

Pembrey and Burry Port Town Council

Monthly Meeting

Wednesday 18th April 2018

Present: Councillor David Owens (Mayor)

Councillors Mrs Linda Edwards, Mrs Pam Every, Mrs Amanda Fox, Peter Freeman, John James, Stephen James, Robert John, John Hedley Jones, Mrs Shirley Matthews, Mrs Lisa Mitchell, Mrs Karen Francis Morris, Hugh Shepardson, Michael Theodoulou, Mrs Moira Thomas, Bob Walpole and Mrs Mary Wenman

In attendance: Alan Howells (RFO), Shan Loudon (Administrative Officer)

Minute taker: Ed Davies (Administrative Assistant)

(Memorial Hall 7.00pm – 9.10pm)

152. Opening prayer

The opening prayer was given by Rev. Nicholas Jones.

Cllr Peter Freeman arrived at 7.01pm

153. To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Geraint Davies.

154. To receive members' declarations of interest in respect of the business to be transacted

Cllr Stephen James stated he had no further interests to declare.

Cllr Mrs Mary Wenman declared in interest in any matters related to the Park and MUGA in Burry Port Memorial Park

Cllr Mrs Shirley Matthews declared an interest in any matters related to her work as a County Councillor or to do with the Marina field through her membership of the Carnival Committee.

Cllr Hugh Shepardson declared an interest in planning application S/36973 from Ashburnham Golf Club due to his membership of the club.

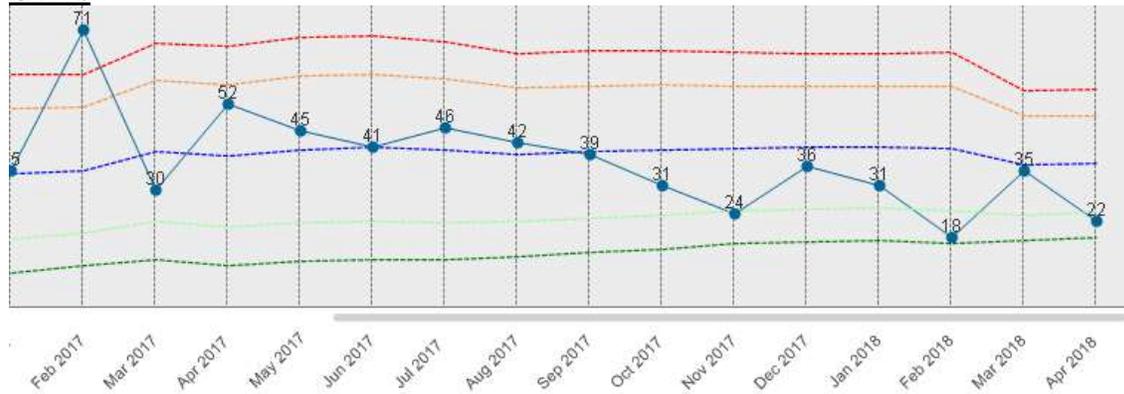
Cllr Robert John declared an interest in planning applications S/36993 and S/37018 due to his living adjacent to the proposed development.

Cllr John James declared an interest in any planning matters due to his membership of the Planning Committee of Carmarthenshire County Council.

155. Police Business

Sergeant Tom Morris and PCSO Adam Newell were in attendance. Sergeant Tom Morris read aloud the report as follows:

Crime



March 2018

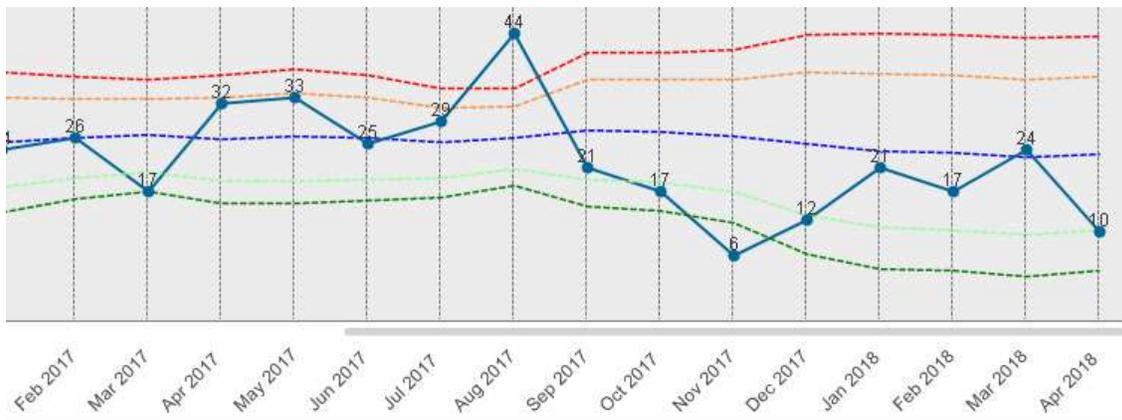
35 crimes recorded in March 2018 which is higher than previous months, however, anticipated given the annual rise in crime that the section experiences from March-September. The rise in crime mainly relates to violence against the person based offences. Having reviewed all of the violent crime offences there is no cause for public concern. The bulk of the offences actually relate to harassment type offences between school children.

From my review none of the March offences relate to violent crime occurring in public in the town area.

Of note, there was also 1 robbery. I am sure the local council is aware of this matter as it was heavily reported on in the press. The robbery relates to a theft of bicycle. 2 youths have been arrested and we believe that we have the person responsible on police bail. The person does not live in the Burry Port area.

Month	Burry Port	Pembrey	Total
Apr 2018	11	11	22
Mar 2018	17	18	35
Feb 2018	12	6	18
Jan 2018	22	9	31
Dec 2017	18	18	36
Nov 2017	17	7	24
Oct 2017	20	11	31
Sep 2017	20	19	39
Aug 2017	30	12	42
Jul 2017	23	23	46
Jun 2017	27	14	41
May 2017	30	15	45
Apr 2017	45	7	52
Mar 2017	23	7	30
Feb 2017	5	5	10

ASB



As can be seen, 24 ASB incidents throughout March in the Burry Port and Pembrey area. As with crime, a rise is expected throughout the spring and summer months. Some of the 24 incidents relate to children throwing snowballs (at the start of March). The bulk of the ASB incidents reported relates to youths congregating and causing problems within the town centre area. Action is being taken in order to tackle this issue and curfews have been imposed. Burry Port officers and PCSO's are utilising Community Protection Notices (CPN's) to tackle the Anti-social behaviour. Warning letters have been issued to all known offenders and officers are actively targetting and reporting breaches of curfews. Continued failures of the subjects to abide by the rules set in the CPN's will result in Court appearances.

Actions From Last Meeting

No meeting in February.

In recognition that Sergeant Tom Morris was from an adjacent area, the Mayor did not invite questions but asked for observations from Councillors instead.

Members expressed their thanks to Burry Port's police and staff in relation to a recent bicycle theft. It was stated that the increased police presence on the streets had been noticed and was welcome and very comforting to local residents.

Cllr Mrs Mary Wenman stated her thanks in relation to an incident she had reported to the "101" service which she had found excellent. She urged anyone with non-urgent police matters to use the service.

The Mayor asked Sergeant Tom Morris to pass on the observations to the local Sergeant.

156. To confirm the minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on Wednesday 21st February 2018

Members asked to check for accuracy first and highlighted the following corrections:

- P105 (136) – Cllr Mrs Moira Thomas stated that the comments by Cllr Peter Freeman had been withdrawn by him as they were in error. Cllr Peter Freeman confirmed this. The relevant paragraph would be removed.
- Correction of all incidences of the misspelling of Cllr Mrs Linda Edwards name to be made.

It was queried whether the figures given for the vote on P110 (146) was correct, but it was stated that those were the figures shown in the record.

Cllr Stephen James **PROPOSED** that subject to the above amendments the minutes be accepted as an accurate record of the meeting on Wednesday 21st February, seconded by Cllr Hugh Shepardson.

In the ensuing vote 14 voted in favour, with 3 abstentions and 0 against. It was therefore **RESOLVED** for the minutes of the meeting of Wednesday 21st February be accepted as an accurate record of the meeting.

ACTION: OFFICE

The Mayor stated that in accordance with the Standing Orders he wished the Council to consider the minutes of the Extraordinary meeting of the Town Council of Tuesday 10th April.

Although digital copies had been sent to all members in advance of the meeting, they had not been provided with a hard copy. The Administrative Officer was instructed to provide copies for each member.

Shan Loudon left the meeting at 7.15pm

While waiting for the copies of the minutes to arrive, the Mayor brought forward agenda item 165 to be discussed next, noting that the agenda had a mistake as it should also include for the appointment of the Deputy Mayor Elect.

165. To receive nominations for the appointment of the Town Mayor Elect for 2018/19

The Mayor **NOMINATED** Cllr Robert John for the position of Town Mayor, seconded by Cllr Hugh Shepardson.

Cllr John James requested to make comment and read aloud a statement on behalf of the Labour Councillors as follows:

In our view Cllr. Robert John is unsuitable to hold the office of Mayor for Pembrey and Burry Port for the following reasons.

He is prone to unpredictable outbursts and has shown aggressive and intimidatory behaviour in Town Council meetings, which has been directed mainly, but not exclusively, at female Labour Councillors.

On 6th December, 2017 he was advised by letter from the Ombudsman's Office to reflect on his conduct and threatening language.

At a Regeneration Committee which Cllr. John was chairing, after receiving the letter, a member of the committee called female Labour Councillors "vile and evil". Cllr. John did not intervene, in fact he added his own verbal attack, further inflaming the situation, thus leading us to question his suitability to chair the Council and represent it as the Mayor.

The position of Mayor is supposed to be impartial and yet Cllr John has stated he will not work with any member of the Labour Group.

We view this as a demonstration of great disrespect and ignorance to the voters of Pembrey and Burry Port by wilfully obstructing the inclusion of Labour Councillors in decision making positions even though the majority of votes cast in the last town council election were for Labour Candidates.

We have not taken the decision to object to Cllr. John's nomination for Town Mayor lightly but when taking into account the above we feel we have to make a stand against such behaviour and not reward it with a highly prestigious position as this community's First Citizen.

The outbursts were at Council meetings where many if not all around the table had witnessed these acts and members of the public observing the meeting also witnessed these outbursts.

How would they feel if it was their Mother, Wife or Sister being bullied and intimidated this way.

Cllr Robert John requested to make a response. He stated that a complaint had been made against him to the ombudsman but that the enquiry had established that he had been affirmative, not aggressive. He added that he and the Mayor, Cllr David Owens had been subjected to a campaign of lies and mis-direction from social media and the local press on a number of matters. He had been informed that Llanelli Online claimed to have signed declarations from Labour Councillors asserting his behaviour had been aggressive but that they had not shared any details. He found the accusations very hard to accept as during his working life in the police, he had worked against domestic violence and had been commended on his work with women suffering from abuse. He also reminded Cllr John James that he had been praised by the Labour Group in the past for continuing to work with them and that he was prepared to do so in future.

Cllr Mrs Linda Edwards identified herself as the complainant to the ombudsman. She stated that Cllr Robert John had stood over her and gestured threateningly by pointing. She stated that she has felt threatened by him in the past but had never had issue with the Mayor, Cllr David Owens. She proceeded to read aloud the statement from the ombudsman on the matter as follows

"I will be reminding Cllr John of his obligation to abide by the Code and will suggest that he reflects on his conduct at meetings and how his comments may be perceived".

In the ensuing vote there were 9 votes in favour, with 7 against and 1 abstention. Cllr Robert John was therefore **APPOINTED** as the next Mayor elect, to be confirmed at the AGM.

ACTION: OFFICE

Shan Loudon returned to the meeting at 7.25pm

Cllr Peter Freeman then **NOMINATED** Cllr Mrs Lisa Mitchell for the position of Deputy Mayor, seconded by Cllr Robert John.

Cllr Mrs Shirley Matthews **NOMINATED** Cllr John James for the position of Deputy Mayor, seconded by Cllr Mrs Karen Francis Morris.

The Mayor then took a vote on both nominations. There were 8 votes in favour of Cllr John James and 9 in favour of Cllr Mrs Lisa Mitchell.

Cllr Mrs Lisa Mitchell was therefore **APPOINTED** as the next Deputy Mayor elect, to be confirmed at the AGM.

ACTION: OFFICE

The Mayor then wished to return to the additional item of business under agenda item 156, to consider the minutes of the Extraordinary Town Council meeting on Tuesday 10th April 2018.

Cllr Peter Freeman left the meeting at 7.28pm

The Mayor then called a brief pause in proceedings to allow members to read the minutes of the meeting of Tuesday 10th April; at 7.29pm

The Mayor restarted the meeting at 7.35pm

The Mayor requested members consider the accuracy of the minutes first.

P2 (5) – Update on asset transfers

Cllr Mrs Mary Wenman stated that her comments relating to the rumours surrounding Burry Port Memorial Park had not been included, nor her comments about outstanding maintenance work that the County Council had not addressed. They would need inclusion as it had been requested for the statements to be minuted.

P7 (9) – update on revised Committee structure

Cllr Mrs Moira Thomas stated that according to the Standing Orders, a change to them is legislative which requires a two thirds majority at the AGM to be approved, and that the decision was therefore ultra-vires. She read aloud the relevant section of the Standing Orders to confirm her position.

There followed a discussion where members queried if the matter at hand was the accuracy of the minutes or the accuracy of the actions of the Council.

Cllr Peter Freeman returned to the meeting at 7.40pm

The Mayor stated that Cllr Mrs Moira Thomas had made a valid point concerning the actions of the Council that would need testing. However the matter at hand was accuracy of the minutes.

There followed a heated discussion regarding the discussion of minutes of previous meetings and what could and could not be debated while they were being approved.

Some members expressed that they felt the minutes were an accurate account of the meeting, while others felt there were omissions.

The RFO suggested that the relevant sentence by Cllr Mrs Moira Thomas in the minutes in question, be amended as follows:

“Cllr Mrs Moira Thomas stated that as the changes were legislative changes they would need to be made at the AGM *where a two thirds majority is required.*”

The RFO added that the remainder of the relevant section in the minutes in question states that the structure was approved with the changes to Standing Orders to be agreed at the AGM.

The Mayor then asked members to vote on whether or not the minutes were an accurate record of the meeting, subject to the specified changes.

All members agreed that the minutes were accurate subject to the recommended changes.

ACTION: OFFICE

The Mayor then stated that agenda item 10 from the minutes of the 10th April 2018 had not been discussed at that meeting and he wished it to be considered next.

To consider proposed changes to procedures from the Audit Committee

The Mayor then requested for the Chair of the Audit Committee to introduce the discussion.

Cllr Michael Theodoulou dealt with each recommendation in turn:

- a) Information as to what minutes are to be approved under camera to be given in advance on the agenda.

He stated that the recommendation was to provide members with more information on the agenda they receive related to in camera items as it allowed for a better discussion during the meeting if members could be prepared.

Cllr John James **PROPOSED** for the recommendation to be adopted, seconded by Cllr Michael Theodoulou.

In the ensuing vote members indicated unanimously in favour of the proposal, and it was therefore **APPROVED**.

ACTION: OFFICE

- b) In camera session to be held at beginning of Council meetings.

Cllr Michael Theodoulou stated that currently when the meetings move into in camera session, it is happening very late when members are tired and the debate becomes rushed. This recommendation would allow members to discuss these sensitive matters prior to the public meeting starting.

Members discussed how it may adversely impact the public if the meeting started at 7pm in camera, as how were they to know when the public session began without hanging around. As a remedy it was suggested the in camera session could start earlier with the public session at 7pm as usual. It was suggested that there could still be an in camera session at the end of the meeting if it could not all be discussed during the half an hour allotted. Members recognised that they would need to exercise good time management during meetings to get through the agenda. It was suggested that should an in camera item need discussion after the agenda has been delivered, it could be kept until the end of the meeting.

Cllr Mrs Lisa Mitchell **PROPOSED** for future meetings of the Town Council to include an in camera session, starting at 6.30pm with the public session to start at 7pm as usual, and for additional in camera matters to be concluded at the end of the meeting, seconded by Cllr Mrs Karen Francis Morris.

In the ensuing vote 16 members voted in favour of the proposal, 1 abstention and with 0 against. The proposal was therefore **AGREED**.

- c) Change in Standing Orders to enable Council meetings to be recorded.

Cllr Michael Theodoulou stated that this item would require a change to Standing Order 1L to allow the recording of meetings. He stated that after much discussion the Audit Committee felt

that recently, heated debate has led to confusion over what had happened during meetings and that was leading to confusion in the minutes. It was therefore recommended that the Council consider allowing audio recording of meetings.

Members discussed that audio only recording would miss out on body language during debates. Some felt that these problems had reduced since the appointment of the Administrative Assistant and felt recording may be an unnecessary step to take. It was considered that video recording and webcasting of the meetings may be a means of extending inclusion and that this should be considered in detail by the Chairs Committee. Members recognised that such changes would have cost implications but that recording would help reduce incidence of disagreement between members. The improvements to transparency would be welcomed by many members but it was felt the details would need to be discussed and clarified, and perhaps other town councils who recorded their meetings could be contacted to find out about the application and practical issues. It was noted that complications may arise from recording of external speakers and seeking their permissions in advance.

Cllr Stephen James **PROPOSED** the recommendation be agreed in principle for the recording of meetings of the Town Council and its committees and for the matter to be referred to the Chairs Committee to form the policy before bringing it back to the Town Council for approval. This was seconded by Cllr Mrs Pam Every.

Members discussed whether the proposal was for both audio and visual recording or not and what the data storage and safety measures would be. It was agreed that these would be discussed by the Chairs and raised again when they returned to the Council with their deliberations.

It was queried why the matter would be referred to the Chairs Committee and not the Civic Governance and Personnel Committee, but it was felt that as the issue would affect all committees it should be discussed by the chairs in the first instance.

In the ensuing vote 14 members voted in favour of the proposal with 3 against and no abstentions. The proposal was therefore **AGREED**.

ACTION: CHAIRS COMMITTEE

157. To consider the report of the Responsible Finance Officer

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

1. Bank Balances

The following cash balances are held with Lloyds at 31st March 2018 :-	Balance at bank
	£
Business Instant Access account	224,659.10
Community Account	22,790.71
Imprest account	21,373.39
	£268,823.20

2. Schedule of accounts paid

The following accounts have been paid from 1st to 28th February 2018

Supplier	Details	R e f	Cost ex Vat £	VAT	Total cost
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Excel Electrics	Pembrey MH - Maintenance	3	25.00	5.00	30.00
Teleshore	Cemetery - New Equipment	4	2947.00	589.40	3536.40
Biffa	Cemetery - Refuse costs	4	121.88	24.38	146.26
Biffa	BP Hall - Refuse costs	3	105.30	21.06	126.36
British Gas	Copperworks - Electricity	3	16.89	0.84	17.73
British Gas	Institute - Electricity	3	365.07	73.01	438.08
British Gas	BP Memorial Hall - Electricity	3	253.10	50.62	303.72
British Gas	Cemetery - Electricity	4	197.70	9.88	207.58
British Gas	OAP Hall - Electricity	3	31.12	1.55	32.67
BT	Admin - Telephone	1	20.00	4.00	24.00
Miles Hire	Cemetery - Hire of equipment	4	61.00	12.20	73.20
Finishing touches	BP Hall - Cleaning costs	3	61.66	12.34	74.00
British Gas	Pembrey Memorial Hall - Electricity	3	196.64	7.58	204.22
CCC	Admin - Payroll SLA	1	960.00	0.00	960.00
Greenwell Power Tools	Cemetery - Equipment maintenance	4	32.08	6.42	38.50
Toppers	Toilets - Cleaning materials	3	79.18	15.84	95.02
One Voice Wales	Civic Expenditure - Consultancy	9	940.00	0.00	940.00
Llanelli Ramblers	Special - Events donation	9	150.00	0.00	150.00
DD Plumbing	BP Memorial Hall - Maintenance	3	323.66	64.73	388.39
Wynnstay	Cemetery - Equipment maintenance	4	7.50	1.50	9.00
Plusnet	Admin	1	101.67	20.33	122.00
Action Surveillance	Institute - Maintenance	3	591.00	118.20	709.20
Chivers Corner Garage	Cemetery - Vehicle costs	4	178.18	35.64	213.82
Lloyds Bank	Service Charges	1	5.00		5.00
Plusnet	Admin	1	15.50	3.10	18.60
			7786.13	1077.62	8863.75

3. Petty Cash

Payments made from 1st to 31st January 2018

Supplier	Details	Ref	Cost ex Vat £	VAT	Total cost
Burry Stores - card		1	3.00		3.00
D&A Heel bar - Office door key		3	4.95		4.95
Dunelm - Hooks		3	5.00		5.00
B&M - gift bags		9	13.34		13.34
WH Smth - Gift cards		9	55.00		55.00
Burry Bargain - bags		1	1.30		1.30
Total payments made from petty cash			£82.59	£0.00	£82.59

The RFO stated that the bank balances currently stood at £268,823.20 and highlighted 2 payments in particular, one was to Teleshore for new equipment at the Cemetery and one was

the SLA payment to the County Council for payroll. He also stated that petty cash did not have any unusual payments to note.

The report was noted by members, who were informed they could contact the RFO on a later date on the contents as they had only just been provided with them.

Copies of the budget monitoring report had been sent to members in advance of the meeting.

Finance

The RFO stated that insurance payments were over budget and a decision had been taken for a virement to be made out of general reserves, which would be shown on the final Monitoring Report.

In response to a query, the RFO confirmed that no payment had been made in relation to the election costs from May last year as yet, as no bill had been received, but that the money for it was earmarked in reserves.

The RFO confirmed that the insurances were high as they had additional elements to what had been budgeted for. He also clarified that public liabilities insurance was listed separately. He also confirmed that the requested additional detail and breakdowns would be provided in monitoring reports for the 2018-2019 financial year.

Facilities Management

The RFO stated that overall expenditure was within budget. With regards income, he confirmed that the SLA payments had been received excepting the Memorial Gardens but that the Council was looking at that as an asset transfer.

He highlighted that the income for Pembrey Memorial Hall and Burry Port Memorial Hall was above budget at the end of January and that the Cemetery would also achieve its targets by the end of the year. He also noted that the footway lighting SLA had been received.

In response to a query the RFO confirmed that the cemetery software was not strictly speaking a replacement but that the £3000 shown was the total cost of the purchase.

There followed a discussion among members about whether or not the income figures related to facilities hire would suggest the usage was as expected, lower or higher regardless of the income increases shown. The RFO responded that the figures show a substantial income increase to the end of January, and that there was more to come. He agreed to provide members with a breakdown of income and usage of each facility over the past 2 years, presented monthly to help them assess, but that currently these figures would suggest the facilities were being used by the community more rather than less.

The RFO responded to a query on the high cost of cleaning materials, by stating that the materials and equipment were used on all of the public conveniences that the Council maintained, hence the increased costs. Members decided to refer the matter to the Facilities Management Committee.

ACTION: FACILITIES

The RFO highlighted that Pembrey Hall expenditure was over budget due to a number of expensive maintenance issues, the most expensive being the tree maintenance works.

The RFO indicated that Special Projects would be within budget by the end of the year also.

Members discussed the rates increases affecting the Copperworks main site, expressing their desire to push for that to be re-evaluated.

The RFO confirmed that the £1784 payment for Bowling Green Maintenance in Special Projects had been paid as a goodwill gesture in recognition of the recently concluded asset transfer.

At the request of members the RFO provided a little more detail about the Toddler Park/MUGA maintenance costs, stating that it covered inspections and specialist works. Members decided to refer the matter to the Facilities Management Committee.

ACTION: FACILITIES

The Mayor reminded members that in the absence of the Clerk the three Committee Chairs were meeting every morning to manage the communications and day-to-day business of the Council and that all members were welcome to attend and raise urgent concerns.

Civic Governance and Personnel

The RFO stated that there were no issues of concern to raise.

Regeneration and Community Services

The RFO stated that he had provided a full breakdown of the Wales in Bloom and floral displays budgets at the last Regeneration and Community Services Committee meeting and confirmed that the dinner costs had included both dinners. He confirmed that the Floral Displays costs had been double counted and that those costs would reduce by £10,000 from what was shown in the Monitoring Report. He confirmed that that would place the spending back within budget and that vired monies could be vired back if necessary.

158. To receive and note the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on Thursday 8th February

The minutes of the meeting of Thursday 8th February were received and noted.

159. To consider the report of the Technical Services Officer (March and April)

The Mayor asked members for their comments.

March

In relation to the quotation for the floral bedding plants based on the previous quote, members were informed that that figure was £9657.

In relation to roof repairs at Pembrey Memorial Hall it was stated that no decision had yet been taken and that the options for grants to pay for the work were being looked at.

In relation to the play area transferred assets, the figures from the County Council had not been received yet but an inspection was due soon.

In relation to the public lighting, Cllr Hugh Shepardson made a point of clarification that when he and John Ridgeway had been employees of the Town Council, they had only ever acted under the instruction of the Council.

April

In relation to the hanging basket bracket safety tests, members were informed that as a result 4 had been removed.

Members were updated on the internal balcony in Pembrey Memorial Hall, that it had passed its safety inspection and would not incur any further costs.

Members expressed their appreciation at the inclusion of the worksheet summary.

160. To receive and note the minutes of the Regeneration and Community Services Committee meeting held on Wednesday 7th February and Wednesday 7th March 2018

The minutes of the meetings held on Wednesday 7th February 2018 and Wednesday 7th March had been circulated with the agenda. They were received and noted.

There was a request for an update on the situation regarding CCTV cameras at Burry Port Memorial Hall. Members were informed that the cameras had been improved but that the poor lighting of the area negated these improvements. This was to be looked at by the relevant Committee. The opportunity for partnership working with other local businesses and organisations on CCTV was raised and referred to the Regeneration and Community Services Committee.

ACTION: REGEN

Cllrs Mrs Lisa Mitchell, Mrs Mary Wenman and Mrs Moira Thomas agreed to forward to the RFO the information to be included in the response from the Town Council on the school transport issue, for him to compose.

ACTION: RFO

Members were reminded that questions on Committee minutes need to be sent to the Proper Officer in advance of the meeting for addressing or discussion. They were also reminded that they were free to attend any Committee meetings of the Town Council including the Chairs meetings and the regular morning meetings to refer correspondence and action Council decisions.

Members requested they be provided with the date and time of all meetings to enable this, although it was noted that the schedule of meetings was currently under revision.

161. To receive and note the minutes of the Facilities Management Committee meeting held on Thursday 1st February and Thursday 8th March 2018

The minutes of the meetings held on Thursday 1st February and Thursday 8th March 2018 were received and noted.

Members were asked to send their comments and questions to the Proper Officer in advance of the meeting.

Members requested they all be provided with the response to a question raised to save them each asking the question individually.

162. To consider the following planning applications.

<u>Application No.</u>	<u>Name and Address of Applicant</u>	<u>Description of Application</u>
S/36893	Ian Horsley 85 Parc Tyisha Burry Port	Single storey rear extension
S/36951	Adam Preece 49 Tyle Teg Burry Port	Proposed two storey extension to the rear of single storey and the side of the existing dwelling
S/36973	Paul Anderson Ashburnham Golf Club	Construction of new building forming golf practice facility
S/36993	Pobl Group Land part of former Goodig Hotel, Pwll Road	Construction of 103 no. dwelling houses, access road and associated infrastructure
S/37018	D & E Barkley Former Goodig Hotel Pwll Road	Demolition of former hotel and construction of a detached dwelling house
S/37049	Mr Shane Davies 37 Trem y Mynydd Burry Port	Change a detached double garage with the boundary of the garden area and property boundary into a living room

Cllr Robert John declared an interest in planning applications S/336993 and S37018 as he lived in an adjacent property.

Cllr John James declared an interest due to his membership of the Carmarthenshire County Council Planning Committee.

Cllr Hugh Shepardson declared an interest as a Carmarthenshire County Councillor

Cllr Mrs Pam Every as Chair of the Planning Sub-Committee reported on the recommendations of the last committee meeting on 17th April 2018. She reported that the Sub-Committee had recommended for approval all bar two of the applications, namely S/36993 and S/37018.

In relation to S/36993 the primary concerns had been in relation to:

- A reduction in privacy for those living downhill of the proposed development.
- That road access via the A484 could prove dangerous without road improvements.
- Concerns for the long term capability of the sewerage system to cope with the additional load.
- Concerns that the provision to deal with surface water would prove insufficient.
- Without the information from the geotechnical report, it would be difficult to make a recommendation either way due to former mining activity in the area.
- That the concerns raised by the Dyfed Archaeological Trusts' Planning Service in their response of 5th April 2018, had not been addressed. Members had noted that the provision of a Written Scheme of Investigation was a statutory requirement, and that it not having been done was worrying.

In relation to S/37018 the Sub-Committee felt that some of the concerns they had raised in relation to S/36993 would apply to this development also, particularly with regards the standing remains of Gwdig House, and the archaeological potential of the area to be developed.

The Sub-Committee had therefore recommended that applications S/36993 and S/37018 be deferred until sufficient answers could be provided.

There followed a discussion about the response the Council should make, whether or not to send a letter of response in addition to the minutes of the Sub-Committee and whether or not to include the local AM and MP in the response. It was noted that those representatives are already consulted on planning applications and that it may not be necessary to include them.

Cllr Stephen James **PROPOSED** that the Town Council accept the recommendations of the Planning Sub-Committee and that a letter should be sent should the Sub-Committee give its consent. Seconded by Cllr Michael Theodoulou.

In the ensuing vote 13 members voted in favour, with 0 against and 4 abstentions. The motion was therefore **AGREED**.

163. To consider any County Councillors' reports

Cllr Hugh Shepardson reported that the planning application for the Pembrey School re-development had been submitted and that the Cycle track project in Pembrey Country Park was to be completed shortly.

Cllr Mrs Shirley Matthews reported that she had nothing further to add.

Cllr Mrs Amanda Fox reported that the lease agreement had been signed with the Marine Group and they had already started undertaking the management of the harbour.

Cllr John James reported that he had nothing further to add.

The Mayor noted that it had now reached 9pm and he called a short break for the public session to be closed.

That under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and representatives of the press be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items of business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted:

Ed Davies and Shan Loudon left the meeting at 9.10pm.