

**Town Clerk:**  
**Ms C.A. Paterson**

**Technical Officer:**  
**Mr R.H. Griffiths**



**The Shire Hall**  
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**Minutes of a Special Meeting of Full Llandeilo Town Council, held at the Shire Hall,  
Llandeilo on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2003 at 7.50 p.m.**

Present: Councillors: Cllr. R. Bellamy, Cllr G. Price, Cllr H. Ladd- Lewis, Cllr C. Jenkins, Cllr G. Vaughn Jones, Cllr. K. Day, Cllr S. Burge, Cllr. D. A. Jones, Cllr D. Williams ( Chair), Cllr C. Cooper.

Other: Cllr I. Jones, Colette Paterson (Town Clerk), R. H. Griffiths (Technical Officer), Vivienne Davies (Regeneration Officer - Market Towns Scheme), Caroline Burford (Grant Officer), Iwan Thomas (Project Officer).

**5744:** Cllr Williams welcomed the visitors; Cllr I Jones (County Councillor), Vivienne Davies (Regeneration Officer - Market Towns Scheme). Caroline Burford (Grant Officer). Iwan Thomas (Project Officer), to the meeting.

The Pottery Centre. Cllr Jones said the special meeting had been convened as a result of the developments with regards to the pottery centre scheduled to take up residence in the old market. When the old market had first closed down interest in the building had come from 2 areas, Telescope for use as a television studio, and from J. Finch as a ceramics training and centre of excellence. The plans to develop the market as a centre for ceramics had been under consideration for 2 years and had progressed through various stages but the grant application to the Arts Council had now fallen at the final hurdle, so these plans had been abandoned. This meant that the considerable sum of money set aside as the County Council Contribution to the development would now become available for another project in Llandeilo. Cllr Jones then handed the meeting to Vivienne Davies. Ms Davies introduced herself as the Grants Officer in Charge of the Initiative for Market Towns and introduced her colleagues, Grant Officer Caroline Burford and Project Officer I. Thomas. She stated that the Pottery project had unfortunately fallen at the last hurdle and as a result some £180 000.00 in allocated funds would now become available for Llandeilo Town. The money was part of a grants scheme designated to Market Towns/ Secondary Growth Areas. It was now necessary to

identify or develop a priority project which could be assisted with this money. The types of project that this kind of funding was designated for include projects that create and sustain employment, help towns provide facilities and enhance the environment of the town. *Did the council have any existing projects that could apply for this grant or could they explore a new project that would benefit from this grant?*

**5745:** While the Council considered this Caroline Burford gave a presentation about the new Town Improvement Grant Scheme. This Grant Scheme was developed under the S. T. V. T. I. Programme for environmental improvement in 10 towns across Carmarthenshire and Llandeilo had been identified as one such town. The scheme was to provide grants of up to £15 000.00 inclusive of VAT and professional fees. The grants are for programmes to improve the external appearance of Small and Medium Businesses, and businesses can group together to develop an envelope scheme for a group scheme. The area designated under this scheme is outlined in a map of which a copy will be sent to the clerk, and includes properties in Rhosmaen Street, New Road and Carmarthen Street. Any eligible business premises are asked to submit a detailed application to Caroline Burford at the County Council. Cllr Bellamy requested that this information be included in a booklet so that those businesses eligible may be informed and this was agreed. The money was designated strictly to these areas and properties outside these areas would not be eligible as the scheme was funded by Objective One funding and as such was held within strict guidelines, rules and regulations and designed to sustain jobs and create confidence in the Town and its prosperity.

Cllr Williams said the grants were designed to benefit the town but that as a town the Council could not suggest ways that this money could best be used. Cllr Vaughn Jones that there was a need for a more collective approach to the environmental appearance of the town as different shops and houses had decorated in vastly differing ways some of which could be considered unsuitable. There was a need to consider the appearance of the Town as a whole. Cllr Jenkins said that he would discuss this scheme with the Chamber of Trade and establish whether or not the Town Council and the Chamber of Trade could work together. Cllr Vaughn Jones said it would be important to see the development of a strategy for Llandeilo as a whole and the development of some kind of corporate identity. Ms Burford agreed to make a presentation to the Chamber of Trade. There was funding available for Town Enhancement Projects. Llandeilo needed to develop a unified Heritage Scheme regarding the preservation of the historic town in the way that Llandovery had been very successful in doing. Monies were available from the Conservation section of the County Council, from the Heritage Lottery Fund to target visually important parts of the Historic Core of the Town.

The discussion returned to the project or projects that could be redesignated the funding for the Pottery Centre. It was again suggested by Cllr Williams, that the Chamber of Trade be brought into the discussion as working together on this project would be in the best interests of both the Town and both organisations. Timing was

critical in the reallocation of this money, Ms Davies would like to return to a meeting within a month to discuss project ideas and applications. Some ideas that were discussed related both to other possible uses for the Market Hall. *Cllr Williams suggested that contact be made with Telescope in order to inform them that the property was available again to ascertain whether or not they were still interested in the Market building.* It was noted that the sum of £180 000.00 would only go part of the way towards the costs of repairing and remodelling the building. Other suggestions were:-

Cllr Vaughn Jones - identified the need for small commercial starter units and the Market building could be remodelled into this. Ms Davies thought there was an initiative fund allocated for the development of such sites and that the Beechwood site had already been earmarked for such a development. In Llandeilo - it was also noted that other sites that had been developed in this way had achieved only limited success and sustainability would be a priority consideration in the reallocation of the funds.

Cllr Vaughn Jones - the introduction /provision of broadband services to Llandeilo  
Cllr Bellamy initiated a discussion regarding the station, Station Road and the area around. This was a gateway to Llandeilo and needed to be improved and made into such. It was suggested that a compulsory purchase order be made by C. C. C. of Station Road from Network Rail and that the frontages and the businesses in the area could be radically improved for a relatively small amount. This project met with some approval. It was resolved that Station Road be given full consideration as an area for development and it would be discussed at the next meeting of Full Council. The area designated for development could extend to include the footpath and the swing bridge creating a gateway to Llandeilo. *It was moved that this and other ideas be considered and brought up at the next meeting of full council.*

Other possible uses for the Market building discussed were:-

Some kind of Farmers Market.

A Tourist Office, Information Centre/Heritage Centre.

A Gallery

A combination of uses, Gallery, Tourist information centre, Craft shop/Gallery, centre for arts and Crafts.

The need for establishing partnerships was discussed . Partnerships with the National Trust and other like organisations. While it was appreciated that the available grant would not go far in the repair and refurbishment of the existing building it was an important historical building in the Conservation Area, and there were potential for further grants to be applied for from other sources. *While the development of a future for the market may not be part of the reallocation of the Pottery Fund it is seen as important that this building is given some kind of a future. Ideas for its future use to be considered and discussed at a future meeting.*

The Visitors from Carmarthen County Council left the meeting.

**5746:** The Gardens beneath Crescent Road. Cllr Jones said that it was now necessary to move quickly on these gardens. *The Council agreed to put in an offer of £2300.00 to the County Council to purchase their property. (The Clerk to write with that offer.)* The owners of the other 2 gardens to be approached. The Clerk to write to T. J. Lloyd, Caldicott 1, Farnham Royal, Bucks, SL2 3SL. The Mayor to approach the other owner (C. Jones) in person.

The Council was invited to bring ideas regarding these 2 areas of development to the next meeting of Full Council.

The meeting ended at 8.55p.m.