

**LAMPETER TOWN COUNCIL
CYNGOR TREF LLANBEDR PONT STEFFAN
MINUTES OF A FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY
26th JULY AT 7.30PM AT THE TOWN HALL, LAMPETER**

1. CHAIRPERSON'S WELCOME

The Mayor Christopher Thomas extended a warm welcome to all present.

PRESENT

Cllr. Mayor Chris Thomas (Chairperson)

Cllrs: Deputy-Mayor Selwyn Walters, Cecilia Barton, Andrew Carter, Elsie Dafis, Hazel Davies, John Davies, Margaret Davies-Evans, Greg Evans, Robert Harris, Lynda Mason-George, Robert Phillips, Kistiah Ramaya, Dorothy Williams and Derek Wilson.

P.C. Jo Grey

2. PERSONAL MATTERS

Members of the Town Council wish to record their thanks to Mr Rhun Leeding, the reporter who represents the *Cambrian News* at the monthly meetings of the Town Council, for his hard work over the past two years. He will be leaving Lampeter shortly and best wishes are extended to him in Swansea.

3. DISCLOSURE OF PERSONAL INTEREST

The following declared their personal interest in matters recorded in the following minutes:

Cllr.	Paragraph:	Matter under consideration:
H.Davies	10.2	Request for financial support from the
H. Harris	10.2	Carnival Committee
D.Williams	10.2	

4. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE 28th JUNE 2007

It was proposed, seconded and resolved that the minutes of the meeting of the 28th June were a correct record, and were signed by the chairperson.

5. POLICE MATTERS

- 5.1 **P.C. Jo Grey explained the delay in setting up an Alcohol Exclusion Zone;** the police were awaiting the Aberystwyth report before moving the matter forward in Lampeter.
- 5.2 **Two burglaries had taken place in Lampeter during the past month (from the end of June to the end of July).** P.C. Jo Grey also reported 8 violent crimes, which have been detected, 4 criminal damage to vehicles and 5 possession of cannabis.
- 5.3 **A Traffic Warden is patrolling the town** and will charge people parked illegally. Much parking on pavements has been seen recently.
- 5.4 **P.I. Mark James** will contact the Town Council in relation to the proposed *Agreement* between Lampeter Town Council and the Lampeter Police.
- 5.5 **As part of a police drive** to forge links with the community of Lampeter, Community Policing Officer J.Grey will be hosting an open surgery at the Co-op on Friday the 10th August between 4pm and 6pm, to discuss any issues concerning people in the town, and there is also a private room available. She stated, "The idea behind this, was to be somewhere less formal than the Police Station, so that we can be approached more comfortably."

6. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

- 6.1 **Cittaslow: further developments:** awaiting reply from Mold Town Council to arrange suitable date for visit in September.
- 6.2 **Lampeter Post Office:** notification from the Post Office Ltd stating that the relocation of the Lampeter P.O. from its present site, to the Co-op Store, will proceed. The current branch will close its doors for the last time on Wednesday the 8th August at 13:00. It was resolved to express the Town Council's disappointment to P.O. Ltd in relation to this decision.
It was reported that any work or change of use to the present P.O. building in the town, would have to be in tune with the requirements of a Grade 2 Listed Building.
- 6.3 **Update, regarding the bench - Kakitsuka Family:** it was resolved to site the bench, on a temporary basis outside the Cemetery, situated on the outskirts of Lampeter, on the A475 Llanwnnen Road.
- 6.4 **Housing Development at Forest Road CCC:** letter received from the county council confirmed that the name "Coed Barcud" will refer to the access road serving the proposed development. The county council also stated that if the developers insist on referring to the development as "Maeshyfyd" then they are within their rights to do so, as the development is on private land, however, the postal address for the individual properties would be "House Name/Plot Number, Coed Barcud, Lampeter SA48 ***".
- 6.5 **Welsh Language Policy – Lampeter Town Council:** Cllr. R.Phillips guided members through the proposed Town Council's *Welsh Language Policy*, which was an amended version of the standard document produced by the *Welsh Language Board*. It was mentioned, in the Town Council's proposed policy that an external translator would be employed to undertake the translating of the minutes etc, although this is not a legal requirement. Information gathered from the *Welsh Language Board* and *One Voice Wales* states that in the majority of Town and Community Councils, it is the clerk who executes most of the translating tasks. Members agreed to review the situation. One criterion used would be the cost involved.
- 6.6 **Feedback: Hyder meeting 29/06/2007: The Mayor C.Thomas** had attended a meeting with Mr Geoffrey Foy, the team leader of *Hyder Consulting*. This company has been commissioned by the *Department for Economy & Transport* of the Welsh Assembly, to produce a report on the future of the Lampeter area. Councillors raised fears that the draft report, due this month, would not be very comprehensive and that it could be used to further the causes of companies trying to house another supermarket in the town. It was felt that the recent meeting had not been well advertised and that some town groups such as the *Chamber of Trade*, had not been consulted. It was agreed to invite Mr Foy to the next meeting of the Town Council.
- 6.7 **Feedback: Ceredigion Young People's Partnership meeting 13/07/2007** (please refer to the enclosed minutes of this meeting)
- 6.8 **Feedback: Meeting with Welsh Water: it was reported that Welsh Water Network Manager** Richard Lewis and Network Engineer Richard Davies had met with a delegation of the Town Council on the 16th July, in order to discuss the recent flooding problems in Lampeter. The agents for *Welsh Water*, Carmarthenshire County Council, have been requested to investigate the drains in the areas which were flooded. Major desilting commenced on the 23rd July and a camera survey will be undertaken to check for any blockages. The flooding had been due primarily to the fact, that the system could not cope with the volume of rain that fell in such a short period of time.
- 6.9 **Children's Summer Ball:** this event has been postponed until September
- 6.10 **Lampeter Swimming Pool:** letter received from Mr John Whitworth, Manager of Lampeter Swimming Pool emphasizing that Carmarthenshire County Council's refusal to enter into a *Service Level Agreement* with the Swimming Pool, meant that the

swimming pool committee, after seeking legal advice, had been left with no option but to exclude cross-border pupils from receiving swimming instruction at the pool. He said, "I must point out that over the last 6 months, Lampeter Swimming Pool has tried to solve the problem which was not of the pool's doing. .. The decision to exclude Primary School children was taken by Carmarthenshire's actions....Hopefully, by September, all will be settled and things will revert to normal practice."

6.11 **The Blue Badge Scheme:** parking concessions for disabled and blind people: response received from CCC stated that the Social Services Department checks eligibility. The misuse of blue badges is also monitored by traffic wardens. When a badge is issued, the badge holder will receive a copy of the *Blue Badge Advisory* leaflet as published by the Welsh Assembly. This advises the badge holders as to where they can and cannot park and how the badge should be displayed.

Local Authorities are obliged to provide parking spaces for the disabled and the blind. Only blue badge holders, who have a tax exempt vehicle (because they receive a high rate mobility component of disability living allowance or drive a modified vehicle for their disability), are entitled to free parking. Both a blue badge and a suitable tax-disk are needed for free parking. According to

Cllr. Harris, CCC is in the process of reviewing this matter e.g. Are Blue-Badge Holders allowed to park in designated zones after paying?

6.12 **Recycling Bag Scheme in Lampeter:** the acceptance of glass as a recyclable material: reply from CCC states that the "Recycle in the Box" scheme has been replaced by the recycling bag scheme and in order that the residents of Lampeter are offered a scheme which provides the same level of service as the box scheme, glass is continued to be permitted as a recyclable material. However, due to the methods used to sort materials from the clear bags and for health and safety reasons, the glass in the recycling bags can cause problems at the LAS in Lampeter. For these reasons, the preference is for residents to use glass banks for recycling rather than clear bags. The recycling bag scheme has now been extended to around 75% of households in the county, but in no other area is glass permitted in the recycling bags. In these areas residents are again encouraged to use glass banks. In an effort to ensure that the recycling scheme in the town does not suffer from further changes and to continue to encourage residents to participate in the scheme, glass is still permitted in the clear bags in Lampeter but particular reference to this has not been made in recent leaflets and literature distributed to residents regarding the scheme. The Town Council's comments were invited. It was resolved to remind the county council of their previous decision to provide leaflets to the residents of Lampeter highlighting the fact that glass was permitted as a recyclable material.

6.1 **3 Town Council's Request for a full traffic survey of Lampeter:** CCC

In answer to previous requests, the following responses were received from the county council:

6.13.1 **A speed-limit of say 20mph in the town:** at present the county council is introducing 20mph speed limits adjacent to some schools and residential areas within Ceredigion. There are no imminent plans to introduce a 20mph limit within the centre of Lampeter, which has adequate footway and crossing point provision. They are not aware of any concerns regarding traffic speeds in the centre of the town.

6.13.2 **Parking is an increasing problem:** (illegal parking and parking provision): there could be scope in the future to develop resident parking schemes and to use parking restrictions emphatically.

- 6.13.3 **A one-way system in New Street could be of advantage:** the county council will investigate the possibility of a one-way system in New Street, as and when resources permit.
- 6.13.4 **The pinch-point of traffic flow in College Street is a problem:** the presence of parked vehicles at College Street inhibits motorists from travelling at high speeds along this road. Attempting to remove this (via parking restrictions) will probably lead to increased traffic speeds, which is at odds with the request for a 20mph speed limit in the town. Further parking restrictions here would also contribute to pressure on available parking elsewhere.
- 6.13.5 **Another item dealt in the letter from CCC concerns Picton Lane:** in the reply it was stated that there are no plans at present to take any further action in relation to this location.
- 6.14 **Ash-Tray Bins:** the county council had been contacted to ask for help in the setting up of bins for smokers on the streets of Lampeter, in issues such as the siting of the bins, the cost and the servicing- letter received from the Environmental Dept CCC stated that responsibility for street bins lies with the Director of Highways and that the Town Council's letter has been forwarded to this department.

7. CORRESPONDENCE Minute 25/2007

Noted for information only:

- 7.1 **Public Services Ombudsman for Wales:** Annual Report 2006/07
- 7.2 **"Footprint"** a newsletter produced by the Waste Management Section of Ceredigion County Council
- 7.3 **Cantref Housing Association:** information pack
- 7.4 **One Voice Wales:** Policy on Unacceptable Actions by Individuals
- 7.5 **Wales Rural Observatory:** Services Questionnaire
- 7.6 **Ceredigion Academy of Sport 2007:** Summer Action Programme

8. MENTER LLAMBED Minute 26/2007

Cllr. Greg Evans updated members on recent events:

- 8.1 **The Names and Addresses of Councillors** in the Town Council's section of *Menter's* website has been updated, to include details of the two most recent members.
- 8.2 **The Town Hall's final business plan** has been submitted to the DEIN (Dept for Enterprise, Innovation and Networks) and to Ceredigion County Council.
- 8.3 **A Transition Town committee** has been set up and the first meeting has taken place on the 4th July.
- 8.4 **The Tourism Brochure:** developments ongoing.
- 8.5 **Lampeter Gateways Project:** *Menter Llambled* is initiating a new project entitled "Lampeter Gateways". This project has been generated as a response to the ideas proposed at a Public Meeting held by *Menter* in 2006. The discussion document, presented to the Town Council, contained many suggestions for improving the various "gateways" to the town, together with actions that could be taken as a first step towards implementation. The Town Council's views were sought before the 7th September.

The main aims are to "Make Lampeter an attractive place to visit and stay, by enhancing the physical approaches to the town. Whether descending the foothills of the Cambrian mountains on the A482, or along the valley on the A485 or A475, the first views are spoiled by a clutter of signs, wires and lights". The project will

consider the provision of a *Tourist Information Centre* in the town. The proposals will include:

- 8.5.1 Creating a southern gateway using the existing landscape features, mainly the railway embankment and the flood meadows.
- 8.5.2 Enhancing the setting of the river crossing and to emphasize the rising view up Bridge Street towards St Peter's Church.
- 8.5.3 Improving signage and information displays in and around the town in order to welcome visitors and make it easier to find their way around.
- 8.5.4 Improving facilities for cyclists, walkers and public transport travellers. There are also environmental proposals.

9. PLANNING APPLICATIONS
Minute 27/2007

9.1 It was reported that the following planning applications had been permitted by Ceredigion County Council.

Applic. No	Applicant:	Location:	Permission:
A070174	Menter Llambled Cyf	Lampeter Town Hall High Street Lampeter	Change of use from courthouse to Welsh quilt exhibition centre and minor works
A061142	J H & G A Jones Dolaugwyrdion Lampeter	Falcondale Drive Lampeter	Erection of a dwelling
A070405	Welsh Assembly Government	Lampeter Mart Lampeter	Renovation & conversion of Station Building & erection of extension to provide Class B1 Offices, associated landscaping & car parking
A070406	Welsh Assembly Government	Lampeter Mart Lampeter	Erection of advanced industrial unit

10. FINANCE
Minute 28/2007

10.1 It was reported that arrangements had been made for the Town Council's Insurance to cover the *Chamber of Trade's* 30 hanging baskets, which are located on street-lamps for 3-4 months a year.

10.2

	Admin.	Maint.	Sec137	VAT
EXPENDITURE	£	£	£	£
Clerk's salary: net – 1 month	359.72			
Tax and NI	92.73			
Heat and Light	20.00			
Victim Support Dyfed			25.00	
Lampeter Carnival			350.00	

Advert Public Meeting Cambrian News	174.00			30.45
G.Davies- hire of microphone 12/11/06	50.00			
CCTV 2 months		3,266.68		571.67
TOTAL	696.45	3,266.68	375.00	602.12
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		£4,939.25		

11. SUB-COMMITTEES

Minute 29/2007

- 11.1 **Pavements'**: Cllr. R. Phillips and Elsie Dafis had compiled a risk assessment which involved certain pavements within the town. Please refer to the enclosed *Pavements' Committee Report*. A copy would be submitted to the county council.
- 11.2 **Footpaths'**: Work is ongoing over the summer months.
- 11.3 **CCTV Cameras': CCC Report: June 2007**: there had been 5 requests from the police to view video media; one offence in relation to theft was required for investigation/court purposes. Problems exist with two of the cameras. The equipment upgrade is awaited.
The University of Wales Lampeter has decided to withdraw funding for the Town Council's CCTV cameras as it believes that its own CCTV system, along with the appointment of a Police Community Support Officer, will adequately meet its security needs. No CCTV contribution was received, from the college for the financial year ending the 5th April 2007.
- 11.4 **Street Lights'** – it was reported that the street light serial number 8055 at Bryn Road was defective.

12. AOB: Minute 30/2007

- 12.1 **Parking - Harford Row**: Cllr. M. Davies-Evans expressed concern that parking continues to take place outside houses in Harford Row by unauthorised people. It was decided to report this matter, once again, to the county council, requesting the provision of a road sign.
- 12.2 **It was learned that no decisions** had been made regarding the use of the present primary school building, after relocation to the new school.
- 12.3 **Members were reminded that the Lampeter Food Festival** would take place on Saturday the 28th July, the annual Carnival on Saturday the 4th August and the *Lampeter Show* on Friday the 17th August.

The meeting ended at 9.45pm.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 30th August 2007 at 7.30pm, at the Town Hall.