

LAMPETER TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A FULL COUNCIL MEETING THURSDAY 29th NOVEMBER 2007 AT 7.30PM AT THE TOWN HALL, LAMPETER

Before the commencement of the full meeting, members were addressed by Mr. Bill Irving, *Company Secretary, Shopmobility Organization* and Mr. Dave Buzzone of the Ceredigion County Council (CCC). The aim of the *Shopmobility* service is to provide the use of electric scooters, and electric or manual wheelchairs, to residents and visitors of Ceredigion, who have limited mobility due to permanent or temporary disablement. There is no requirement to be registered disabled, or to hold a disability badge to be able to borrow and use these scooters and chairs.

In his presentation, Mr. Irving mentioned that mobile services at Lampeter, Aberaeron and Cardigan had folded at the beginning of the year, due to funding cuts by CCC. The service, which had started in 2001, had much usage in the initial years but this had declined in recent years. Between January and October 2006 the mobile unit had 12 users in Lampeter, 18 in Cardigan and 53 in Aberaeron. Low usage meant that the three-town mobile service had become unviable. This could have been due to the fact that demand had been temporary. Running a van at the three towns, one day per week, involved an expenditure of £10,000 per year.

The purpose of the address was to consider the possibility of reinstating a *Shopmobility* service in the town. The first step would be to find a suitable base to house the vehicles. The County Council's area office was mentioned as an option. It would require enough space to park and charge up a scooter. It was agreed to explore this avenue.

Improvements which have been undertaken to the pavements of Lampeter, including an increase in the number of drop kerbs, promise to make the *Shopmobility* Scheme more successful in the future.

Mr. Irving wrapped up his address by stating that a permanent service could be offered 5 or 6 days per week in Lampeter. Transportation grants were available and the county council would be approached for advice and support. Running costs would be minimal. It was agreed to involve the *Chamber of Trade*.

Background information regarding *Shopmobility* was circulated at the meeting, and is available at the Town Library.

1. CHAIRPERSON'S WELCOME

In the absence of the Mayor C.Thomas, the meeting was chaired by the Deputy-Mayor Selwyn Walters. He extended a welcome to all present.

PRESENT: **Deputy-Mayor** Selwyn Walters, Cecilia Barton, Andrew Carter, Elsie Dafis, Hazel Davies, Greg Evans, Robert (Hag) Harris, Lynda Mason-George and Robert Phillips.
Mr Bill Irving & Mr Dave Buzzone (CCC): *Shopmobility Organisation*
PC Jo Grey

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. Mayor Chris Thomas, Kistiah Ramaya and Derek Wilson. They were attending the Annual Rotary International Function. Apologies were also received from Cllrs. John Davies, Margaret Davies-Evans and Dorothy Williams,

3. DISCLOSURE OF PERSONAL INTEREST

Cllr A.Carter declared an interest when the discussion based on the application by the Free Masons, for improving the former British Legion Hall, took place. He vacated the premises. (12.1)

4. POLICE MATTERS

4.1 PC Jo Grey reported the following matters:

- a burglary had been committed locally;
- a number of drug arrests had taken place;
- The Neighbourhood Policing Team is active in the vicinity and a Winter Campaign had started.

4.2 It was mentioned that vans were being parked on pavements and the traffic lights at “Hen Feddau” were not functioning properly. Also at Bridge Street, Cllr A.Carter reported that the present traffic lights were positioned in such a way that large vehicles found it difficult to pass. It was decided to report this Traffic Management Issue to CCC.

4.3 Cllr Hazel Davies stated that the glass notice-board, situated in close proximity to the Town Library, is the subject of frequent vandalism. It was decided to ask the local constabulary to survey this area on a regular basis, in a bid to catch the offending parties. It was also resolved to ask Cllr. Derek Wilson to repair the notice board.

4.4 A Letter was received from Mr W.Evans, Pentre Rhys Llanwnnen, expressing concern in relation to anti-social behaviour, late at night on the streets of Lampeter.

In his letter he described certain incidents, which he had witnessed, whilst travelling through the town, late at night. He asked for the Town Council’s help in trying to alleviate the problem. It was resolved to respond to Mr Evans’ letter, by stating that whilst members really sympathize with his concerns, it is difficult to find a solution. It was resolved to forward the letter to the local Police Station and to mention to Mr Evans, that the *Alcohol Exclusion Ban*, prohibiting the consumption of alcohol outside the pubs is now awaited and that the licensees have a role to play in this situation.

5. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE 25th OCTOBER

It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting of the 25th October were a correct record, and were signed by the chairperson.

6. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

- 6.1 Developments re the bench:** this would be positioned outside the cemetery, on the outskirts of the town, on the A475 Llanwnnen Road. It has been collected from storage and would be assembled shortly by Cllr Rob Phillips and County Cllr.Ivor Williams.
- 6.2 Playground Inspection Training CCC 21&22 /11/2007** the Mayor had attended the course at Penmorfa, Aberaeron on the 21st and 22nd November. A full account is expected at the next full meeting.
- 6.3 Playground Inspection 23/11/2007 feedback:** The Mayor C.Thomas, Cllr D.Williams and the Clerk had met Mr Andy Challon Wilson from *Play Wales* on the morning of the 23rd November, at Parc-yr-Orsedd. This meeting had been arranged, in response to councillors' request for a verbal report, in conjunction with a written report, which will be received in due course. The Inspector drew attention to the following points:

- 6.3.1** Branches of trees, in close proximity to the play area should be cut;
- 6.3.2** Netting needs to be replaced on some of the small logs, where children walk;
- 6.3.3** The wood-chip under the slide is in need of refreshing;
- 6.3.4** The benches should be cleaned with a wire-brush;
- 6.3.5** The safety matting under the wooden horses could be reviewed;
- 6.3.6** Sewage from the Bryn, overflows from the man-hole, located at Parc- Yr-Orsedd. It was decided to report this matter to the Lampeter University;
- 6.3.7** It was recommended that a new access to the park be installed. Users of the park would then be able to enter from North Road and would not damage the 2 fences which run parallel to North Road. The outer fence is owned by CCC and the inner fence is the property of the Town Council. The proposed self-closing safety gate would be located halfway along the stretch of fencing. It was decided to contact CCC to initiate proceedings. Two quotes, for the repairing of the fence are yet to be received; and
- 6.3.8** It was mentioned that some users of the slide, climb onto the highest point under its roof, and should an accident occur, then the town council could be held responsible. It was recommended that members monitored the park on a regular basis and to record the number of times this activity occurs, and perhaps a sign stating that climbing is prohibited would be of help. It was felt that should the user possess the agility to climb onto the uttermost part of the slide then he/she would be sufficiently agile to withstand the fall onto the wood-chip.

Cllr. L.Mason-George reported that the railings adjacent to Parc-yr-Orsedd were in need of renovation. It was decided to note this information for future reference.

- 6.4 Ceredigion Young People's Partnership – meetings of the 20th/ 27th November:** a meeting had taken place between a delegation of the town council, namely, The Mayor, C.Thomas, Deputy-Mayor S.Walters, Cllrs L. Mason-George, E. Dafis, H.Harris, and representatives of the CCC, Mr Euros Healy and Mr Carl Williams, on the 20th November. It was agreed that the Town Council would submit a letter of support for the provision of youth

services in the town. It would be emphasized that there is a great need for this facility in Lampeter. This should facilitate CCC in sourcing suitable grants. The meeting of the 27th November at Lampeter Secondary School, organized by the town council and attended by representatives of the town council and pupils of the school, attempted to identify the kind of facilities which were needed at the Youth Centre. It was stated that a positive response had been received from the pupils.

It was resolved that a Youth Steering Committee would be set up, comprising of town councillors and volunteers. It was felt that the town council should “kick-start” this initiative. Members regretted the fact that the Youth Club, which did meet in the past at Victoria Hall, had folded. It is hoped that the Social Services Department of CCC will provide one worker for 3 nights per week. The Mayor would contact Mr Darren Philips CCC, to make further enquiries.

- 6.5 **A Shared Community** –Consultation Document: comments to be submitted by 3 December; WAG: relationship building and charters for unitary authorities and town and community councils. Noted for information.
- 6.6 **Hyder Consulting: meeting of the 16th November:** it was decided to respond to the *Lampeter Economic Development & Regeneration Strategy* exercise and to meet in December in order to undertake this task. Comments to be submitted before the 31st December.
- 6.7 **Business Plan: interest in developing the previous Ffynnonbedr Primary School Building:** It was stated that a private company, A. Waterman had displayed an interest in developing the old primary school building for community use. The Business Plan had been forwarded by A. Waterman to the Town Council for consideration. The town council is unable to submit comments before receiving the planning application for this venture.
- 6.8 **Urdd Gobaith Cymru: meeting 22/11/07 Shiloh Chapel Lampeter: re Ceredigion playing host to the Urdd Eisteddfod in 2010:feedback:** Deputy-Mayor Cllr. Selwyn Walters had attended this meeting. The Eisteddfod would not be located in Lampeter in 2010, as no site had been proposed. £8,000 has been given as the town’s target. The amount which would be donated from the town council would be deducted from the £8,000. No chairman has been found to date; it has been proposed that the current mayor should take the position of vice-chair.
- 6.9 **Land at Maesyderi: The playing field previously utilized by Lampeter Primary School:** CCC had been contacted to enquire whether it was feasible for the town council to administer this field. A map received from this authority, asked the town council to highlight the boundaries of this parcel of land. This had been completed and it was conveyed to the CCC that the town council would, hopefully, utilize this land as an amenity for the people of Lampeter.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

Minute 54/2007

- 7.1 **Risk Reduction Plan 2008-09; Improvement Plan 2007-08 Mid and West Wales Fire & Rescue Service:** noted for information.
- 7.2 **Temporary Road Closure, High Street Lampeter: Christmas Community Event:** closed from 4pm-9pm 13/12/2007, to stage the annual Chamber of Trade event. An invitation was extended to the Mayor, Mayoress, all Town Councillors and Town Clerk to attend the opening ceremony at 4:00pm at the Town Hall

- 7.3 **Bywyd Da** – Draft Health, Social Care and Well Being Strategy for Ceredigion 2008-11; CCC: noted for information
- 7.4 **Shopmobility** AGM, Council Offices, Penmorfa Aberaeron 5/12/2007:
Cllr. Mason-George displayed an interest in attending this meeting.
- 7.5 **One Voice Wales: Minutes of their annual AGM:** noted for information
- 7.6 **Adjudication Panel for Wales:** Annual Report 2006-07: for information
- 7.7 **Adoption of Station Terrace between the former mart site and the river bridge Lampeter:** letter received from CCC, stating that this road has been adopted as a highway maintainable at the public expense under Section 228 of the Highways Act 1980 on the 13th October 2007.
- 7.8 **Ceredigion Local Access Forum:** Annual Report 2007: CCC: for information
- 7.9 **E-Mail from Mr Patrick Cockburn,** wishing to address the town council in relation to the proposed Lampeter skate park project. It was decided to ask him to submit his request in writing to the town council. In future, the Town Council will try to host a forum before Town Council meetings where the public may discuss issues of interest.
- 7.10 **Other correspondence: for information only.**

8. MENTER LLAMBED

Minute 55/2007

8.1 **Address re Town Hall by Cllr. G.Evans, Chair of Menter Llambed:**

Cllr. Evans announced, that due to lack of funding, responsibility for the Town Hall (TH) had reverted to CCC, the owners of the building, who will decide on its future, next month. *Menter* was offered a lease on the TH by CCC, on the condition that it could attract sufficient grants to fund the TH's regeneration project. Cllr. Evans reported that grant-funding had now been curtailed from 100% to 75%, leaving a shortfall of approximately £60,000. Advice received from the TH's Business Plan Consultant indicated that the development group, due to the lack of assets, would not be in the financial position to meet the remaining 25% of the funding.

The Group's Chair expressed disappointment that Menter's involvement in the TH's regeneration had ceased, but felt that the aims, laid down by the development group could still be achieved by other parties. The Highmead Trust had displayed an interest in purchasing the freehold trust of the town hall. It is one of a number of options, including an open-market sale, now being considered by CCC. Town & County Cllr. Hag Harris believed that a trust scheme could succeed. It was resolved to send a letter to the CCC stating that Lampeter Town Council is fully supportive of the Highmead Trust in its bid to buy the Town Hall. Members felt that the conservation of an imposing, historical and listed building was paramount, while every effort should be made to bring it back to full usage. Councillors were of the opinion that it would be a tragedy if it was lost to the community and that a covenant should be attached to any sale or lease allowing town council meetings, mayor-making ceremonies and community use to continue. It was decided to thank Menter Llambed for their contribution to the Town Hall's future.

8.2 **The remainder of the monthly report from Cllr. G.Evans:**

- 8.2.1 **Lampeter Fit Trail Project:** It was decided that the excess money, as received from the Sports' Council of Wales (original grant £25,000),

after purchasing the Fit Trail Equipment at Parc-yr-Orsedd, would be spent on the acquisition of Rock Blocks and Safety Surfacing for £3,995 (ex VAT).

- 8.2.2 **Menter Llambed is fully supportive of the Youth Drop-In Centre** in Lampeter. As Town Hall commitments have halted, time can be invested in developing this project.
- 8.2.3 **Letter of support requested from Menter Llambed re the Transition Town initiative.** It was agreed to support this initiative.
- 8.2.4 **Lampeter Gateways: Result of Consultation:Menter Llambed:** deferred until the next meeting.

9. PLANNING MATTERS
Minute 56/2007

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

Applic. No	Applicant:	Location:	Application Details:
A071051CD	CCC 26 Bridge Street ABERYSTWYTH =====	Lampeter Secondary School Peterwell Terrace LAMPETER	Alterations to roofs
A070609CD	CCC 26 Bridge Street ABERYSTWYTH =====	Lampeter Secondary School Peterwell Terrace LAMPETER	Erection of two storey teaching block

9.2 The following planning applications were received

Applic. No	Applicant & Location	Application Details:	Observations
A071178	Mr Gareth Jones Arwel Felinfach Lampeter <hr/> The Old Slaughter House Llanfair Road Lampeter	Change of use to garage repairs and MOT testing	Members were in favour of this application as it would provide employment in the town.
A071166	Mr Dafydd Evans Gwinnant Cribyn Lampeter <hr/> Rear of 10 College Street Lampeter	Replacement flat	No objections

10. FINANCE Minute 57/2007
10.1

	Admin.	Maint.	Sec137	VAT
	£	£	£	£
Clerk's salary: net – 1 month	499.62			
Tax and NI	129.14			
Heat and Light	20.00			
National Eisteddfod 2008			100.00	
Poppy Wreath			16.50	
Printing of Leaflets: Rem. Sunday	25.00			
Hire of Victoria Hall x 4 Young at Heart	40.00			
Town Hall: Town Council meetings x 3	60.00			
CCTV 1 month MLL TELECOM		1,633.34		285.83
TOTAL	773.76	1,633.34	116.50	285.83
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	<u>2,809.43</u>			

10.2 **A thank you letter was received from the Macmillan Cancer Support** for the recent donation of £100.

11. SUB-COMMITTEES
Minute 58/2007

11.1 FOOTPATHS'

Community Paths Scheme Application 2008-09 CCC: This needs to be submitted to the CCC by the 17th December. Cllr Carter agreed to forward the relevant information, by that date.

An invoice received from the Rambler's Association for the financial year 2006-07, has been submitted to CCC.

11.2 STREET LIGHTS'

11.2.1 Outside Croesawdi, Bryn Road: this light is now fully functional.

11.3 CCTV CAMERAS'

Information received from CCC on the 29th November, stated that the equipment upgrade at Lampeter has not been completed. The works are part of a larger contract which includes upgrading the Aberystwyth system, transmitting the pictures from Cardigan to Aberystwyth and introducing a mobile CCTV system for other towns in Ceredigion. At present, the Lampeter pictures are being transmitted to Aberystwyth via the CCC's network but work on cameras that were previously faulty has not been completed. The

recording system in Lampeter has been installed and recordings can be accessed direct from Aberystwyth.

As more work is still necessary in Lampeter and elsewhere, it is not recommended that the MLL service is terminated at this stage, as the CCC may have to revert to it, if problems arise. The Town Council will be informed when it is appropriate to terminate the contract.

Cllr. Phillips proposed that a letter should be sent to CCC, expressing the town council's appreciation for the improvements already undertaken by the county council. The Town Council looks forward to the implementation of the fully functional upgraded CCTV system at a reduced cost of £12,000 per annum (as opposed to £19,600).

11.4 PAVEMENTS

Improvements are presently ongoing on the pavements of Bridge Street. Work will also be undertaken on the pavements of Harford Square, Drovers' Road and High Street, in due course.

12. AOB Minute 59/2007

12.1 **Cllr Carter presented an oral request on behalf of the Free Masons.** They requested the Town Council's support, in their grant application to improve the former British Legion Hall in Lampeter, in order to hold their meetings and for community use. It was stated that this request needs to be submitted in writing, before a decision can be made.

12.2 **It was decided to invite representatives of the CCC** to a meeting of the town council in order to discuss certain issues. Cllr Harris agreed to speak to relevant parties within the CCC, as a written request has already been submitted.

The meeting ended at 10:15pm.

13. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Thursday 27th December 2007 at 7.30pm**

(Signed: Chairman)

(Date)