

Carmarthen Civic Society-Executive Committee
Minutes of Meeting held on 3rd October 2018
At Richmond Park Football Club, Priory Street, Carmarthen

Present: (in alphabetical order) Nigel Evans, Wendy Evans (Treasurer), Peter Hughes-Griffiths, Huw Iorwerth (Secretary), Jeremy John, Linda Jones (Chair), Jonathan Lewis, Julie Rees (Publicity), Brian Rowlands, Matthew Thomas, Molly Thomas, Mary Thorley (vice-Chair), Trefor Thorpe, Lee Whatley.

Apologies: Carole Jones, Iris Owen, Janice Powers, Peter Rowland

Personal: Linda welcomed Peter Hughes-Griffiths to his first meeting representing the County Council.

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

1. Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting held on 5th September 2018 were approved subject to **Minute 5 Town appearance and image** being amended to state that the application by Notts Bar to serve alcohol was until 3am for 6 days a week.

2. Arising:

All matters arising were dealt with as agenda items.

3. Correspondence:

- **Joint Annual Meeting with Museum Friends:** Linda asked members to support the event arranged this year by the Friends of the Museum, to be held on Saturday 20th October in the County Museum at 2pm. The guest speaker, Ina Niedrgang, would be speaking about connections between Wales and China.
- **Great British High Streets Award:** Huw reported that Carmarthen was one of four Welsh towns shortlisted for a UK wide award. The judges would be visiting the town on Wednesday 24th October and the Chamber of Trade hoped that there would be good public support in the town on the day. Action was being taken by the council to clear weeds from shop frontages in the cultural quarter. Members were pleased to report that the illegal parking in Nott Square and Guildhall Square was now being actively addressed by the police.

4. Treasurer's report:

Wendy reported that the main account balance currently stood at £2160.86. She had, however, to pay accounts recently received for room hire, website domain, framing and from Farmyard Nurseries. Next month's balance would reflect these payments.

5. Reports from sub-groups:

- **Green spaces:** Molly reported that since the last meeting, she and Linda had reviewed the demands on their time in maintaining plots of land in the town. Huw had requested to be relieved of responsibility for Athalie's corner; there were difficulties associated with the Toyota land on Morfa Lane, while the site adjoining Wilkinsons and Argos was awkward. They had, therefore, decided to concentrate their continuing efforts on two plots, namely adjacent to John Street car park and Athalie's corner in Chapel Street. Molly confirmed she had spoken to the Town Clerk about garden maintenance and he had stated he was in discussion with the County Council about future funding arrangements.
- **Town appearance and image:** Brian reiterated the group's satisfaction that the years of lobbying regarding illegal parking in the central squares at last appeared to be bearing fruit.

- **Publicity:** Julie reported on the progress made on remodelling the Society's website following a meeting with Mary and Huw. The changes had been passed to the web designer and hopefully the new site would be live within the next two weeks. Members agreed with Julie that ownership of the site should be transferred to the Society's name rather than her own. A Standing Order needed to be in place so that the service would continue without difficulty after the initial two years.
It was also reported that the Society now had its own email address: carmarthencivicsociety@gmail.com. This was only accessed by Huw as Secretary. Passwords were kept on file.
- **Landmark buildings (including Planning):** Trefor reported that news was still awaited regarding the three major issues the Society had commented on. The scheme to redevelop the Guildhall was still awaiting a decision from the Welsh Government Planning Inspectorate; the delay could be due to it being the first case involving a Grade 1 Listed Building to be determined under the new planning legislation in Wales. There was also no information regarding the application to relocate the Lidl store at the Bulwarks on the site of the former police headquarters. The proximity of the proposed development to the Scheduled Ancient Monument had, of necessity, attracted widespread interest. In regard to the Enforcement Order for reinstatement works at the Penlan Workhouse, a date for the formal appeal hearing was still awaited.
- **Riverside:** Julie referred to the work undertaken by the local charity Awaydays which is based in the Quay Centre, to clear litter each week from the riverside walk. **AGREED: to write to the organisers of Awaydays, thanking them for their work and enclosing a small supportive contribution.** Julie also circulated for information a petition organised by the Carmarthen Water Safety Partnership asking for water safety to be taught in schools.
- **Blue Plaques:** Mary reported that the plaques commemorating Alice Abadam and Rachel Barrett would be unveiled on Saturday 3rd November by the Head Girls of Ysgol Bro Myrddin and QEHS, followed by a lunch at the Falcon.
Peter told members of the intention to celebrate between 8th and 10th July 2019, 200 years since establishing the Gorsedd at the Ivy Bush Hotel. As part of the commemoration it was proposed to place a blue plaque at the hotel.
Mary confirmed that she was continuing to discuss with the Old Girls' Association placing a plaque at 10 Quay Street to mark the location of the Girls' Grammar school and the Headship of Miss Holmes.

6. Programme of meetings:

Mary reported back with her thoughts on a programme for the year. These included:

- Louise Austin, organiser of the Towy Gateway Project;
- Heather James to talk about what lies beneath our feet in Carmarthen;
- The riverside and its importance to the town;
- An audit of the religious buildings and their viability over the next ten years.
- The annual Christmas dinner on 5th December in the Falcon Hotel.

Arrangements would be made to progress with the programme.

7. Civic Society Awards 2018:

Linda had presented the certificate for Promotion of Local Heritage to the Head of the Model School at a whole school assembly on 14th September. The only award remaining was the David White Award which would be presented at the Christmas Dinner for the Maes y Ffair development by the Bro Myrddin Housing Association.

Note as well that Molly had presented an award to Yr Atom on 18th July for the best commercial redevelopment as well as commendations to Days Department store, Floral Décor by Sienna and the New Curiosity Restaurant.

8. Any other business:

- **Raffle tickets:** Linda asked that stubs and money received for sale of the Mayor's Charity raffle tickets be returned to her asap.