

Carmarthen Civic Society-Executive Committee
Minutes of Meeting held on 5th June 2019
At Richmond Park Football Club, Priory Street, Carmarthen

Present: Peter Hughes Griffiths, Nigel Evans, Wendy Evans, Jeremy John, Carole Jones, Linda Jones (in the Chair), Jonathan Lewis, Iris Owen, Janice Powers, Brian Rowlands, Molly Thomas, Mary Thorley, Trefor Thorpe, Lee Whatley, (Mathew Thomas joined the meeting)

1. Apologies: Huw Iorwerth (Secretary), Julie Rees, Peter Rowland.

2. Personal: i) There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

3. Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting held on 1st May were approved.

4. Matters Arising:

- **Guildhall:** Work has begun on the building. A great deal of rubble has been removed. Brian referred to a planning application in respect of windows.
- **Bull Lane:** Brian has had a discussion with the Chair of the Chamber of Trade and has established that the owners of the garden where the refuse has accumulated are Haines and Lewis Solicitors. Brian will visit the offices on 6th June to discuss the situation.
- **Penlan Workhouse:** No further developments.
- **Lidl / Bulwarks:** It was noted that the advice from CADW had not yet been received. A Planning Committee meeting was scheduled for 11th June but any decision would probably be deferred if the information from CADW had not been received by that date. Further discussion ensued about the importance of scheduled monuments and their preservation.
- **Riverside Ethos Development:** No further information.
- **Hanging Flower Baskets:** Brian had made enquires and correspondence between the town council and traders was in progress. He would find out which traders were intending to be involved in the scheme which was run entirely by the Town Council.

5. Correspondence:

There was no new correspondence to report.

6. Treasurer's report: Main Account: £779.93 (£290.17 for plants)

Nora Isaac Account: £315.50

Annual subscriptions were beginning to come in. This usually generates c. £260 income. Peter said he would get in touch with Trinity St Davids re. the Nora Isaac Award.

7. Annual review of membership subscriptions: It was proposed by Trefor and seconded by Linda that the AGM considers that membership fees are increased to £10 (individual) and £15 (Joint membership). All agreed.

8. Reports from sub-groups.

- **Green spaces:** Molly reported that there had been no further involvement from Dr Mz or Awaydays although she (Molly) had been in contact. Linda and Molly will follow this up.

Concern was expressed about Athalie's Corner. £100 had been awarded to The Society by The Mayor's Charity.

- **Town appearance and image:** Brian had noted 22 empty retail units and ex public buildings. (e.g. Peacocks, Edinburgh Woollen Mill, Old Co-op Building) There have been some good clean-up operations in town by the Council. Peter noted that weeds in gutters and doorways had been sprayed.
 - Carole noted that on Saturday evenings/ Sundays there was vomit on pavements and in doorways and alleys. (Bank Lane can be very badly affected). Carole has spoken to the Council street cleaners but they do not have suitable equipment to clean up the deposits.
 - It was also noted that the post etc. that is pushed through the doors of abandoned businesses look very untidy. Peter noted that many of the owners of empty buildings do not live locally and are difficult to contact.
 - Nigel noted that many firms (e.g. Debenhams and Boots) were in financial difficulties. If these stores were to be lost from the town they would have a significant impact on the centre especially in the Red Street area. Iris pointed out that there was a move to find alternative uses for buildings and increase the numbers of people living in town centres.
 - Brian suggested that Nicole Jones (Architect) and also the owner of the Camera Centre in the old Zion Chapel might be possible speakers for the November meeting on the use of redundant buildings. Brian also asked if anyone else had suggestions for speakers. Peter reported that Heol Dŵr may have a buyer.
- **Publicity, marketing:** Julie had reported by email that the AGM has been advertised on the Website. It was noted that Julie, as usual, was doing an excellent job publicising the Society's work, especially on Facebook.
 - **Landmark buildings (including Planning):** Trefor is monitoring planning applications.
 - **Riverside:** Janice reported that there was a hole in the footpath near the point where it is crossed by the dual carriageway. It was suggested that a letter be sent to the Town Council as the path is their responsibility.
 - **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 has prepared and submitted a Listed Building application.

9. Programme of meetings:

- **Annual General Meeting 3rd July 2019**
- **Vacant buildings:** 6th November 2019.
- **Annual Joint Meeting with Friends of the Carmarthenshire Museum:** It was suggested that the topic for the talk might be the Bulwarks and their history.

10. **Civic Society Awards:** short list to be drawn up for consideration by the sub-group. The Priory Street Hospital renovation was one suggestion.

11. **Website:** as above

12. **Regeneration Forum:** Peter reported that it was hoped to develop the Morfa site below Picton Monument.

13. Any other business:

- The Jackson's Lane development is being reviewed.

- Molly suggested that the Society contribute towards a memorial to Margaret Evans. A bench, with Margaret's name on it, has been suggested. It would be placed in the town centre and Molly had had initial discussions with the Town Clerk.
- Jeremy noted that the lettering on the blue plaque to Dyfnallt had deteriorated. It was agreed to find out the date of the plaque and the name of the firm who made it.
- Peter drew the meeting's attention to the celebrations of the 200th anniversary of the founding of the Gorsedd which will be held from 8-13 July. Of particular interest will be the unveiling of a Blue Plaque on the evening of 10 July at the Ivy Bush Hotel.
- **Next meeting:** Wednesday 3rd July at Carmarthen Quins Club. AGM at 6p.m. Members' Evening at 7pm.