



**LAMPETER TOWN COUNCIL
CYNGOR TREF LLANBEDR PONT STEFFAN**

**MINUTES OF A FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY
22nd FEBRUARY AT 7.30PM AT THE TOWN HALL, LAMPETER**

Before the commencement of the full meeting, members were addressed by Kate Stewart on the theme *Cittaslow*.

Local economies are being undermined by the emergence of the present increasing global economy. Localities are losing their self-sufficiency in energy, food, clothing, crafts etc. A movement has emerged in Italy, called “Slow-Food”, from which *SlowCity* or *Cittaslow* forms a splinter-group. These groups are dedicated to promoting a healthier environment, where the quality of life is important. The *Cittaslow* phenomenon has extended to the UK and Ludlow is the centre of *Cittaslow* UK. Aylsham, Dish and Mold have acquired *Slow City* status.

The speaker encouraged Lampeter to adopt the *Cittaslow Charter*. This includes sections on the environment, infrastructure, local products and the hospitality of the area. She felt that Lampeter was already a “Slow-Food” town in the making since, “There are many pioneering organic companies in and around Lampeter, and it also has a strong local identity and a rich heritage. Lampeter is not a part of “clone town” Britain. There is a quality of life and a safety here, which is unique and it is an endangered attribute around this country.”

Councillors welcomed the presentation and felt that a visit to Ludlow should be arranged, to gain an insight of a town, which has gained a *Cittaslow Status*.

Members had been very impressed with the hard work, expertise and enthusiasm of Ms Stewart in her address.

PRESENT:

Cllr. Mayor Dorothy Williams (Chairperson)

Cllrs: Deputy-Mayor Chris Thomas, Cecilia Barton, Andrew Carter, Hazel Davies, John Davies, Greg Evans, Robert Harris, Robert Phillips, Selwyn Walters and Derek Wilson.

Police Inspector Mark James

Two members of the public (who were only present during the *Cittaslow* presentation)

1. APOLOGIES

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. Margaret Davies-Evans and Cllr. Kistiah Ramaya.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following declared their personal interest in matters recorded in the following minutes:

Name of member:	Paragraph:	Matter under consideration:
Cllr. Mayor D. Williams	9.5.2	Lampeter Food Festival
Cllr. Mayor D. Williams	10.1.1	Tenders: Footpaths+Parc-yr-Orsedd
Cllr. R. Phillips	9.5.1	Lampeter Swimming Pool
Cllr. R. Harris	9.5.1	Lampeter Swimming Pool

3. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE 25TH JANUARY

It was resolved to confirm as a true record, the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council, held on the 25th January, apart from a clarification on the point 6.1, in relation to the two vacancies in the office of councillor on the Lampeter Town Council and to the words "...It was resolved to fill the vacancies, by requesting an election, *if needed*". It was explained that the Town Council had resolved, in the previous meeting, to fill the vacancies by requesting an election. An election, where the residents of Lampeter will be required to vote, may not be needed, should two or less candidates (and assuming that they meet the candidate's requisitions), apply for these posts i.e. they will be nominated without a contest. Should there be more than two candidates, then an election will be called.

The minutes were then signed by the Cllr. Mayor Dorothy Williams.

4. POLICE MATTERS

P.I. Mark James opened his discussion by stating that the Lampeter area had experienced a high level of crime in January; approximately 30 crimes had taken place including 8 assaults and criminal damage. Certain individuals had been charged. February had witnessed a modest reduction in crime although one assault had occurred and three drug arrests. A spate of incidents had taken place involving the vandalism to cars in one area of Lampeter. It was reported that the Police were patrolling this district and were actively encouraging residents to come forward with information. The Inspector mentioned the following topics:

- 4.1 CCTV CAMERAS** It was reported that the cameras were operational, apart from camera 12. This problem should be resolved as part of the main upgrade/completion contract.
- 4.2 Dyfed Powys Police Authority:** re Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs): The Inspector spoke of the advantages of employing a PCSO, despite conflicting opinion from many sources that they are a cost-cutting exercise on the grounds that there is little crime, only the fear of crime; and that they are a crude attempt by both politicians and some senior police officers, to foist upon the public, an inferior service. Although PCSOs are not police-officers, benefits derived from their implementation could include providing high visibility, assisting to prevent and detect crime, improving security and maintaining close links with the community. The Dyfed Powys Police Force, as part of the Neighbourhood Policing venture, is prepared to match fund additional posts for PCSOs for the Force Area. This means that 16 additional PCSO posts will be created, if external agencies, businesses or councils are prepared to meet half the cost. This match funding will be continuous on behalf of the Force, as long as the other organisations persist to pay their share.

E.g. if an organisation such as an University match funded a post, then that PCSO would be exclusively used for patrolling their campus; if a group of businesses got together, then they could have a PCSO exclusively patrolling their industrial estate; if a community council part funded a PCSO, then that post would be exclusively in that Community Council area (in Powys the Countryside Council for Wales has funded a PCSO post to patrol the Elan Valley reservoir area). The estimated annual cost to the Town Council, would be £13,000-£14,000.

It was agreed to contact the University of Wales, Lampeter to ask if there could be an opportunity, sometime in the future, for the Town Council and Lampeter University to collaborate, in order to utilize a PCSO in the college and the town.

4.3 **Dyfed-Powys Police Meeting:** an opportunity for local representatives to express their views regarding policing issues: 22/03/07 at 6.45pm at Lampeter Comprehensive School: for information.

4.4 **Bye-Law Alcohol Prohibition - drinking on the streets of Lampeter:** The key players had been contacted during the period of consultation and positive responses had been received. Leaflets would be distributed shortly. The Police Inspector encouraged written responses. The methods of implementing the Aberystwyth Exclusion Zone were under review and the lessons learned would be applied to the proposed Lampeter Scheme. He emphasised the importance of establishing firm boundaries to the Exclusion Zone.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

5.1 **Confirmation of Acceptance of Office: Mayor & Deputy Mayor 2007-08**

Cllr. Deputy-Mayor Chris Thomas (Mayor Elect) stated that it would be an honour to be selected for the post of Mayor, and that he would do his utmost to work for the community, during his term of office. Cllr. Selwyn Walters wrote that he was proud to accept the Council's nomination to be Deputy-Mayor in the ensuing year.

5.2 **Picton Lane, Lampeter: Response received from the County Council to the petition of 164 names from residents, voicing reservations about the safety of movement in Picton Lane.**

The county council reported that the data collected, by an automated traffic counter, placed at Picton Lane over the period 18th January to 2nd February 2007, showed an average daily traffic-flow of around 200 vehicles eastbound (from New Street to Bridge Street) and around 30 westbound. Traffic flows eastbound showed an average peak of around 20 vehicles per hour between 5-6pm. Precise average vehicle speeds in both directions along the lane were the same, 13.4mph. The automated counter was deliberately installed at a time when the adjacent section of Bridge Street was free from highway works. The county council stated that some of the high traffic flows and vehicle speeds perceived by local residents could be due to drivers seeking to avoid passing through temporary traffic lights associated with works in Bridge Street. In the county council's opinion, the data collected, suggests no particular or significant road safety issues at this location and at present, there is insufficient evidence to justify additional measures.

There was a general disquiet among members, regarding this response. It was resolved to send a reply to the county council stating that the town council could not agree with the conclusion. They felt that remedial work is essential, to improve the safety of the road, by introducing traffic-calming measures at the intersection with Accommodation Lane, and having a one-way system eastbound. It would also be mentioned that the speed of over 13mph, seems excessive for such a narrow channel and respectfully suggest that their decision be reconsidered.

- 5.3 **LAS Site Visit (a second visit):** The 2nd April 2007 at 6.30pm was proposed as a suitable date and time, to visit the Las Recycling Plant, Lampeter.
- 5.4 **Casual vacancies:** Lampeter Town Council: Ten members (who are electors of the electoral area of Lampeter) agreed to forward their names, in order to request an election, should it be necessary, to fill the vacancies.
- 5.5 **Update, regarding the bench - Kakitsuka Family:** A suitable location remains to be found. The bench has been purchased and the parts are in storage.
- 5.6 **The Role of Honour:** re condition of the board: this matter was deferred, until the next meeting.
- 5.7 **Lampeter Post-Office:** responses received from Elin Jones AM and Mark Williams Ceredigion MP. Mr Mark Williams stated that the town council is right to highlight the critical importance of the Post Office to the town and surrounding area and would visit Mr Timothy Evans shortly, in order to discuss the matter. He mentioned that he was also exploring Mrs Anne Eatough's suggestion of the existing site also providing Tourist Information facilities, and has written to the county council, to this effect. Elin Jones AM, stated that she would contact the Royal Mail and liaise with Mr Timothy Evans, accordingly. The Mayor D. Williams revealed that the counter services are likely to run at the current site until the late spring, and discussions over future options for provision of counter services in the town, are ongoing.
- 5.8 **Housing Development at Forest Road, Lampeter - CCC-consideration of name:** The Town Council agreed to forward the name "Coed Barcud" as a suitable name for the housing development.
- 5.9 **Feedback: Literature circulated at the previous meeting:**
- **Strategy for Sport & Leisure 2006-10** CCC Recreation Services;
 - **Making the Connections;** Delivering Beyond Boundaries (WAG)
 - **Post-Inspection Plan** Lampeter Comprehensive School
- This matter was held in abeyance, until the next meeting.
- 5.10 **Barley Mow Street Sign:** it was reported that the sign had, by now, been installed on the premises of Mr Jarman and had received a favourable reaction from many of the residents of Barley Mow.

6 Correspondence Minute 55/2006

- 6.1 **Ceredigion Unitary Development Plan: Draft Interim Guidance Note:** On the 18th January 2007 Ceredigion County Council's Full Council resolved to stop work on the Unitary Development Plan (UDP) process and move on to the local development plan (LDP) process while using those policies in the UDP which are not affected by the Assembly Direction for Development Control purposes. What this means is that development proposals will be considered by using the Dyfed Structure Plan and national guidance. In addition, all policies, other than H1.2B and H.1.3 (and settlement boundaries for the larger and smaller settlements), will be material considerations in determining planning applications.

The Authority has produced a draft Interim Guidance Note with regard to residential development in the County's larger and smaller settlements (as defined by the UDP). This interim guidance note does not introduce a new policy approach to residential development within Ceredigion. What the note does is clarify the procedure as to how the Authority will determine the location of new residential development in these larger and smaller settlements until the LDP has progressed. A copy of the draft Interim Guidance Note is available for inspection from

the 9th February 2007, at The Planning Department, Neuadd Cyngor Ceredigion, Penmorfa, Aberaeron. The Council's local libraries and the Authority's website (www.ceredigion.gov.uk). The Authority would welcome comment or observations regarding this Interim Guidance Note. Closing date 23rd March 2007. Following the consultation the Authority will amend the Interim Guidance Note, if appropriate. It was conveyed that this information was not applicable to the town of Lampeter.

- 6.2 **Fire and Rescue National Framework** (Wales) 2005 (Revisions) Order 2007 and Intervention Protocol: Welsh Assembly Government: circulated to members.:
- 6.3 **Making the Connections** - Local Service Boards in Wales: A prospectus for the first phase 2007-08, Welsh Assembly Government: noted for information.
- 6.4 **One Voice Wales**: Ceredigion Area Committee Bulletin – main points of the meeting which was held on the 18/01/2007 and copies of the circular *The Voice* for the perusal of members.
- 6.5 **Plantscape Ltd** Brochure: forwarded to members of *The Lampeter in Bloom Association*.
- 6.6 **BMG Research**: The Standards Board for England: Satisfaction with Advice and Guidance Research Project 2007- n/a in Wales
- 6.7 **DotCYM** – re letter of support: for information only
- 6.8 **The Strategy for Older People in Wales**; Welsh Assembly Government: for information.
- 6.9 **Buckingham Palace Garden Party 10th July: One Voice Wales-limited tickets available** - it was conveyed that councils which had previously been represented at the tea-party, were excluded from forwarding their names this year.
- 6.10 **Cymuned: requesting support for the Homes4locals.com.campaign: noted for information.** It was resolved to write to the county council stating that Lampeter Town Council supports any plan which promotes affordable housing for the young people of the area.

7. MENTER LLAMBED Minute 56/2006

Cllr Greg Evans informed members on recent events.

- **The Business Plan** relating to the Town Hall has been forwarded to the county council.
- **The Town Hall's plans** have been submitted to CCC.
- **Menter Llambed's Action Plan 2007/08** has now been completed.
- **The plan for the Gateway** between Lampeter and Cwmann has been reintroduced.
- **Hanes Llambed**: resubmitting previous application- the Resource Centre is going ahead.
- **Trim Trail Project** - no developments to date
- **Town Guide**: The Cambrian News Office is printing these guides
- **Public meeting: 3/04/2007 Arts Hall, Lampeter** – a presentation by Rob Hopkins titled "Preparing West Wales for a Future without Oil". This presentation will complement the *Cittaslow* initiative and Cllr. Evans encouraged members to attend this meeting.

8. PLANNING APPLICATIONS Minute 57/2006

8.1 It was reported that the following planning applications had been permitted by Ceredigion County Council.

Applic. No:	Applicant:	Location:	Permission to:
A060929LB Listed Building Consent	Mr BG Taylor	Rear of 30 High Street Lampeter	Make alterations and renovations
A060928	Mr & Mrs BG Taylor	30 High Street	Convert outbuilding to granny flat
A060946	University of Wales	University of Wales, Lampeter	Site a portacabin, temporarily.

**9. FINANCE
Minute 58/2006**

9.1

	Admin.	Maint.	Grant	Sec137	VAT
EXPENDITURE	£	£	£	£	£
Clerk's salary: net – 1 month	323.42				
Tax and NI	92.73				
Heat and Light	20.00				
One Voice Wales renewal memb.	242.00				
Earth Anchors Seat		357.20			52.51
MLL Telecom – 1 month CCTV		1,633.34			285.83
Christmas Tree + Padlock		12.00			

9.2 **It was decided not to contribute** towards the *Relate* Charity organisation. It was decided to find out their association with Lampeter.

9.3 **Falcondale Lake Action Group – request for support to meet legal costs and to retain the *Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)* status for the lake**
It was resolved not to make a contribution, at this present time. Members hoped that this action group would be successful in their quest to keep Falcondale Lake as a SSSI.

**9.4 Appropriate Sum Under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972
(the amount of money which can be donated to charity) WAG**

The maximum sum for 2007-08 increases by 3.6%, from £5.44 to £5.64 per local government elector. As there are 1,591 government electors in Lampeter, it will be possible for Lampeter Town Council to donate £8,973 to charity, in the next financial year.

9.5 **It was resolved to contribute to the following organisations**, at the beginning of the next financial year (for accounting purposes, as donations have already been made in the present financial year)

9.5.1 Lampeter Swimming Pool £1,300

9.5.2 Lampeter Food Festival £ 400

9.5.3 Renewing membership for the *Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales* £20

10. SUB-COMMITTEES
Minute 59/2006

10.1 FOOTPATHS'

10.1.1 It was agreed to seek tenders in respect of grass cutting at Parc-yr-Orsedd, during the summer months and the maintenance of footpaths in Lampeter. It was resolved to contact Spooner Landscapes, Cellan; Eirwyn Williams Blodfryn; Lampeter and Colin George, 11 Parc-y-Felin, Lampeter. It was also decided to display an advert, to this effect on the town library's notice board.

10.2 PAVEMENTS'

It was resolved to remind CCC that slabs remained loose outside the Gwilym Price Store, Spar Store and in front of the Fire Station, despite being reported after the last month's meeting. Kerbstones are also loose on the pavements of Victoria Terrace.

11. AOB: Minute 59/2006

11.1 Members showed regret for the recent illness of Mrs C. Ramaya. It was resolved to send a card to her, wishing her a full recovery, in the future.

11.2 There are fears that the County Council Depot in Lampeter, is to close. It was decided to send a letter to the county council, voicing opposition to this possibility, in recognition of the invaluable service presently provided and in concern for those employed at this Depot.

11.3 Post Offices: the sale of Television Licences

It was resolved to forward a letter to Ceredigion's AM and MP, stating that the Town Council regrets the latest government's measure of stopping the sale of TV Licences in Post Offices. This makes life difficult for many people in the town.

11.4 The Town Council's Welsh Language Policy: Cllr. R. Phillips stated that he had made enquiries regarding the mandatory provision of the Welsh language at Town/Community Councils in Wales. A very low scale translation scheme should be available. The Welsh Language Board would be contacting the old Dyfed area, in the near future.

11.5 It was reported that the "Fair Trade" fortnight, would commence on the 9th March.

11.6 Tree Planting at Longwood: Cllr. A. Carter reported that many trees had been felled, to be replaced by natural deciduous trees.

11.7 Car-parking Charges: Councillors debated the effect that charging for parking in the town's car-parks could have on trade in the town and on people that work in Lampeter. Cllr A. Carter was of the opinion that the Rookery car-park should remain a free car-park as Lampeter should offer one car-park where people did not have to pay to park. The Mayor D. Williams was of the opinion that charges should be imposed at the Rookery, in light of the imminent opening of the new primary school in this neighbourhood. Free-parking at this location could imply a full car-park, early in the morning, used primarily by parents and staff of the new school.

It was agreed to investigate the possibility of having a free car-park on the edge of town and councillors were encouraged to suggest suitable venues at the next meeting.

11.8 Summer Ball for the pupils of Ffynnonbedr: The Mayor proposed that the Town Council could consider hosting a children's Summer Ball, as part of the festivities of the

new school. This event would replace the annual children's disco for two years in succession, in order to finance the ball.

The meeting concluded at 9.45

12. Date of next meeting: Thursday 29th March 2007 at 7.30pm, at the Town Hall.

Clerk's Remuneration

The Town Council has decided on an increase of 23.5pence per hour, from the second anniversary i.e. 9 May 2007. The second request to increase the hours from 12 to 15/week, was refused. The annual salary now on offer, from the 9th May is £5,132. (The salary obtained by using the guidelines for part-time clerks, as stipulated by the NALC and the SLCC and the parish population of 2,893¹ is given as £6,415, which is considerably more than the salary offered).

¹ Source: Ceredigion County Council Statistics Department, Parish Population of the area represented by Lampeter Town Council @ March 2007