

Pembrey and Burry Port Town Council

Minutes Regeneration and Wellbeing Committee Meeting

Wednesday 12th December 2018

Present: Councillors Richard Adler, Robert John (Chair), Mrs Lisa Mitchell and Michael Theodoulou

In attendance: Kevin Williams (Technical Services Officer), Ed Davies (Administrative Assistant-Minute Taker)

Senior Citizen's Hall, Memorial Institute, Burry Port 9.35am – 10.35am

1. To receive apologies for absence.

Apologies had been received from Cllrs Mrs Pam Every and Mrs Mary Wenman.

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

None were declared.

3. To confirm the minutes of the Regeneration and Wellbeing Committee meeting held on Wednesday 14th November 2018

All members were **AGREED** that they were representative of the meeting of the 14th November.

ACTION: OFFICE

4. To consider any matters arising from the minutes.

P1(6) – Application for financial donations

Members were informed that the Bowls Club had been made aware of the Committee's decisions with regards their applications.

Cllr Mrs Lisa Mitchell left the meeting at 9.36am

P4(12) – Blue plaques

Members noted that there had been some confusion between the Heritage Group and the Town Council in how their partnership would work, as, although they had applied for funds they had also expected the Town Council to purchase the plaques and to erect them once delivered. A meeting had been arranged with Mr Graham Davies of the Heritage Group to discuss the way forward.

P4(14) – SOS campaign anniversary

Members noted that a public meeting had taken place and that at least two councillors had attended.

Cllr Mrs Lisa Mitchell returned to the meeting at 9.38am

Members **AGREED** to make contact with the County Council to find out if they were planning anything and if they would be prepared to work with the Town Council on it. This partnership work could be kept separate from whatever the public group intended to do to mark the anniversary. It

was **AGREED** to make the initial enquiries at the forthcoming meeting with the Heads of Leisure and Regeneration on the 13th December.

5. Consideration of the Committee's budget monitoring report

Members noted that there was no income budgeted for to consider.

In relation to expenditure the total was showing as 38.81%.

The TSO advised that costs for Christmas lighting repairs and replacements were yet to show on the report. He also confirmed that he would be contacting the County Lighting Inspector later on the 12th December to clarify when the Boulevard lighting would be fixed. He also notified members that new CCTV and lighting was being put into the Memorial Gardens to act as a deterrent against a repeat of the vandalism seen last year.

Members noted that the RFO had been instructed to move the "floral displays" budget over to "Parks and Open Spaces" (part of the Facilities and Assets Committee). However, the TSO confirmed that the additional floral displays organised for Remembrance weekend, and over the winter would not put it over budget.

Cllr Michael Theodoulou was thanked by all the members for his advice with regards budgetary spending during the period the Committee was operating with a budget monitoring report.

6. Consideration of budget setting for 2019/20

Members heard the recommendation from the Chairs Committee of a strategy when considering the budget 2019/20. This was for the Council to draw down the loan previously approved by Town Council and to pool that money along with the proceeds of the sale of Copperworks and to use that fund to undertake some of the lengthy list of works required on the Memorial Hall and Institute, Pembrey Hall, and other transferred assets. This fund was to be looked at separately to the regular budget to help reduce confusion.

Members noted that the precept would have to be increased to cover the costs of new staff that had been approved by the Town Council.

The Second part of the strategy was for the Council to recognise that all of its work needed to be done in conjunction with the community. One improvement would be to make changes to the grants budget and allocation system. Members noted that the Finance, Governance and Personnel Committee had recently approved that any unclaimed members allowances could be transferred to the "Local Donations" budget.

It was noted that with the Council's intention to continue to increase the amount of partnership working with local organisations and groups, it was necessary for there to be a distinction made between "co-organised events" and "supported events/groups". There followed a discussion of how the new system would work. For example, if a local organisation wanted to hold an event they could apply to the Council for a budget, on the understanding that if the event made any profit that it would feed back into the "Community Grants", but that any loss would be underwritten by the agreed budget.

There followed an in-depth discussion of the proposed changes. Some suggested that what community groups and organisations were doing in organising events was attempting to raise funds for themselves and their work and forcing them to pay any profits made, back into the system would

be counterintuitive to them. In response some members stated that by paying back in it would extend the benefit of support to other groups in the community as the fund would be partly replenished after each event, it was also highlighted that underwriting the risks of hosting an event was a significant financial contribution in itself. Some members felt that many in the community were not aware of what the Council currently did and that many would struggle to see how they would benefit from the new system.

Members queried how the Council should filter applicants and deal with over subscription as non-financial resources were finite. It was suggested that measuring how applicants goals fitted against the priorities of the Council's responsibilities to meet the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act could be one method, and that if non-financial resources were too restricted the group could just be supplied with a budget.

It was believed that accessing the funds could be simplified, as, once a budget was agreed, they could be supplied with a cheque for that amount for organising their event on the understanding that Council would be supplied with event accounts afterwards. The provision of a budget could be supplemented through working with the Events Sub-Committee and through the Local Donations system.

There was still some objection to the changes from some members as it was felt the current system was working well to re-build the Town Council's relationship with the Community and that all were benefitting from it. In response the proponents of the new system argued that the new system would allow better opportunities for partnership working and provide better support for outside organisations to host events. It was noted that the Council could still arrange its own events, in conjunction with and to support any local groups, organisations or charities it wished, while also providing the community with the means to arrange other events.

Members **AGREED** unanimously to the proposal for the "Local Donations" budget to be increased by the virement of unclaimed members allowances.

ACTION: RFO

Members **AGREED** unanimously to the following budgetary changes, with any not specified below to be increased by inflation alone:

- "Community Grants" increase to £10,000
- "Events – General" increase to £16,500
- "Xmas lights and competition" increase to £15,000 – due to a contract renewal.
- "Marketing, Promotion" heading to be transferred to the Public Engagement and Communications Committee to act as a reduction.

ACTION: Admin Assist to notify RFO

7. Consideration of applications received for financial donations

An application had been received from St Mary's Church for £200 in relation to their recent annual Pantomime.

Cllrs Robert John and Mrs Lisa Mitchell declared an interest as they were members of the congregation.

Members **AGREED** for the grant to be awarded.

ACTION: Temp Assist Town Clerk

An application had been received from the Festival or Walks for £150 to assist in meeting the costs of their forthcoming event.

Cllr Mrs Lisa Mitchell declared an interest as a relative was a member of the Llanelli Ramblers (one of the involved groups).

All members **AGREED** for the grant to be awarded.

ACTION: Temp Assist Town Clerk

Cllr Michael Theodoulou needed to depart the meeting early and so the Chair agreed to deal with agenda item 10 next.

10. Report from the Wellbeing of Future Generations Committee

Members noted that there had been no meeting of the Sub-Committee since the last Regeneration and Wellbeing Committee meeting and so no report was made. They were informed that the next meeting would be early in 2019.

8. Report from the Events Sub-Committee

A report was given to members highlighting recent events:

- The Carols by Lantern Light event had been well received by the community with some very positive feedback. It was noted that a few technical faults had been encountered and that future events would have someone to manage the sound system. There was a request to assess the sound system requirements for future events and whether or not the Council needed to procure better microphones, additional speakers, etc. Some stated that it would have been good to have a microphone set up to pick up on the crowd's singing. Another suggested improvement for next year was for a small choir to lead the singing.
- A series of lantern making workshops had been organised in advance of the event which had established contacts within the community to be built on for next year. Members noted that there was a large supply of willow ready for next years workshops left over from this year.

In relation to upcoming events, members were informed:

- The Senior Citizen's Christmas Dinner would be on 13th December. All Councillors were asked to confirm their attendance.

Cllr Michael Theodoulou left the meeting at 10.30am

All members congratulated Cllr Mrs Lisa Mitchell on the success of the Carols by Lantern Light event.

9. Report from Planning Sub-Committee

Members were informed that there was no update from this Sub-Committee that had not been heard at the previous Town Council meeting.

As the Planning Sub-Committee meetings took place the day prior to the monthly Town Council meeting where a report was given, all members **AGREED** that in future this agenda item should only be included as necessary.

10. Report from the Wellbeing of Future Generations sub-committee

This agenda item had already been dealt with.

11. Report from the Arts Studio working group

Members noted that the plans for how to use the upstairs room of the Memorial Institute had not yet been finalised and so this working group was not active. The space was occasionally being utilised for one off workshops and activities.

12. To consider correspondence previously circulated to members:

	Date	From	Subject
a	7 th November	Institute of Welsh Affairs	Understanding Welsh Places Project

a) Noted

13. To consider any referred matters from the other Committees (if any)

Members **AGREED** for all regular meetings of this Committee to be held at 6.30pm

ACTION: Admin Assist

Members were reminded of the following:

- A meeting with representatives of Carmarthenshire County Council in the Bowls Club on 13th December at 9am.
- The Senior Citizens Christmas lunch would be on 13th December, doors opening at 12.30pm for a 1pm serving. Members were asked to help finish the set up after this meeting and for all members who could, to attend.

Members **AGREED** to the following:

- The TSO was asked to liaise with Marie Turk of Incredible Edible Carmarthenshire in relation to the fence repair requested for the garden on the corner of New Street and Church Road. This action had previously been approved by this Committee but requires costing as it was without a budget report at the time.

ACTION: TSO

- It was requested that a link to the Play for Wales website be put on the Town Council's website, and to contact the organisation in relation to the Council's play spaces.

ACTION: Admin Assist and Assist Town Clerk