



CYNGOR TREF CAERWYS TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of The Meeting of Caerwys Town Council Held at The Memorial Institute, South Street, Caerwys, On Tuesday the 20th September, 2016, at 7.00pm

1(A). 183/16 PRESENT

Councillor David S. Knights (Town Mayor)
Councillor Jonathan E. Duggan-Keen
Councillor Mrs Lynette M. Edwards
Councillor James E. Falshaw
Councillor E. Vincent Frost
Councillor Howard R. Griffiths
Councillor Michael W. Moriarty
Councillor Ms. Helen L. Priestley

Clerk & Financial Officer R. Phillip Parry

1(B). 184/16 APOLOGIES

Councillor Ms. A. Louise Carus
Councillor Jonathan A. G. Webb
Councillor Stephen G. Wilson

1(C). 185/16 Standing Orders were suspended:

1(D). 186/16 ATTENDANCE BY MR. TUDOR JONES (COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER – HOLYWELL LEISURE CENTRE)

The Mayor, Councillor David Knights, welcomed Mr. Tudor Jones to the meeting.

Mr. Tudor Jones thanked the Members for inviting him to the evening's Council meeting, and explained that he wished to address the Council, in his capacity as Chair of the Holywell Leisure Centre Working Group. Mr. Jones advised the Members in relation to his previous working background, and in particular, to his involvement with the Leisure Centre Group. The Group was formed to keep the Holywell Leisure Centre open and functioning as a leisure complex. The Group now known as the Board of Trustees, firstly issued questionnaires to ascertain the public interest in keeping the leisure centre open. The Group were overwhelmed with over 1,000 completed questionnaires returned – which was a significant driver for the Trustees to continue their quest. Mr. Jones further advised the Members in relation to the following: The Community Asset Transfer of

the building from Flintshire County Council will hopefully be 1st January, 2017. The leisure facility had never made a profit – it was subsidised on a yearly basis. A business plan by the Trustees had been independently scrutinised and accepted by the County Council. There will be a transfer of a number of employees from the County – and the centre will operate with a reduction in staff. Opening and closing times will change. Flintshire County Council will continue to financially support the centre for the first few years. A capital grant for repairs will also be available for a number of years, together with an 80% reduction in the business rate. Holywell library will be re-locating to the centre and there will be some internal movement in relation to room usage. The library received over 80,000 visitors a year and once located to the centre, the café will be re-opened. The various Clubs and Groups who presently use the centre have agreed to assist with internal moves. The Trustees will be seeking new users for the centre and to increase business in other ways.

Mr. Jones explained that the Trustees were well aware in relation to the budget constraints to Town & Community Councils, and they were not being asked for financial assistance towards the running cost of the centre. However, should a specific project be launched in the future – such as a Summer Play Scheme – which would involve children from the Community, then applications for financial assistance would be made.

The Mayor, Councillor David Knights, thanked Mr. Jones for his informative address and on behalf of the Town Council, wished the Board of Trustees every success with the venture.

1(E). 187/16

The Mayor Councillor David Knights welcomed Mr. Peter Barlow to the meeting. Mr. Barlow advised the Members that he was the applicant for planning application number: 055920, for the change of use to a holiday park, at land at Maes Mynan Quarry in Afonwen.

Mr. Barlow advised the Members that he had resided in Caerwys all his life and following consultations with Flintshire County Council, had decided to purchase the land in Afonwen, and to create a holiday park. Mr Barlow provided the Members with some historical background to the quarry – which had been in existence since 1836. Mr. Barlow's family had been involved with tourism in the area since the 1930's and wished the park to be of multi-usage – such as holiday chalets, static and touring caravans. Mr. Barlow advised further in relation to site access and plans. Mr. Barlow referred to an environmental permit which allows 4,000 HGV movements from the quarry adjacent to the proposed holiday park – which should cease in approximately two years' time. Should the holiday park planning application be successful, it would take around two years to complete the entire project.

Whilst Mr. Barlow had received support from a number of local businesses, he was also seeking support from the Town Council. The Clerk advised that the Council Members were unable to make any comments in relation to the application, until the matter was discussed under the appropriate agenda heading.

The Mayor, Councillor David Knights, thanked Mr. Barlow for attending the meeting, and for providing further information in relation to his planning application.

1(F). 188/16

The Mayor, Councillor David Knights, welcomed Mr. Ian Williams (Flintshire County Council Street Scene Supervisor) to the meeting.

Mr. Williams provided the Members with the following information: **(a)** the installation of two new dog bins – on the B5122 just past the Piccadilly Inn and on the Babell Road **(b)** the rural roads had been inspected for pot holes **(c)** hedge encroachments on the A541 road in Afonwen had been attended to **(d)** general tidy up around the two bus shelters in Afonwen **(e)** the items recorded

during the Environmental Inspection have been actioned **(f)** the water leakage in Chapel Street. Welsh Water are still investigating. Mr. Williams will again contact Welsh Water seeking a progress report **(g)** the hill from Caerwys to Afonwen will be swept in the near future.

Council Members discussed the following with Mr. Williams: **(1)** a number of hedges which require attention **(2)** the clothes bank on the Marian. A number of full bags are being deposited around the base of the unit on frequent occasions. The Councillors emphasised that it had been previously agreed that the bin would be removed. Mr. Williams to further contact the appropriate department in County Hall – to arrange the removal **(3)** the no parking sign in Chapel street at the entrance to the play area – was too small. Mr. Williams will further consider a larger sign **(4)** the butterfly garden on the Marian. Councillor James Falshaw asked that the area be tidied up **(5)** the Town Square tree – the County had agreed to remove the present tree and replace it. Mr. Williams to seek the present position. Mr Williams was asked to trim the branches before the erection of the Christmas lights **(6)** the pathway from Afonwen to Maes Mynan. Mr. Williams advised that the pathway requires a complete re-construction. The work will be placed on a schedule.

The Clerk referred to the following matters: **(a)** pot holes reported in Bryn Aur **(b)** concerns in relation to long grass at junctions on the B5122 and the Nook areas. Mr. Williams advised that the pot holes and grass in these areas have been attended to **(c)** Blocked gully in Babell. Mr. Williams advised that he had met with the landowner on site, and work to alleviate the concern had been listed for completion.

The Mayor, Councillor David Knights, thanked Mr. Williams for his attendance at the meeting.

1(G). 189/16

Standing Orders were restored:

2. 190/16

BEREAVEMENTS WITHIN THE COMMUNITY

Members stood in silence in memory of the following:

Mrs. Jean D. Adams, Croes Wian Farm, Pen y Cefn.
Ms. Catherine Clare Brunton, formerly of St. Michael's Drive, Caerwys.
Mr. Samuel D. Greenough, St. Michael's Drive, Caerwys.
Mrs. Patricia A. Hulse, Cae Delyn, Caerwys.
Mr. Aneurin L. William, Maes Y Dre, Caerwys.
Mr. John L. Williams, Cottage Farm, Crossways Road, Caerwys.

3. 191/16

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following Declarations of Interest were declared:

Councillor Howard Griffiths declared an interest in planning application number: 055898, for replacement of existing flat roof with new pitched roof, at 33, St. Michael's Drive, Caerwys. Councillor Griffiths left the room during Members deliberations. **(Minute number: 10(c). 203/16 (3) on page 9 below.**

Councillor Michael Moriarty declared an interest in planning application number: 055920, for change of use to a holiday park, at Land at Maes Mynan Quarry, Afonwen. Councillor Moriarty left the room during Members deliberations. **(Minute number: 10(c). 203/16 (4) on page 10 below).**

4. 192/16

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 19TH JULY, 2016

The Minutes were proposed as correct by Councillor Jonathan Duggan-Keen and seconded by Councillor Mrs. Lynette Edwards and formally agreed by the Members present.

5. 193/16

MATTERS ARISING

The Clerk referred to the following matters from the previous Minutes:

Minute no: 2(D). 165/16 (pages 2 and 3), in relation to residents parking concerns in Maes y Dre, Caerwys. The Clerk advised the Members that following a letter from the Town Council to the County, advising in relation to the concerns of the residents, the Clerk had been advised by telephone conversation and e-mails, that the area had been inspected during the day and night time periods to ascertain the number of cars and possible areas of improvement. The Clerk had received from County Hall a power point presentation, which had been cascaded to Council Members on the 17th August, which provided photographs of the area and comments from Officers from the Housing Management Department of Flintshire County Council. The County Council had further advised that they will draw up plans and hold a public consultation exercise with the residents of Maes Y Dre.

Minute no: 2(E). 166/16 (page 3), in relation to a resident concern, to the possible re-opening of a footpath – which runs parallel to the river Wheeler near Railway Terrace, Afonwen. The Clerk advised that he had written to the Rights of Way – Footpath Officer, enclosing photographs of the area. Whilst no formal reply had been received in writing, the Clerk had received a telephone call from County Hall, to advise that the County were not proposing to re-open the footpath.

Minute no: 2(F). 166/16 (page 3), in relation to a number of concerns brought to the attention of Mr. Ian Williams – Flintshire County Council Street Scene Supervisor. The Clerk advised that these matters had been discussed in **Minute number: 1(F). 188/16 on pages 2 and 3 above**.

Minute no: 5. 171/16 (page 4), in relation to a number of Town Council outstanding matters awaiting attention by Flintshire County Council, and in particular, a letter written to Mr. Mark Drakeford AM – Minister for Finance and Local Government at the Welsh Assembly in Cardiff. The Clerk advised the Members, that a reply from Mr. Drakeford, stated the following: ‘The Welsh Government has no power to intervene in the issue. Local Authorities are independent statutory bodies, and as such, are responsible to their electorate and others for their actions and inactions. The Public Services Ombudsman for Wales is an independent person, empowered to consider complaints about public bodies in Wales, including Local Authorities’.

The Clerk advised that following a copy of Mr. Drakeford’s letter being sent to the Chief Executive of Flintshire County Council – Mr. Colin Everett – the Clerk was contacted by the Chief Executive’s Office seeking to agree a resolution to the matter. The Clerk had sent further copies of correspondence in relation to the outstanding eleven matters. Unfortunately, only one matter had been addressed by the County.

The Members agreed the following: The Clerk to write further to Mr. Colin Everett, Flintshire County Council Chief Executive. To advise that the Caerwys Town Council Members are perturbed and surprised, that apart from a reply to one query on the outstanding list, there has been no further response to any of the other outstanding queries. The Clerk to further advise Mr. Everett, that failure to address the outstanding issues by the next Town Council meeting, to be held on the 18th October, will leave the Town Council with no alternative but to follow the complaints procedure with the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales.

Minute no: 6(B). 173/16 (c) (page 6), in relation to complaints drawing attention to non-compliance with planning conditions and planning policy, at Bryn Llwyd Yard, Caerwys. The Clerk advised that following a letter sent to the Planning Officer, a reply had been received, which stated the following: ‘The works to the site frontage that have been undertaken are in beach of conditions 15 and 16 imposed on the decision certificate issued under 052760’

The Clerk further advised that he had been contacted by a representative of the building firm requesting a site meeting with Councillors. The Clerk advised that this had been declined, as the County Planning Officer had confirmed a breach in planning at the site. The Clerk had thereafter received an e-mail from the Planning Officer dealing with the breach, who stated ‘the planning department has no objection to the Town Council representatives meeting with the building company representative, to seek progress to the breach – which may avoid the need for formal enforcement proceedings to be instigated’. The Clerk had cascaded to the Members a proposed landscaping plan which had been received from the building firm.

The Members agreed the following: Whilst the Members were pleased the fence had been removed and paving re-instated. The Members were concerned with the long term aspect. Historically and currently, Flintshire County Council maintain the flower beds to the right hand side plot and the grassed area to the left hand side plot. The Town Council Members wish to ensure, both areas are continually kept in an attractive condition for the future. The Members agreed, that the area should be re-instated to its previous condition – which will ensure Flintshire County Council continue to maintain.

Minute no: 6(B). 173/16 (d) (page 6), in relation to complaints of inconsiderate parking in the area of Bryn Llwyd development. The Clerk advised that following the Council meeting he wrote to Inspector Jon Bowcott (South Flintshire Area) in Mold. The Clerk advised that a Police Officer had visited the site and the situation appears to be under control. One Councillor advised that there were still instances of parking on the pavement.

Minute no: 11. 189/16 (page 8), in relation to the installation of a solar powered street light on the Marian walkway. The Clerk advised that following the July meeting, he sought a quotation from Mega Electrical in Nannerch, for the fitting of a solar powered light. The quotation received was for £2,890.00 plus VAT for a Dragon Solar Lantern. The Clerk had forwarded the quotation to Councillors Jonathan Duggan Keen and Howard Griffiths. A further solar lighting unit was found on the internet at a purchase cost of £800.00, plus installation cost. Despite providing Mega Electrical with details of the unit, and seeking an installation cost – including two reminders, no quotation had been received.

The Members agreed the following: Councillor Jonathan Duggan-Keen to seek a quotation from a suitable local contractor.

6(A). 194/16 CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence had been received, that was required to be either advised to, or dealt with by the Members:

- (1) The Clerk referred to an e-mail which was forwarded to Members on the 21st July, 2016, advising in relation to a list of Winners in the Flintshire Environmental Competition. Caerwys in Bloom were awarded first prize (Section B) best kept community. The Clerk advised that he had been requested by the Mayor to write to the Chair of Caerwys in Bloom, congratulating the committee, together with the many residents who assist.

- (2) The Clerk read out a message from the organisers of the Flintshire / Japanese Students Committee – thanking the Mayor, Councillors, together with the Historical Society, for the ‘great experience’ the students and others received during their visit to Caerwys recently. The Mayor, Councillor David Knights, was given an invitation to attend a function in County Hall later in the year, whereby a presentation of the exchange visit will be held.
- (3) The Clerk advised of two letters received from Flintshire County Council, in relation to match funding for Children’s play areas. The Clerk further advised that match funding would not be available for the present Children’s play area project in Caerwys, as the project total exceeded the match funding maximum.
- (4) The Clerk advised that the next North Wales Police Consultative Committee meeting had been arranged for Tuesday 6th December, at 7.30pm, in Mold Town Hall. The Town Council’s representatives – Councillors Michael Moriarty and Jonathan Duggan-Keen, would advise the Clerk of their availability to attend in due course.
- (5) The Clerk advised that a meeting of the Flintshire Standards Committee, was to be held in Pentre Halkyn, on Monday 3rd October, at 6.30pm. The meeting would be a joint meeting with members of the Committee and Town & Community Council representatives. The Mayor, Councillor David Knights, agreed his attendance at the meeting to represent the Town Council.
- (6) The Clerk referred to an e-mail forwarded to Members dated the 26th July, which advised that Flintshire County Council Planning department, would not in the future be sending planning applications to Town & Community Councils – all applications would have to be viewed on-line. The Clerk further advised that the County had stated their mistake, and planning applications will continue to be sent to all Councils. However, planning decisions, would not be sent to Clerk’s by post – but by e-mail.
- (7) The Clerk read out a letter to the Members received from Flintshire Street Scene, who confirmed the role of the Area Street Scene Supervisor – who would be pleased to attend the Town Council meeting when requested.
- (8) Invitation received from Flintshire County Council, for members to attend a Workshop in County Hall – in relation to Flintshire Local Development Plan. The Mayor, Councillor David Knights, agreed his attendance at the meeting to represent the Town Council.
- (9) Letter received from the Wales Boundary Commission, referring to the 2018 review of parliamentary constituencies in Wales.

6(B). 195/16

CLERK’S REPORT

- (1) The Clerk advised that the second precept payment of £9,083.33, had been received from Flintshire County Council.
- (2) The Clerk advised that a payment of £36.00, had been received from Trelawnyd & Gwaenysgor Community Council, for the usage of the Caerwys Town Council stationery.
- (3) The Clerk recollected the Members to an exchange of e-mails in relation to the photocopier contract which was due to expire. The Clerk advised that he had signed a new three-year contract for a colour laser printer with Canda Copying in Deeside. The Clerk further advised that the three other Councils the Clerk is employed by had agreed to pay a quarter of the rental charges. All Councils understood that there will be a reduction in the purchase of ink

in the stationery budget column, but an increase in the photocopier rental. However, in general, the cost of printing will be reduced for all Councils.

- (4) The Clerk advised that the National Association of Local Council Clerks, had agreed a 1% salary increase for Clerks – commencing the 1st April, 2016. The Clerk advised that he would provide the Members with details of figures at the October Council meeting.
- (5) The Clerk advised the Members that he had been contacted by Cadwyn Clwyd in relation to BT's proposals to disconnect and remove all telephone payphones within the Community. The Clerk had met with a representative from Cadwyn Clwyd, and discussed their project of Town & Community Councils adopting the kiosks from BT – with a view of utilising the shell of the kiosk as an information point, which could also house a defibrillator. The Clerk advised that he had contacted BT seeking their views in relation to the red telephone box in Pen Y Cefn, being re-located to Caerwys High Street. Whilst BT had replied stating that the removal may cause damage to the box, it had been successful in a number of areas.

The Members agreed the following: The Clerk to place the matter on the October Council Agenda for further discussion.

6(C). 196/16

ANNUAL RETURN FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 2016

The Clerk advised the Members that the final document from the Welsh Assembly appointed External Auditor – BDO LLP of Southampton, had been received. The Document stated the following 'on the basis of our review, in our opinion, the information contained in the Annual Return is in accordance with proper practices and no matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met'.

The Clerk read out to the Members an addendum report from the External Auditor in relation to the budgetary process, budget and fixed assets. The Clerk advised the Members, that items referred to in the report had been sent to the External Auditor and had been signed by the Mayor as true copies. The Clerk stated, 'that it was quite obvious, the Company had issued the addendum report in error'.

6(D). 197/16

QUOTATIONS FOR THE ERECTION OF CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTS

The Clerk advised the Members that during the September Council meeting it was usual for the erection and removal of the Town Square Christmas lights to be discussed, in particular, in obtaining a quotation. The Clerk further advised that the new Christmas lights were to be wrapped around the tree branches and left in situ for a number of years. However, the County Council were still considering the replacement of the tree – which would entail the Christmas lights to be erected and removed for the forthcoming festive period.

The Members agreed the following: The Clerk to contact Mega Electrical of Nannerch, to ascertain if the quotation for 2015 / 2016, would remain the same for the erection of the lights in December 2016, and the removal in January, 2017. If in the positive, the Clerk was instructed to accept the quotation.

7. 198/16

TOWN MAYOR'S REPORT

The Town Mayor, Councillor David Knights, advised the Members of his attendance at the following:

- (1) Ysgol yr Esgob School – Leavers Service (2) Caerwys Town Hall Public Meeting (3) Japanese & Flintshire Students visit to Caerwys (4) North Wales Truck Festival in Pen Y Cefn (5) Environmental Audit in Caerwys and Afonwen (6) Two Caerwys Youth Project meetings.

- (2) Councillor Mrs. Lynette Edwards represented the Mayor and Mayoress at the following: (a) Rhyl Civic Service (b) Mayor of Mold Charity event.

8. 199/16

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Councillor J. E. Falshaw as County Councillor, advised the Members in respect of the following:

- (a) Dog fouling on the Marian area. Concern that dog owners were failing to clear up. The Clerk advised that reports in relation to dog fouling can be made to the County Council, by completing a form on the County web site. The dog warden will take action but can only act upon information received.
- (b) Fly tipping in the Nook area. The Clerk advised that he had been made aware of the fly tipping which included electrical kitchen appliances. The Clerk had reported the dumping to Street Scene – and the items had been removed.

9. 200/16

REPRESENTATIVES / LIAISON COMMITTEE REPORTS

- (1) Councillor Howard Griffiths advised the Members in relation to his attendance at a meeting with representatives from Flintshire Transportation Department – which was held in Caerwys on 7th September. The Clerk was also in attendance. Councillor Griffiths advised that the County Council had referred to the grant reduction for rural transport from the Welsh Assembly Government. Flintshire County Council would be holding a drop-in session in Caerwys in October. Funding was available for the Community purchase of vehicles. Councillor Griffiths advised the representatives that the 'Bus Hub' should be in Caerwys – as the Town had shops, café and a public toilet. Councillor Griffiths emphasised that the bus service in Caerwys was regularly used.
- (2) Councillor David Knights advised the Members that a recent public meeting for assistance with the Youth Project had been fruitful, with several parents / members of the Community offering their assistance. The Youth Project would open from Wednesday 21st September.

10(A). 201/16

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The following planning applications had been received:

- (a) Application number: 054707, for a lateral extension to existing quarry, extension of time to 2023 and the erection of static screening plant in the quarry void, by (Breedon Aggregates) Maes Mynan Quarry, Afonwen.

Comment by Council: Having viewed the additional information submitted by the applicant in respect of the proposed lateral extension of the Maes Mynan Quarry along with the erection of a static screening plant, Caerwys Town Council confirms that its comments to the initial application 054707, which were submitted in January 2016, are also applicable to the further details received.

In addition to this, it is requested that it be conditioned that prior to restoration of the site following

termination of its operational life, some form of access agreement can be arranged with the quarry owner for the benefit of the community so that the biodiversity of the site can be enjoyed.'

- (b) Application number: 055725, for the amended details of dwelling to plot 3, at Bryn Llwyd Yard, North Street, Caerwys

Comment by Council: 'No information has been provided by the applicant as to the reason for revision of the siting and rear elevation treatment of the dwelling on Plot 3. This latest proposal, yet again, will reduce the distance of the rear elevation of the Plot 3 dwelling to the boundary with the neighbouring property known as 'Ar Tro'. This has the potential to impact upon the privacy of the occupants of 'Ar Tro' and enjoyment of their residential amenity. Caerwys Town Council therefore objects to this application.'

(The above two applications were sent to the Planning Sub Committee Chairman, for consultation with the Members, due to statutory time limits for observations).

10(B). 202/16

The Members confirmed the above two decisions.

10(C). 203/16

The following planning applications were dealt with by the Members at the meeting:

- (1) Application number: 055817 – for alterations and extension to existing house and annex, at The Beeches, South Street, Caerwys.

Comment by Council: Providing the proposals comply with planning policy, building regulations and materials to be used will preserve and enhance the character of the Caerwys Town Conservation Area, Caerwys Town Council would be supportive of the application.

- (2) Application number: 055827 – for replacement of existing shed, at Lloyds Sand & Gravel, Maes Mynan Quarry, Afonwen.

Comment by Council: The existing building subject of this application is located on the boundary of a disused sand quarry and has been in a dilapidated and deteriorating condition for at least 40 years due to lack of use and maintenance. Its previous use is indicated by the applicant as being for light industrial purposes, of which odours emanating from the structure would support this past use. In view that the structure is located in open countryside and immediately adjacent to the boundary of the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB, information regarding the proposed use of the building has not been received from FCC regarding this point.

The building is located in a wooded area that is ecologically sensitive with regard to flora and fauna and considered to be a wildlife area.

Due to lack of information, especially any ecological report regarding the application site, Caerwys Town Council is unable to make any comment at this moment in time until these issues have been addressed and made available to Members.

- (3) Application number: 055898 – for replacement of existing flat roof with new pitched roof, at 33, St. Michael's Drive, Caerwys.

Comment by Council: Providing the proposal is compliant with planning policy and building regulations, Caerwys Town Council would be supportive of the application.

Councillor Howard Griffiths Declared an Interest. (See Minute number: 3. 191/16 on page 3 above).

- (4) Application number: 055920 – for change of use to a holiday park, at land at Maes Mynan Quarry, Afonwen.

Comment by Council: Provided the access road and administration buildings comply with planning policies, Caerwys Town Council supports the application.

Councillor Michael Moriarty Declared an Interest. (See Minute number: 3. 191/16 on page 3 above).

10(D). 204/16

PLANNING DECISIONS

The following planning decisions have been received from Flintshire County Council:

- (a) Application number: 055757, for application for a non-material amendment to planning ref: 5361, at Tyn Y Ffynnon, Caerwys. Approved
- (b) Application number: 055601, for modernisation and general refurbishment to consulting rooms and operating theatre, at Summerville (Caerwys Veterinary Surgery), North Street, Caerwys. Approved.

11. 205/16

COMMUNITY LIGHTING

The following lamps have been reported out of order since the last meeting:

- (a) Lamp at number 9, Mill Terrace, Afonwen.
- (b) Lamp at number 12, Mill Terrace, Afonwen.
- (c) Lamp opposite entrance to Park Grove, Bryn Aur, Caerwys.
- (d) Lamp near junction of Pen Y Cefn Road and Lon Yr Ysgol.

The Clerk provided the Members with the following update:

- (1) Lamp at number 13 Railway Terrace, Afonwen. Scottish Power have eventually repaired the electric wiring and the lamp is working.
- (2) Lamps at numbers 20 Railway Terrace and 21 Park View in Afonwen. Whilst Scottish Power have confirmed that the wiring is their responsibility, the Clerk was still awaiting a site meeting.

12. 206/16

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVIEW – TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCILS IN WALES

In Councillor Jon Webb’s absence, the Clerk referred to an e-mail sent to all Councillors dated the 30th August, which attached a questionnaire from the North & Mid Wales Association of Local Councils (N&MWALC). The Questionnaire related to the Town & Community Council Boundary review in Wales – which is to be carried out by the Boundary Commission. The Council Members agreed their views to the eight questions. **(Copy of response - as appendix at the end of these Minutes (Pages 12 and 13 below).**

13. 207/16

APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Cheque Number	Payee	Net £	Vat £	Total £

<u>To confirm the following payments made between the July and September – Council meetings</u>				
006	Scottish Power (July - Street Lighting Electricity Account)	246.74	49.35	296.09
007	Flintshire County Council (New lantern at Gwynfryn, Caerwys)	395.00		395.00
008	Caerwys Historical Society (1/3 cost of refreshments for Japanese and Flintshire students visit)	66.66		66.66
<u>Payments to be considered at this evening's Council meeting</u>				
009	Scottish Power (August - Street Lighting Electricity Account)	246.74	49.35	296.09
010	Deeco Lighting (March to August, 2016 - Street Light Repairs)	558.00	111.60	669.60
011	Canda Copying (Quarterly photocopier rental)	46.00	9.20	55.20
012	Information Commissioner's Office (Data protection renewal)	35.00	35.00	35.00
013	R. P. Parry – Clerk. Re-imburement of letter writing paper – Post Office stationery (as per receipt)	18.83	3.77	22.60
014	R. P. Parry – Clerk. Re-imburement of bulk stationery – purchased with other Councils from Staples (as per receipt)	43.75	8.75	52.50
015	R. P. Parry – Clerk. Re-imburement of purchase of book postal stamps from Post Office (as per receipt)	64.00		64.00

14. 208/16

APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Cheque Number	Name of organisation	Amount granted £
	<p>Caerwys Historical Society (Application towards funding – printing of Town Trail leaflets)</p> <p>Note: Whilst the Town Council are appreciative of the Historical Society in relation to the Town Trail, the leaflets are a re-print and therefore a running cost. The Members would wish the Historical Society, in the first instance, to endeavour to obtain funding from other outlets. The Historical Society to provide details to the Council in relation to funding applications made,</p>	

	whether successful or not. The Town Council will thereafter further re-consider financially supporting the re-printing of the Town Trail leaflet.	
016	Caerwys in Bloom (Application for annual grant)	250.00
017	Caerwys in Bloom (Application towards improvements / renovation to Church Walk	250.00
018	North Wales Deaf Association (Application for annual grant)	25.00

15. 209/16

The Members agreed the payments of the above accounts and financial support as listed.

There being no further business, the Mayor thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.

SIGNED BY THE MAYOR AS CHAIR.....

DATE OF APPROVAL.....

Response from Caerwys Town Council (September, 2016)

***NORTH AND MID WALES ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS
BOUNDARY CONSULTATION***

Please note this is not about if you agree with a reduction in Town and Community Council numbers as a principle it is about how the combining or enlarging is completed.

The Association is seeking your views on the following:

ref	subject	views
1	<i>The combining of Town and Community Councils either by clustering or enlarging by a numerical method. ie., a set number of electorate in each Council area + or – 5%</i>	In rural community council areas any change to boundaries based upon numbers of electorate/population would be impracticable due to a resultant increase in size of geographic areas. With any proposed reduction in the number of town/community councils there would be an associated and significant loss of councillors. In turn, this would result in the increase of workloads and time for councillors due to the reduction of their numbers. It should also be borne in mind that at town and community council level a town/community councillor's job is an unpaid position. The impact of increased workloads and

		time required to be spent on council work would impinge on domestic life and work and discourage people when considering standing as a councillor at election time. This is also a potential deterrent when attempting to encourage persons from the younger generation to participate in local government. The practicalities of canvassing in enlarged rural community areas based upon an electorate/ population of 12,500 (+ or -5%) would also be a prohibitive task.
2	<i>The combining of Town and Community Councils by joining together wards rather than areas.</i>	Only appropriate if in close proximity to each other and the ward councillors are retained rather than reduced. Consideration must be given to preventing loss of affinity with a community/place when amalgamating wards from other communities with larger councils.
3	<i>The effect on Council Tax of the new Councils – ie Councils with a higher tax may see it fall and those with a lower tax see it rise.</i>	This is an issue that will have to be dealt with great care as it has the ability to generate friction amongst the electorate and will have to be resolved in an atmosphere of openness and transparency. Perhaps re-banding of properties across all of Wales would need to be considered?
4	<i>The representation on the new Councils. 2/3 of the existing Council seats may disappear once Councils are combined or enlarged.</i>	Any significant loss of town/community council seats would be detrimental due to the electorate relating to local people they know and trust to represent them. There would be the potential for people to feel disenfranchised by being unable to relate to a person not known to them and having no local knowledge or aware of local issues.
5	<i>Any issues with combining a Town with smaller Communities around it.</i>	Has the potential for larger councils to dominate smaller councils amalgamated with them in addition for councils to become more politicised and having to follow party lines.
6	<i>Any issues around what duties might be passed onto the new Councils which are only powers at this time.</i>	Lack of experience within small community councils who, when amalgamated, would have to take on duties necessitating in employing full time staff and finding funding for duties previously undertaken by principal councils. Such funding will be difficult to obtain as a result of the continuing erosion of services and facilities provided by principal authorities due to financial cut backs.
7	<i>Any issues around culture or links between communities which maybe combined or enlarged.</i>	The main issue would be further dilution of the Welsh language/culture as an outcome of amalgamation of town and community councils located nearest to the national border and would pose the greatest threat. Welsh speaking councillors in these areas are in the minority and any reduction would be a great loss both to the language and local communities.
8	<i>Any other views or issues you wish to pass on.</i>	Any proposal resulting in the reduction of town and community councils and their councillors is not sustainable and will result in the erosion of democratic representation at the bottom tier of local government.

Please pass your views to the Secretary of the North and Mid Wales Association of Town and Community Councils, Triangle House, Union Street, Welshpool SY21 7PG
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