

Pembrey and Burry Port Town Council

Regeneration and Community Engagement Committee Meeting

Wednesday 13th October 2021
Dydd Mercher 13^{fed} Hydref 2021

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

Present: Councillors Michael Theodoulou (Chair), Peter Freeman, Lisa Mitchell, Karen Morris, Moira Thomas, Sharon Thomas Bob Walpole and Mary Wenman.

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

Apologies: Cllr Robert John.

Absent: Cllrs Les George, Stephen James and Karen Trimble.

Via Zoom 6.30 to 8pm

- 1. To receive apologies for absence.**

Cllr Robert John has sent his apologies.

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

Agenda item	Councillor	Interest
11	Sharon Thomas	Personal – her daughter has applied for a Christmas cabin.

Members noted that County Cllr John James was due to present on the next item but was having technical difficulties with attending and agreed to return to agenda item 3 once he was present.

- 4. To confirm the minutes of the Regeneration and Community Engagement Committee meeting held on Wednesday 8th September 2021.**

Cllr Peter Freeman **PROPOSED**, seconded by Cllr Karen Morris that the minutes were an accurate record of the meeting. **RESOLVED**.

Cllrs Lisa Mitchell, Moira Thomas and Bob Walpole abstained from voting as they had not been present.

- 5. To consider any matters arising from the minutes.**

Pg 2 item 7 – consideration of applications received for financial donations.

Members noted that at present due to the ongoing works in Pembrey Memorial Hall, no clubs or groups were able to use the facility.

Pg3 item 8 update on grants applied for/received

Michael Theodoulou 1
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Members noted that the Community Lighthouse Books Council project would be based in one of the Memorial Hall side rooms.

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

The Clerk/RFO highlighted that the income shown under community events was primarily related to the Youth Theatre while the Community Resilience income was from Meals on Wheels. They were also reminded that the Meals on Wheels income offset the expenditure on the scheme.

The members noted that the negative variance in the month on events was due to the expenditure on Fruity Friday, the competition prize money for the Fishing Festival and helping purchase T-shirts with a logo for the Youth Theatre. It was noted that the Youth Theatre members had also contributed towards the purchase. Year to date expenditure was in line.

This placed the overall budget a 42.66% which was slightly over budget for this time of year.

Members congratulated the staff for ensuring a valuable public service in the Meals on Wheels initiative.

Members also wished to recognise the contribution staff were making to developing the Youth Theatre.

7. To consider the schedule of accounts.

Members noted that the schedule was a detailed explanation of the above variances.

8. Consideration of applications received for financial donations.

None had been received.

9. Update on grants applied for/received.

Members noted the report.

10. Update from community forums.

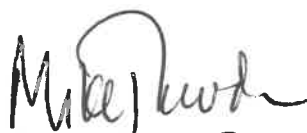
Members noted that there had been no meetings in September but that they were meeting again and were discussing who should represent them on the partnership board.

Members discussed their concerns regarding low membership of some forums and whether or not they should ask some of the forums to look at amalgamation, or if this would dilute their focus. It was noted that in Llanelli, the model they had gone for only included a partnership board, which was having some success.

Members noted the difficulties at present with some unable to meet remotely and others unwilling to meet in person.

Members agreed for the CDO to speak with the forums with low attendance on the options for increasing involvement, including amalgamation.

ACTION: CDO



It was noted that the Partnership Board would have its first meeting on the 1st November at 6.30pm.

The forums had all been informed that they would have their own web page as part of the new community website.

11. Update on community support/CDO Report.

Members noted the report and moved directly to the required decisions.

Christmas Festival

Members considered what charge to place on the hire of a table in the hall for the Craft Fair on Friday and Saturday and for a cabin for Friday, Saturday.

Cllr Sharon Thomas declared an interest as her daughter had applied for a cabin.

Members discussed making a reduction on the previous charges based on the restrictions enforced by Covid regulations.

Cllr Karen Morris **PROPOSED**, seconded by Cllr Lisa Mitchell that a charge of £20 total be placed for the hire of the tables in the hall, and a charge of £40 total be placed on the cabins. **RESOLVED.**
ACTION: CDO

Cllr Sharon Thomas stated her abstention due to her declared interest.

Cllr John James joined the meeting 7pm.

Members then discussed the potential locations for the cabins for the Christmas festival, noting the charges for closing the road and necessary permissions if placed in the Memorial Gardens.

Cllr Lisa Mitchell **PROPOSED**, seconded by Cllr Bob Walpole that the CDO discuss the potential use of the Memorial Gardens with the local branch of the British Legion, to seek their position and enquire with the Community. If there was no consensus, the CDO should proceed with the process of applying for road closure, with approval given for the incurred charges. **RESOLVED.**

ACTION: CDO


Cllr Sharon Thomas re-stated her abstention.

3. To consider partnership working with Carmarthenshire County Council (Cllr John James)

Members heard an outline of the proposal from Cllr John James for the Councils to further develop their close working with a partnership working arrangement with particular regards to the harbour area. He highlighted the additional responsibilities that the Council would be asked to take on and some of the possible recompense it could ask for during the negotiations between staff.

Members discussed the situation and highlighted key areas they wished staff to focus on, including:

- Ensuring the financial burden was manageable.
- Ensuring public consultation if necessary.
- Ensuring opportunities to reduce costs for both parties are sought.
- Establishing what revenues are available and what share thereof for the Council.

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- The land for toilets at the harbour to be a resolved matter as part of the negotiations.
- That the initial meeting be attended by the Mayor in addition to staff.
- That the final decision be taken by the full Council.

The Clerk/RFO highlighted that there was a National level impetus from the Welsh Government for these types of arrangements.

Cllr Bob Walpole **PROPOSED**, seconded by Cllr Moira Thomas that officers from the Town Council proceed with negotiations with their County Council counterparts and to return to a future meeting with details for consideration. **RESOLVED**.

Action: Deputy Clerk

Cllr John James left the meeting at 7.30pm

12. Terms of reference of the Community Support Group.

Members noted the previously circulated terms of reference.

Cllr Karen Morris **PROPOSED**, seconded by Cllr Mary Wenman that the Terms of Reference as set out in the document be accepted and adopted. **RESOLVED**.

13. Consideration of correspondence received, if any.

None received.

14. Update on Partnership Board.

Members had already been informed of the date and time of the first meeting.

15. Update on Youth Steering Group.

Members commended officers on their work to date and the approach taken in developing the process with the young people.

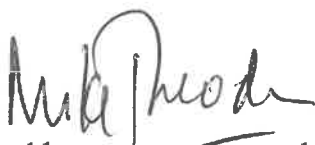
16. To consider the 2022/23 budget.

Members were asked to start their consideration of their position in relation to the setting a budget for 2022/23. The Clerk/RFO highlighted that he would be preparing a forecast for the remainder of this year to inform their budget setting, but he asked if they had any further guidance for his preparation.

Members highlighted the likelihood that they would need to be delivering more services for the vulnerable in the community. They highlighted the need for the Council to look to facilitate things as opposed to seeking to deliver it all. It was highlighted that any increases would need to be clearly communicated to the public.

Members asked the Clerk/RFO to present a range of precept increases, with an eye to match inflation as a minimum or to mirror the increases from the County Council.

Action: Clerk/RFO



It was recognised that with a reduced budget they would need to be cautious with which projects they would support.

17. Consultation on local taxes for second homes and self-catering accommodation (email from One Voice Wales circulated 28/09/21)

Members noted the current situation, in that a County Council can impose a local tax rate of up to double the normal on second/holiday homes. It was noted that this did not relate to tenanted properties. They discussed the matter at hand noting the difficulties some people had in being able to remain in the community they grew up in.

Cllr Peter Freeman **PROPOSED**, seconded by Cllr Mary Wenman that the Town Council supported the introduction of additional financial imposition on second homes and self-catering accommodation, and the further imposition of covenants to preserve social housing stock.
RESOLVED.

18. Update on asbestos.

Members noted the information regarding the County Council position and the additional work undertaken to remove dangerous metal work, and in trying to close a dangerous footpath. It was noted that the situation was being monitored and that they were managing the situation based on the advice they are getting.

19. Any referred matters.

None had been referred.

20. Any urgent business at the discretion of the Chair.

None was raised.

Meeting ended 8pm

