

**LAMPETER TOWN COUNCIL
CYNGOR TREF LLANBEDR PONT STEFFAN
MINUTES OF A FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY
28th JUNE AT 7.30PM AT THE TOWN HALL, LAMPETER**

CHANGES TO THE MEALS ON WHEELS SERVICE IN CEREDIGION

Before the commencement of the full meeting, members were addressed by Mrs Jane Johnson, Project Manager, WRVS Ceredigion Community Meals. Details of Mrs Johnson's address are available at the Town Library. The contents of her presentation were noted, especially the part which states that the WRVS were not consulted by the county council, prior to taking the decision to make such a dramatic change in the provision of Meals on Wheels to the elderly of Ceredigion.

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, Andrew Carter, Elsie Dafis, Hazel Davies, John Davies, Margaret Davies-Evans, Greg Evans, Robert Harris, Lynda Mason-George, Robert Phillips, Dorothy Williams and Derek Wilson.

P.I. Mark James

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. Cecilia Barton and Kistiah Ramaya.

3. DISCLOSURE OF PERSONAL INTEREST

No member declared an interest in any item under discussion at this meeting.

4. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE 31st MAY 2007

It was proposed, seconded and resolved that the minutes of the meeting of the 31st May were a correct record, apart from one amendment:

Point 10.1 The heading should be *Pavements'* sub-committee and not *Footpaths'*, as quoted.

They were signed by the chairperson.

5. POLICE MATTERS

- 5.1 **P.I. Mark James explained the delay in setting up an Alcohol Exclusion Zone;** the police were awaiting a review of the situation by Ceredigion County Council CCC before moving the matter forward.
- 5.2 **P.I. James was disappointed with the latest crime figures,** which show that the crime is about the same as last year. Of the 28 crimes reported up to the 28th

June, 6 were assaults, one was an attempted burglary, 12 were thefts, 5 of criminal damage and 4 were drug related offences. 15 of the crimes had been solved and 4 were on the brink of solution.

- 5.3 **It was agreed to set up a formal agreement** between the Town Council and the Lampeter Police to discuss matters of importance to the residents of the town.

6. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

- 6.1 **Cittaslow: further developments:** Mold Town Council has been contacted to gain further information. Mold is the first town in Wales to be accepted into the Cittaslow movement. Mold Town Council initiated this scheme in Mold, by setting up a working party of 12 dedicated people comprising of members from different organizations and three elected members. The first step in gaining this status involves writing a report and stating the main objectives. This is a relatively complicated task and essentially a coordinator is required to take the matter on board and to drive it forward. In England, the availability of grants has enabled potential *Cittaslow* towns to enlist the services of a coordinator, but unfortunately this provision is not an option in Wales.

Cittaslow is a movement which towns with a population of less than 50,000 are eligible to join. In relation to the benefits derived from membership, Graeme Kidd, Immediate Past Mayor of Ludlow and president of Cittaslow UK says that "the benefits to towns which embrace the Cittaslow goals are extensive". In Mold the *Food and Drink Festival* has materialized as a direct result of this initiative and the Cittaslow movement has brought the community together in a bid to improve the quality of life of residents and visitors to the town. The approximate cost to join is £500 and the annual subscription is £1,000. It was decided to arrange a visit to Mold, in September to glean further insight and understanding of this enterprise, before making a commitment.

It was stated that should a working party be set up, it would consist of Bethan Lewis Jones and Dave Smith from the Chamber of Trade, Cennydd Powell from the University of Wales, Lampeter, Kate Stewart, interested elected members as well as representatives from other organizations. It was decided that this committee would remain separate from the Transition Town committee, which deals with carbon issues.

- 6.2 **Lampeter Post Office:** letters received by the Town Council voicing opposition to the possible relocation of the P.O.

6.2.1 **Mark Williams** Ceredigion MP: states that he has written to the Royal Mail stressing the relative inaccessibility of the proposed new site, particularly for those who do not drive. He also stressed the impact that moving the Post Office from the town centre would have on other small businesses situated in the centre. He was also keen to know what consideration had been given to other potential sites in the town centre as it is known that there were expressions of interest from businesses in the town centre and in his opinion, these should have been considered more favourably, in view of their central location.

6.2.2 **Llangybi Community Council:** copy of letter sent to Post Office Ltd- "... bearing in mind that a few rural Post Offices are likely to close in the near future there could be more business for Lampeter Post-Office if it is located centrally, otherwise potential customers will transfer their business to the

banks. ... Llanyby councillors urge the Post Office Ltd to do their utmost to keep Lampeter Post-Office in the town centre.”

6.2.3 **Harrison Solow**, English Lecturer & Research Fellow,

University of Wales, Lampeter-writer and author from Los Angeles, who is in the process of writing a book about Lampeter P.O. She draws a parallel between Lampeter P.O. and the P.O. quoted in Jane Austen’s “Emma”.

The post-office is a wonderful establishment! The regularity and dispatch of it! If one thinks of all it has to do, and all that it does so well, it is really astonishing! So seldom that any negligence or blunder appears! So seldom that a letter, among the thousands that are constantly passing about the kingdom, is even carried wrong- and not one in a million, I suppose, actually lost! Jane Austen – Emma - Chapter 16.

“...I am, among other things, a lecturer in the English Department at the University of Wales in Lampeter. I’m pretty familiar with research and some kinds of research are meaningful. So let’s dig up a few facts about the quote above from Jane Austen’s *Emma*. *Emma* is an exquisite 19th century novel. emblematic of the best of English literature. It is a joy to read, a pleasure to think about and it must be a great deal of fun to produce since someone in England seems to re-make the novel into a film, every couple of years. The most interesting thing about *Emma* however, is what it is about. It is about unmitigated snobbery, unparalleled self-interest and disastrous meddling in other people’s lives by the protagonist, Emma Woodhouse, who has no experience in, no knowledge of, and no instinct about the needs, desire or culture of the people whose lives she so blithely tries to rearrange. It backfires of course. These things always do. Emma, having perceived every situation incorrectly, all but destroys the very thing she is trying to foster.

Those who think that removing the Lampeter Post Office from its stately and centralized position in the heart of Lampeter, and cramming it like an extra tin of peas in the back of the Co-op (which, by the way, is on the very edge of town) is a sensible, judicious and impartial decision undertaken for the good of the people of Lampeter should have their heads examined. Or at least do a little research. Reading *Emma* might help. Or just having a clue about what they are actually doing. Listening to the citizens of Lampeter would be a good start. So to make it very simple for those who might not otherwise understand. *We, the residents of Lampeter do not want the Post office moved out of the centre of Lampeter nor do we want any persons other than Timothy Evans and his current employees as our post office personnel.* That should be pretty clear. “

6.2.4 **It was decided to find out** whether the present P.O. building was a listed building.

6.2.5 **It was reported that no official pronouncement** about the new site has been received.

- 6.3 **Update, regarding the bench** - Kakitsuka Family: enquiries ongoing, in relation to finding a suitable location for the bench.
- 6.4 **Housing Development at Forest Road** CCC: awaiting a reply from the developers, regarding the name of the site.
- 6.5 **Welsh Language Policy** – Lampeter Town Council: it was resolved that a sub-committee would meet in order to draft a *Welsh Language Policy* for the council, including translation facilities in the Town Council.

- 6.6 **Proposed Traffic Regulation Order:** A482 Bridge Street, Lampeter: CCC-amendments: it was enquired whether the Traffic Order could be extended to 2 hours, instead of the initial proposal of one hour waiting. It would be conveyed to the County Council that the town council were fully supportive of this measure.
- 6.7 **Mid & West Wales Fire & Rescue Authority: Draft Risk Reduction Action Plan 2008/09:** consultation 22/05/2007-14/08/2007: the Mayor Cllr. Chris Thomas agreed to assign further attention to this document. All stake-holders had been consulted in relation to 2 proposals, one of which relates to crewing within the Swansea and Amman Valley.
- 6.8 **Picton Lane Lampeter:** the county council wished to be informed of the rationale behind the Town Council's decision, not to participate in the proposed joint initiative over Picton Lane. They will be informed that the cost of £1.000 had been a significant factor.
- 6.9 **Resurfacing of the lane between Kingsmead and New Street: petition from the residents of Kingsmead Lampeter** which was sent to the county council in March 2007: a response was received from the county council stating that the road is not a publicly maintainable highway and therefore would not be the responsibility of the Highways, Property and Works Dept. However, Ceredigion County Council as a landowner or possibly former owner of properties immediately adjacent to part of this road may have some responsibility for those sections next to those properties. It was reported that the property maintenance section will investigate the matter and respond accordingly.
- 6.10 **Town Council's Request for a full traffic survey of Lampeter:** response from the county council : it was asked why this request was reiterated as it would entail a considerable outlay for the county council to undertake a full traffic survey of the town. It will be stated that the following areas require attention:
- 6.10.1 A speed-limit of say 20mph in the town could help.
 - 6.10.2 Parking is an increasing problem.
 - 6.10.3 A one-way system in New Street could be of advantage.
 - 6.10.4 The pinch-point of traffic flow in College Street is a problem.
 - 6.10.5 Picton Lane remains unresolved.
- 6.11 **Role of Honour,** Town Hall: Mr Robert Blayney has updated the Role Of Honour by entering four new names of Mayors in goldleaf.
- 6.12 **Ash-Tray Bins:** it was decided to contact the county council 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.
- 6.13 **Children's Summer Ball 13/07/2007:** a meeting was arranged for the 30th June at 1:00pm in order to move this matter forward.
- 6.14 **Arranging a meeting between representatives of the Ceredigion County Council and the Town Council:** A letter from the Chief Executive, CCC stated that they were prepared to meet with members of the Town Council at a suitable date. It was agreed to submit the following topics for discussion:
- 6.14.1 Traffic Issues in the town including road traffic issues
 - 6.14.2 Suitability of drainage
 - 6.14.3 Possible flash floods
 - 6.14.4 Parking
 - 6.14.5 Business Interests
 - 6.14.6 Athletics' Track
 - 6.14.7 Meals on Wheels
 - 6.14.8 Rights of way, Footpaths

7. CORRESPONDENCE Minute 19/2007

- 7.1 **Ceredigion Young People's Partnership meeting 13/07/2007: CCC:** Cllrs Elsie Dafis, Lynda Mason-George and County Cllr. Hag Harris will attend this meeting. The requested agenda item submitted by the town council will involve discussion on the provision of a *Youth Drop-In Centre* in Lampeter.
- 7.2 **Letters of objection** in relation to the refusal of the Lampeter Swimming Pool Committee to allow pupils from Carreg Hirfaen and Llanybydder Schools to receive swimming instruction at the pool; Llanyrcrws Community Council & the Board of Governors, Ysgol Gynradd Carreg Hirfaen: letter of support required from the Town Council: it was agreed to respond to these parties stating that members of the Town Council regret this predicament but understood that the situation had arisen due to the fact that no Service Level Agreement existed between Carmarthenshire County Council and the Swimming Pool Voluntary Committee.
- 7.3 **Public Meeting at the National Eisteddfod Mold 2007:** re Housing Developments in Wales: Cymdeithas yr Iaith Gymraeg: for information
- 7.4 **CygnusBookShop, Lampeter:** notification of upcoming event- 21st July: for information
- 7.5 **Carmarthenshire Local Development Plan:** Draft Delivery Agreement: Carmarthenshire County Council: noted for information
- 7.6 **Countryside Code:** Countryside Council for Wales: for information only
- 7.7 **One Voice Wales AGM- 13/10/2007** at the Metroplote Hotel Llandrindod Wells- £50 per delegate. The Mayor Cllr. C.Thomas and Cllr. Dorothy Williams would attend this conference. Two motions for debate were required. These would include:
- 7.7.1 Flooding and insurance issues, in light of the recent floods in Lampeter.
 - 7.7.2 The present challenges facing the Farming Industry in Wales e.g. the very low price given to dairy farmers for their production of milk is of great concern.

8. MENTER LLAMBED Minute 20/2007

Cllr. Greg Evans updated members on recent events:

- 8.1 **The Town Hall's final business plan** has been submitted to the DEIN (Dept for Enterprise, Innovation and Networks) and to Ceredigion County Council. Planning permission has been granted at the Magistrates Court to undertake renovation work (please refer to planning section of these minutes).
- 8.2 **A Transition Town committee** has been set up and will conduct their first meeting on the 4th July.
- 8.3 **The Tourism Brochure** is in print.
- 8.4 **Seven sculptors are involved in a Sculpture project**, which will be put on display.
- 8.5 **The Sports' Facilities which are required for the town have** been recorded on paper. Every effort has been made to be objective regarding this provision.

9. PLANNING APPLICATIONS Minute 15/2007

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

Applic. No :	Applicant:	Location:	Permission:
A070462	Mrs HD Williams Blodfryn Bryn Road Lampeter	Coedybrain 21 College Street Lampeter	Change of use from residential to beauty salon
A041112	Mr SR Thomas Beehive 42/43 High Street Lampeter	Beehive 42/43 High Street Lampeter	Retention of new store rooms to rear
A061442AV	Adrian Thomas Pharmacy 3 High Street Lampeter	Pharmacy 3 High Street Lampeter	Display signage
A070175LB	Menter Llambled Cyf	Disused Magistrates' Court, Lampeter Town Hall High Street Lampeter	Demolition of toilet, extension & alterations.
A070040	Davies & Potter LTD Veterinary Surgeons 20 Bridge Street Lampeter SA48 7AA	Veterinary Surgeons 20 Bridge Street Lampeter SA48 7AA	Conversion of part downstairs of No18 to form extension to veterinary surgery adjoining & replacement windows.

9.2 The following planning applications were received:

Applic. No and date received by the T.C.	Applicant:	Location:	Proposal:	Comment:
A070643 21/06/2007	Alliance & Leicester c/o Agent	Somerfield Stores, Market Place Lampeter	Installation of an automated teller machine	No objection
A070646 21/06/2007	Mrs A.D.Lloyd Llys Teifi New Street Lampeter	Land adj to Llys Teifi New Street Lampeter	Erection of a dwelling (renewal of outline planning permission A040606)	No objection
A070663 25/06/2007	A Conti Flat over Conti's Café Harford Square Lampeter	Flat over Conti's Café Harford Square Lampeter	Installation of 1 st floor rear window into doorway & fire escape	No objection
A070584	Catrin Davies	No 16	Change of use of	No

6/06/2007	Llwydfan South Road Aberaeron	High Street Lampeter	rear (retail) store rooms into beauty salon	objection
A070609CD	Ceredigion County Council 26 Bridge Street Aberystwyth SY23 1QA	Lampeter Comprehensive School	Erection of two storey teaching block	No objection

**10. FINANCE
Minute 16/2007**

10.1

	Admin.	Maint.	Grant	Sec137	VAT
EXPENDITURE	£	£	£	£	£
Clerk's salary: net – 1 month	359.72				
Tax and NI	92.73				
Clerk's back-pay (Gross)	247.72				
Heat and Light	20.00				
Shelter Cymru				25.00	
One Voice Wales AGM	100.00				
R.Thomas Internal Auditor	50.00				
R.Blayne: Role of Honour		200.00			
INCOME					
VAT Reclaim	3,962.39				

10.2 **A thank you letter was received from the Samaritans Organisation**, for the recent donation of £25.00.

10.3 **The internal audit of the accounts of Lampeter Town Council** for the year ending the 31st March 2007, has been undertaken by Mr Robert Thomas, Llain-Deg, Cellan and were found to be correct. *The Local Councils in Wales Annual Return* for the year ending 31 March 2007, from the Wales Audit Office has also been completed. The chairperson the Mayor Cllr. C.Thomas, and the clerk, in the capacity of Responsible Financial Office signed the relevant form. The electors of Lampeter have the right to view the accounts from the 25th June to the 20th July, after which, the Audit Form will be forwarded to the external auditors BDO Stoy Hayward for inspection. A copy of the Income and Expenditure for the year ending 31 March 2007, was circulated to members.

10.4 **Sponsored Planters located at the 4 main entrances to the town (Lampeter in Bloom Association)** – It was reported that the Town Council's Insurance would cover the planters located at the 4 main entrances.

**11. SUB-COMMITTEES
Minute 17/2007**

11.1 Pavements': it was reported that this sub-committee would undertake a tour of Lampeter within the next month, in order to identify problem areas.

11.2 Footpaths': It was stated that Mr E.Williams had started on the necessary maintenance work.

11.3 CCTV Cameras': CCC Report: there were no requests during the month of May to view recorded material. One of the six cameras remains in a state of disrepair.

11. AOB: Minute /2007

- 11.1 **The Mayor stated** that he would meet with representatives of an organisation called “Hyder” on the 29th June. This group is concerned with the regeneration of the area.
- 11.2 **Recycling of glass:** Cllr Rob Phillips reported that in the recycling scheme, which is ongoing in the town, glass is now accepted as a recyclable material. It was resolved to contact the county council to enquire whether a communication e.g. a leaflet existed for the residents of Lampeter, which highlights this procedure.
- 11.3 **Floods:** Cllr. Hag Harris reported on the recent flooding in Lampeter on Monday the 11th June and Friday the 15th June. In particular, Market Street, the primary school, Victoria Terrace, Greenfield Terrace and Station Terrace were flooded. Fire crew from the surrounding area, including Tregaron and Aberaeron were called to 15 incidents. He stated that county council engineers were actively scrutinising the surface water drains. In Greenfield Terrace the engineer will install three gully drains after using a jetter to flush the drains.
There has traditionally been a problem in Market Street. Flooding was not expected in this area because a large sewer pipe exists at this location. A CCTV camera has been set up to investigate this matter.
Cllr. Harris explained the separate responsibilities of the county council, which covers the surface water, and *Welsh Water*, which is responsible for the drains which carry both water and sewage. It was stated that their sewage water system did not appear to be coping at Market Street and Cambrian Road. It was resolved to contact *Welsh Water* to express the Town Council’s concerns.
- 11.4 **Robert’s Garden Centre:** the town council wishes to record their appreciation to Mr Robert Jones and his staff for their help during the recent floods in the Barley Mow vicinity..
- 11.5 **It was resolved to send a letter to the Mayor of Ludlow**, expressing the Town Council’s profound sympathy at the sad situation at Ludlow, which had been brought about by the recent floods.

The meeting ended at 9.55pm.

12. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**
Thursday 26th July 2007 at 7.30pm, at the Town Hall.