



**MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE 26th JUNE 2008 AT 7.30PM
AT THE TOWN HALL LAMPETER**

1. CHAIRPERSON'S WELCOME

The Mayor Derek Wilson extended a welcome to all present.

PRESENT

Cllr Mayor Derek Wilson (Chairperson); Cecilia Barton; Andrew Carter; Elsie Dafis; John Davies; Margaret Davies-Evans; Greg Evans; Robert Harris; Lynda Mason-George; Robert Phillips; Kistiah Ramaya and Dorothy Williams.
Mr Julian Evans; Zhong Xian (James)

2. APOLOGIES

Cllrs Chris Thomas; Selwyn Walters. Mr Carl Stringer (Reporter)

3. Before the commencement of the meeting, members were addressed by local businessman, Mr Julian Evans and the Lampeter University Chinese Student Zhong Xian (James). They had recently returned from a trip to Haiyang, a tourist attraction situated on the Chinese Coast.

The purpose of the trip had been to encourage bilateral investment between the Chinese City, which has a population of 700,000, and Wales, under the auspices of the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG). Mr Evans strived to interest his Chinese hosts in buying services from Wales, including products from the Centre of Technology in Machynlleth. China is a big polluter; it is therefore in their interest to address this problem by considering alternative technologies. It is hoped that Lampeter will benefit from this investment.

China was described by the main speaker as a "vibrant, dynamic country," which is becoming a strong economic power. Their visit coincided with the tragic *Sichuan Province Earthquake*, which killed tens of thousands of people and made many more homeless. The Lampeter Businessman presented a plaque and a letter to the City's Mayor Changqing Zou on behalf of Lampeter Town Council. The latter responded with a gift of two gold medals to Lampeter, from the upcoming 2012 Asian Beach Games, to be hosted in the City. Only 2012 had been made. Mr Evans concluded his address by stating that they had been given a "marvellous reception" and had accompanied Mayor Zou every day on official engagements in a chauffeur driven car.

4. DISCLOSURE OF PERSONAL INTERESTS

Cllr Rob Phillips declared a personal interest, which was put in writing and signed by himself and handed to the Clerk, when discussing the Planning Application included under heading 10.1.4 viz: Replacement of existing garage with a single storey extension-Green Cottage, Greenfield Terrace, Lampeter: Application Number: A080525: Applicant: Mr Andy Bevan, Green Cottage, Greenfield Terrace, Lampeter, SA48 7DA.

5. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES – 29/05/2008

These were agreed to be correct.

6. POLICE MATTERS

A response was received from Alun Harries, Superintendent Ceredigion Division in relation to the request for more police presence in Lampeter, during the evening hours. At this moment, the full complement of Officers is based at Lampeter. Superintendent Harries would welcome additional resources across the whole of Ceredigion, including Lampeter, but this is unlikely. His job is therefore to ensure that his staff are distributed evenly – based on demand profiles across the county.

Having reviewed divisional establishment levels very recently he stated that he had no justification to move additional staff into Lampeter at this time. He was unaware of any incident locally where the Police have failed to deal with an emergency.

7. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

7.1 Co-opting a new member for the Town Council

Awaiting a reply from Ceredigion County Council (CCC) regarding this matter.

7.2 Provision of new Entrance Signs for the town: the designs have been forwarded to the manufacturers and awaiting further information. (DW)

7.3 Bins – to hold recyclable waste

Cllr Phillips provided further details in relation to the type of bins required and their cost. This information was directed to Cllr Chris Thomas to be included in the *Tidy Towns Application*. (CT)

7.4 Traffic issues: CCC reported that

7.4.1 **The Finger Sign, High Street** had been repaired at the beginning of April;

7.4.2 **The man-hole adjacent to Somerfield is in private ownership-** should report the matter to the Manager of Somerfield Supermarket; &

7.4.3 **The fountain on the Square** does now hold water.

7.4.4 **Water stagnating outside the Ambulance station:** awaiting a reply. It was decided to report to the CCC that

7.4.5 **The Finger Sign** in close proximity to the Library is in need of repair: &

7.4.6 **The Give-Way sign** at Drovers' Road is required at the junction adjacent to New Street, as was the case in the past.

7.5 Anti-social behaviour under the arch by the Town Hall

A response was received from Mrs Butler to the letter sent to her from the Town Council re school-children smoking and spitting under the arch of the Town Hall. She appreciated that this was a hard situation to influence. In addition to retailers not selling cigarettes to the under 18s, she enquired whether smoking cessation lessons targeted at young people could be arranged. She did not wish to vilify the young people involved but felt concerned to see such young people smoking so openly first thing in the morning, which suggested a regular habit which could be regretted in future years. The letter was re-directed to the Head-teacher of Lampeter Comprehensive School. An e-mail was received from PC Jo Grey stating that this problem had been prioritized by the Police recently. They would continue to be vigilant.

7.6 New Housing development in Forest Rd; developer has proposed the name Maes Hyfryd: alternative proposals can be forwarded by the Town Council to the CCC ; members voted in favour of the name "Maeshyfyd".

7.7 Calor Village of the Year Competition: Cllr Greg Evans to submit the application. (GE)

7.8 New Code of Conduct Training – feedback of the meeting of the 9/10th June. Cllrs D.Williams, R.Phillips and the Clerk had attended this meeting. Further information was circulated to members regarding the New Code Of Conduct.

Part 111 of the Local Government Act 2000 establishes a new ethical framework for local government in Wales.

Key Features of the ethical framework:

7.8.1 Principles governing the conduct of councillors

7.8.2 Code of Conduct

7.8.3 Disclosure of Interests

7.8.4 Dispensations

7.8.5 Standards Committees

7.8.6 Public Services Ombudsman for Wales

7.8.1 Principles governing the conduct of councillors

Selflessness; Honesty; Integrity and Propriety; Duty to uphold the Law; Stewardship; Objectivity in Decision Making; Equality and Respect; Openness; Accountability and Leadership.

7.8.2 Code of Conduct

The new Model Code was issued by the Assembly in March 2008. The 2008 Order revokes and replaces the model code of conduct introduced by the National Assembly for Wales in 2001. It is mandatory and must be adopted by Sept 2008. Lampeter Town Council has already adopted the new Code of Conduct.

7.8.2.1 The Declaration of Acceptance of Office includes an undertaking to observe the Code; members cannot exercise duties as Councillors until signed and face loss of office for failure to undertake to observe. Members of Lampeter Town Council have signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office on the 8th May 2008 and a notice to this effect has appeared in the local press. Members of the public have also been given the opportunity to inspect the Code and a copy has been sent to the Public Ombudsman for Wales.

7.8.2.2 When does the code apply?

- Conducting council business or attending any meeting of the Council
- Acting in the role of a Councillor or as a representative
- Acting as the Council's appointee or nominee on any other body, unless it has its own Code
- Private life in some circumstances

7.8.2.3 A Councillor's Duties

- Have regard to need to promote equality
- Show respect and consideration
- No bullying or harassment
- No compromise of employee impartiality
- No disclosure of confidential information
- No obstruction of access to information
- Must not bring office or Council to disrepute
- Report criminal behaviour
- Report a breach of the Code to the Ombudsman and Monitoring Officer
- Must not make vexatious, malicious or frivolous complaints
- Comply with Monitoring Officer or Ombudsman requests regarding investigation
- No conferring of advantage/ creating or avoiding disadvantage
- Proper and lawful use of resources – no improper private use
- Decisions based on merit and public interest only
- Reasons for decisions
- Avoiding gifts or hospitality that might give rise to an improper obligation

7.8.3 Disclosures of Interests

7.8.3.1 Three Questions

- Does the Code apply?
- Do you have a **PERSONAL** interest?
- Do you have a **PREJUDICIAL** interest?

7.8.3.2 PERSONAL INTERESTS

- Employment, Business Contracts, Property, Public Bodies or Associations (para 10 (2) (a))
- Issues which give rise to a conflict between your decision making role and your Ward member role (para 10 2 (b)) N/A FOR TOWN COUNCILLORS
- Matters which affect your well-being or financial position OR the well-being, financial position or other interests of a person with whom you live or have a close personal association, to a greater extent than the majority of people in the ward (para 10 (2) (c))

7.8.3.3 PERSONAL INTEREST – WHAT TO DO -**SAY AND STAY**

Disclose your interest at the meeting, give written notification to the clerk, which must include – details of your interest; details of the agenda item being discussed and your signature. (should you declare an interest on the same matter on the second occasion, an oral disclosure of interest should suffice.) Continue to participate.

7.8.3.4 PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS

Would a member of the public with knowledge of the relevant facts reasonably regard your personal interest as so significant that it is likely to prejudice your judgement of the public interest? EXEMPTION – grants to community or voluntary organizations up to £500.

7.8.4 PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

WHAT TO DO - **GET UP AND GO**

Disclose your interest at the meeting, give written notification, and LEAVE the meeting while the matter is discussed UNLESS you have been granted a dispensation by the County Council's Standards Sub-Committee.

7.8.5 Standards Committees & 7.8.6 Public Services Ombudsman for Wales

BREACHING THE CODE OF CONDUCT

Allegations are made to the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales. There are 4 categories:

- No evidence of breach
- Breach but no action required
- Reference to Monitoring Officer
- Reference to Adjudication Panel
Monitoring Officer/ Standards Sub-Committee
Adjudication Panel for Wales

Registers of Members' Interests – no longer required to complete – (but still give written notification after disclosing interest – refer to the above)

Register of gifts and hospitality- Council must define value above which Councillors must declare gifts/ hospitality: Lampeter Town Council will have to define this value i.e. what value above which, should be declared.

7.9 Motions for debate OVW AGM –it was resolved not to submit motions for debate at this annual meeting but it could be considered in future years.

- 7.10 **The presentation of shields - Lampeter Primary & Secondary Schools** and to those celebrating special birthdays; no decision was made at the present time.
8. **CORRESPONDENCE**
- 8.1 **Airspace Change Proposal for the Wales UAS Environment (Parc Aberporth) WAG:** noted for information.
- 8.2 **Ombudsman: Annual Report 2007-08:** for information
- 8.3 **Adoption of Bryn Steffan (Phase 2), Lampeter CCC –** for information
- 8.4 **Annual General Meeting: Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales;** 28/06/2008 2pm Plas Dolerw, Newtown: for information
- 8.5 **Welsh Water: re flooding problems at Market Street and Cambrian Road in the summer of 2007:** following the meeting between a delegation of the Town Council and Welsh Water Network Manager Richard Lewis and Area Engineer Richard Davies in July 2007, Welsh Water carried out a CCTV survey which revealed a build up of silt and debris in the main sewer lines in the vicinity of Market Street and Cambrian Road; a de-silting operation was undertaken on these sewers to clean them and return them to full operational capacity. No further problems have been reported to Welsh Water since this time, but if there are further issues, local residents are encouraged to contact the 24 hour call centre on 0800 0853968, whereby a crew can be dispatched to investigate and effect any work as necessary. (The telephone number of Mr Matthew Davies, Customer Complaints Officer is 08712000 943). It was RESOLVED to contact Welsh Water to find out whether maintenance checks are in place).
- 8.6 **Local Government Partnership Scheme Report 2006-07 and Local Government Partnership Scheme March 2008** WAG: for information.
- 8.7 **National Training Programme for Community and Town Councils:** One Voice Wales; The 6 modules cover: *The Council; The Councillor; The Council as an Employer; Understanding the Law; Council Meetings and Understanding Local Government Finance*. It was decided to defer this matter until the next meeting.
- 8.8 **Lampeter Carnival:** e-mail received from Jana Davidson Beaver Scout Leader in Lampeter asking for contact details for the Lampeter Carnival. Cllr Williams stated that a Carnival Committee had not been set up this year. It was RESOLVED to attempt to set up a committee. An article would appear in the Cambrian News requesting volunteers to form a committee. The Mayor's contact details would be provided. The Scouts are also interested in leasing an allotment. It was decided to refer them to Peter Matthys CCC.
- 8.9 **Ceredigion Community Pride:** letter received from Rachel Mills Community pride Co-ordinator CCC outlining her role e.g. to raise awareness about the impact of low level "envirocrimes" (littering, dog fouling etc); to work with local communities to organize clean ups of local "grotspots" ; to identify and bring about the improvement of neglected lands and buildings close to residential areas which are detrimental to the amenity of the area. Her contact e-mail address is rachelm@ceredigion.gov.uk.
9. **MENTER LLAMBED**
Cllr G.Evans reported that the *Transition Town Committee* is awaiting formal notification in relation to the outcome to their request for grant funding.
10. **PLANNING**
- 10.1 **Applications**
- 10.1.1 **Replacement Windows & Doors Church House, Lampeter,** Application Number: A080489LB: Applicants: Trustees of St Peter's Church - no objection

10.1.2 Change of Use to tattoo shop/art gallery: Tauistock House, 17 Harford Square, Lampeter, Application Number: A080438.
Applicant: Ainsbury-Panesh, Rhodyfelin, Pentre, Tregaron: no objection.

10.1.3 Erection of an extension to the rear: NO 4 Glandulais Terrace, Lampeter SA48 7HP Application Number: A080472 Applicants S E & B S Jones, Maes y Berllan, Cellan: No objection.

10.1.4 Replacement of existing garage with a single storey extension-Green Cottage, Greenfield Terrace, Lampeter: Application Number: A080525: Applicant: Mr Andy Bevan, Green Cottage, Greenfield Terrace, Lampeter, SA48 7DA.: No objection.

10.2 Refusal by the CCC: Demolish existing structure & erection of new building to include 2 flats & artist studio, 56 Bridge Street, Lampeter Applicants: Mr & Mrs Davies, Lleinau, Cwmann, Lampeter. Application Number: A07116: Reasons for refusal:

10.2.1 It is the policy of the County Council that major residential development will be permitted in Lampeter unless there is any significant transport, amenity, service provision or local planning objections to the proposal. There are significant amenity transport and local planning objections to this proposal that render it contrary to the provisions of Policy H3 of the Development Plan.

10.2.2 The proposed development would have a significant adverse effect on the character and appearance of the area which falls within the Conservation Area.

10.3 Carmarthenshire Local Development Plan: noted for information.

11. FINANCE

11.1 Shelter Cymru £25.00 Cheque No: 001598

11.2 Viking Direct £49.31; £8.56 VAT Cheque No: 001599

11.3 Clerk's salary June 2008 £463.95 Cheque No: 001598

11.4 H M Revenue £86.58 Cheque No: 001597

11.5 Heat/Light/Storage Costs £20.00 Cheque No: 001595

11.6 Postage Claim £67.06 Cheque No: 001594

11.7 Mayor's Allowance (Cllr C.Thomas for the month of May-extra month) £215.64 Cheque No: 001575

11.8 National insurance Contributions (Employer-outstanding for 2007-08) £161.93 Cheque No: 001584

11.9 It was decided not to make a financial contribution to the *Relate* charity, which endeavours to help people of all ages in their relationships with others. At the moment there is no service in Lampeter. An attempt was made to start a service in early 2007 but it closed within a month due to a lack of advertising. It is however seen as an ideal location for counselling in the future and a counsellor lives in the town. If a venue could be found Relate would consider re-starting the service.

11.10 A thank you letter was received from the Child-Line Organisation for the recent donation of £25.00.

11.11 The name of a possible Internal Auditor was mentioned. The Internal Audit of the Town Council's Accounts will have to be undertaken before 21/07/2008.

12. SUB-COMMITTEES

12.1 Changes to sub-committees

It was resolved not to make any changes. The councillors representing the sub-committees are as follows:

12.1.1 Pavements': Cllr C.Thomas; L.Mason-George; E.Dafis; R.Phillips.

- 12.1.2 **Lighting:** Cllr J.Davies; D.Williams; M. Davies-Evans; G.Evans;
 - 12.1.3 **Footpaths:** Cllr A. Carter; R.Harris; S.Walters; C.Barton;
 - 12.1.4 **CCTV:** Cllr R.Harris; R.Philips; K.Ramaya;
 - 12.1.5 **Welsh Language:** Cllr R.Phillips, D.Williams; C.Thomas; S.Walters.
- 12.2 FOOTPATHS (including Parc-yr-Orsedd)**
- 12.2.1 **Relocating the Rock-Block, Parc-yr-Orsedd:** it was resolved to seek closure regarding this issue and to pay the necessary £900 to relocate the Rock-Block to a more secure position. Members were notified that representatives of the Sports' Council would visit Parc-yr-Orsedd during the following 12 weeks in order to inspect the new equipment. Cllrs G.Evans and H.Harris will meet the representatives on site.
 - 12.2.2 **Planting of Daffodil Bulbs: volunteers required and also to weed/tidy Parc-yr-orsedd in preparation for the Wales In Bloom Competition.** 4 volunteers were recruited for the following Saturday morning. The Wales in Bloom Judge is scheduled to visit Lampeter on the 23rd July.
 - 12.2.3 **Rights of Way Improvement Plan Consultation Draft CCC**
Cllr A Carter will respond to this consultation.
- 12.3 PAVEMENTS'**
- 12.3.1 **Man-hole** The man-hole in close proximity to the Post-office mews is perceived as a hazard – to report to CCC.
 - 12.3.2 **There are loose slabs on the path** which leads from St Peter's Church to the Maesyderi Estate.
- 12.4 SREET LIGHTING**
- 12.4.1 **A street light situated in the Somerfield car-park** is alight all day. To report to CCC.
 - 12.4.2 **It was stated that the street light adjacent to the Sorting Office** remained defective- to report the matter once again to the CCC.
- 12.5 CCTV Cameras**
- 12.5.1 **The monthly Report – May** - as received from CCC: There had been 2 requests to view digital media from the Police, involving theft. According to the e-mail received from Mr Bleddyn Jones CCC on the 26th June, the work involving the upgrading of the radio link has now been completed, but there are still some compatibility issues between the different software packages in the Control Room. However all the 6 cameras are now working and control of the cameras is generally good, with good recording quality. The contractor is still working on the compatibility issue. It was RESOLVED to find out the CCTV Cameras' monitoring hours and to convey that the Town Council's preference for monitoring is in the nights and week-ends e.g. 8:00pm to 3:00am. In relation to a visit to the Control Room it would be expressed that members of the Town Council would welcome a visit in the autumn, when the hours of darkness have been increased.
- 13. A.O.B.**
- 13.1 **The Notice Board** in close proximity to the Town Library remains in a state of disrepair (DW).
 - 13.2 **It was decided to discuss the parking times at the Cwmins car-park** at the next meeting.
- 14. Date of next meeting:** Thursday 31 July at 7:30pm at the Town Hall. It was resolved to hold the monthly meeting during August.