



Minutes of the Full Council Meeting of Llandeilo Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Crescent Road, Llandeilo at 7.30 p.m. on Wednesday, 22nd February 2006

Present: Mayor Cllr Colin Jenkins Deputy Mayor Hugh Towns
Cllr Mrs Fran Murphy Cllr Richard Wallace
Cllr Ros Bellamy Cllr Pam Steane Price
Cllr Ieuan Gwyn Mr. Des Davies (Technical Officer)
Mr Christopher Plummer (Finance Officer)

In Attendance: County Cllr. Ieuan Jones

Apologies: Cllr Charlotte Leadbeater, Cllr Paul Faulkner, Cllr Roy Davies, Mr Roger Phillips (Town Clerk)

6711/ Feb / 06 - Previous Minutes

1. The Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held at the Shire Hall on Wednesday 25th January 2006 were approved and signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting with the following amendments :

Min 6688 – Glynceirch Footpath - should read item 3 and Technical Officer rather than Financial Officer

Min 6692 - Website – replace licence in first line with messageboard

Proposed by Cllr Gwyn and seconded by Cllr Bellamy

2. The Minutes of the Planning and General Purposes Committee held at Shire Hall on Wednesday 8th February 2006 were read and accepted with the following amendments

Min 6698 – add ‘ that the views of the Council remain the same as when consulted on the planning application’

Min 6700 – add ‘and individual trees as numbered’

Min 6702 – item 1 – replace ‘Noted’ with ‘and passed to the Technical Officer for action’

Proposed by Cllr Murphy and seconded by Cllr Wallace.

3. The Minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on Wednesday, 8th February 2006 at the Shire Hall were read and accepted with the following amendments :

Min 6707 – in first line replace ‘Ieuan Gwyn’ with ‘Pam Steane Price’

Min 6710 – item 1 – penultimate line add ‘footpath through’ before ‘graveyard’

Min 6710 – item 3 – in first line delete ‘estimate for’ and add ‘has been ordered’ after ‘noticeboard’

Proposed by Cllr Towns and seconded by Cllr Steane Price.

6712/ Feb / 06 - Matters arising from previous meetings

1. *Min 6688 – item 2 – chimney repairs*

The Technical Officer advised that he had contacted the scaffolding company and they were prepared to extend the period it could remain in place from 5 weeks to 12 weeks at no extra cost. It was resolved that the matter be progressed provided the owners of the Pet Shop were in agreement to entry over their land.

2. *Min 6703*

Cllr Towns advised that the CP School had been completely closed on 9th and 10th February. The Junior Department re-opened on Monday 13th February but the Infant Dept remained closed until Thursday 16th February while cleaning works were carried out by the County Council. Works to the drains would be carried out by the County Council over Half Term.

3. *Min 6708*

The Finance Officer gave a detailed breakdown of the effect that an increase in the Technical Officers hours from 5 to 7 per week would have. It would increase salary costs initially by £798.36 per annum and assuming a 3% wage increase across the board this would increase costs by £1067.69 to £9247.13. The budget for salaries was £8500. The monthly Standing Order and Top up payments would alter and these would need to be confirmed. A one off retrospective payment of £423.53 would also be required for additional hours already worked by the Technical Officer. It was considered that this was clearly an exceptional circumstance in that the Technical Officer had inherited a situation where the position had been vacant for some time and there was a backlog of work that had to be addressed and addressed quickly or there would not have been a Fireworks Display or Christmas Lights Display. The retrospective payment of hours was therefore agreed in this instance due to these exceptional circumstances but it was also agreed that this was not setting a precedent and any ‘overtime’ hours for any officer should in future be agreed in advance. It was also resolved that 5 hours per week was clearly not enough to cover the tasks expected of the Technical Officer and in order to spread the costs evenly throughout the year the Technical Officers hours be increased to 7 per week. The Finance Committee was requested to consider the budgetary implications.

4. *Min 6709*

The Finance Officer advised that Mr Lyn Llewellyn had been approached informally about Internal Audit and had agreed. A letter was to be sent formally approaching him regarding acting as Internal Auditor.

6713 / Feb / 06 - Mayor’s Report

The Mayor stated that it had been quiet recently and he had attended two meetings since the last Full Council

6714 / Feb / 06 – Heritage Town Trail Project

Cllr Bellamy reported that there had been a ‘technical hitch’ with the timing of the project. It was anticipated that the project would not now be completed within this financial year and it would slip into next year. It was hoped that the grant funding would still be available but this would need to be confirmed with the County Council. In any event the fees already paid to Cambria Archaeology could be reclaimed in this financial year.

6715 / Feb / 06 - Garden Project

Cllr Steane Price provided a report on progress. Working Party had met on 11th and 18th February and had lit bonfires to dispose of bramble clippings. Two new volunteers had joined on 18th, Robert Bullen Whatling, who was working towards his Duke of Edinburgh award, and his mother. An apple tree expert, Paul Davies of Dolau Hirion Nursery, had visited and recommended local varieties of apple trees that he considered suitable for the site. Members of the Working Party were also visiting Swansea City Farm on 27th February 2006.

Mike Lewis had made an approach about possible access to our Garden from Crescent Road, through adjoining gardens. As a 2m wide strip was necessary for access to the retaining wall it may be possible to agree access provided this strip is maintained. As the strip was necessary in the main to provide access to the wall County Councillor Jones was asked if the County Council would consider undertaking the initial clearance work.

6716 / Feb / 06 - Shire Hall Project

Cllr Gwyn provided a confidential written report on the current position. It was resolved that Cllr Gwyn's actions in retaining Paul Regan as our architect and requesting Mr Regan to proceed with plans and tender documents be approved. These actions were clearly necessary to minimise delays and should the subsequent grant application fail the Council accepts that it will be liable for the fees. However, the work had to be done in order to apply for grant in any event so there was no alternative.

6717 / Feb / 06 - Website Update.

Cllr Steane Price reported that the website required being overhauled to bring it up to date and a meeting would be arranged in the near future to consider the matter.

6718 / Feb / 06 - Fireworks Display

Cllr Towns provided a written report of the meeting of the Fireworks Working Group on 19 January 2006 which is appended to these minutes. There were a number of issues under consideration and the Group would be meeting again on 2 March. The Technical Officer was thanked for the Report that he circulated.

6719 / Feb / 06 - Christmas Lights

Cllr Towns provided a written report of the meeting of the Christmas Lights Working Group on 16 February 2006 which is appended to these minutes. There were a number of issues under consideration and the Group would be meeting again on 16 March. The Technical Officer was thanked for the Report that he circulated.

6720 / Feb / 06 - Health and Safety Issues

1. It was proposed by Cllr Steane Price and seconded by Cllr Bellamy that the Council do not use chemicals during footpath maintenance as a matter of policy. Agreed. Footpath having one cut would be done in June and where two cuts were necessary these would be done in May and late September.
2. There was a requirement for signing into the Shire Hall during the day now that the office was there so that Cambria were aware of who was in the building in the event of a fire etc. It was resolved that a whiteboard be purchased so that officers and members could write on it when they were in the office in addition to signing the visitors book.

6721 / Feb / 06 – Correspondence

1. An e-mail from Meirion Owen advising that Carmarthenshire had been awarded the World Sheepdog Trials in 2008 and Dinefwr Park was being considered as possible venue.
2. One Voice Wales requesting nomination of Chairperson for consideration to attend a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace. Resolved that Mayor be nominated.
3. Letter from Mark James, Chief Executive, County Council in response to our letter regarding the Swimming Pool at Tregib. Noted. County Councillor Jones advised that a meeting had taken place in relation to the provision of other facilities at Tregib.
4. A letter from W.G. Evans in relation to traffic management in Llandeilo. Noted.
5. A letter from Margaret Rees in relation to Slow City status. Noted.
6. WCVA notification of the availability of on line reporting to HM Customs and Excise. Noted.
7. One Voice Wales Membership Renewal due at £196.00. Resolved to renew membership.
8. CAVS Newsletter for Spring 2006. Noted.
9. A number of letters from residents of Thomas terrace in relation to the planning application for Auction Rooms in Station Road. It was resolved that receipt of the letters be acknowledged, that it be pointed out that these letters came in too late to be considered during the Councils discussions of the matter and a copy of the Council minute with our recommendation be provided. Standing Orders do not permit reconsideration within 6 months.

6722 / Feb / 06 - Matters Not for resolution

1. County Councillor Jones advised that £30,000 of work was required on the Tennis Pavilion in Parc le Conquet.
2. Cllr Steane Price advised that complaints were still being received from users of the skateboard park at Parc le Conquet in terms of safety. County Councillor Jones advised that the equipment had been inspected and no safety issues had been raised.
3. It was resolved that in future an item be included on the agenda dealing with County Council matters.

Meeting concluded at 9.22 pm