

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

Thursday 7th April 2016

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

In attendance: Melanie Carroll-Cliffe (Town Clerk)

(Meeting Room, Memorial Hall, Burry Port 9.30am – 10.40am)

1. Personal Matters.

Apologies were received from Cllr Mrs Mary Wenman. There was some discussion in relation to members' absences from meetings and either the lack of apologies or the attendance of a substitute. It was suggested that the Civic Governance and Personnel Committee should possibly consider this issue and particularly whether an alternative member should be appointed to a Committee if a member consistently fails to attend.

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 3rd March 2016

The minutes of the meeting held on 3rd March 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 queried the position in relation to the planting of “Anne Frank” trees at local schools. It was discussed that none of the trees which have presently been supplied are horse chestnut trees. Nevertheless, Cllr John James proposed that arrangements be made to plant the trees which have been supplied, together with the presentation of a small commemorative plaque. This was **APPROVED** and it was discussed that hopefully, all schools could be attended on the same day.

P2 (4) Matters Arising – update on organised community events

It was confirmed that the Facilities Management Committee is now looking into the issue in relation to missing items of kitchen equipment and their replacement.

5. Review of policy on financial donations

The Clerk reminded members that under the new Committee structure, the granting of financial donations comes within the remit of the Regeneration and Community Services Committee. It was also indicated that as a result of tighter controls on bookings for the Council's facilities, it has resulted in organisations frequently seeking financial donations, to effectively cover the cost of rental. Therefore, as referred to at the last Regeneration and Community Services Committee meeting, the Facilities Management Committee had made a referral in relation to the review of the policy on awarding financial donations.

Members firstly considered transitional grants and given the original reason for their introduction, it was agreed that such grants be suspended for the present time.

Cllr Michael Theodoulou emphasised the importance of making a clear statement about what the Council is prepared to contribute towards and that it should be made evident that it is not prepared to cover the cost of rental charges. He also stated that the Council should not be duplicating funds, and therefore, grants should not be provided if alternative funds can easily be accessed. Cllr Michael Theodoulou also suggested that consideration be given to whether there should be open funding or specific rounds of funding, as is currently the position.

Following the discussions, Cllr John James proposed that save for the suspension of transitional grants, the Committee makes no other amendments to the financial donations policy for the current time and reconsiders it at a later meeting, which was approved. However, it was also **APPROVED** that it be added into the document that rental charges will not be covered.

6. Consideration of new format of budget monitoring report

The proposed new format of the budget monitoring report had initially been considered at the most recent Town Council meeting, following which it had been **APPROVED** that each Committee individually considers it.

Following consideration of the new format of the budget monitoring report, members were in agreement with it, although it was identified that for the new financial year, financial donations would come under the Regeneration and Community Services Committee, not the Finance Committee.

Cllr Michael Theodoulou referred to the fact that there is clarity on budgeted expenditure in terms of delegated authority to Committees. However, there is uncertainty in relation to budgeted income being exceeded. A specific example was discussed in relation to the Wales in Bloom budget. It was queried whether the Committee has the authority to use the money it receives from donations/sponsorship or whether it falls within the overall Council funds, with the potential of it being used for other purposes.

Members were of the view that there should be delegated authority to enable a Committee to accept money, without a referral to the Town Council. It was therefore proposed and **APPROVED** that the issue be referred to the Finance Committee to consider a recommendation of what should happen when income exceeds budget.

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

Cllr Mrs Shirley Matthews advised members that the Carnival Committee had covered the cost of a planning application in relation to Moreb Roundabout, as part of its donation to the Wales in Bloom campaign. She also indicated that if the work is proceeded with on Moreb Roundabout, as intended, then there will be minimal work for Town Council staff.

The Clerk also updated members in relation to an intended donation from Welsh Water, due to the RainScape project in Burry Port. She confirmed that Ms Ffion Green had recently indicated that a donation of £1,000 would be made and also, there was an offer of assistance from their design team. The Clerk confirmed that following the last Committee meeting, representatives from Welsh Water had been invited to attend the Regeneration and Community Services Committee meeting. It had not been possible for them to attend that day's meeting and it was therefore **APPROVED** that a further invitation be extended for attendance at the next Committee meeting.

8. Update on Christmas lighting for 2016

Cllr Mrs Shirley Matthews advised members that she had spoken to the gentlemen who is responsible for the supply of the lighting in Llanelli Town Centre. She suggested that she invite him to a future Committee meeting, possibly in June, which was **APPROVED**.

9. Update on organised community events

Cllr Mrs Shirley Matthews advised that once again, there will be a three day event at the beginning of July 2016. There will be a music event on the evening of Friday 1st July, with two bands taking part, as well as a hog roast and licenced bar. On Saturday 2nd July, the carnival will take place. Cllr Mrs Shirley Matthews confirmed that the marquee will be on site and therefore available for the usual Songs of Praise event on Sunday 3rd July. Cllr John James confirmed that he would liaise with Cllrs Mrs Pat Jones in relation to this.

Cllr Mrs Shirley Matthews also updated members that she had spoken to Cllr Andrew Phillips in his capacity as a Committee member for the Yacht Club, regarding the potential of a fireworks display and fishing festival. There is currently no further information as there is a new committee within the Yacht Club, to which these matters will be referred.

Members were reminded that the Mayor is hosting a charity fashion show at the Memorial Hall on 18th April. Cllr Andrew Phillips also advised that a Mayoral Rock Concert will be held at the Memorial Hall on 3rd June.

10. Update from Bacce Sub Committee

Cllr Michael Theodoulou advised members that the joint meeting of the Bacce Sub Committee and the Friends of Burry Port Harbour had taken place, together with officers from the Regeneration Department and the Grants Department of Carmarthenshire County Council also being present. They had considered the proposed developments around the harbour and had agreed to work on a joint master plan. It is also intended that members of the group walk around the harbour on 8th April, with a view to deciding where to site various

things, such as a playground. Subsequently, there will be a further meeting with County Council officers to formulate a draft of the masterplan.

Cllr Andrew Phillips indicated that he was rather sceptical, given that despite the Town Council agreeing to share the cost of a new path at the harbour and it being assured that this work would be carried out by the end of the financial year, it is still outstanding. Cllr John James confirmed that he would pursue this issue. He would firstly speak with Mr Rory Dickinson and failing satisfaction, would take the matter future.

11. To consider any referred matters from other Committees

There were no referred matters.

12. Any other competent business

Cllr Michael Theodoulou advised members that he had informally spoken with Mr Jonathan Fearn of Carmarthenshire County Council the previous day. He had indicated that the Council would be looking to negotiate with the County Council in relation to the potential transfer of the various parks and play areas, with a view to creating “super parks”. Mr Fearn had seemed amenable to this.