

**Carmarthen Civic Society-Executive Committee**  
**Minutes of Meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2019**  
**At Richmond Park Football Club, Priory Street, Carmarthen**

**Present:** (in alphabetical order) Wendy Evans (Treasurer), Huw Iorwerth (Secretary), Linda Jones (in the Chair), Jonathan Lewis, Iris Owen, Brian Rowlands, Molly Thomas, Mary Thorley, Trefor Thorpe, Lee Whatley

**Apologies:** Nigel Evans, Jeremy John, Carole Jones, Janice Powers, Julie Rees.

**Personal:** i) There were no declarations of pecuniary interest; ii) Molly had visited Shirley at home and conveyed our good wishes.

**1. Minutes:**

The minutes of the meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> March were approved.

**2. Arising:**

- **Guildhall:** Details were received of the Planning Committee's Discharge of Conditions 3-4, 6, 8, 9 and 11 in relation to Listed Building Consent W/36626. In justifying the decision to approve the changes to this Grade 1 Listed Building, the Planning Committee had found that many of the proposals focused on later alterations and once completed the condition of the area should be improved with matching or sympathetic materials, important architectural features being reinstated. Additionally, although the Planning Committee accepted that the proposals would cause harm to the character of the building and area, works were proposed to limit their impact. Other harmful proposals were largely superficial and could be reversed with minimal impact on the historic fabric of the building.  
In noting with regret that the proposed alterations now had approval to proceed, members expressed their scepticism at the effectiveness of the intension to colour the extractor flue on the Hall Street elevation to match the Guildhall's walls. They reiterated their belief that before Listed Building Consent was granted for a building described by council officers as "one of the principal Georgian civic buildings of Wales", full proposals should have been available to the Planning Committee rather than being submitted on an ad hoc basis.
- **Bull Lane:** Huw reported that Mr Steve Pilliner, Head of Highways and Transport, had responded quickly to the Society's representations regarding the state of Bull Lane. Brian said he would visit the site the next day and report back to Huw on the action taken.

**3. Correspondence:**

- **Penlan Workhouse:** A letter was received from Mr Mark James in response to the Society's concern about the dangers to the public arising from the deteriorating condition of the Workhouse. In his reply Mr James stated: "Since the Inspector's decision and following earlier ongoing survey and inspections, the site has been further visited by Council Officers. The site also continues to be secured by the positioning of fencing. The Council will continue to work with the Owner to remind them of their responsibilities in this regard."  
Members expressed disappointment that the reply did not sufficiently address the concerns expressed. Local residents were asking what action the Society was taking. It was reported that some were driving to the town rather than risk walking past the building and being hit by falling masonry or tiles. The view was expressed that there was a danger this important building would have to be demolished and therefore, lost unless some remedial action was taken urgently. **AGREED: to inform the local county councillors of the Society's continuing concern about safety surrounding the site.**

#### 4. Treasurer's report:

Wendy reported a balance of £787.83 in the main account, of which £190 was earmarked for gardening purposes. The invoice for setting up the website had amounted to £375.

#### 5. Reports from sub-groups:

- **Green spaces:** Molly reported that the Society's sites were looking presentable and she was looking forward to beginning work again ready for the spring and summer seasons. She had not, however, managed to make contact with Awaydays. Attention was drawn to the magnificent display of tulips at the Pentrepoeth entrance to the John Street car park. This had been publicised on the Society's Facebook page.
- **Town appearance and image:** Brian reported that his approach to the Estates Management department of the police had resulted in a commitment by them to maintain the Friars Park site adjoining the Bulwarks. He also confirmed that he was continuing his work in taking photographs of the unoccupied premises in the town and this would be ready for presentation at the proposed public meeting on redundant buildings later in the year.
- **Publicity, Marketing:** Our Facebook page continues to attract interest on a range of topics. Julie makes sure that attention is drawn to positive stories as well as more contentious or negative issues. It was essential to ensure the website was regularly updated.
- **Landmark buildings (including Planning):** Huw reported that in liaison with our member Sally Bere, an objection had been submitted in respect of the planning application to develop a Lidl food store at Friars Park.
- **Riverside:** No information to report.
- **Blue plaques:** The draft of the plaque which the Society had agreed to organise for the Centenary Committee of the Girls' Grammar School was received. Trefor would apply for Listed Building Consent, following which an order would be placed for the plaque. The Town Clerk had kindly agreed to place the order on our behalf.

#### 6. Programme of meetings:

Linda reported that the date proposed for our next open meeting, the 1<sup>st</sup> May, clashed with the Mayor's Charity evening and a number of our members would not be available. **AGREED: i) to hold the planned open evening for members, incorporating presentation of the David White Award, on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July, immediately following the AGM. ii) Iris be added to the group making arrangements for the open meeting.**

#### 7. Civic Society Awards:

The next phase of awards will be considered at an Executive meeting after the AGM.

#### 8. Carmarthen Town Regeneration Forum:

Huw reported on the schemes being researched by the Forum sub-group which could be delivered within 3 to 5 years. He was pleased to note that two issues raised by the sub-group, namely the town bridge lights and cleaning Pont King-Morgan had been resolved.

#### 9. Any other business:

- i) **Norah Isaac Award:** Molly asked about the Norah Isaac Award. Huw said he would remind the University.
- ii) **Street names:** Mary remarked that there were no streets in the town named after local women. She would be interested in hearing suggestions for ways to address this anomaly.

**NEXT MEETING: AT 5PM ON WEDNESDAY 1<sup>st</sup> MAY AT ST PETER'S HALL**