

**Carmarthen Civic Society-Executive Committee**  
**Minutes of Meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2019**  
**At Richmond Park Football Club, Priory Street, Carmarthen**

**Present:** (in alphabetical order) Huw Iorwerth (Secretary), Carole Jones, Linda Jones (in the Chair), Iris Owen, Julie Rees, Peter Rowland, Brian Rowlands, Matthew Thomas, Molly Thomas, Mary Thorley, Trefor Thorpe, Lee Whatley

**Apologies:** Nigel Evans, Wendy Evans, Jeremy John, Jonathan Lewis, Janice Powers.

**Personal:** i) There were no declarations of pecuniary interest; ii) Molly had once more visited Shirley at home and conveyed our good wishes. Shirley retained a keen interest in hearing about the work of the Society.

**1. Minutes:**

The minutes of the meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> April were approved.

**2. Arising:**

- **Guildhall:** No further information was available regarding Discharge of Conditions for the adaptations, other than those already reported. As no work seemed to have begun on site, it was conjectured that further consents were required. The ad hoc nature of the applications made it difficult to ascertain the true position. Brian drew attention to deterioration he had observed to the fabric of the pillars and entrance steps. He agreed to send photos to Huw so that the County Council's attention could be drawn to the Society's concern.
- **Penlan Workhouse:** Huw confirmed he had sent copies of Mr Mark James' letter to the County Councillors concerned, drawing attention to the Society's belief that more could be done by the Council publically to reassure local residents regarding safety for passers-by.
- **Bull Lane:** It was noted that while the County Council had acted promptly to clean the lane, the environment remained unattractive and threatening because of the overgrown nature of the adjoining gardens. It was recalled that some years ago Arwyn Davies had persuaded some of the landowners to clear parts of the area. Brian offered to enquire about ownership and seek their cooperation in maintaining the area in better condition.

**3. Correspondence:**

There was no new correspondence to report.

**4. Treasurer's report:**

An email was received from Wendy stating that no new bank statement had been received since the April meeting. £32 had, however, been spent on buying a memory stick to store archive material from Margaret's computer. In reply to questions, Mary confirmed her intention, as soon as time allowed, to honour the commitment made to prepare material from the archive for possible publication.

**5. Reports from sub-groups.**

- **Green spaces:** Molly reported that work had begun on tidying some of the flower beds. She had succeeded in meeting Alan Bowen from Awaydays. Due to an injury he would not be able to assist with any gardening at present; Molly stated she would work with him in a supervisory capacity on his return.

Attention was again drawn to the splendid tulip displays at Pentrepoeth and Spilman Street. **AGREED: to congratulate the County Council for organising the planting and express the hope the standard will be maintained in future years.**

Attention was also drawn to the excellent work in the Woods Row Community Garden Scheme and in maintaining the graveyard at St David's Church in Picton Terrace. Thought could be given to ways of rewarding such work when considering awards later in the year.

- **Town appearance and image:** Brian had been informed that Lidl now owned the Friars Park site. The question of future maintenance would need to be considered pending any planning consents and construction work. No information was available regarding planning permission although it was understood that the applicant's archaeological advisors, Cotswold Archaeological Trust, had been investigating the site.

Brian also confirmed he was continuing his survey of vacant retail premises and would be exchanging information with the Chamber of Trade to see if a common collaborative approach to the problem was possible.

- **Publicity, marketing:** Julie reported that the Society's Facebook page has approximately 600 followers and stimulates a great deal of comment on local issues.
- **Landmark buildings (including Planning):** It was noted that the major issues affecting the Guildhall, Penlan and Friars Park had already been referred to earlier in the meeting. Huw drew attention to a notice in the Carmarthen Journal regarding an application for work at 40 Spilman Street, which Trefor said he would research. (Application W/38753)
- **Riverside:** Julie reported that the Community Water Safety Partnership's lease for the Quay Centre had been extended until March 2020. Members of the Society were, therefore, surprised to learn that Rowland Jones, Chartered Surveyors of Swansea were advertising that office space would be available in a new building on the site from the end of 2020. As far as was known no planning application had been advertised, yet the advertising material contained illustrations of the proposed building. **AGREED: to seek information from the County Council regarding the proposals and the procedures being followed.**
- **Blue plaques:** A design for the plaque commemorating the first County Girls' School and its Headmistress, Miss B A Holme, had been received from Leander. Trefor was preparing a Listed Building application.

## 6. Programme of meetings:

- **Annual General Meeting:** Linda reported that the AGM would be held in the Carmarthen Quins Clubhouse on 3<sup>rd</sup> July commencing at 6pm. A buffet would be served at 7pm at a cost of £10 per person and the David White Award presentations made, together with a quiz for members and guests. Mary stated it was intended to mail all members on 20<sup>th</sup> May. Huw promised to send a draft of the Newsletter and Agenda, to Mary by the 10<sup>th</sup> May. Iris kindly agreed to translate the Newsletter.
- **Vacant buildings:** Huw referred to the earlier decision to hold a meeting for members and the public to discuss the issue of vacant buildings in the town, both retail and public such as chapels and churches. **AGREED: i) that the Town Appearance and Image sub-group bring forward proposals for the meeting including speakers; ii) the meeting be held on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November.**
- **Annual Joint Meeting with Friends of the Carmarthenshire Museum:** Huw stated it was the Society's turn to organise a speaker this year. The event should probably be held in October. Members were asked to bring ideas for speakers to the next meeting.

**7. Civic Society Awards:**

Members were reminded that the final award presentation for the current cycle of awards would be made at the AGM. Following that a date could be arranged for a walk around town to review possible future awards.

**8. Website:**

Members were asked to bear in mind any further information and updating that could be made to the website. Julie agreed to include minutes of the Executive Committee once they had been confirmed.

**9. Regeneration Forum:**

Huw stated that unfortunately he would not be attending the next meeting of the Forum scheduled for the 16<sup>th</sup> May as he would be away.

**10. Any other business:**

- King Street: Iris drew attention to the lack of hanging flower baskets in King Street compared to other areas of the town. Huw said he would raise the matter with the Town Clerk. Brian said he would also speak to members of the Chamber of Trade at their next meeting.
- Llyfrau Llafar / Talking Books: Linda drew attention to a sponsored walk on 31<sup>st</sup> May from Cilgeran to Cardigan, for which she would gratefully receive sponsorship.

11. **Next meeting:** Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> June at Carmarthen Football Club – 6pm. Mary offered to take notes in Huw's absence.