

Pembrey and Burry Port Town Council
Regeneration and Community Services Committee Meeting
Thursday 7th January 2016

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

In attendance: Melanie Carroll-Cliffe (Town Clerk)

(Meeting Room, Memorial Hall, Burry Port 9.30am – 11.15am)

1. Personal Matters.

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

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

Members confirmed their usual declarations of interest.

3. To confirm the minutes of the Regeneration and Leisure Committee meeting held on 5th November 2015

The minutes of the meeting held on 5th November 2015 were approved as a true record.

4. To consider any matters arising from the minutes

P2 (6) To consider any matters arising from the minutes - consideration of Burry Port Harbour regeneration

Cllr Michael Theodoulou updated members that the Executive Board of Carmarthenshire County Council has allocated £500,000 towards the proper dredging of Burry Port Harbour. A further meeting is to be arranged between County Council officers and the Friends of Burry Port Harbour Group before the end of January and they will be working to create a joint plan for the Harbour and surrounding area, to include the south side.

P2 (6) To consider any matters arising from the minutes - Senior Citizens' Christmas Tea

Cllr Shirley Matthews expressed disappointment that very few Councillors attended this Council run event.

P4 (11) Update on possible alternative access entrance to the Burry Port Memorial Hall car park

Cllr Mrs Shirley Matthews updated members that no further information had been received from the surgery, and she will follow up this matter.

P4 (9) Update on the planting of “Anne Frank” trees by local schools

Cllr Mrs Moira Thomas informed the meeting that Parc y Tywyn School would like to be included in the planting of a horse chestnut tree. Therefore, it was agreed that a fourth tree will be purchased and it can be agreed with the school where an appropriate location is. Cllr John Hedley Jones stated that he had been informed that the three trees already purchased were not all horse chestnut trees. It was agreed that Cllr John Hedley Jones would revert to the supplier regarding this to ensure all trees purchased are horse chestnut trees.

P4 (12) Update on the proposed application for outline planning permission for the Copperworks site

Cllr Michael Theodoulou asked for an update regarding the planning of the Copperworks. The Clerk advised that a meeting is being arranged between Robert Davies, Planning Officer, Carmarthenshire County Council and Darkin Architects. The Clerk advised that to her knowledge the planning application has been submitted and she and Cllr John Hedley Jones will follow up on this.

5. Update on the Committee’s requested budget for the 2016/17 financial year

The Clerk circulated to members a summary of amendments to the budget which detailed the reductions proposed by the Finance Committee, following its December meeting.

The Clerk also referred members back to the minutes of the Regeneration and Community Services meeting held on 5th November 2015 to compare what had been proposed and she outlined the main reductions to the budget.

In relation to income, the events income has been omitted, as it was felt that the return of £5,000 was too ambitious and could not be relied on as a source of income.

Cllr Michael Theodoulou suggested that it would be preferable for the Town Council to co-ordinate four strategic events: Christmas market, Fishing Festival, Music Festival and Fireworks display. There should be engagement with different organisations within the community. It was **APPROVED** that a sub group of three members should be set up, chaired by Cllr Mrs Shirley Matthews, to report back to the next meeting.

Marketing and Promotion – lamp post banners to be reduced by £2,000, as there were still available funds within the current year’s budget. An adjustment will be needed this year to move £2,000 to earmarked reserves.

Cllr Stephen James referred to the Town Council’s website stating that it needed to be modernised and the marketing and branding looked into. He felt that £1,500 was insufficient to improve the website. It was agreed that there needed to be effective communication with the community and the best method of doing so is electronically. However, until such time as there is a brief of what is required, it would be difficult to cost the necessary improvements. It was agreed that a task group be set up comprising of Cllrs Stephen James, John James, Geraint Davies, Hefin Williams together with the Clerk.

The two events managed by the Regeneration and Community Services Committee are the Cawl Cennin and the Christmas Tea. It was **APPROVED** that these should not be included within the general civic expenditure budget, as they are not civic events. It was also felt that it was inappropriate for two committees to share a budget. It was further commented that the figure for the Cawl Cennin should be £500 and for the Christmas Tea £750, not the other way round as was stated at the previous meeting.

Cllr John Hedley Jones left the meeting at 10.30am.

Events budget – to be reduced from £10,000 to £2,000.

Special development projects - to be reduced from £28,000 to £15,000, allocated as follows:

Bacce - £5,000

Harbour regeneration - £10,000

Well being - £8,000

New projects - £5,000

There was some discussion that if there were any other worthwhile projects in due course, there was nothing to prevent a request being made to the Finance Committee for consideration, which could be funded from reserves.

6. Entry to Wales in Bloom 2016 and its sponsorship

The Clerk advised members that a decision needs to be made as to whether to enter Wales in Bloom 2016. It was generally agreed that Wales in Bloom provides recognition for the town. Cllr Michael Theodoulou commented that the costings shown do not reflect the true value as labour costs of Council staff are not taken into account. Cllr Shirley Matthews advised that alternative options for planting and sustainability were being investigated. Following discussion, it was **APPROVED** that Pembrey and Burry Port Town Council enter Wales in Bloom 2016.

Cllr Shirley Matthews informed members that sponsorship is being sought and a private donation of £1,000 has already been received. Also, the Clerk has been in contact with RainScape regarding a contribution and will follow up on this. It was agreed that the Wales in Bloom Sub Group would meet shortly.

Cllr Stephen James suggested that sponsorship should be sought for the roundabouts and signs placed upon them with the sponsor's names. It was **APPROVED** that Cllr John Hedley Jones would contact the Planning Officer to check the planning regulations and revert to the Committee.

7. Hosting of Wales in Bloom ceremonies in 2017

Cllr Mrs Shirley Matthews informed the members that Pembrey and Burry Port Town Council have been asked to host Wales in Bloom 2017. A representative from Wales in Bloom has met with the Clerk and Cllrs Mrs Shirley Matthews and Mrs Moira Thomas to discuss requirements. He viewed the Memorial Hall in Burry Port and agreed it would be a suitable venue. A launch ceremony would take place in April 2017 and the awards ceremony

would be in September 2017. The Council would be expected to provide a two course meal for the awards ceremony but in recent years, a charge of £10 per head has been made by the hosts for persons attending. Sponsorship would be sought and a specific event could be put on to raise money. Following the discussion, it was agreed that the Town Council should host Wales in Bloom 2017 and the costs for doing so could be built into the budget over the next two years.

8. Christmas lighting for 2016

The Clerk informed members of the problems that had arisen with the Christmas lights. In particular, the section of lights between Swards and Josephs chip shop on Station Road have never worked. The Clerk had liaised with the electrical contractor leading up to Christmas to try and resolve the problems and had also requested a detailed breakdown of their charges.

Due to difficulties in recent years, it was **APPROVED** that the issue of tendering for Christmas lighting should be referred to the Audit Sub Committee.

Cllr Andrew Phillips informed members that he had been approached by members of the public suggesting that the Council should only install lights on the Square in Pembrey and the Memorial Gardens in Burry Port. However, other members felt that lights should remain on Station Road, as the main thoroughfare of the town.

Members were of the view that the issue of the Christmas lighting needed to be considered at an early date in order to plan ahead for Christmas 2016. It was therefore **APPROVED** that Cllrs Mrs Shirley Matthews and Moira Thomas together with the Clerk meet to consider this. The Clerk will obtain brochures from suppliers prior to this meeting.

9. Any other business

Cllr Mrs Shirley Matthews informed members that an up to date inventory of the crockery owned by the Council had been prepared, from which it was evident that there are a large number of items missing. It was therefore **APPROVED** that this matter should be referred to the Facilities Management Committee.