



*St Asaph City Council*  
*Cyngor Dinas Llanelwly*

Minutes of the Meeting of St Asaph City Council held on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2017 at 7.00pm in the Community and Council Meeting Rooms, Roe Plas Meadows.

**Present:** Cllrs: C Hardie (City Mayor), R. Williams (Deputy Mayor), D Owens, J.O. Roberts, P Scott, D.A. Thomas, J Ellison, G. D. Hodgkinson BEM, P.G. Morton, and B Rust.

**Clerk:** H Stewart BEM / S Pierce

**1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies of absence were received from Cllr Mike Gedd and Cllr Paul Mitchell.

**2. Declarations of Interest**

No matters raised.

**3. Public Participation**

There were no applications to address the Council.

**4. Urgent Matters**

Cllr Roberts asked to bring a matter of urgency to the meeting. It was agreed that these matters would be discussed at the end of the agenda.

**5. North Wales Police**

PCSO Dave Jones provided an update covering the Christmas festive period.

PCSO Dave Jones said it had been a good period with crime being relatively uneventful. Report is as follows:

- It was reported an individual male had been causing issues on the high street which had resulted in an arrest and was being dealt with by the police.
- On 28<sup>th</sup> Dec it was reported that a house had been broken into on the Bishops Walk estate but it was concluded that an actual "break in" wasn't the cause of damage.
- During New Year's Eve, it was reported and investigated that the padlock had been tampered with at the pump house, however nothing had been taken.
- 6<sup>th</sup> January it was reported that a hole had been made in one of the male toilet doors, possible sexual conduct issues so please be aware and inform PCSO Jones of any future issues raised.
- A dangerous dog incident occurred at the river where a dog chased and unfortunately caught a Swan. The RSPCA were called and were dealing with the incident. From a police point of view there would be no further involvement.

Cllr Hardie invited the room to raise any further questions or incidents to report.

Cllr Owens mentioned his concern about a "white van" selling fish in the area. PCSO Jones was aware of this issue.

No further issues/incidents were raised.

**6. Mayor's Reports**

Cllr Hardie stated it had been a quiet over the Christmas and New Year period, however he had attended a few carol services and functions on behalf of the City.

Cllr Hardie reported he had attended a meeting with the river defense contractors and had been informed they had almost completed the concrete bridge supports. On completion of the concrete bridge supports they will be ready to lay the beams. Preparation will start on the compound/machinery in preparation for erecting the walls behind the Co-op and New Inn.

Over-all they are reporting the work is on schedule with no current delays to report.

## 7. County Councilors Reports

Cllr Owens reported a quiet period since the last meeting but updates are as follows:

- Dropping the kerbs at the Gemig street. This plan is now being implemented, work has started and is expected to take a fortnight to complete. This work is causing issues with traffic and parking as expected.
- Meeting in the community to get the public to say what they want. There is a survey scheduled, it is not a large survey and should only take about 5 minutes to complete. We should encourage this to be done.
- Graham Boase has provided the information that 4 dog owners have been fined within the area for dog fouling.
  - A question was raised "What happens to the fine money". The 3<sup>rd</sup> Party that manage the issue retain the fine money.

No further questions were raised for Cllr Owens.

Cllr Cowie updates:

- Cllr Cowie provided additional information regarding the dog fouling service in that regular patrols are now in place (dog walking wardens) and have successfully caught 4 individuals resulting in fines. The wardens are in plain clothes and do carry identification. Cllr Roberts raised that Denbighshire has the highest number of people being fined for this issue.
- Letter from Ann Jones AM – we are going to have the brown signs implemented on the A55.
- Drainage works are planned to start 27<sup>th</sup> January though to the 15<sup>th</sup> February, the new road will be implemented March onwards.
- The meeting discussed the current closure of the Trefnant road at the same time as the St. Asaph High Street work commencing which had caused a real issue. Cllr Owens stated that the Trefnant work was "urgent" and a "must" and had to be completed.

No further questions were raised for Cllr Cowie.

## 8. Minutes

The last full meeting minutes (December full meeting) had not been distributed therefore were checked during this meeting. For accuracy purposes a couple of amendments were noted and the minutes would be updated.

The minutes were reviewed page by page.

It was noted that Cllr PG Morton was omitted from the list of attendees, this would be amended.

Everyone was in favour of agreeing the minutes' subject to the amendments being made.

## 9. Matters Arising

- The Winter fair, Cllr Hardie has been asked by the Cathedral if the requirement is to book the corresponding Friday this year (last Friday in November – Friday 24<sup>th</sup> Nov 2017).
  - This was agreed by everyone.
- Cllr Roberts had received the information and relevant forms for the ibeacon network project which now required signing. These were passed to clerk Pierce for signature (done 11/01/17). One copy was retained for our files and the other was to be returned to Cadwyn Clwyd, Rural Development Agency by Cllr Roberts.
- Cllr Rust stated that the pot holes had now been filled in but the lights were still outstanding.
- The cost of the Christmas lights had previously been costed at c£6k so was well catered for within the budget.
- It was noted that transition from the current Clerk (HS) will transfer to S Pierce by the end of play Friday 13<sup>th</sup>.
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## 10. Planning Applications

a) Application Ref:

Proposal: Conversion of Auction Rooms – suggested an area will be used for "community use"

Location: St. Asaph High Street.

*Recommend: There is no description regarding what this "community use" means and could we find out more? Cllr Rust stated that we have always had a concern regarding the retaining wall on the Gemig street and could this be mentioned on the application. Cllr Cowie will review and see if we can find out further information on the Auction Rooms and will email Cllr Hardie. Cllr Hardie will then circulate the information appropriately to obtain feedback.*

- b) Application Ref:  
Proposal: The Co-op are planning to have illuminating signs situation on the building.  
Location: St. Asaph  
*Recommend: No Objection*

## 11. Financial Management

Clerk Helen S provided an overview of the current situation financially and how the budget had been set for the new financial year.

Clerk Helen S stated there are outstanding cheques still to be paid.

It was noted that “Stages or Events” never cashed their cheque – council gave permission for this cheque to be cancelled (cheques are automatically cancelled if six months has passed by).

Cllr Owens raised: the donation we were giving to the North Wales Music Festival had not been provided as planned (It was understood the request had come via a grant application). It was agreed the donation could be paid directly by cheque as the budget was still available.

Clerk Helen S raised “additional” items to be discussed as follows:

- Music Festival - £500
- Cathedral - £200 (hiring of the porta-loos and caretaker’s fees)
- Design web costs
- Cllr Hodgkinson asked if Kentegern had been paid? this also requires paying at a cost of £500 – and is catered for within the budget.

It was agreed that all could be paid.

## 12. Budget and Precept for 2016 - 17

Clerk Helen S provided a summary overview of the meeting that had been held the previous day and an overview of the budget and precept.

Cllr Scott raised a concern regarding the Community Centre (which was has now been resolved and incorporated).

Cllr Mayor Hardie put the suggestion forward that we prepare a statement ready to be published to the community relating to the increase in council tax and the reasons why it is necessary. This was agreed by all.

There was some debate regarding the Library and the importance of retaining the service to the community.

Cllr PG Morton proposed to raise the precept to cover the extra cost that we have to bear levied by DCC in regard to retaining our library service (keeping the building open) and that we need to examine the cost of a particular electricity supply mentioned by Cllr Rust, and reduce costs of emptying dog bins to reduce our costs. This proposal was seconded by Cllr P. Scott.

It was agreed by all that we should increase the amount.

Cllr Hardie raised that we should review relevant Supplier contract agreements and costs i.e. Glascoed Timber as a matter of urgency. This was agreed. It was also noted that we need to understand what our requirement is for this service in the future.

Cllr Williams suggested we should look at how we can encourage people coming into the area from outside to donate to the upkeep of the grounds etc.

## 13. Matters raised at the end of the meeting

Cllr Roberts raised the issue of the Moles on Roe Park and the mess they were causing to all areas. It was agreed by all this is “general maintenance” and could be progressed. The current contractor would be called to deal with the issue.

The meeting concluded at 20:55pm

Signed .....  
Chairman of the Full Council Meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2017