

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF ABERAERON TOWN COUNCIL**  
**HELD ON TUESDAY 12<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2024 at 7:00pm**  
**AT THE MEMORIAL HALL, ABERAERON**

**PRESENT:** Councillor Rhodri Jones (Chairman); Councillors Aled Davies, Phill Davies, Rhys Davies, Darryl Evans, Elizabeth Evans, Agnieszka Kalinowska and Sian Stewart.  
Denfer Morgan – Town Clerk

**341. PROCEDURE**

The Chairman welcomed Councillor Sian Stewart to her first meeting and congratulated her on being co-opted to the Council.

The Clerk confirmed that Councillor Stewart had signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

**342. APOLOGIES**

Councillors Tim Archer, Lloyd Garvey, Diana Mace and Huw Thomas apologised for their inability to attend the meeting.

**343. WEST WALES RIVERS TRUST**

The Chairman welcomed to the meeting Andrew Thomas of the West Wales Trust who proceeded to address the Meeting on the work of the Trust and in particular its initiative to remove weirs from rivers.

Mr Thomas stated that the Trust was pursuing this initiative in the river Aeron because they act as a barrier to the migration of fish. Species such as the Atlantic salmon, sea trout, eel and lamprey all require movement between the sea and rivers to complete their lifecycles. When this movement is restricted or delayed, it has big impacts for the survival of these species. Other fish which are classed as 'non-migratory' also benefit from being able to move up and down rivers – to find food, cover from predation, and to escape pollution or extreme low or high flows.

Mr Thomas referred to the drastic reduction in the number of such fish found in the Aeron during the last few years. He stated that discussions had already taken place with members of the Town Angling Club and that these would be continuing.

Members questioned Mr Thomas in detail and the following information was obtained:

The Chairman thanked Mr Thomas for his presentation and it was agreed that the way forward was for him to continue discussions with the Town Angling Club and to contact the Council again once their views had been obtained.

**344. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**

The following Councillors disclosed a personal and prejudicial interest in the matters referred to in the undermentioned Minutes below and left the room during their consideration.

**345. MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 13<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2024**

It was **RESOLVED** to approve, as a correct record, the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2024 subject to amending Minute 325 to record that Councillor Rhys Davies had also disclosed a personal and prejudicial interest in the matter referred to in Minute 328c) (Planning Application A240081) and had left the room during consideration thereof.

**346. FINANCE MATTERS**

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the following payments:-

Invoice Details	Sum
SSE (Belle Vue Terrace Supply Nov-Dec-Jan)	£313.38
SSE (Quay Parade Supply Nov-Dec-Jan)	£195.78
<i>Clerk's Salary (Jan-Feb-March):</i>	
Denfer Morgan	£1,404
HMRC (PAYE)	£351
Clerk's Administration Costs 2023-24	£112.76

**347. APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

Consideration was given to the following two planning applications and the decisions as noted were taken.

It was **RESOLVED**:

- i) to defer the application received in respect of Aeron Arts until the April meeting in order to enable Members to obtain further information on the initiative including an opportunity to attend an open evening; and
- ii) not to contribute to the Ceredigion YFC as it fell outside the Council policy.

**348. SQUARE FIELD**

Consideration was given to four applications to use the Square Field and it was **RESOLVED** to agree to the following subject to the usual licensing arrangements:

- Ceredigion Costcutter League Cup Final on Easter Monday 1<sup>st</sup> April
- West Wales Shire Horse Association for their Annual Show on 28<sup>th</sup> July
- Ray Ceredigion Play Day – Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> August
- Aberaeron Town Improvements Committee for the Annual Carnival on Bank Holiday Monday 26<sup>th</sup> August.

**349. PARC-Y-FRO**

It was noted that the work of installing the new playground equipment was scheduled to start on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2024.

**350. BANC BACH**

It was **RESOLVED** to note that the contractor had cleared the area and that steps be taken to action the proposals agreed by the council for its use, including meeting with representatives of the Primary School with regard to its use for nature activities purposes.

**351. CEREDIGION COUNTY COUNCIL BUDGET 2024-25**

The Clerk stated that he had informed the County Council of this Council's decision taken at the last meeting.

It was **RESOLVED** as follows:

**Street Cleaning**

To request the Clerk to take action to arrange for street cleaning, including identifying a suitable operator.

**Grounds Maintenance**

The Clerk stated that he would be meeting the County Council Grounds Maintenance Manager the following morning in order to clarify the details of the areas provided by the County Council. It was agreed that he then approach the current two contractors, Dylan Jones and Paul Hughes, to give them the opportunity to undertake this additional work as an extension to their existing contracts.

**352. BRYN ROAD BOLLARDS**

Consideration was given to the Report of the Clerk and it was **RESOLVED**:

- i) to inform Ceredigion County Council, as the Local Highway Authority, that this Council was of the opinion that the bollards presented an obstruction and a safety risk to pedestrians; and
- ii) in this regard, to request it to consider taking action under s.143 of the Highways Act, as outlined in the Report.

**353. CWMINS**

Consideration was given to the Report of the Clerk updating Members on the situation at the common. The Clerk stated that, following the writing of the Report, the Open Spaces Society had indicated that they would be in a position to offer advice to the Council, should the Council agree to join the Society at an annual fee of £45.

Following discussion, it was **RESOLVED** to agree to join the Open Spaces Society and to seek advice in relation to the situation at the Cwmins.

**354. CYNNAL Y CARDI PROJECTS**

Consideration was given to the opportunity to submit an application for funding as part of the latest round of Cynnal y Cardi Projects.

It was **RESOLVED**

- a) to re-submit an application for a Town Ranger service
- b) to agree to meet the 20% match-funding from the Council's Budget.

### **355. DIGITAL PROJECTS UPDATE**

The current position with regard to the app, the wifi points and the webcam was noted; including the distribution of advertising material around the town. With regard to the siting of the proposed photopoint, it was agreed to commence discussions as to the possibility of its location on the proposed reconfigured north pier breakwater.

### **356. REPORT OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR ELIZABETH EVANS**

Councillor Evans reported as follows.

- an explanation for the frequent delays in the recycling and food waste collections
- the renewal of the road surface at Lower Regent Street had now been given priority, with the north-eastern corner of Alban Square remaining on the register. Other pot-holes were reported as and when information was received
- the CCTV cameras would be installed shortly
- she was continuing to lobby against any proposals for re-locating the Library from the County Hall
- the recent vandalism to the digital sign at the bus-stop was being investigated
- it was being reported that the Cardigan Swimming Pool was being closed. In the light of the Lampeter Pool being the only one funded by the County Council, she was asking for confirmation that it was self-funding and not subsidised in any way
- the proposal to close the Rhydeion Waste Recycling Centre was the subject of consultation.

### **357. ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS**

It was agreed:

- a) that Councillors Darryl Evans and Rhodri Jones be authorised to attend a course in respect of the renewal of their Level 3 playground inspection qualifications
- b) to proceed with the establishment of working groups to progress areas of work of the Council and to report further to the next meeting
- c) to review the Council's Business Plan for 2024-25
- d) to up-date the Council's Training Policy and ensure that Members receive training in accordance with requirements
- e) that the Council's banking arrangements be up-dated as a matter of urgency.

The meeting ended at 9:00 pm