

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Llandeilo Town Council, held in The Shire Hall, Llandeilo on Tuesday 15th June 2004 at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors: Cllr DA Jones, Cllr R Bellamy, Cllr C Jenkins, Cllr C Leadbeater, Cllr P Steane Price, Cllr F Murphy

Others: S Ash (Town Clerk), R Huw Griffiths (Technical Officer)

6134: The Mayor, Cllr David Jones, opened the meeting by welcoming the new Councillors; Cllr Charlotte Leadbeater, Cllr Fran Murphy and Cllr Pam Steane Price and also the new Town Clerk Sam Ash. New Councillors signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office register.

6135: Apologies: Cllr I Gwyn, County Cllr I Jones

6136: Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held 30th May 2003 and resumed Annual Meeting held 4th June 2003 were accepted as an accurate record of the meetings. Proposed by Cllr Bellamy and seconded by Cllr Jenkins. There are no matters arising.

6137: The outgoing Mayor, Councillor Dr David Anthony Jones, addressed the meeting. He indicated how proud he was to have represented the town as Mayor during the last year. He stated that he and his wife Caroline, the Mayoress, had enjoyed going to a large number of occasions and it had been a privilege, due to the generosity of the Council historically, to be able to have made donations from the Mayor's fund to those various organisations and he tabled a list in the form of a spreadsheet of the various donations that had been made.

He pointed out that the majority of these had already been minuted because he had started a system of the Mayor producing a report at each monthly meeting of what he had done in the preceding month and he felt that people had found this to be both informative and helpful and consistent with the Council's policy of openness.

With regard to the Council itself, he was sorry to have lost two Councillors due to the pressure of work: Councillor Robert Davies and Councillor Geraint Price and for the same reason, Councillor David Williams and Councillor Colin Cooper who had not sought re-election. He was also sorry to lose the services of Councillor Ken Day but the Mayor expressed pleasure that he was prepared to take on the chairmanship of the Community Association and the Mayor was also pleased to say that Councillor Geraint Price, although not a member of the Council, was continuing his interest in the display of fireworks at Cae William.

There had been other changes in the Council's mode of operation. The change in standing orders to allow a more generous interpretation of when a Council meeting was quorate was generally welcomed and had helped in the efficiency of running the Council's business. The Mayor also felt that the increased freedom as to who should be on which standing committee had also, in general, been helpful.

The Mayor wished to compliment the previous Town Clerk, Colette Paterson, for the work she had done for the Council over her 1½ years in post. During that time the following achievements had occurred:

- The Council had acquired an office of its own with its own telephone answering facility, its own computer, etc.
- The Council had engaged in a payroll scheme for its staff.

- The Council had undertaken a professional risk assessment of its activities, which is still under discussion.

Whilst this portakabin accommodation is not ideal, it does represent an improvement and it is hoped that negotiations with Cambria Archeology will lead to a permanent office for the Town Clerk in the Shire Hall together with a room that could be used as a permanent Council Chamber.

The Mayor felt that overall the experiment of using the Dynevor Council Chamber had been a success. However, the fact that we are not allowed to use it at the present time because of its use for discussion of the Unitary Development Plan reveals that it may not be the ideal permanent venue and the Town Council will always need a fallback situation which clearly would best be its own premises, the Shire Hall.

The outgoing Mayor pointed out that the role of Mayor is really twofold: firstly, to be a figurehead with ceremonial function and secondly, and more importantly, to be the Chairman of a Committee which is active in its endeavours to improve the town.

The ceremonial aspect is extremely important because it is part of the shop window for the Town Council. The Mayor was pleased to say that he had been able to accept almost every invitation he received over the last year and those few occasions where he was unable to be present he had been deputised by the Deputy Mayor and the Chairman of Planning.

As far as the Council's main asset is concerned, the Shire Hall, there have also been significant improvements over the last year. The outside has been decorated and the large window is being replaced as well as other internal repairs that have occurred.

This particular year will probably be best remembered for the number of projects that have been started. Two of those projects have already come to fruition; firstly, the Town Council with the aid of a grant from the County Council (European money) and some match funding from the Council's funds commissioned Cambria Archeology to undertake an historical and cultural survey of the town. This had never been done previously and it was very important because of the rich history of the town.

Secondly, the project of renewing the railings at Crescent Road has been an unqualified success. Again, this was funded by European money, the application being made through the County Council and again, the Town Council provided the match funding.

The Mayor then briefly mentioned other ongoing projects as follows:

Festival of Lights. This project has now been taken on by the new Deputy Mayor, Councillor Colin Jenkins and consists of organising a festival around the purchase of new lights and banners. It is hoped that some £18,000 can be obtained.

The Station Road/Railway Station project. This project is ongoing and it is estimated that some £200,000 will become available from the strategic towns and villages initiative of the County Council. An excellent feasibility study has already been undertaken and the County Council has agreed to adopt Station Road once it has been brought up to a certain standard. Consultations have also occurred with the Heart of Wales Travel Association, Arriva Trains and the Strategic Rail Authority on improvements to the railway station, which has recently been 'adopted' by Misses Thirza and Hilda Swindells.

The Heritage Path. This is a project which is going to require a considerable grant in the region of £80,000 to £100,000 and therefore it has been transferred to a direct Objective 1 application. Details of this path flow from the Audit Report and clearly wide consultation will need to take place as to the nature and frequency of information boards and which paths should be upgraded. The Mayor was pleased to report that consultations with the National Trust and with the Woodland Trust indicate that footpaths could be extended out of our boundaries into the National Trust property and into the Tregib woods.

Tourist and Publicity. There is a small grant available in order to publicise events in Llandeilo and a committee has already been set up. The Mayor indicated that the Council would have to nominate a representative on that committee.

The Gardens of Bridge Street. This is a grant application which has still not been realised and there is a little work left to be done in order to qualify for that money to be available.

Grant for Footpath signs. The Mayor indicated that both he and the Technical Officer had made a survey of what was required but it is unclear what is the status of this application at the present time and this will need to be reactivated. It is particularly important that the signposting of existing footpaths fits in with the Heritage Walk.

The Statues Project. Several meetings had been held and we had two talks by Mr. Robert Ap Stefan on this subject. The general feeling appears to be that two statues would be in order, one of St Teilo and the other of the Lord Rhys. Mr. Ap Stefan had pointed out the importance of having an openness of thought about the type of statue and it would then probably qualify for an open competition and be funded by the Arts Council. There is a lot of work left to be done on this, particularly the work of public consultation.

The Mayor then said he felt he ought to draw matters to a conclusion because of the risk of inducing boredom. He felt he had to mention the contribution of the ex-Town Clerk, Colette Patterson and the Technical Officer in facilitating those projects. He was complimentary about the officers of the County Council who had been most helpful and went on to say that he was proud of the way in which the Town Council had supported initiatives in relation to the refurbishment of the Civic Hall through the Community Association.

He also felt pleased that the Council had retained an interest in discussions which had gone on relating the future of the Market Hall and felt that a close eye should be kept on developments there.

He was also proud that the Town Council was now widely seen to be highly supportive of festivals within the town and were sponsors of the Flower and Music Festival, the Community Festival and the Ceramica Festival and also wished to inaugurate a Festival of Lights.

Finally, during his year the Mayor was pleased that the Town Council had launched its own website and he was particularly grateful to the then Deputy Mayor, Ros Bellamy, for all the hard work she put into this and also grateful to Andrew Williams of Orchard Web who had produced such a fine outcome.

During the very last few days of his term of office, a new Town Clerk, Mrs. Sam Ash, had taken up her post and the Mayor wished her every success. Finally, he thanked all the Councillors for their support.

6138: The Mayor called for nominations for the post of Mayor for the year 2004-5. Cllr C Jenkins proposed that Cllr R Bellamy should be elected to the post of Mayor. Cllr C Leadbeater seconded the proposal and the motion was passed.

Cllr R Bellamy accepted the nomination, made the declaration and signed it. Cllr D A Jones invested the new Mayor with the Chain of Office. The new Mayor showed the past Mayor's medal but will present it during the evening of the Mayor's Annual Dinner on 24th June and express thanks to the outgoing Mayoress for all her work too.

6139: The new mayor addressed the meeting, giving thanks to Cllr D A Jones for all his hard work during the past year, pushing the profile of Llandeilo forward and the changes he has made and looking forward to building on all the good work. The mayor also thanked the Councillors for their support for the coming year.

6140: The Mayor called for nominations for the post of Deputy Mayor for 2004-5. Cllr D A Jones proposed Councillor Colin Jenkins, seconded by Cllr P Steane Price and it was passed. Deputy Mayor C Jenkins accepted the nomination and the Mayor invested him with his badge of office.

6141: Appointment of representatives to serve on other committees or bodies. The following were selected:

<u>School Governors:</u> Teilo Saint	Deputy mayor C Jenkins
Llandeilo CP To remain the same until August. If no new representative volunteers, Mayor R Bellamy will represent	Mr S Burge
Tywi Gwili Group of Town & Community Councils	After discussion it would seem that this group is not currently functioning and will be removed from this list
Town Twinning Association	By their constitution – this is the Mayor
Dinefwr Community Consultative Committee	This group is not currently functioning and will be removed from this list
Community Association	All Councillors
Tywi Gwili Area Forum	This group is not currently functioning and will be removed from this list
Civic Trust	Cllr D A Jones is already on this committee and is prepared to perform a dual function
Chamber of trade	Deputy Mayor C Jenkins
Flower and music Festival	Cllr C Leadbeater

6142:

Finance Committee	Planning & General Purposes Committee
Mayor R Bellamy	Mayor R Bellamy
Deputy Mayor C Jenkins	Deputy Mayor C Jenkins
Cllr I Gwyn	Cllr D A Jones
Cllr F Murphy	Cllr F Murphy
Cllr P Steane Price	Cllr P Steane Price
Cllr C Leadbeater	Cllr C Leadbeater

6143: No annual subscriptions are currently due. The subscriptions held are:

- o Insurance
- o Clerk's Direct magazine
- o One Voice Wales
- o Heart of Wales Line Travellers Association
- o Pay Connect

6144: Deeds for the Shire Hall are held by PWLB; the mortgage company and a copy is held by Cllr I Gwyn.

6145: Pay and Conditions for the Town Clerk were reviewed before the appointment of Sam Ash on 14th June 2004. These are reviewed annually in April. It was decided that the Appointments Committee would stand as it is until the Clerk's contract is finalised, currently in draft form. Proposed by mayor R Bellamy, seconded by Cllr D A Jones. All in favour.

The meeting ended at 8.15pm