

LAMPETER TOWN COUNCIL
CYNGOR TREF LLANBEDR PONT STEFFAN

MINUTES OF A FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 12th
JANUARY 2006 AT 7.30 P.M. AT THE TOWN HALL, LAMPETER

Present: **Councillor** Mayor Hazel Davies (**Chairperson**)
 Councillors:- Deputy-Mayor Dorothy Williams, Cecilia Barton,
 Andrew Carter, Robert Harris, Robert Phillips,
 Kistiah Ramaya, Christopher Thomas and Derek
 Wilson.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1.1 An apology for absence was received from Cllr. Selwyn Walters.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Declaration of interest in an item under consideration at this meeting of the Town Council:

2.1 No members had any declaration of interests in any of the items under consideration at this meeting of the Town council.

3. Finance: Budget 2006-07

Councillors discussed the report on the budget proposals of Lampeter Town Council for the financial year commencing 1st April 2006 and ending 31st March 2007. (copies had been circulated in advance to councillors). Following discussions, it was passed unanimously that there would be no increase in the precept (presently £43,220) for the financial year 2006-07. This was a result of the reduced cost for CCTV in the financial year 2006-07 and the anticipated refund of £10,000 which was due after the difficulties of the previous year.

A new computer system and photocopier would be purchased and a website for the Town Council would be set up.

It was decided to hold on to the £94,000 reserves. The generally accepted level of reserves is usually no more than twice the level of the precept (£86,440, £7,560 - only marginally higher). It would be attempted to find a better home for the £70,000 from Reserves.

It was recommended that the £10,000 Bequest should be spent.

Health and safety concerns were noted and would be investigated.

5. MATTERS ARISING

- 5.1 Black Lion Lampeter: (Minute 76a)** Dick Martin, Principality Developments, Caridigan communicated that the actual pebbles and the photographs had been examined and that he did not find them a problem. To take them up and re-lay would be difficult to justify because of the expense. He mentioned that many towns were laying cobbles close to buildings in a bid to inhibit people from walking in those areas. They are positioned for decorative purposes only and are unsuitable for pedestrians. He did not feel that the cobbles were a hazard to people as there is a wide pavement close to the Black Lion.
- Response from Gareth Johns, Estates and Acquisitions Manager, The Cardiff Brewery (S.A.Brain):** From an examination of the photographs he found condition of the cobbles satisfactory. Some main items of work will be done to the Black Lion by the owners in the future (no date given) and when these are undertaken the cobbles will be dealt with at the same time. It was agreed to contact both parties stating that the Town Council was not pleased with their decision.
- 5.2 Barley Mow, Street Nameplate Sign: (Minute 8a):** Enquires ongoing.
- 5.3 Entrance to the Ambulance Station: Water Stagnation (Minute 19/05 10.6):** Awaiting action from Ceredigion County Council regarding this matter.
- 5.4 Citizens' Advice Bureau: Lampeter Branch (Minute 31/05 11.4):** Part of the CAVO building, Lampeter will be used.
- 5.5 Parking restrictions: between the roundabout and the entrance of the Bryn, North Rd (Minute 25/05:11.3):** Letter received from Ceredigion County Council stating that it is proposed to introduce the traffic Regulation Order of prohibition of waiting 9am-6pm, Monday to Friday on the western side of North Road, on the grounds of road safety and to facilitate traffic flows in the area. It was resolved to request a change of this prohibition to prohibition of waiting at any time on the western side of the North Rd, opposite the junction to Mill Street up to the entrance to the Bryn.
- 5.6 Seat (Minute 45a): to be donated by Japanese visitors:** Arrangements ongoing. Benches have now been repaired at Bryn-yr-Eglwys and on the Cwmmins. Two other benches located on the Cwmmins will be repaired during the next financial year.
- 5.7 Breakdown in CCTV Coverage (Minute 23/05 9.11)** Letter received from Mark Elliott, Assistant Director, Corporate Performance, Ceredigion County Council expressing that an appropriate refund will be made when the CCTV system is fully operational when the duration of the

malfunction is known. Cllr. H.Harris communicated that presently 3 cameras were in working order and that the others would be replaced shortly. In future a regular report on the performance of the cameras will be communicated to the Cabinet of the County Council and a copy of the report will be sent to the Town Council.

A letter received from the Lampeter Chamber of Trade expressed concern about the defective CCTV system and requested information on the steps being taken to remedy the situation. It was decided to send a letter of response to explain the last known situation.

- 5.8 Blue Monkey Clothing Store (Minute 43/2005 11.5):** letter received from Neil Hinchliffe, Ceredigion County Council stating that the ground floor shop units are let by the Council, on a long lease, to an individual who in turn sub-lets the units to the current tenants, including the "Blue Monkey." The terms and conditions (including the decoration requirements) contained in the sub-leases, under which the shop units are occupied, are beyond the control or influence of the Council as freeholder. He suggested that the best course of action would be to raise the issue directly with the occupier.

6 CORRESPONDENCE

Minute 44/2005

6.1 List of correspondence received from the 28th October to the 24th November (inclusive).

- **Playgrounds:** Dept of Highways, Property & Works, CCC is presently preparing a report about the investment and upkeep of playground areas in the county. The Town Council wishes to maintain the status quo for the County Council to provide the capital and the cost of maintenance. Play areas, which are already the responsibility of the Town Council e.g. Parc yr Orsedd, are run independently.
- **Annual Play Area Inspection Report, 13th July 2005: Parc yr Orsedd by Play Wales**
The items given in the inspection document were found to be satisfactory except for the following faults:
 - The playslide with a bark surface has insufficient depth of bark.
 - The sign "No Dogs or Cycling" is faded and unreadable.
 - It is recommended that an operator sign with "Owner name," "Contact Telephone Number," "Site Name" & Pictorial "Dog Ban" Sign be displayed.
- **Police Reform in Wales:** Cllr. H. Harris attended the public meeting of the 23rd of November regarding the probable reorganization of the police forces in Wales.

- Option 1: four forces - all existing four forces remain - no change.
- Option 2: two forces - Dyfed Powys and North Wales merge, South Wales and Gwent merge.
- Option 3: One Strategic force - all four Welsh Forces merge.

It was felt that one single police authority for Wales would not favour rural, relatively low crime areas like Ceredigion due to the loss of local focus and identity. It was feared that most of the resources would be concentrated in the high crime areas of cities like Cardiff and Swansea should this option be favoured. It was resolved in the meeting to complete the questionnaire expressing preference for Option 1 and to state that risk-based policing was not the ideal solution to combat crime locally. Lampeter and Ceredigion would have a disproportionate loss in Option 3.

- **Letter from Elin Jones AM re the closure of Tregaron and Cardigan Hospitals:** The Town Council was very disappointed to hear of the possible closure of Tregaron and Cardigan Hospitals. It was agreed to send a letter of support opposing these closures to the Ceredigion NHS Trust and Ceredigion Health Board. It would be communicated that these two centres provided an invaluable service in the Teifi Valley. Their closure would cause a huge deterioration in the quality of care to the elderly of Ceredigion.
- **Letter from Elin Jones AM, re closure of car park adjacent to the Railway Station, Carmarthen:** enclosure of letter which Elin Jones had received from Carmarthenshire County Council. It was stated that the car park is presently closed while a new bridge over the River Tywi is built. Once completed, the bridge will offer a far more convenient route for travellers from the Railway station to the centre of the town. During the construction phase it is necessary to temporarily close off the area which has been used for parking in the past. It is anticipated that this work will be completed by the beginning of next year. The car park will be resurfaced and will have the potential to accommodate 16 buses and 33 cars.
- **Property Asset Management Plan: Public Convenience Improvement Programme CCC:** letter received from P. J. Arnold, CCC thanking Lampeter Town Council for giving the matter consideration.
- **Review of local service delivery in Wales,** an opportunity to contribute and to make public services more effective and efficient - Welsh Assembly Government - for information
- **Public meeting of the National Assembly Mid and West Wales Regional Committee 18th November, Narberth:** for information.

- **The Annual Report 2004-05 of The Commissioner for Local Government in Wales, The Welsh Administration Ombudsman and The Health Service Commissioner for Wales:** for information.
- **Three Year Revenue and Capital Settlements for Local Authorities in Wales:** a Consultation Paper from the Welsh Assembly Government: for information.
- **Dyfed-Powys Police:** this thanked the Town Council for their letter of appreciation to the Police.
- **Invitations to attend the following functions:**
 - "AGM of The Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales", 25th November, Aberaeron.
 - "The 5th Annual General Meeting of Ceredigion Mobile Shopmobility," 7th December, Aberaeron.
 - "The Final Conference of Interreg 111a Celtic Community Finance Project" 9th December, Cardigan.
 - The Opening Parade for the "Celebration of Christmas," Lampeter Chamber of Trade, 8th December. It was agreed to send a letter to the Lampeter Chamber of Trade to congratulate them on their excellent itinerary.
- **Christmas Lights: Chamber of Trade re new lamp-posts,** which are due to be installed in College Street and Bridge Street by CCC. The Lampeter Chamber of Trade has requested that these lampposts are equipped with the necessary electrical sockets, which are required for the connection of the Christmas lights. It was agreed to send a letter supporting their request to the Highways, Property and Works Dept, Ceredigion County Council.
- **Public Liability Insurance, Christmas Lights, Chamber of Trade:** Letter notifying the Town Council that some Christmas lights, which have come to the end of their working life have been replaced. Acknowledgement required that these lights are replacements of the existing lights and are covered by the existing public liability insurance policy. It was resolved to do so.
- **Longwood:** Letter from Geoff Carter, Lampeter in Bloom stating that the judge's report had been quite complimentary to Lampeter but did look forward to a "more cross-community participation in environmental schemes, should they want to increase their marks." He mentioned that there were worthy environmental and community projects around Lampeter that were insufficiently visible from the town. For this end the Association sought the provision of road signs by the Town Council that would direct pedestrians to Longwood Community Wood and Coed Creuddyn. It was decided to ask Mr Carter to address the Town Council

during the February meeting in order to give the matter further consideration.

- **Other correspondence for information:**

7. MENTER LLAMBED

Minute 45/2005

Cllr. Greg Evans reported on the successful launch of the new initiative to develop a "Rural way of Life" in Lampeter. The presentation was supported by over 70 people at the Black Lion on the 11th of November-local people and organizations such as the Rambler's Association, the Women's Institute and Longwood.

It is hoped that the centre will become one of Wales' finest tourist attractions, which will preserve and celebrate the historical Welsh way of life in its own landscape and community. The focus will be on the post Second World war era. Cllr. Evans stated that the next step would be to appoint a Development Officer to consider grant applications and to work closely with volunteers of the community.

The Business Plan for next year is being finalised.

Heritage Artwork is now for sale (limited edition) - Heritage Trail by R.Blainey

8. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Minute 46/2005

Planning Permission

8.1 Erection of buildings for B1 (Business), B2 (General Industrial) & B8 (Storage & Distribution), Lampeter Business Park, Tregaron Rd, Lampeter.

Planning Applications

8.2 Erection of garage: Oakwood, 5 Station Terrace, Lampeter: no objection to this application.

8.3 Alterations & Extension: Mulberry Bush, 2 Bridge Street, Lampeter: no objection to this application.

9. FINANCE: Minute 47/2005

	Maintenance	Donation	Administration	Tax/N.I.	Vat
EXPENDITURE					
9.1 UCW Lampeter: Printing of leaflets, Remembrance Sunday			£16.00		
9.2 Poppy Wreath, British Legion			£20.00		
INCOME					
9.3 Community Paths Scheme	£32.50				

- 9.4 **Requests for financial support** were received from Macmillan Cancer Relief, Victim Support Dyfed, and Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Cymru 2006. It was decided that further consideration would be given to these requests after the Budget Meeting of January.
- 9.5 **Letter received from Lampeter Round Table** thanking the Town Council for their financial support towards their annual Bonfire/Firework Display.

10. SUB-COMMITTEES

Minute 48/2005

10.1 Footpath Sub-Committee

Community Paths Scheme 2006/07: A bid for funding of £2,600 from Ceredigion County Council's scheme was submitted.

Concern was expressed for the footpaths, which are damaged by motorbikes.

11 A.O.B.

Minute 49/2005

- 11.1 **Meeting of the 29th December:** Council members were divided regarding holding a meeting between Christmas and the New Year. After taking a vote, which was won by 6 votes to 3 it was decided that a meeting would be held on the 29th of December.
- 11.2 **A communication was received from John Woods, Secretary, Wales in Bloom** to ask if Lampeter would consider entering the "Britain in Bloom" competition next year. It was resolved to convey this information to Mr Geoff Carter.
- 11.3 **Concerns were raised that the Council Depot** would be moved from Lampeter but it was reassured that it would stay at its present location.
- 11.4 **It was resolved to locate a Christmas Tree** at the Town Hall.

Signed.....

Dated the.....day of.....2006