

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

Thursday 7th July 2016

Present: - Chair Cllr Mrs Shirley Matthews, Cllrs Geraint Davies, Hefin Williams, John James, Michael Theodoulou, Mrs Moira Thomas, Mrs Mary Wenman, Stephen James, Malcolm Davies and David Owens.

In attendance: Lee Fox (Interim TSS), Melanie Carroll-Cliffe (Town Clerk)

(Meeting Room, Memorial Hall, Burry Port 9.30am – 11.40am)

Given the attendance of non-committee members at the meeting, the Chair Cllr Mrs Shirley Matthews proposed that item number five on the agenda be taken out of order and dealt with first. This was **APPROVED**.

1. Personal Matters.

Apologies were received from Cllr Andrew Phillips.

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

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 5th May 2016.

The minutes of the meeting held on 5th May 2016 were approved as a true record.

4. To consider any matters arising from the minutes

P2 (4) Matters arising – Update on the planting of “Anne Frank” trees by local schools

Cllr John James indicated that the new Burry Port Community School would like a formal presentation for the “Anne Frank” tree donated to the school. It was suggested and agreed that a plaque be presented to be placed by the tree at each school.

P4 (8) Update on organised community events

Cllr Mrs Moira Thomas reported that the Songs of Praise event had gone well. Cllr John James requested that thanks be passed to the Carnival Committee for use of the marquee for the Songs of Praise.

5. Update on the progress of Friends of Burry Port Harbour.

Cllr Michael Theodoulou provided a detailed report on the current position in relation to the Friends of Burry Port Harbour. He referred to the fact that major concerns had been raised about the condition of the harbour at a Town Council meeting approximately a year ago and the fact that the Harbour Forum had not meet for approximately four years. Around the same time, Cllr John James and other County Council members were involved in getting the Scrutiny Committee to consider the harbour, following which the County Council decided to put aside £400,000 for a deeper dredge of the harbour.

Cllr Michael Theodoulou outlined the desirability of a community organisation being set up with stake holder involvement, such as the Yacht Club, RNLI together with representation on the commercial and leisure side. As a result, the Friends of Burry Port Harbour Group was formed. Cllr Robert John is the Town Council's representative on this and the Council provided a grant of £1,000 to the group.

Cllr Michael Theodoulou advised that he is the Committee's Chairperson, whilst Cllr Andrew Phillips is the Vice Chair. Several other Councillors are also on the Committee in different capacities. Friends of Burry Port Harbour was launched for membership at the recent Carnival, at which with 312 members joining on this day, with applications for membership remaining open. It is intended that the Friends of Burry Port Harbour be present at the RNLI's two day event in August.

Cllr Michael Theodoulou advised that he had lodged a copy of the constitution for Friends of Burry Port Harbour with the Clerk, details of which he outlined to members. Its aim is to exert pressure for the harbour to be looked after and to provide a platform for a voice for the community.

The whole objective of the group was to better the infrastructure, look after the harbour and make the harbour more sustainable.

Cllr Michael Theodoulou explained that there is a management committee, which will be made up of associate members (founding members), who are free to elect additional associate members. There are also general members and this membership is open to everybody. Cllr Michael Theodoulou reported that it is intended that a small grant of £5,000 be sought from the Lottery Fund.

Following a query raised, Cllr Michael Theodoulou advised that there is genuine concern in the County Council about finding a permanent solution to the harbour problems. He advised that there are crumbling walls and repair costs for this are £750,000.

Cllr Michael Theodoulou reported that he has spoken with Jonathan Fearn at Carmarthenshire County Council about the possibility of setting up a Harbour Trust, which would enable funds to be applied for which are not available to the County Council. He also reported that Burry Port Harbour is the only harbour in Wales which is owned by a Council. Others are owned by a Harbour Trust or Commission.

Cllr Michael Theodoulou reported that there have been ongoing discussions with the County Council and confirmation has recently been received that it is seriously prepared to consider

the transfer of the harbour to a Harbour Trust. He advised that he has set out conditions in relation to this. As grant funding cannot be guaranteed, then the transfer needs to be made within a business plan which is workable without grant funding. Therefore, the harbour would need to come with a dowry, together with land and cooperation to generate income in the future.

Cllr Michael Theodoulou circulated details of the plan and outlined some of the ideas.

Cllr Michael Theodoulou outlined that the proposed Trust would be a non profit making company. It may register to become a charity at later date but the long term aim is to become a Commission, as this would enable it to access government funding directly. He advised that the following are the proposed members of the Trust:

- Cllrs Michael Theodoulou and John James as individuals.
- Angela Saunders, representing the business sector. She also has technical knowledge due to having a degree in oceanography from Swansea University and having studied Burry Port Harbour.
- Friends of Burry Port Harbour.

Cllr Michael Theodoulou advised that he wishes the Town Council to be a governing member of the Trust. Also the County Council would have an interest, although not a controlling interest. He explained that there will be a Board. Six members of the Board will be elected by the governing members. It is intended that the Friends of Burry Port Harbour will elect three members, the County Council will appoint two members, (either Officers or senior members) and the Town Council will appoint one person to the Board.

Cllr Michael Theodoulou referred to the fact that Cllr Robert John is the elected Town Council representative on the Friends of Burry Port Harbour and it would be up to the Council who it appoints to the Board of Burry Port Harbour Development Trust, although he suggested that this person should be a member of the Regeneration and Community Services Committee. He also advised that it would be intended that staff be appointed to run the harbour on a day to day basis.

Cllr Michael Theodoulou advised that a copy of the Memorandum and Articles of Association of Burry Port Harbour Development Trust has been forwarded to the County Council and again, the Clerk has been provided with a copy.

Cllr Mrs Shirley Matthews thanked Cllr Michael Theodoulou for his detailed presentation, as well as other members who had been involved with the group. It was **APPROVED** that an item be placed on the agenda of the July Town Council meeting in relation to the appointment of a Town Council representative to the Trust Board.

Cllr Malcolm Davies left the meeting at 10.30am. Cllrs Geraint Davies and Hefin Williams left the meeting at 10.50am.

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

Cllr Mrs Shirley Matthews reported that everything is now again proceeding well for the judging of Wales in Bloom. Although there had been an issue with the hanging baskets,

these are in the process of being replaced. Outside Pembrey Church has been planted with sustainable planting. Moreb roundabout is being finalised and should be completed by the end of the week.

Cllr Mrs Shirley Mathews advised that sponsorship for Wales in Bloom campaign 2016 is continuing to be received. Also, there has been increased community engagement, with a new organisation being involved, namely Carmarthenshire Incredible Edibles.

Cllr Michael Theodoulou requested that the Interim TSS provide a report to the Committee on the problems which have been encountered this year in relation to the flowers, to ensure that similar difficulties do not occur in future. The Interim TSS will provide this at the next meeting, together with a breakdown of costs.

7. Further consideration of deferred applications for financial donations.

The Clerk outlined further details in relation to the deferred applications, as follows:

First Burry Port Guides – this organisations has confirmed that it is seeking a grant of £200 towards the purchase of equipment. This was approved.

Pembrey Community Growing Association – due to the size of this project (£30,000) and other funding options being applied for, it was felt that representatives of the group should meet with members of this committee to discuss how the Town Council could possibly assist with the project. It was therefore agreed that representatives be invited to attend the September meeting of the committee. TEL KATRINA MUDGE DATE OF MEETING, FIRST ITEM.

Pembrey and Burry Port Photographic Society – this organisation has confirmed that it is looking to purchase four backgrounds at a cost of £50 each and therefore a total grant of £200 is being sought. Members queried where this organisations is now based. It was therefore decisions that this application be further deferred in order for information to be obtained regarding where the organisation is based and also the number of members who reside in the Pembrey and Burry Port area. CONTACT JEFF BURT AND ASK.

Cymdeithas Cymrodion – It has been clarified that this organisation is seeking a donation of £100 toward the cost of speakers. Cllr Mrs Moira Thomas declared an interest in relation to this application. The request for £100 was **APPROVED**.

Burry Port Ty Mair Family Centre – the organisation has indicated that it has provisionally booked dance/dram sessions for the first two weeks of August. It has also indicated that there is lottery money in the underspend pot. Cllr Michael Theodoulou advised members that the organisation could request that funds be released from the lottery fund if it has an underspent and he confirmed that he would be happy to provide advice regarding this. It was therefore **APPROVED** that the Clerk notify the organisation that it should make the appropriate approach to the Lottery Fund to request that some of the underspend be diverted to cover these sessions and if this is not allowed, then it can revert to the Town Council.

The Clerk also informed members that there was a new application for a financial donation from the Dementia Care Support Group. Members were agreeable to consider this application and a donation of £200 was **APPROVED**.

8. Information from SLCC/One Voice Wales Joint Conference held on 22nd June 2016, with particular reference to the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

The Clerk reported that she, together with Cllrs Mrs Shirley Matthews and John James had attended this conference, the focus of which related to the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. She circulated to members a hand out, detailing information regarding this legislation. It was felt that this would be very helpful to the sub committee which has been tasked with considering how the Town Council will meet its responsibilities in relation to this legislation.

9. To appoint two members to the Task and Finish Group to consider future bar facilities at Burry Port Memorial Hall (referral from Town Council meeting 15th June 2016).

The Clerk outlined that Cllrs Andrew Phillips and David Owens had been appointed as the members from the Finance Committee, whilst Cllrs Mrs Moira Thomas and Robert John were the appointed representatives from the Facilities Management Committee. Members felt that one further member was sufficient and it was therefore **APPROVED** that Cllr Mrs Shirley Matthews be appointed as this committee's representative.

10. To consider any referred matters from the other Committees.

Cllr Michael Theodoulou queried the job evaluation process. Cllr John James reported that he had sent numerous emails to the officer dealing with the matter at Carmarthenshire County Council but to no avail. He advised that the group of Councillors that were currently dealing with the evaluation process would meet again the following week and if at this time no response had been received from the County Council, other options would need to be considered in order to finalise the evaluation process.

Cllr Michael Theodoulou emphasised that he was concerned at the length of time that the evaluation process has taken to date.