School had initially wished to plant at Cwrt Farm at Pembrey. However, it was felt that this was not viable and would not be suitable to take the judges to and therefore, other flower beds have been allocated to them.

Cllr Mrs Moira Thomas advised that she and Cllr Mrs Shirley Matthews had attended the Wales in Bloom launch ceremony at Wolfscastle on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2015. At this, the importance of community engagement had been evident and Cllr Mrs Moira Thomas referred to the fact that there should be meetings taking place, to include outside organisations who are participating.

## **9. Update on the erection of new lamp post signs**

The TSO circulated a new image which had been obtained for the proposed signs. Some concern was expressed in relation to the density of the colours on this, although save for this, members were generally happy with the design. The TSO was therefore asked to obtain a sample from the supplier of what the signs would actually look like and to request that the colours be as bright and dense as possible.

## **10. Update on signage into Pembrey and Burry Port**

The TSO circulated a proof which he had received from Atech Signs and which he has submitted to the Welsh Government. Members were not particularly happy with the design for the signage and it was discussed that it would be preferable to use the same colours/flower images as intended for the lamp post signs.

## **11. Update on Pembrey Memorial Hall and Serendipity**

The Clerk updated members that two County Council officers, namely Jonathan Fearn and Matt Morden had met with herself, the TSO and Town Councillors for the Pembrey Ward on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March and it was felt that this had been beneficial. Prior to the meeting, Mr Fearn did not have full information upon these issues.

In relation to Pembrey Memorial Hall, the difficulties relating to the Town Council's lack of legal status following taking on the responsibility for the running of the Hall in April 2014 was discussed at the meeting with the two County Council officers. Despite the length of time since taking over this responsibility, no legal documentation had been received from the County Council. It had been discussed that copies of two old deeds had been provided but

these were illegible. During the course of the meeting, Jonathan Fearn had assured that he would arrange for the County Council's Legal Department to progress this matter. This will include documenting the County Council's commitment with its financial contributions for the first three years, as had been agreed prior to taking over the responsibility for the Hall.

In relation to the former Pembrey School, Mr Fearn had not had sight of the schedule of condition which had been produced in 1999 when the Town Council entered into the 15 year lease, which evidenced that dampness was a problem at that time. This was therefore provided to him at the meeting, for his consideration. Also at the meeting, there had been discussions about the cost of remedial work being unknown and it had been requested that the County Council identify this, as they have the expertise within their own staff to do so. It had therefore been confirmed that this would be undertaken. Mr Fearn was also previously unaware of the work which the Town Council had carried out upon the library part of the former Pembrey School which had been in a poor condition when the lease was taken on.

It had been discussed that once the extent of and cost of the necessary work was known and Mr Fearn had had the opportunity of considering the schedule of condition so that the Town Council's obligations could be ascertained, an informed decision could then be made on whether the Town Council wishes to retain the premises. If this was decided, then terms of a new lease could be agreed. Mr Fearn did confirm in the meeting that if the Town Council did not take on a new lease, the County Council would still keep the library open.

Members of the Regeneration and Leisure Committee were also updated regarding an issue which had arisen since the meeting with the two County Council officers. The TSO informed members that there is a large gas fire which is used by the nursery and which is broken and needs replacement. This would cost approximately £1500. Members were anxious about the possibility of spending money whilst the situation in relation to the renewal of a lease on the premises was unknown. It was therefore **APPROVED** that the TSO would inform the nursery owner that the work would not be undertaken at present. Additionally, the Clerk will email Mr Jonathan Fearn in relation to this new problem and to establish what progress has been made to date following the meeting with him and Mr Matt Morden.

Members were of the view that an informed decision would need to be taken in due course in relation to the future of the former Pembrey School. It was therefore suggested that a SWOT analysis be prepared in relation to the premises.

## **12. Consideration of alternative access entrance to the Burry Port Memorial Hall car park/signage to the car park**

The Clerk highlighted that visitors to Burry Port Memorial Hall and Institute experience difficulty in finding the car park and members accepted that this is a problem, due to lack of signage. The possibility of additional signage should be looked into. Also, the access to it is not ideal. However, the TSO reiterated that the access had been looked into several years ago but no suitable alternative was found.

### **13. Update on installation of new fire alarm system in Memorial Institute**

The TSO confirmed that Dyfed Alarms have been instructed to carry out this work, with an order having been placed earlier that week. Currently, the start date for the work is unknown.

### **14. Update on collapsed drain and fire safety requirements at Pembrey Memorial Hall**

The TSO advised that he had spoken to Mr Matt Morden at the beginning of the week in relation to this issue. Mr Morden had indicated that he was still chasing up the Property Services Department.

### **15. Update on proposed application for outline planning permission for the Copperworks Site**

The TSO advised that the architect was due to meet with the Planning Officer shortly to discuss a proposed application. It was believed that the conditions which attach to the planning applications for the Grillo Site would be placed on any application made for the Copperworks Site also. This could include additional surveys, such as a bat survey and an asbestos survey. An investigation into contaminated land could also be asked for. However, more information would be available following the aforesaid meeting.

### **16. Any other competent business**

- Cllr John James referred to the VE Day commemoration weekend from 8<sup>th</sup> May to 10<sup>th</sup> May. This has been arranged in conjunction with Burry Port Rugby Club and the Burry Port Branch of the British Legion. Following the event being held in the Memorial Hall on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May, it is hoped that a beacon can be lit or some lighting switched on in the Memorial Gardens in the evening. On Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May, the stage school SA15 will be participating in the afternoon, the charge for which is £5. Also, in the evening, there will be entertainment from a swing band and there will be a licensed bar. The cost of this is £10 but this would include entry in the afternoon.

Cllr John James also advised that the Royal British Legion wished to have a short service by the Cenotaph in the Memorial Gardens on the morning of Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May. It was discussed that the Town Council wishes to hold a VE Day commemoration service on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May at St Illtyd's Church, Pembrey. Given that the service by the Cenotaph would be in the morning, members felt that it may be preferable for an evening service to be held at St Illtyd's Church. It was **APPROVED** that the Clerk make enquiries with Father Dewi Davies as to this possibility.

- The Clerk reminded members that the response to the White Paper "Reforming Local Government: Power to Local People" needed to be submitted by 28<sup>th</sup> April. At the Town Council meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> March, it had been approved that a special meeting be arranged, so that this could be addressed. The Clerk suggested that this meeting be held at 6.15pm on the 15<sup>th</sup> April, immediately prior to the Town Council meeting, so that hopefully there would be maximum participation, and this was **APPROVED**.

- The Clerk advised members that an email had been received from Dwr Cymru, informing of a £2 million flood defence scheme which will shortly begin in Burry Port. This work will remove several properties from the “at risk of flooding” register and improve the capacity of the sewer network and will take place in and around Carway Street, Gors Road, Pemberton Avenue and Ashburnham Road. The email also advised that local residents and businesses are being written to, to invite them to an information event on the RainScape Scheme, which is being held on 15<sup>th</sup> April between 3pm and 8pm at Ysgol Glan y Mor. The Clerk confirmed that she would be emailing all members of the Town Council to make them aware of this event.