

Carmarthen Civic Society-Executive Committee
Minutes of Meeting held on 6th March 2019
At Richmond Park Football Club, Priory Street, Carmarthen

Present: (in alphabetical order) Huw Iorwerth (Secretary), Jeremy John, Carole Jones, Linda Jones (in the Chair), Jonathan Lewis, Iris Owen, Julie Rees, Brian Rowlands, Matthew Thomas, Molly Thomas, Mary Thorley, Lee Whatley

Apologies: Wendy Evans, Nigel Evans, Peter Hughes-Griffiths, Janice Powers, Peter Rowland, Trefor Thorpe

Personal: There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

1. Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting held on 6th February were approved.

2. Arising:

- **Guildhall:** Huw reported that the developers had made formal application to discharge certain of the conditions imposed by the planning authority. These included new detail of how the engineering services were to be provided. Also there were changes proposed to the judge's and jury rooms on the first floor. Members were surprised at the ad hoc nature of the applications. It was understood that full details of the proposals would normally be submitted at the time of the original planning application in the case of a Grade 1 building. Huw stated he would again attempt to meet the planning officers to explain the Society's concerns, although an earlier attempt had proved unsuccessful.
- **Communication with members:** It was **AGREED: i) that the meeting on 1st May, be a members' evening; ii) the David White Award be presented that evening, iii) Mary, Linda and Wendy make the arrangements.**

3. Correspondence:

- **Planning Inspectorate re Penlan Workhouse:** A letter was received from the Planning Inspectorate notifying the Society that the appeal by the owner of Penlan against the Enforcement Order issued by the County Council should not succeed apart from small variations in the period for compliance and the steps required. Whilst welcoming this news, members expressed their extreme concern at the daily danger to passers-by because of the unstable nature of parts of the building following recent high winds. **AGREED: representations be made to the County Council, welcoming the Planning Inspectorate decision but seeking an early assessment of action required to ensure public safety.**

4. Treasurer's report:

An email was received from Wendy stating that the main account balance stood at £1,162.43 with nothing outstanding. The raffle at the February open meeting made £58.00 and the teas £12.00. Room hire for three meetings at the Football Club was £51.00 and the hire of St. Peter's Church in February was £35.00.

5. Reports from sub-groups:

- **Green spaces:** Molly reported additional hellebores had been planted in the Athalie's Corner bed. She hoped to meet Alan Bowen of Awaydays to discuss future cooperation.

- **Town appearance and image:** Brian reported that following his representations, action had been taken by the police authority to clear and tidy land around the former Friars Park police station. He would follow this up to ensure it was kept clear. The information board regarding the Bulwarks had, however, disappeared. He was discussing with Jonathan a search of Land Registry entries regarding ownership of vacant buildings in the town. **AGREED: to hold an open meeting later in the year regarding the future of buildings becoming vacant in the town.**
- **Publicity, marketing:** Members were very pleased when Julie reported that the website had been relaunched on 1st March, complete with the translations produced by Iris and Rhian. Iris enquired whether additional content previously prepared by Margaret and translated, had been found in Margaret's papers. Mary stated that the family were releasing papers and digital material and these would be looked at as soon as practical.
- **Landmark buildings (including planning):** It was noted that Lidl had resubmitted their application to develop on the Friars Park site. Grave concerns had been expressed regarding the proposals which affected the setting of the Bulwarks Scheduled Ancient Monument. The plans were being looked at in detail by the sub-group and comments would be made to the LPA.
- **Riverside:** Nothing further to report.
- **Blue plaques:** A written report was received from the sub-group following their meeting on 11th February, setting out initial priorities for future plaques and further investigations to be made.

6. Programme of meetings:

A programme of meetings for 2019/20 would be agreed following the AGM in July.

7. Civic Society Awards:

Consideration would be given to further awards following the AGM.

8. Carmarthen Town Regeneration Forum:

Huw reported on a recent meeting of the Forum. In particular, he highlighted : i) a revised plan was being prepared for Jackson's Lane; ii) free wifi was being rolled out in the town centre and Carmarthen Park; iii) a sub-group, chaired by Huw, was examining priorities for schemes which could be delivered within 3 to 5 years.

9. Any other business:

- **Bull Lane:** Molly drew attention to the appalling state of Bull Lane which was overgrown and filled with debris and litter. **AGREED: to ask the County Council (Steve Pilliner, Head of Highways and Transport) to investigate what can be done to improve the environment in the area.**