

Pembrey and Burry Port Town Council

Regeneration and Community Engagement Committee Special Meeting

Wednesday 10th February 2021
Dydd Mercher 10^{fed} Chwefror 2021

This meeting was held via video conference under the Local Authorities (Coronavirus) (Meetings) (Wales) 2020

Present: Councillors Michael Theodoulou (Chair), Peter Freeman, Les George, Robert John, Karen Morris, David Owens, Moira Thomas, Karen Trimble, Bob Walpole and Mary Wenman.

Absent: Councillors Rachel Evans.

In attendance: Huw Thomas (Town Clerk and RFO), Shân Loudon (Deputy Town Clerk), Louise Robinson (Community Development Officer), Ed Davies (Administrative Assistant-Minute Taker).

Via Zoom 10am to 12.20pm

1. To receive apologies for absence.

Apologies had been received from Cllr Lisa Mitchell.

Cllrs David Owens and Les George stated they would have to leave the meeting before 11.30am.

2. To receive members' declarations of interest in respect of the business to be transacted.

Members requested that the documentation received via email relating to agenda items 6 and 11 should not be considered at this meeting as they had been received too late to be given proper consideration. Members discussed whether such items could be considered under agenda item 17 if they were urgent, however the Clerk/RFO advised that it was not the proper place to be raising items that required a decision.

Members unanimously **AGREED** for the two grant applications received and the item relating to the Food Forward scheme, to be referred to the Town Council Ordinary Meeting for consideration as it would meet the following week. **RESOLVED.**

Cllrs Michael Theodoulou and Peter Freeman declared an interest in relation to agenda item 11 due to their links with CBSA, and therefore their abstention in the above decision.

Cllr David Owens declared an interest in relation to the grant application from Burry Port RFC, due to his links with that organisation, and therefore his abstention in the above decision.

Cllr Les George declared an interest in any item relating to Burry Port Harbour.

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3. To confirm the minutes of the Regeneration and Community Engagement Committee meeting held on Wednesday 13th January 2020

Cllr Moira Thomas **PROPOSED**, seconded by Cllr Bob Walpole that the minutes were an accurate record of the meeting. **RESOLVED.**

Cllrs Les George and Karen Trimble abstained from voting as they were not present in the meeting.

4. To consider any matters arising from the minutes.

There were no matters arising.

5. Consideration of the Committee's budget monitoring report.

Members had received a copy of the report in advance of the meeting and were guided through the highlighted items by the Clerk/RFO as follows:

- Income – this income had been generated by the sale of Christmas lunches and other meals provided by the Meals on Wheels service. There had also been some donations from the community towards the Christmas hampers initiative and a grant received from In This Together for the same.
- Expenditure – materials for the construction of the sleigh that had not been used had already been purchased. He confirmed that the sleigh would be stored for future use.
- Expenditure – there was a capital cost held under community support for the purchase of equipment for the preparation of the meals for the Meals on Wheels service.

The Clerk/RFO stated that a number of the expenditure items were partially covered by grant funding, and that left the overall budget at 61.5% which made it under budget. He confirmed that excepting any virements that were requested or considered, any remaining amounts would be added to the reserves at the end of the year.

In response to a query the Clerk/RFO confirmed that the high percentage shown against the Community Support line was caused as it had not initially been budgeted for but had been included in the revision. He also confirmed that the community contributors to the Christmas hampers initiative had been thanked but that they wished to remain anonymous.

Members requested that the Clerk provide them with a report to show the locations of expenditure of grant income.

ACTION: Clerk/RFO

6. Consideration of applications received for financial donations

Members requested that the two applications received overnight be referred to the Town Council meeting for consideration.

ACTION: Deputy Clerk

7. Update on grants applied for/received

The CDO guided members through her report, stating that £750 had been received from the In This Together fund for use on the Christmas hampers scheme.



She stated that the current grants the Council was benefitting from would come to an end at the end of March, but that she was looking at a number of options from April onwards.

She reported that a request had been received from some members to acknowledge the deaths of Cllrs Richard Adler and Pam Every through the areas benefitting from the Places for Nature grant. The suggestion was to name the orchard being planted the "Every Orchard" and for either or both the Tan y Bryn play area or the "train" in the Burrows Tce play area to be named after Cllr Richard Adler.

Cllr Robert John **PROPOSED**, seconded by Cllr Les George, that provided it met with the families wishes, for all the recommendations to be accepted. **RESOLVED**.

ACTION: CDO

8. Update from community forums

Members were informed that there had been some negative feedback received from non-councillor members of the forums regarding the number of Councillors who form part of the forum. The concern was that, as Councillors are more experienced in expressing their views in the type of meeting, while also harbouring strong views meant they could dominate proceedings.

It was noted that on establishing the forums members had agreed that after a period of 2 years, the position of chair would be opened up to non-councillors also. It was also highlighted that the intended structure included a Community Partnership Board who would sit atop the forums and provide guidance that at present the Town Council had to. It was believed that once that board was set up, the forums would have a clearer identification and concerns regarding its membership could be dealt with by them. It was also noted that one of the intended roles of the CDO was to be the link between the Council and the forums and that it would be possible to have a forum with no councillor on it.

Members discussed what the preferred number of councillors per forum would be, while some highlighted that by setting a limit on the number of Councillors who could attend, it was directly controlling an element of the forums. It was felt by some that the CDO had to advise the forums of the financial implications their decisions may have for the Council. It was also noted that forums would be able to access funding from elsewhere and could undertake whatever work they wished.

Cllr Michael Theodoulou, **PROPOSED**, seconded by Cllr Mary Wenman for the number of councillors on each forum to be limited to three.

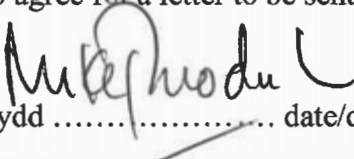
In the ensuing vote 7 members voted in favour with 1 against and 2 abstentions. **RESOLVED**.

ACTION: CDO

Members received a verbal update from each forum to accompany the written report. Members noted each and were given an opportunity to ask questions.

The Economy forum reported the Marine Group had presented during the forum meeting, discussing the up-and-coming apprenticeships they have on offer in partnership with Coleg Sir Gar. This will be an amazing opportunity for some young people, leading on to a well-paid career within the Marine industry.

In relation to the resilience forum's concerns on the rapid decline of the toad population, members were asked to agree for a letter to be sent to the County Council to support the call for it to install

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