

**Pembrey and Burry Port Town Council**  
**Monthly Meeting**  
**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2015**

**Councillor Mrs Jean Hire (Mayor)**

**Councillors Geraint Davies, Ken Edwards, John James, Stephen James, Robert John, John Hedley Jones, Mrs Shirley Matthews, Mrs Susan Northam, David Owens, Andrew Phillips, Michael Theodoulou and Mrs Mary Wenman.**

**In attendance: Melanie Carroll-Cliffe (Town Clerk) and Alan Howells (RFO)**

**(Former OAP Hall 7.00pm – 9.30m)**

**124. Opening Prayer**

The opening prayer was given by the Mayor, Cllr Mrs Jean Hire.

**125. Personal Matters**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Malcolm Davies, Mrs Pat Jones, Mrs Moira Thomas and Hefin Williams.

The Mayor welcomed Cllr Geraint Davies following his recent election to the Town Council. Cllr Geraint Davies made his declaration of acceptance of office and this was signed at the meeting.

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

Members confirmed their usual declarations of interest. No new declarations were made.

**127. Police Business**

There was no attendance by the police and no up to date report had been provided in advance of the meeting. Disappointment was expressed that recently, there had not been a Police presence at Town Council meetings. There was some discussion as to how the situation should be addressed. Members were mindful of the pressures currently faced by the Police but there were differing views as to how to attempt to rectify the issue of attendance. Options discussed included writing to the Chief Constable or requesting that as a minimum, a report be provided in advance of the meeting, so that this could be read out if there was no Police presence. Following the discussions, it was proposed and agreed that the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and the Clerk arrange to meet with the current personnel at Burry Port Police Station to discuss matters and then if the matter is not subsequently resolved, a formal letter should be sent.

**128. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2015**

The minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2015 were accepted as a true record.

## **129. Information from the aforesaid minutes**

### **P76 (108) Information from the aforesaid minutes – Copperworks Group Social Enterprise Project**

Cllr Michael Theodoulou updated members that there had been a meeting with representatives from the Copperworks Groups Social Enterprise Project, which he and Cllr Mrs Shirley Matthews had attended. Cllr John James was unable to attend the meeting. It was reported that initially, some aggression had been shown towards the Town Council, as it had been claimed that there was no policy for that area of the community. It had also been raised by members of the group that there were already plans for a significant number of new homes in that area and it was claimed that the Town Council was ignoring the importance of the building's heritage, together with the wishes of the various signatories to a petition. It was reported to members that the various issues had been responded to, including advising the representatives of the existence of the Council's Bacce Sub Committee. At the meeting, it had also been highlighted that the Town Council is providing preferential treatment to the group for the period of six months, as agreed previously. However, it had been explained that the Council needed to secure market value and that it was undertaking parallel action in pursuing outline planning permission, whilst discussions with the group are ongoing. When queried, the representatives had been informed that the Council considers the value of the site as being between £40,000 and £50,000 per plot but that this would be discounted by demolition costs. The representatives had enquired if the Town Council would offer the site to the group at a discounted rate, although the extent of any such possible discount was not discussed.

It was reported that the representatives seemed to have a better understanding of the position at the conclusion of the meeting and everyone left on good terms.

### **P77 (108) Information from the aforesaid minutes – to receive reports by elected members**

The Clerk confirmed that arrangements had now been agreed for the Headteacher of Glan y Mor School to attend to meet with Councillors at the January 2016 meeting.

### **P78 (109) Report of the TSO – Christmas lights**

There was some discussion in relation to problems with this year's lighting, particularly in relation to a section of lighting which has not worked at all. The Clerk outlined that she had both emailed and met with the electrical contractor to discuss the issues. Given the difficulties which have arisen again this Christmas, it was **APPROVED** that the matter be referred to the Regeneration and Community Services Committee.

### **P79 (110) Regeneration and Leisure Committee meeting held on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2015 – Senior Citizens Christmas Tea**

Cllr Mrs Shirley Matthews reported that this had been an enjoyable event for all those in attendance but there had been queries regarding the lack of Councillors, as only four were in attendance. Cllr Mrs Shirley Matthews urged support for this event in future.

P84 (117) To nominate/approve a Town Council representative on the newly formed “Friends of Burry Port Harbour Group”

Cllr Michael Theodoulou reported that there had been a very positive meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> December with the County Council Officer Ian Jones (Head of Leisure) and County Councillor Deryk Cundy. It had been indicated at the meeting that the County Council agreed that there should be a detailed plan for the improvement of the harbour. A future meeting had been agreed for 11<sup>th</sup> January 2016, at which there will also be senior officers from the County Council’s Regeneration Department in attendance. Members were informed that it was evident from the meeting that the Friends of Burry Port Harbour Group has the support of the Local Authority and its good wishes in seeking funding from sources which are unavailable to it. Cllrs Andrew Phillips and John James were also in attendance at the meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> December and they reiterated to members the positive nature of the meeting. Cllr Andrew Phillips also referred to there going to be a new lifeboat station, which will be an added attraction for the area.

P85 (120) To further consider issues relating to Burry Port Police Station

When this matter was referred to, Cllr Michael Theodoulou highlighted his declaration of interest, due to him living next door to the Police Station and he left the room prior to discussions taking place. The Clerk updated members that following the last meeting, she had been in further written communication with Mr Heddwyn Thomas and had made it clear to him that the Town Council required a definitive response to its own proposal prior to entering into any further discussions regarding any possible relocation of Burry Port Police Station. Mr Thomas had indicated that a formal communication should be received from the Police and Crime Commissioner in the New Year. In the meantime, Mr Thomas had requested some details to enable him to revert to the Town Council with firm information on what is being proposed.

There were differing views as to how to progress the matter. However, following the discussions, it was proposed and **APPROVED** that the Clerk contact the office for the Police and Crime Commissioner to request the Commissioner to attend a special meeting, at his convenience, during January 2016. It was further agreed that the issue then be discussed as a separate item on the Town Council agenda in January.

**130. Report of the Technical Services Officer (TSO)**

In the absence of the TSO through illness, there was no formal report. However, the Clerk updated members in relation to two issues. The Clerk had received information from Matt Morden of Carmarthenshire County Council, advising that a camera survey had been undertaken at Pembrey Memorial Hall and had identified that tree roots were blocking the drains, causing the problem at the front of the Hall. Matt Morden was awaiting receipt of costings for repair/renewal which he anticipated receiving shortly. Another recent problem had also been identified at Pembrey Memorial Hall in relation to the heating system. Three quotes had been obtained for the necessary remedial work. Cllr Michael Theodoulou added that as Chair of the Facilities Management Committee, he had considered the three quotes and had authorised officers to proceed in arranging for the work to be undertaken. Cllr Michael Theodoulou also extended his personal thanks to Cllr John Hedley Jones for his assistance to the Council, in the absence of the TSO.

**131. To consider the report of the Regeneration and Leisure Committee meeting held on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2015**

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Regeneration and Leisure Committee meeting held on the 5<sup>th</sup> November be signed and accepted as a true record.

Matters arising from the minutes

P3 (7) Consideration of the Committee's required budget for the 2016/17 financial year

Cllr David Owens commented that there had been a very interesting Finance Committee meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2015 when the requests from the various committees in relation to the 2016/17 budget had been considered. He indicated that if all of the requests were accommodated, then there would be a very significant shortfall in the budget.

**132. Report of the Responsible Finance Officer (RFO)**

The report, as set out below had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting.

**1. Bank**

The following cash balances are held with Lloyds at 31st October 2015 :-

	<b>Balance at bank</b>	<b>Unpresented cheques</b>	<b>Council cash book balance</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Business Instant Access account	211,395.28		211,395.28
Community Account	49,490.45	31,592.54	17,897.91
Imprest account	16,015.84		16,015.84
	<b>£276,901.57</b>	<b>£31,592.54</b>	<b>£245,309.03</b>

**2. Schedule of accounts paid**

The following accounts have been paid from 1st to 31st October 2015: -

<u>Supplier</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Ref</u>	<u>Cost ex Vat</u> £	<u>VAT</u>	<u>Total cost</u>
	Promotions - Wales in Bloom	9	30.00		30.00
Plusnet	Admin	3	15.00	3.00	18.00
R. Morgan	Pembrey Memorial Hall - Maintenance	1	240.00		240.00
Harbour Tyres Garage	Cemetery - vehicle maintenance	4	74.00	14.00	88.00
Consortium	Pembrey and BP Halls - Cleaning materials	1	83.52	16.72	100.24
Lyreco	Admin - Stationery	3	23.96	4.79	28.75
Lyreco	Admin - Stationery	3	3.40	0.68	4.08
Lyreco	Admin - Stationery	3	-5.20	-1.04	-6.24
BT	Admin - telephone	3	20.00	4.00	24.00

British Gas - Gas	Burry Port Memorial Hall - Gas	1	132.56	6.62	139.18
Darren Daniel	Burry Port Memorial Hall - Maintenance	1	290.00	58.00	348.00
Toppers	Cemetery - materials	4	101.09	13.22	114.31
Biffa	Cemetery - Refuse	4	113.96	22.79	136.75
Biffa	Hall - Refuse	1	97.15	19.43	116.58
Chivers Corner Garage	Cemetery - vehicle costs	4	192.14	38.42	230.56
Parker Plant Hire	Hall - storage	1	61.60	12.32	73.92
Parker Plant Hire	Hall - storage	1	61.60	12.32	73.92
British Gas - Electricity	Copperworks - electricity	1	19.76	0.98	20.74
British Gas - Electricity	Institute - Electricity	1	213.96	42.79	256.75
British Gas - Electricity	Pembrey School - Electricity	1	56.81	2.84	59.65
British Gas - Electricity	BP Memorial Hall - Electricity	1	240.39	48.07	288.46
British Gas - Electricity	Cemetery - Electricity	4	52.39	2.61	55.00
British Gas - Electricity	OAP building - Electricity	1	30.34	1.51	31.85
Electratest	Burry Port Memorial Hall - Maintenance	1	142.80	28.56	171.36
Electratest	Pembrey Memorial Hall - Maintenance	1	77.25	15.45	92.70
Powercut	Cemetery - Equipment maintenance	4	74.11	14.82	88.93
Greenwell Power Tools	Cemetery - Equipment maintenance	4	18.00	3.60	21.60
Dwr Cymru/Welsh Water	Burry Port Memorial Hall - Water	1	976.18		976.18
Dwr Cymru/Welsh Water	Pembrey Memorial Hall - Water	1	350.87		350.87
Dwr Cymru/Welsh Water	Institute Hall - Water	1	82.01		82.01
Burry Port Charity Fund (Golf Day)	Donations	9	250.00		250.00
Burry Port Community Forum	Donations	9	2000.00		2000.00
Burry Port Male Choir	Donations	9	500.00		500.00
Burry Port Male Choir (Ladies Association)	Donations	9	50.00		50.00
Saint Mary's Church pantomime	Donations	9	200.00		200.00
Ty Mair Family Centre	Donations	9	200.00		200.00
Burry Port Community Primary School Association	Donations	9	100.00		100.00
Pembrey Football Club	Donations	9	500.00		500.00
Travis Perkins Consortium	Cemetery - maintenance	4	2.17	0.43	2.60
Coach House Pianos	Youth Club contribution	9	389.98	78.00	467.98
Tradepoint	Burry Port Memorial Hall - Maintenance	1	130.00	26.00	156.00
J. Ridgeway	Burry Port Memorial Hall - Maintenance	1	10.00	2.00	12.00
Plusnet	Britain in Bloom - Car park and hotel costs	9	364.79	63.35	428.14
	Admin	3	17.00	3.40	20.40

### 3. Petty Cash

Payments made from 1st to 31st October 2015

Llanelli Star	3	0.75	0.75
Llanelli Star	3	0.75	0.75
D&A Heel bar - Keys	1	6.00	6.00
<b>Total payments made from petty cash</b>		<b>£7.50</b>	<b>£0.00</b>
		<b>£7.50</b>	<b>£7.50</b>

The RFO advised that there was nothing unusual in terms of expenditure. He highlighted that a number of payments related to financial donations to local organisations and he also highlighted a payment in relation to attendance at the Britain in Bloom awards ceremony.

Following a query from a member, the RFO advised that the donation to Pembrey Football Club was to assist with the purchase of temporary lighting, to enable training to be carried out on the pitch.

### 4. Budget Monitoring Report

The Budget monitoring report for the period 1st April to 30th September 2015 has been circulated to Members.

The RFO advised that income and expenditure should be around 58% at this point in the financial year. He further confirmed that there had been little change since the previous month.

The RFO reported that income is slightly below budget overall. However, rental income for the hire of the halls in Burry Port and Pembrey Memorial Hall are above budget and there is also some outstanding income in relation to these.

In relation to expenditure, employees' costs are slightly over budget and the RFO highlighted that the seasonal worker's term of employment had been extended.

Administration costs are within budget.

The RFO advised that in relation to marketing and promotion costs, the expenditure previously coded to this budget heading for floral display banners had been transferred to the "Special Development Projects" budget heading. The only expenditure against the marketing and promotion heading at present was the marketing of the Wales in Bloom and Britain in Bloom events.

Civic Expenditure is within budget. The RFO highlighted that as yet, the expenditure did not include the cost of the Senior Citizens' Christmas Lunch and the Cawl Cennin.

Expenditure on the cemetery/footpaths is overall within budget. However, the RFO advised that he had been unable to discuss some of the headings within this budget with the TSO, due to his absence. The RFO highlighted once more that vehicle costs are over budget, due to the acquisition of a second van and that this is being built into next year's budget. Cllr Michael Theodoulou requested that a report on the various items where there has been an overspend under this heading be provided to the Facilities Management Committee in due course. The RFO advised that for the next financial year, a breakdown will be provided of maintenance and repairs, to include refuse costs and maintenance of equipment.

Expenditure on the hall and institute is overall within budget but again, the RFO advised that he will in due course be discussing this expenditure with the TSO, as materials are over budget.

Expenditure on the Copperworks is over budget and as advised previously, this is attributable to the annual payment of water rates and rates.

Expenditure on the former Pembrey School is within budget, as is expenditure on Pembrey Memorial Hall.

In relation to special projects, most of the expenditure on floral displays, although not all of it, has been paid. The RFO also reported that income of £1,800 through sponsorship/donations had been received for the floral displays. The RFO highlighted that there had been some additional expenditure in relation to the youth facility contribution. There was some discussion regarding the youth facility contribution and members agreed that this needed to be finalised. This is particularly in light of the fact that the Youth Club appears to be struggling to spend the funds and also having regard to the increasing demand upon the Town Council's resources. It was therefore proposed and **APPROVED** that notification be given to the Youth Club that the expenditure needs to be finalised within this financial year, after which any money not utilised will not be available.

The RFO reported that net expenditure is within budget at 54.50%.

The RFO also updated members in relation to the setting of next year's budget. He advised that he had collated the information following the requests from the various committees and having regard to this, the overall total amounted to £54,000 over the current precept. Accordingly, this had been considerably reduced by the Finance Committee and as a result, it is presently around £12,000/£13,000 over this year's precept. The RFO advised that the matter would be considered once more by the Finance Committee at its January meeting and the budget would hopefully be presented to the Town Council for approval at the meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2016.

It was confirmed that the information in relation to the reductions proposed by the Finance Committee would be reported back to each Committee for consideration, in order to feedback to the January meeting of the Finance Committee.

Cllr Stephen James requested that gratitude to the Finance Committee and staff in relation to the work upon the budget be recorded.

**133. To consider the report of the Finance Committee meeting held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2015**

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on the 9<sup>th</sup> November be signed and accepted as a true record.

Matters arising from the minutes

P4 (11) Consideration of the role and responsibilities of the Audit Sub Committee

Members were advised that at the recent Finance Committee meeting, the RFO had been requested to calculate and provide a total figure of what the Town Council has paid to a specific contractor. Given that a significant amount of money is spent on contractors, the Finance Committee wishes the Audit Sub Committee to look at procurement practices. Cllr Michael Theodoulou also updated members that in relation to the role and responsibilities of the Audit Sub Committee, the draft paper upon this had been considered by all Committees. Some concerns had been raised, which have since been taken into consideration and the document has been redrafted, for further consideration by the Civic Governance and Personnel Committee at its next meeting. Following the Committee's approval, then the Audit Sub Committee will meet and will then look at procurement practices as a priority.

**134. To consider any planning applications**

<b><u>Application No.</u></b>	<b><u>Name and Address of Applicant</u></b>	<b><u>Description of Application</u></b>
S/33048	Ski Pembrey Pembrey Country Park	Siting of concrete slab foundation to support a water storage tank.
S/32989	Mrs Sarah Knight 59 New Street	Replacement roof on garden outbuilding (retrospective).
S/33034	Mr Les Cooper Land adjacent to Maesybryn Road, Pembrey	One detached house and a pair of semi-detached houses (affordable housing exception site)

Members were happy to recommend two of the applications for approval, namely application numbers S/33048 and S/32989. However, they felt that they had insufficient information to make a recommendation in relation to application number S/33034. It was therefore **APPROVED** that the Chair and/or Vice Chair of the Planning Committee make further enquiries and consult with Pembrey Councillors and thereafter, authority be delegated to them to make a recommendation upon the application.

Notification of an additional planning application had been received since the agenda had been circulated. This was application number S/33090 and relates to a double storey side extension and single storey rear extension at 137 Dolau Fan Road, Burry Port. Members recommended approval of this application.

**135. To consider any County Councillors' reports**

Following the query raised at the previous Town Council meeting, County Councillor Mrs Shirley Matthews updated members that all caravans at Pembrey Country Park had now



moved off the site and the one which had remained there previously had belonged to the warden.

County Councillor John James advised that he had attended with Burry Port Bowls Club at a meeting with Carmarthenshire County Council earlier that day. They had discussed the Bowls Club's expression of interest with County Council officers. The Club's position is that it feels that it can maintain the bowling green but the problem relates to the condition of the club house. The County Council is indicating that it is unable to provide funds towards this. Costings are going to be obtained and the Club will be considering grant funding. County Councillor John James reported that the membership of the Club is in excess of 50 members. It was felt that the meeting had been positive.

County Councillor John James also reported that County Council officers were attending the following day to look at the problem with surface water at Parc Tyisha and the Rugby Club fields.

County Councillor John James also raised the issue of the need once more to look at having a depot for sand bags. He therefore indicated that he would pursue this issue of a depot, if supported by the Town Council, which was confirmed.

Lastly, County Councillor John James indicated that he was aware of a number of concerns expressed by residents in Burry Port regarding the lack of polling cards for the recent election. It was therefore **APPROVED** that the matter should be referred to a future meeting of the Civic Governance and Personnel Committee.

### **136. To consider the Mayor's report**

The Mayor advised members of recent events which she had attended, namely the official opening of Burry Port Community Primary School, the community carol concert, as well as the Town Band's concert. The Mayor and the Clerk had also attended an event in Cardiff organised by Kidney Wales Foundation, to mark the implementation of the new legislation upon organ donation.

### **137. Update on the former Pembrey School building, following a meeting with the Head of Corporate Property at Carmarthenshire County Council on the 1<sup>st</sup> December 2015**

The Clerk outlined discussions which had taken place with Mr Jonathan Fearn at a meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2015, at which a number of Councillors were also present. Given various work which the Town Council had undertaken on the part of the building occupied by Serendipity Nursery, particularly in recent years, and also a previous verbal agreement from another County Council officer, Mr Fearn agreed not to pursue notional outstanding rent for the period from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2014 to date. At the meeting, Mr Fearn had also indicated that the County Council would be entitled to pursue dilapidation costs on this part of the building but agreed that this would be offset against the improvements which the Town Council had been responsible for in relation to the library part of the building. Mr Fearn had indicated that if the foregoing was accepted, then the lease could be surrendered back to the County Council as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015.

At a previous Town Council meeting in October, it had been agreed in principle that the lease be surrendered, subject to the financial basis being satisfactorily agreed. Members therefore

**APPROVED** of the foregoing financial basis and that the lease be surrendered on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015.

**138. To consider the future/ potential for transfer of parks and play areas in Pembrey and Burry Port (copy email from Carmarthenshire County Council and plans attached).**

Members had been given the opportunity of considering the email from Carmarthenshire County Council, together with attached plans, which had been circulated with the agenda.

Cllr John Hedley Jones informed members that he had visited all of the relevant parks and photographed each of them. It is also his intention to visit once more with a member of the Town Council staff, to assess the condition of each of the parks and their equipment, following which he will be able to compile a report.

In light of her personal experience with Burry Port Parks Committee, Cllr Mrs Mary Wenman urged that the Town Council should exercise caution. She emphasised that the condition of the various equipment should be carefully assessed and also usage should be monitored, to ensure that the expenditure is worthwhile.

Members were informed that when Mr Jonathan Fearn had attended the meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2015 in relation to the former Pembrey School building, he had offered to attend once more for a meeting to discuss potential transfer of the parks. Mr Fearn had agreed that smaller meetings of this nature seemed to be more effective. It was therefore **APPROVED** that the Clerk arrange a further meeting with Mr Fearn and members of the Facilities Management Committee.

There was also some discussion in relation to the potential for having a joint approach to maintenance with neighbouring Councils. To date, joint meetings have taken place with Llanelli Town Council, Llanelli Rural Council and Llangennech Community Council where consideration has been given to potential collaboration opportunities. It was however discussed that it may be in the interest of the Town Council to consider starting separate discussions with other smaller councils. It was therefore proposed and **APPROVED** that consideration be given to the three Councillors currently involved in the collaboration discussions approaching other smaller councils (Kidwelly, Trimsaran and Llannon) and then reporting back to the Town Council. However, it was emphasised that if this proceeded, the three councils currently involved in discussions should be made aware of the position.

**139. To consider Communications received**

1. Undated letter from the Secretary of Burry Port Memorial Park Bowling Club. This thanks the Town Council for arranging the recent meeting with representatives from the Bowls Club.

*Noted*

2. Letter dated 18<sup>th</sup> November 2015 from the Dyfed Powys Police and Crime Commissioner, Mr Christopher Salmon. This advises that he is currently working towards setting the 2016/17 Council Tax policing precept. To assist with this, he is running a survey, asking two key questions, namely the appropriate level of the precept and options for which issues it is felt the Commissioner should focus in 2016/17. The survey can be accessed at [www.bit.ly/Precept1617](http://www.bit.ly/Precept1617) or a hard copy can be requested through the Commissioner's office. The letter requests that local residents be

encouraged to engage with this survey, which ends on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2016.

*Noted*

3. Email on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2015 from the Pageantmaster, Mr Bruno Peek, which indicates that it has been confirmed that beacons will be lit on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2016 in celebration of Her Majesty the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. Further details will be provided shortly in relation to the official lighting time. Also, an official Guide To Taking Part is currently being prepared and it is indicated that our Town Council will be listed on the acknowledgements page of the Guide, as one of the first organisations agreeing to participate. In excess of 170 Councils/organisations have already agreed to participate.

*Noted*

4. Letter received on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2015 from the Secretary of Burry Port Charity Fund. This advises that the Annual Charity Golf Day held in August was again a great success, with nearly £4,000 being raised. It further advises that the Charity has already started to distribute these funds to individuals and organisations in Pembrey and Burry Port. The letter also thanks the Town Council for its financial support.

*Noted*

5. Email on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2015 from the Chief Executive of One Voice Wales forwarding information from the Welsh Government. This advises that on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2015, the Minister for Public Services published for consultation the Draft Local Government (Wales) Bill, which sets out the Welsh Government's detailed proposals for the reform of Local Government. This includes consultation on the Welsh Government's preference for the future "map" of Local Government in Wales. The consultation documents can be accessed on the Welsh Government's website [http://gov.wales/consultations/localgovernment/draft-local-government-\(wales\)-bill-consultation](http://gov.wales/consultations/localgovernment/draft-local-government-(wales)-bill-consultation)

*Noted*

6. Email on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2015 from Mr Matt Morden of Carmarthenshire County Council in response to the Town Clerk querying the up-to-date position upon the formal transfer of Pembrey Memorial Hall. This advises that he has prepared a report to present to the Executive Board to formally transfer the Trusteeship of Pembrey Memorial Hall to the Town Council. This has to be accompanied by a valuation and the Clerk is aware that a recent visit to Pembrey Memorial Hall has taken place by an officer of the County Council to undertake this. It is therefore hoped that the report will be presented to the Executive Board on 4<sup>th</sup> January 2016.

*The Clerk updated members that a further email had been received from Mr Matt Morden. He had confirmed that the valuation had been received from the District Valuer's office and he does not anticipate problems in confirming the intended transfer at the Executive Board meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> January 2016.*

7. Email on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2015 from Mr Nick Gowman of Carmarthenshire County Council. This advises that the next phase of the Pembrey canal cycle path works were due to commence on 7<sup>th</sup> December, weather permitting. This will extend the path from the rear of Waun Sidan towards the Pinged Road near Ty Mawr. A plan of the intended work has been provided.

*Noted*

#### **140. Report of elected members**

Cllr Stephen James reported that he had attended the recent Community and Town Council's County Liaison Forum on 8<sup>th</sup> December. At this meeting, there was reference to a proposed significant cutback by the County Council of up to 40% in relation to the provision of maintenance services, such as litter picking and gully cleaning. There was also an indication that the coastal defence budget is to be reduced by 25%, on the basis that there has been a cutback from Welsh Government.

Cllr John James advised that each of Carmarthenshire County Council's Scrutiny Committees is currently considering the budget process and there is no certainty as yet. He indicated that the issue of gully cleaning was a particular concern. Cllr John James further advised that more should be known about the education budget the following day. However, although schools funding has not previously been cut, there are now proposals for cutbacks which would affect school budgets.

Cllr Robert John raised concern regarding the Town Council's policy in relation to the lighting and sound system at Burry Port Memorial Hall. He believed that on occasions when the hall is being hired out, there are persons operating the system who do not have the necessary training or qualifications. The Clerk advised that consideration is being given to training being sourced for some of the Town Council's own staff, so as to ensure that there is always someone available to operate the system, who has the necessary expertise.

Cllr Andrew Phillips updated members that the Pembrey and Burry Port Heritage Group had appointed a Project Development Officer earlier that day.

#### **141. Report of the Clerk on matters of administration**

1. Details have been forwarded from One Voice Wales on behalf of the Department for Natural Resources at Welsh Government. This provides information upon the publication of the Positive Planning Implementation Plan. The Planning (Wales) Act 2015 puts in place a key legislative foundation to deliver this "Positive Planning" improvement programme. This is to be supported by changes to secondary legislation, policy and guidance, as well as introducing measures to support culture change. The Positive Planning Implementation Plan brings together the various improvement projects and supporting secondary legislation to be delivered and also sets out the priorities for delivery. The Plan can be accessed at <http://gov.wales/topics/planning/legislation/planning-wales-act-2015/positive-planning-implementation-plan/?lang=en>

*Noted*

2. Following the election on the 10<sup>th</sup> December 2015, a copy of the Declaration of Result of Poll is **attached**.

*Noted*

3. Subsequent to the appointment of Cllr Geraint Huw Davies to the Town Council, members are invited to consider his potential appointment to the Council's various Committees.

*It was proposed and APPROVED that Cllr Geraint Davies be appointed to the*

***Regeneration and Community Services Committee and also the Facilities Management Committee.***

4. Following the Town Council's recent financial donation to Pembrey School, a letter (undated) has been received from the Headteacher, thanking the Council for its swift response, which it is stated will enable the school to quickly alleviate a potentially dangerous situation, which has been a major concern for some time.  
***Noted***