

**Pembrey and Burry Port Town Council**  
**Regeneration and Leisure Committee Meeting**  
**Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2015**

**Present:** - Chair Cllr Mrs Shirley Matthews, Cllrs Mrs Pat Jones, Andrew Phillips, Michael Theodoulou, Mrs Moira Thomas, Hefin Williams and Ken Edwards (substitute for Cllr John James)

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

**(Former OAP Hall, Memorial Hall, Burry Port 9.30am –10.40am)**

**1. Personal Matters.**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Graham Davies and John James.

**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 7<sup>th</sup> May 2015**

The minutes of the meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2015 were approved as a true record.

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

**P3 (11) Further consideration of the future of the former Pembrey School**

The Clerk updated members that following the May Town Council meeting, an email had been sent to Mr Jonathan Fearn, enquiring as to the possibility of the freehold of the former Pembrey School building being transferred to the Town Council and also the County Council paying the cost of the current remedial work. Despite a chaser email also having been sent subsequently by the Clerk, not even an acknowledgement had been received to date. The Clerk will chase up Mr Fearn once more.

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

In the absence of Cllr Graham Davies, the Clerk advised members of the contents of an email which he had provided in advance, with an update on the Heritage Trail. This indicated that members of the Group had met with representatives from Burry Port Primary School and Ysgol Parc y Tywyn and this had been a productive meeting, as they are keen to be involved in the project. The Group will also be communicating with Pembrey Primary School, Glan y Mor Comprehensive School and Coleg Sir Gar. The Group aims to be in a position to present the final bid to the Town Council in July and to submit it to the Heritage Lottery Fund later that month. The Group will next be meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> June.

A query was raised by a member in relation to Cllr Graham Davies' position and whether he is the Council's representative on the Group. It was confirmed that the Group had been commenced by Councillors, with the support of the Town Council. The Group had subsequently appointed Cllr Graham Davies as its Chairperson. Cllr Michael Theodoulou emphasised that the Group needed to have a constitution, elected officers and a bank account. This is to ensure that the funders do not form a view that the Group is an extension of the Town Council.

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

The TSO confirmed that the lighting would be installed in the Memorial Hall on 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> June. Immediately prior to this, the work is being undertaken to refurbish the oak floor in the Hall. The TSO circulated samples of the different shades of stain for the flooring for members to choose their preferred one.

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

The Clerk updated members that there had been a successful visit by around 20 students from Coleg Sir Gar on 2<sup>nd</sup> June, when they were accompanied by two lecturers. They had been impressed with the Hall and had come up with numerous ideas for events which could be held there. The students are now working on a marketing project in relation to the Hall. The Clerk advised that she had heard back from one of the lecturers, advising that the students are now preparing powerpoint presentations and promotional display materials. An invitation has been extended to the Clerk and Town Councillors to attend at the College to listen to the student feedback and suggested dates were provided. The Clerk will now revert to the lecturer to confirm her attendance and that of some members for 25<sup>th</sup> June.

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

The TSO updated members that planting was currently being carried out on the Moreb roundabout. Also, two of the Welsh dragons have been placed on this roundabout. Another two dragons are to be placed on the Harbour roundabout. The TSO confirmed that work was due to commence in the Memorial Gardens the following day.

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

The TSO confirmed that he had been making enquiries with an officer at the County Council, who had been of the opinion that it would not be possible to have two directional signs. She thought that we would only be allowed Moreb roundabout but it was decided that it would be preferable to go down Stepney Road instead.

In relation to the new lamp post signs, Cllr Moira Thomas queried if it was possible to have more of these, to create a greater impact. The TSO advised that there were three left to be erected and that there were 26 in total, as there had been with the previous signs.

**10. Further consideration of alternative access entrance to the Burry Port Memorial Hall car park/signage to the car park**

Cllr Mrs Shirley Matthews advised members that there are only a couple of people renting the garages at the rear of the Memorial Hall. The County Council has indicated that it does not want the garages and it is happy to dispose of them. Accordingly, the County Council is making enquiries with the persons renting these garages. Cllr Mrs Shirley Matthews confirmed that she would chase up this matter.

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

The TSO advised that currently, an ecological study is awaited. Furthermore, a plan has been sent off to the Highways Department for consideration.

Cllr Michael Theodoulou suggested that it would be preferable for the Town Council to look at demolishing the building at the earliest opportunity. Presently, outgoings are being incurred on insurance costs and increased rates. He also felt that the value of the site would be increased with the building demolished, for potential development. Cllr Michael Theodoulou also referred to the chance of an application being made to list the building, which if successful, would cause difficulties for the Town Council. This would mean that either significant money would need to be spent in bringing the building back into use or alternatively, it would have to remain in its current state, with the ongoing outgoings being paid for insurance and rates.

Members were generally of the view that the proposed development of the site would enhance the area. Accordingly, following the discussions, it was proposed and unanimously **APPROVED** that a recommendation be made to the next Town Council meeting that the building should be demolished as soon as practicable, subject to quotations.

**12. Further consideration of the purchase of new flooring and potential redecoration of former OAP Hall**

The TSO advised that the current flooring in the former OAP Hall has been placed on top of safety flooring. He has now been told by suppliers who have looked at fitting new flooring that vinyl should not be placed over safety flooring. The advice that he has therefore been given is that carpet tiles would need to be laid, unless the safety flooring is to be taken up. It was agreed that some further enquiries be made by the TSO as to the options.

**13. Forward planning of future large projects**

Cllr Hefin Williams advised members that the Tourist Board is looking into projects next year surrounding fitness. A suggestion has been made about the possibility of having a “green gym” around the Harbour, which is an outdoor gym that is permanently fixed, similar to that already in Mumbles. Cllr Hefin Williams indicated that he has been informed by Rory Dickinson that there is an available grant. A query was raised as to who would have responsibility for this. Cllr Hefin Williams did not have this information but stated that he was happy to look into this possible project further and to obtain additional information.

The Clerk advised that a proposal had also been put forward in the email received from Cllr Graham Davies. In this, he proposed that a “cross party” sub group be set up to address the regeneration of the Bace area and he also indicated that Councillors have provisionally agreed to join the sub group, namely Michael Theodoulou, Malcolm Davies and Andrew Phillips. Members were generally of the view that it would be beneficial for such a group to be formed to consider the potential enhancement of this area. It was therefore **APPROVED** that the members comprise Cllrs Graham Davies, Ken Edwards, Michael Theodoulou and Andrew Phillips.

Cllr Mrs Shirley Matthews again referred to the dilapidated condition of the exterior of the Memorial Institute building and the exterior of the Memorial Hall. Cllr Michael Theodoulou referred to discussions at the last Town Council meeting that the Finance Committee should consider setting a budget for such work. The Clerk confirmed that this was being placed on the agenda for the next Finance Committee meeting.

#### **14. Consideration of issues relating to Burry Port Toddler Park and MUGA**

The TSO confirmed that the Caretaker is attending at the Park more frequently to clean it. Furthermore, additional bags have been placed there alongside the bins but unfortunately, these are not being used.

In relation to the issue concerning balls landing on the bowling green, the TSO advised that the fence can only be increased in height by another 1200mm and even this would not completely prevent the balls going over. The cost of this work would be £1,200.

There was some discussion as to how frequently the problem was occurring and whether it justified significant expenditure. The TSO emphasised that there had been one occasion when the ball had gone over and had just missed hitting someone. In light of this, members agreed that some action needs to be taken, as it has been brought to the Council’s attention. A suggestion was made that netting could be erected across the top of the play area, as a means of preventing the problem. The TSO will obtain a price for this option.

When discussing issues relating to the Toddler Park and MUGA, the TSO also highlighted the fact that the Park Committee had not passed over its reserves, to cover expenditure already made by the Town Council, as had been anticipated.

#### **15. Any other competent business**

- The Clerk referred to the fact that an invitation had been received from Llanelli Town Council for the Mayor to attend an Armed Forces Day event later in the month. She enquired whether our Council wished to mark the occasion with an event of its own. Given that there had been considerable work undertaken recently in relation to war time commemoration, members did not wish to arrange an event.
- The Clerk referred to the photographs which needed to be taken of certain Town Councillors for the website and queried the preferable time for these to be undertaken. It was therefore agreed that the photographs be taken immediately prior to the June Town Council meeting.