

Pembrey and Burry Port Town Council
Regeneration and Community Services Committee Meeting

Thursday 3rd March 2016

Present: - Chair Cllr Mrs Shirley Matthews, Cllrs Mrs Jean Hire, John James, Andrew Phillips, Michael Theodoulou, Mrs Moira Thomas and Mrs Mary Wenman.

In attendance: Melanie Carroll-Cliffe (Town Clerk), John Hedley Jones

(Meeting Room, Memorial Hall, Burry Port 9.30am – 10.45am)

1. Personal Matters.

Apologies were received from Cllrs Hefin Williams, Geraint Davies and Stephen James.

2. 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 in relation to the business to be transacted.

3. To confirm the minutes of the Regeneration and Leisure Committee meeting held on 4th February 2016

The minutes of the meeting held on 4th February 2016 were approved as a true record.

4. To consider any matters arising from the minutes

P1 (4) Matters arising – Update on the planting of “Anne Frank” trees by local schools

Cllr Michael Theodoulou asked for an update on the planting of the trees. Cllr Mrs Shirley Matthews informed members that the supplier was waiting for delivery of the trees and hoped they would be planted before the next Regeneration and Community Services meeting.

P2 (7) Update on organised community events.

Cllr John James referred to the Cawl Cennin event which had taken place the previous day. The event was a success and Cllr Mrs Shirley Matthews thanked all the Councillors who attended for their help. It was commented that the caterer charged for 110 people and the cost was £4.95 per head. It was suggested that the cawl could be prepared in house next year but help would be required to serve. Cllr Michael Theodoulou suggested using this as a team building exercise with staff and Councillors helping, possibly asking older children from other schools or Coleg Sir Gar to assist.

Cllr Mrs Shirley Matthews informed members that there had unfortunately been issues with the stage curtains and the microphones during the event. She therefore suggested that a few councillors could be trained on how to use the equipment.

Cllr Mrs Shirley Matthews also mentioned the fact that a quantity of crockery, cutlery and other utensils are missing. It was agreed that a full inventory of all kitchen equipment needs to be drawn up, together with a list of missing items. This issue will be referred to the Facilities Management Committee, to consider the purchase of replacement items, which in turn may have to be referred to the Finance Committee. It was emphasised that subsequently, a procedure will need to be implemented, to ensure accountability for safeguarding the Council's equipment.

Cllr Mary Wenman joined the meeting at 9.45am.

5. Update on entry to Wales in Bloom 2016 and its sponsorship

The Clerk informed members that she had recently spoken again to Ffion Green of Welsh Water regarding sponsorship of Wales in Bloom. The Clerk outlined to Ms Green the costings for different schemes. The Clerk explained to Ms Green that the Town Council is looking at more sustainable planting this year. The Moreb roundabout will have a lighthouse with yellow and blue stones around it to replicate a beach. Sustainable planting will also be used at Pembrey, as well as wild flowers being planted in various areas. It is hoped that Ms Green will revert shortly regarding a financial contribution. Also, she has indicated that it may be possible to provide some practical assistance through the local landscaping company used by Welsh Water.

Cllr Michael Theodoulou enquired as to what Welsh Water's detailed proposals are to finish the work currently being undertaken in Burry Port as part of the RainScape scheme and whether they would be improving the areas worked on. It was suggested that RainScape be invited to attend a future Regeneration and Community Services meeting.

The Clerk confirmed that the budget for Wales in Bloom is £13,000. It was highlighted that sustainable plants are more expensive so the first year will be more expensive than future years. Cllr Michael Theodoulou commented that a hidden cost is that of the time it takes staff to water the plants and that this should be taken into account when decisions are made as to what is to be planted.

Cllr Mrs Moira Thomas reminded members of the commitment made by the Town Council to host Wales in Bloom in 2017.

6. Update on Christmas lighting for 2016

Cllr Shirley Matthews informed members that she has spoken to Hugh Parsons, Tourism and Leisure Officer for Carmarthenshire County Council. Mr Parsons had informed her that the money for Llanelli town centre's Christmas lights comes from his budget and the lights are supplied by a local company. Cllr Michael Theodoulou suggested contacting Mr Parsons to ask Carmarthenshire County Council to pay for the Town Council's Christmas lights. It was agreed that the Town Clerk contact Mr Parsons to enquire if Carmarthenshire County Council will subsidise the Town Council's lights.

It was commented that the Christmas lights are still up on the Cornish Arms. It was agreed that Cllr John Hedley Jones would visit the Cornish Arms to speak to the proprietor to ascertain their intentions regarding the lights.

Cllr Michael Theodoulou commented that the Town Council has a budget for installing the lights and for breakages, but not for total replacement. Cllr Mrs Shirley Matthews suggested counting the number of lamp posts to establish how many lights would be required. It was agreed that Cllr Mrs Shirley Matthews will contact the company which supplies lighting for Llanelli town centre to obtain a quotation.

7. Update on organised community events

Cllr Mrs Shirley Matthews informed members that she has approached the Yacht Club regarding community events. This item was due to be discussed at the Yacht Club's last committee meeting, but no feedback has been received as yet. Cllr Shirley Matthews advised that she would ask to attend the next Yacht Club Committee meeting. Cllr John James informed members that, as far as he was aware, both the Yacht Club and the RNLI are interested in running a fireworks event.

Cllr Michael Theodoulou suggested that the Yacht Club be approached to enquire if they are prepared to organise the Fishing Festival with a grant from the Town Council and help from the Carnival Committee. He also suggested the RNLI be approached in the same way regarding a fireworks festival being organised.

8. Update from Bacce Sub Committee

Cllr Michael Theodoulou informed members that there is a joint Bacce Sub Group and Harbour Group meeting to be held on Monday 21st March 2016. Officers from the Regeneration and Grants Department of Carmarthenshire County Council will be attending this meeting. The Sub Group will look at regeneration of the whole area and the impact of the proposed development. It is hoped that S.106 money will be reinvested in both the Bacce area and the harbour area. Cllr Shirley Matthews enquired if this was a closed meeting or could any member of the Town Council attend. Cllr Michael Theodoulou commented that if anyone had a strong interest they were welcome to attend but the group wanted to keep the meeting small. It is not a decision making committee and feedback will be given from the meeting.

Cllr Michael Theodoulou stated that it is important that the Town Council understands where Carmarthenshire County Council development is going to be and tries to ensure that money raised from land sold in the Millennium Coastal Park area is reinvested in that area.

9. Any other business

- Cllr Michael Theodoulou informed members that he had been contacted by a reporter from the Llanelli Herald regarding the Copperworks Social Enterprise Group. He had informed the reporter that following the group approaching the Town Council with just an idea, the Council has allowed a six month period, to enable it to revert with a plan. He also advised that the Town Council is working on an alternative plan.

- The Clerk informed members of a referral from the Facilities Management Committee regarding the policy on awarding financial donations. She also reminded members that as from 1st April 2016 the Regeneration and Community Services Committee will be responsible for the allocation of financial donations. It was agreed that the policy and strategy for awarding grants be reviewed at a future meeting.