

Pembrey and Burry Port Town Council

Minutes Regeneration and Community Services Committee Meeting

Wednesday 4th April 2018

Present: Chair Cllr Robert John, Cllrs Peter Freeman, Mrs Shirley Matthews, Mrs Lisa Mitchell (Vice Chair), Mrs Karen Francis-Morris, Michael Theodoulou and Mrs Moira Thomas.

In attendance: Ed Davies (Administrative Assistant-Minute Taker)

Meeting Room, Memorial Hall, Burry Port 9.32am – 12.00 noon

1. To receive apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Cllr Mrs Mary Wenman.

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

Cllr Mrs Shirley Matthews declared an interest in any matters related to the marina field and with the Carnival Committee, due to her membership of that Committee.

Cllrs Mrs Moira Thomas and Karen Francis-Morris declared an interest in any matters that related to the Heritage Group due to their membership of that group.

3. To confirm the minutes of the Regeneration and Community Services Committee meeting held on Wednesday 7th March 2018

In relation to accuracy the following corrections were put forward:

- Correction – Cllr Mrs Amanda Fox's husband is not the Treasurer of the Dementia Carer's Group but is a Trustee.
- Spelling errors on pages 4-5, agenda items 3, 5 and 7.
- Paragraph corrections on pages 3-4, agenda item 3.

There followed a heated discussion in relation to comments that had not been recorded verbatim in the minutes of the 7th March, or had not been included. Some members felt that through omissions the nature and context of the debate could be perceived incorrectly by those who read them.

The discussion continued into the forthcoming recommendations of the Audit Committee which included, to look into the audio/visual recording of Council meetings and the impact that could have.

Concerns were raised about the press reporting of matters and the subsequent sharing of those news items on social media. Some members had been incensed upon reading what they felt were lies in news articles, and that some of them had included personal attacks and smears.

A short break was called between 9.50 and 9.55

Cllr Mrs Karen Francis Morris stated that there should be no room in the Town Council for such anger and that members needed to work together

Cllr Mrs Moira Thomas made the following statement. The minutes of Wednesday 7th March are at odds with her recollection of the meeting through omissions, and that they could give the wrong impression.

Members **AGREED** that in future, all references to the Chair would instead give the name of the Councillor in question.

ACTION: ADMIN ASSIST.

Members **AGREED** for the action list prepared by the Admin Assistant to be sent out after Council meetings to all members, to help monitor the work of committees.

ACTION: ADMIN ASSIST.

In relation to matters arising:

- As a member of the Carnival Committee Cllr Mrs Shirley Matthews agreed to enquire whether or not the Gooseberry fair that was being organised, could be moved to a different weekend as it clashed with the Amelia Earhart Anniversary weekend.

ACTION: CLLR SHIRLEY M.

- Cllrs Mrs Lisa Mitchell and Mrs Moira Thomas to meet and discuss the Town Council's response to the Schools Transport issues.

ACTION: CLLRS LISA M. AND MOIRA T.

4. To consider any matters arising from the minutes

This agenda item was dealt with concurrently with agenda item 3 and so the meeting moved to the next.

5. Consideration of the Committee's budget monitoring report

Members inspected the report as prepared by the RFO.

There was a brief discussion of the Wales in Bloom budgets with a number of queries to be raised with the RFO on items within it.

Cllr Robert John agreed to arrange a meeting for himself and Wales in Bloom Sub-Committee members with the RFO to work out the queried items.

ACTION: CLLR ROBERT J

Cllr Mrs Moira Thomas also queried whether the number of items shown for Travis Perkins was correct as there were so many; and that £100 had been spent on a sign which was not yet installed and needed chasing. Both questions needed to be put to the RFO.

6. Consideration of applications received for financial donations (if any).

An application had been received from the Burry Port Aikido Club for £180 to provide kits for the junior section (5-12 year old) if parents are unemployed.

Cllr Robert John stated that although there had been a request for a financial breakdown, it hadn't been supplied, but that this was the first application this group had submitted.

It was queried why small clubs and groups were asked to give so much detail, and whether or not that was intimidating them from applying.

Cllr Michael Theodoulou stated that there were 2 tiers of grants, and that the smaller grant could afford to be less rigid in its requirements. He felt there were a lot of issues with the way larger grants were dealt with and had prepared a report to be discussed at the next meeting.

All members indicated their support for the group and **AGREED** to award the grant.

ACTION: OFFICER

7. Update on the 'Community Care Campaign'

Cllr Mrs Lisa Mitchell thanked Cllrs Michael Theodoulou and Robert John for assisting with the arrangements for the junior art competition judging last week. She stated that the birth of her grandson had interrupted the preparations. She also clarified that the judging had been done by a local art society, and that the help had been in setting up the artwork for display.

Members asked if there was a means to set up a group messaging service to keep each other notified of information.

ACTION: ADMIN ASSIST.

Cllr Mrs Moira Thomas left the meeting at 11.02

Cllr Mrs Lisa Mitchell stated that plans for the Mayor's concert on 20th April were going well.

Cllr Mrs Moira Thomas returned at 11.03

Cllr Mrs Lisa Mitchell continued that she had been working with Bonnie Lewington of the Royal British Legion in preparation for the event in Burry Port Memorial Hall on 10th November. She stated that she had contacted the Burry Port Male Voice Choir, the Burry Port Town Band, soloists and a ladies vocal group, about availability for the evening.

Members suggested a number of additional acts to consider.

Cllr Mrs Lisa Mitchell stated that due to the absence of the Clerk, Bonnie Lewington had contacted her via the office to keep on top of the event organisation, and that all members were welcome to assist and be involved. She added that there wasn't much to plan, as the RBL was organising it.

Cllr Michael Theodoulou stated the event in question was a separate matter to the parade that had been discussed previously.

Cllr Mrs Moira Thomas advised that the Deputy Lord Lieutenant be invited early as his schedule was made very far in advance.

In the following discussion Cllr Mrs Lisa Mitchell was advised to call a meeting of the Sub-Committee to discuss the preparations.

Cllr Mrs Lisa Mitchell added that the Kidney Wales walking event was being organised for the 24th June in the morning, with details referred to the Sub-Committee.

ACTION: ADMIN ASSIST and COM. CARE CAMP. SUB-CMTE

8. Update on arrangements for the Amelia Earhart 90th anniversary commemorative event.

There was little to update members on other than relevant contacts had been made and so the Committee progressed to the next item.

9. To consider a response to the One Voice Wales survey “Review of Local Council Sector”, email previously circulated to all members (21st March 2018).

Cllr Michael Theodoulou reported that there was no compulsion for the Council to respond to the email. He stated that he had attended a meeting where he had fed back comments already. He felt the reduction of local Councils from 22 to 10 was very likely to proceed but that it was recognised this may create a democratic deficit and that the likely response from the Welsh Government would be for a further review of local council levels with a strong possibility that Town Councils would be receiving greater responsibility.

10. To consider correspondence previously circulated to members:

	Date	From	Subject
a	Undated	CCC	Burry Port Youth Club Funding
b	22 February 2018	One Voice Wales National Assembly for Wales	Consultation of the draft Autism (Wales) Bill
c	23 February 2018	One Voice Wales Older People Wales	Ageing Well in Wales – Strategic Partner survey
d	27 February 2018	One Voice Wales Hywel Dda Community Council	Final Report – Non emergency patient transport
e	5 th March 2018	Eiriol	Newsletter
f	5 th March 2018	Owen Phillips	Wi-fi towns pilot initiative update
g	12 th March 2018	Antur Teifi	Wi-fi towns briefing section
h	13 th March 2018	One Voice Wales Welsh Hearts	Working with your community
i	21 st March 2018	One Voice Wales	Wales Audit Office online survey
j	21 st March 2018	One Voice Wales Welsh Treasury	UK Government call for evidence to examine how charges or changes to the tax system could tackle the problems associated with single use plastic waste
k	25 th March 2018	Assembly Wales	Access Certificate Petition

- a) Members discussed at length the letter which was a request for £3000 to help meet the fund of delivering a County Council service. They stated strong opposition to the Youth Club being charged rent by the school but recognised it was a matter between 2 departments of the County Council. Some members stated that the County Council needed reminding of what agreements had been made when the initiative was set up.

Members decided unanimously not to provide £3000 as requested. The response needed to include a reminder to the County Council of the agreements made when the initiative was set up.

ACTION: OFFICER

Members discussed whether they could help the youth club raise the funds through the Community Care Campaign, but it was felt prudent to wait to see the response to the letter before taking action.

- b) The results of the consultation were to be shared with all members via email after the meeting.

ACTION: ADMIN ASSIST

- c) The email was to be shared with all members via email after the meeting.

ACTION: ADMIN ASSIST

- d) The results were noted.

- e) Noted

- f) It was queried if the Council had received any legal advice regarding the safeguarding concerns raised previously and Cllr Michael Theodoulou stated that Antur Teifi could be asked when they attended the Town Council next.

- g) Noted

- h) Members discussed the efforts of the Carnival Committee to make defibrillators available in the community, in relation to this letter.

There was some discussion about Sub-Committees working to support community groups or “streets” in entering Wales in Bloom, or on work for the Bee Friendly Campaign. Some members stressed that with the increased workload from the asset transfers and the continued absence of the Clerk and the TSO, there were greater priorities at this time.

Cllr Karen Francis Morris enquired if it was possible to keep the community informed of categories to enter, or similar via the website and social media, and was informed that the Admin Assistant was due to receive training in updating the website, and once in place would be able to do so.

- i) Cllr Michael Theodoulou stated that the Chairs Committee had looked at the survey and recommended the Council would not take part at present.

- j) Noted

- k) Cllr Michael Theodoulou read the email aloud and members **AGREED** unanimously for Officers to sign the petition on the Council.

There was also a brief discussion of the Council’s responsibility for ensuring sufficient play opportunities for children with disabilities in the new harbourside play area.

Cllr Michael Theodoulou announced that at the recent One Voice Wales awards, the Council had won the Best Tourism Initiative award and had been commended for the work in the Best Heritage Initiative award.