

Pembrey and Burry Port Town Council
Regeneration and Leisure Committee Meeting
Thursday 8th October 2015

Present: - Chair Cllr Mrs Shirley Matthews, Cllrs John James, Mrs Pat Jones, Andrew Phillips, Michael Theodoulou and Mrs Moira Thomas.

Ex officio: Mayor Cllr Mrs Jean Hire

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

(Former OAP Hall, Memorial Hall, Burry Port 9.30am – 11.20am)

1. Personal Matters.

No apologies were received.

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 3rd September 2015

The minutes of the meeting held on 3rd September 2015 were approved as a true record.

4. To consider any matters arising from the minutes.

P1 (4) Matters Arising

The Clerk provided an update in relation to marketing of the Memorial Hall and informed members of the recent email received from Gareth Harvey of Coleg Sir Gar. This advised that the project has been accepted by WJEC as an appropriate Enterprise and Eligibility Challenge for the Welsh Baccalaureate Qualification. Year 1 learners will be engaging in the project and intend to visit the Memorial Hall on the 5th November.

P5 (18) Any other competent business

The Clerk advised that since the last meeting, she had spoken with Cllr Robert John, who had indicated that he is not a member of Burry Port Operatic Society.

P6 (18) Any other competent business

Following a query from a member in relation to whether the work had been carried out on the copings on the Harbour walls, it was advised that Rory Dickinson of Carmarthenshire County Council was not at work at present, due to illness

5. Update from the Chair on the new committee structure and consideration of the role and duties of the proposed new Regeneration and Community Services Committee

The Chair, Cllr Mrs Shirley Matthews advised that she had met with the Vice Chair, Cllr Mrs Pat Jones to discuss the proposals, as contained in a paper prepared by a small group of Councillors, namely Cllrs Michael Theodoulou, Ken Edwards, David Owens and John James, and they were content with what was proposed. The remit of the current Regeneration and Leisure Committee will be split if the new Committee structure comes into effect, with the responsibility for looking after the Council's buildings being removed. The responsibility for maintenance of these buildings and also for fees and charges will be handled by the new Facilities Management Committee. Instead, the new Regeneration and Community Services Committee will consider what is needed within the local community. Additionally, applications for financial donations/grants will come to this Committee but it will have to act within the set budget.

It is intended that the Council will be guided by the Finance Committee in terms of the overall annual budget. However, once the budget is approved by the Town Council, it is intended that individual Committees have the authority to spend within their allocated budget, which will obviously speed up matters.

It was discussed that it is intended that Planning will be a Sub Committee of the Regeneration and Community Services Committee and that there would be the ability to invite non members of the main committee to sit on this Sub Committee.

6. Update from Heritage Trail Sub Group

Members expressed thanks and congratulations to the Heritage Trail Group for the successful bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Cllr Andrew Phillips updated members that now that the bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund had been approved, the group intends looking at the appointment of a Project Officer and proceeding with a planning application. He referred to the fact that if the Town Council submits the planning application, there would be a reduced fee. Cllr Andrew Phillips confirmed that a job description had been prepared for the Project Officer and consideration is now being given as to where to advertise the post. The salary will be £10,500 for the part time position.

Cllr Andrew Phillips further advised that a Treasurer has now been appointed for the Group, who is a member of the community, namely Mrs Gaynor Mills. The Clerk updated members that a meeting had been arranged for the group's co-ordinator, Graham Davies, to attend to meet with her and the RFO the following Monday, the 12th October, in order to discuss the administration relating to the funds to be received.

7. Update on Wales in Bloom/Britain in Bloom 2015

The Chair, Cllr Mrs Shirley Matthews expressed thanks to the TSO and the Council's groundsmen for their hard work, and also to Mr Nigel Sheldon of Wrenvale Nurseries, which had resulted in success once more in winning Wales in Bloom.

As members had had the opportunity of considering the Judge's report, there was some discussion as to areas where there was still room for improvement, specifically in relation to local media coverage. Members expressed disappointment that there had not been very much coverage on the Wales in Bloom success in the main edition of the Llanelli Star, although there was better coverage in the Burry Port edition. It was suggested that in future, consideration could be given to involvement from the new Llanelli Herald newspaper.

Lastly, Cllr Mrs Moira Thomas referred to the involvement of Mr Robert Masterman and it was **APPROVED** that a letter of thanks be sent to him for the assistance which he had provided.

8. Update on the 'Wales in Bloom winner' signage

The TSO confirmed that presently, he is awaiting costings from Carmarthenshire County Council for this work.

9. Update on the planting of 'Anne Frank' trees by local schools

The TSO advised that Nigel Sheldon from Wrenvale Nurseries is trying to source the trees, to enable these to be planted in November.

10. Update on directional signs to Burry Port Memorial Hall

Again, the TSO advised that costings were awaited from Carmarthenshire County Council for these new signs.

11. Update on possible alternative access entrance to the Burry Port Memorial Hall car park

Cllr Mrs Shirley Matthews advised that she, together with Cllrs Mrs Pat Jones and John James had recently had a meeting with the Practice Manager from Meddygfa Tywyn Bach. He had listened to suggestions made and had confirmed that he would revert to them, once he had spoken with the Doctors at the Practice.

12. Update on the proposed application for outline planning permission for the Copperworks site and the proposed demolition of the building

The TSO informed members that there was a potential difficulty in proceeding with the immediate demolition of this building. He advised that he had been in communication with the local planning officer and as a result, he had been made aware that if the building is demolished, then the existing drainage would be lost on the site. Accordingly, the Town Council would have to demonstrate where it intended placing new drainage as part of the application for planning permission to demolish.

The TSO advised members that if the main application for outline planning permission is proceeded with, rather than firstly dealing with an application for planning permission to demolish, then the process should take approximately three months.

Following the discussions, members **APPROVED** that a recommendation be made to the Town Council to just proceed as swiftly as possible with an application for outline planning permission for development, with a view to then marketing the site at the earliest opportunity.

13. Update on the purchase of new flooring and potential redecoration of former OAP Hall

The TSO circulated various samples to members and a decision was made in relation to the new flooring to be laid in the Hall, kitchen and toilets.

14. Consideration of Burry Port Harbour regeneration

Cllr Andrew Phillips updated members that although Rory Dickinson was currently ill, he had been informed that progress is being made in relation to the Harbour, regarding the pathway and other issues. He indicated that he had requested the Clerk to place this item on the agenda, due to his dissatisfaction following the attendance of Ian Jones from Carmarthenshire County Council at the July Town Council meeting. He suggested that a request be made to the Chief Executive, Mr Mark James to now attend to meet with the Town Council.

Cllr Michael Theodoulou informed members that recently, an independent group had been formed with the objective of putting together some form of forum, to work with the County Council and to try to speed up the improvement of the Harbour. To date, only one meeting has taken place of the group. However, a constitution is being drafted and will be signed in the next two weeks. It was emphasised that this is intended to be a community organisation, independent of the Town Council.

Cllr John James referred to the fact that there were differing opinions regarding the information provided by Ian Jones. He advised that he saw no merit in inviting the Chief Executive to attend at present, as Mark James is supportive of the Harbour. Cllr John James emphasised that Mark James had not been happy with the previous report which had been prepared, which did not support the Harbour and had therefore requested that it be re-done.

Cllr John James referred to the fact that reports have been given to the Town Council, when up to date information has been available in relation to the Harbour. Nevertheless, it was **APPROVED** that an item be placed on the agenda for the next Town Council meeting, for the County Council members to provide a full update on the position.

15. Update on Christmas lights

The TSO advised that this year, it is intended that the Council minimises electrical connections to business properties. The work required to do so will cost £2,275. Members were happy for this work to be undertaken if it could be carried out within the existing

budget. In the event that it could not, then members **APPROVED** to recommend it to the Finance Committee.

Cllr John James advised that Welsh Water had indicated that it would like to show its thanks to the community in some way, for the disruption caused within the town, through the work carried out on the RainScape project. It was therefore **APPROVED** that the Clerk contact Ffion Green at Welsh Water, to enquire if sponsorship for the Christmas lights could be provided. Cllr Shirley Matthews also advised that the Carnival Committee would be providing financial assistance.

The TSO left the meeting at 10.55am.

16. Consideration of arrangements for the senior citizens' Christmas Tea on 10th December 2015

Cllr Mrs Shirley Matthews advised that she had already spoken with the Clerk regarding the forthcoming Christmas tea and consideration was being given to there being a different menu this year, to hopefully encourage maximum numbers to attend.

Cllr Michael Theodoulou referred to the fact that annually, his company has a Corporate Responsibility Day. He therefore advised that he would discuss with the Managing Director the possibility of assistance being provided for this event.

17. Consideration of possible future projects for the 2016/17 financial year

The Clerk advised members that at the forthcoming Finance Committee meeting on 12th October 2015, there would be initial consideration of next year's budget and it was for this reason that this item had been placed on the agenda.

Members discussed that in order to satisfy the requirements of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, the Council would need to give consideration to the preparation of a community plan. It was discussed that the Clerk of Llanelli Rural Council would be attending the Town Council meeting on 21st October, when he would be providing information regarding the work undertaken by his Council, through the engagement of a firm of consultants. It was therefore recommended that a sum of £8,000 should be budgeted for in relation to funding the preparation of such a plan next year.

Members also discussed the possibility of providing match funding for work on the Harbour and a figure of £10,000 was recommended for this.

Lastly, it was discussed that there should be a budget to undertake renovation work upon Pembrey Memorial Hall, although at this stage, this has not been costed and therefore, no specific figure was being recommended.

18. Any other competent business

- Cllr Shirley Matthews advised that she had been approached by a member of Pembrey and Burry Port Cycling Club, regarding the potential usage of Pembrey Memorial Hall. The Club presently has around 50 members. She had been informed that the Club would

like to use the tennis court at Pembrey Memorial Hall for training youngsters in cycling skills. The Clerk also advised members that, although as yet, she had not received any direct communication from the Cycling Club, she was aware that a representative had spoken to the TSO and the Administrative Assistant and had expressed interest in hiring the upstairs room at Pembrey Memorial Hall on an exclusive usage basis. There has not been previous similar usage in this room but members were content, in principle, for the Cycling Club to have the use of the room. Cllr Michael Theodoulou referred to the fact that he believed that charges had been calculated for all of the rooms in Pembrey Memorial Hall, based upon their sizes, prior to organisations that were at the Copperworks building moving in there. He therefore confirmed that he would look up these figures, which he believed he had available.

- Members were provided with a brief update in relation to the Bacce Sub Group. It was confirmed that a meeting had taken place with an officer from Carmarthenshire County Council. Presently, more information is required from County officers but the group is considering how it could work more closely with the County Council. It was indicated that another meeting of the group would shortly be arranged.