

LLANDEILO AND DISTRICT CIVIC TRUST SOCIETY

The Shire Hall, Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire, SA19 6EF

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2004

at Shire Hall, Llandeilo,

at 7pm

on Monday September 27th 2004

Present

Dr. David Townsley-Hughes (Chairman and Acting Secretary)

Mr. Paul Regan (Vice Chairman)

Committee Members

Mr. E. Gwilym Hughes

Cllr. Dr. David Anthony Jones

Mrs. Julia Jones

Mrs. Angela Adams Rice

Members

Mr. David Arthur Jones

Mr. Gerald B. Jones

Mr. Michael J. Rees

Mr. David J. Rice

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Mrs. Caroline Jones, Ms Claudette Paterson, Mr. Peter G. B. Ratcliffe (Treasurer) Mrs. Catherine Regan, Mrs. Margaret Rees and Mrs. Enid Townsley-Hughes.

2. Election of Officers & Members of the Executive Committee

No other nominations had been received. Mr. Michael Rees proposed, seconded by Mr. Gerald Jones that the existing officers and committee be re-elected. Agreed.

3. Treasurer's Report for 2003 to 2004, from Mr. Peter G. B. Ratcliffe

(presented by the Chairman in the Treasurer's absence) :

"The bank account for the reinstated Llandeilo and District Civic Trust Society was opened on 5 May 2004.

Up to the present time subscriptions totalling £76 have been received from individual members of the society.

A grant of £400 has been received from Llandeilo Town Council towards the work of the Society.

No expenditure has occurred up to the time of the preparation of this report.

Therefore the present balance of the account is £476".

Mr. David A. Jones, seconded by Mr. Paul Regan proposed approval of the Treasurer's Report. Agreed.

4. Matters Arising from the Treasurer's Report.

Cllr. Dr. David Anthony Jones recommended that the associated Community Councils (included in the Society's area of benefit) be invited to contribute a grant towards the work of the Society in the same way as that received from Llandeilo Town Council.

Agreed.

5. Chairman's Annual Report for the Society's Year : July 2003 to June 2004

- The new title of the Society indicating its expanded area of benefit, by "and District" to include Llandeilo Town and the four associated Communities of Dyffryn Cennen, Llanfychangel Aberbythych, Llangathen and Manordeilo & Salem, received the approval of Civic Trust Wales.
- A draft new constitution was then prepared, based on a model constitution provided by Civic Trust Wales, and comparison with the constitution of Carmarthen Civic Trust. This was circulated to the Steering Committee in November and adopted at a Revival Steering Committee Meeting on December 8th 2003.
- This meeting, on December 8th 2003, became the first meeting of the new Society, because the Chairman collected subscriptions from all members of committee thereby enrolling them as Founder Members. Officers and Trustees were appointed with the exception of a Secretary. The Chairman undertook to be Acting Secretary until a suitable secretary could be appointed.

Further steps were taken to establish the Society, through the Executive Committee which met in February, March, April, May and June.

The following outlines the progress.

- Setting up a Society Bank Account. There were delays because the Treasurer resigned and a new one had to be appointed, and then although the application was submitted in February, the account was only finally set up in May.
- Recruitment of New Members There has so far been no response to Posters and application forms in the Public Library. The Committee considers that launching events could be more effective. A Public Lecture will be held in October.
- An Official Address : required for re registering the Society as a Charity (previous registration in abeyance since 2000). The Town Council has agreed that the Society may use Shire Hall as its official correspondence address, provided we provide a suitable mail collection box. The latter has kindly been made by Mr. David Rice and donated by Mrs Angela Adams Rice.
- A Society Logo. The Committee is currently considering designs for headed note paper and promotional publications.
- Actions on previously established and uncompleted projects
 - (i) Llandeilo in Bloom. Responsibility for this project has been accepted by the Llandeilo Fawr Community Association. However in view of what I consider to be recently poor displays particularly in the car park I propose that we raise standards by promoting commercial sponsorship schemes similar to those of Shrewsbury.
 - (ii) Heritage Project to establish a museum and exhibition centre at the Public Institute. The Committee visited the Institute for discussion with officials of the Snooker Club who now run the building. They are ready to give up the building for the benefit of the town if suitable alternative accommodation for their club can be provided. Further discussion is proceeding.
- Llandeilo Provisions Market

The Committee has had a conducted tour of the site and seen outline plans for converting the building for multifunctional use for businesses or offices. Mr. Richard Vaughan Evans of the Carmarthenshire County Council Estates Department has since reported that the Regeneration Department is looking for funding for conversion. If they fail, the Council plans to market the property for sale on the basis of a Planning Brief.

- Llandeilo Railway Station

The Committee made a site visit in June for discussion with Miss Swindell, the Llandeilo 41 Club, Heart of Wales Passenger Association. Constructive suggestions for improving the appearance of the Station included new railings, information boards, and sign posts suitable for a gateway to town. These matters will be pursued through the Town Council's regeneration strategy forum at the Heritage Group.

- Extending the Society's Activities to include the Associated Communities of Dyffryn Cennen, Llanfihangel Aberbythych, Llangathen and Manordeilo & Salem.

(a total residential population of 6,239 compared with 1,728 in Llandeilo Town alone, in 2001).

A start has been made by reviewing the work of the Rural Surveys Research Unit of the University of Wales, Aberystwyth, Community Appraisals Reports for Antur Cwm Taf / Tywi.

It is envisaged that when the Executive Committee is up to strength with officers plus 10 to 20 members, including members from district communities, that there shall be a survey of the area for projects requiring attention for regeneration and/or

development. Sub Committees can be set up when appropriate for particular projects. Meanwhile we will continue to pursue projects in Llandeilo, as the capital of the Society's area, for the benefit of the town and the surrounding communities.

-
Cllr Dr. David Anthony Jones thanked the Chairman for all his work in setting up and developing the newly regenerated and extended Society.

6. Any Other Business including Matters Arising from the Chairman's Report

(i) Planning Applications. It was agreed that the Society will defer regular evaluations of planning applications to Carmarthenshire County Council, in our area, (one of the activities of Civic Trust Societies) until we have a large enough Executive Committee.

(ii) A Society Web Site. The Society has already been invited by the Town Council to provide a link to their site and Carmarthenshire County Council has offered help with setting up our web site. It was agreed that we should proceed to do so as soon as possible, when we are sufficiently established. It will provide an important means of communication with members.

(iii) Public Lecture to launch the Society and Promote Recruitment

Mr Paul Regan has obtained the agreement of a distinguished speaker to give a public lecture for the Society in Llandeilo in October. He is Professor Malcolm Parry, Former Head of the Welsh School of Architecture. In view of the short time available to make arrangements Mr. Regan will try and reschedule the lecture for about November 18th.

(iv) Founding Document of Llandeilo Civic Trust Society

Mr. Michael Rees, Chairman of the original Society (established in 1967, going

into abeyance in 2000) displayed a superb illustrated booklet giving an account

of the formation of the Society, which the revived society could consider emulating.

- Date of Next Annual General Meeting : Monday July 4th 2005

DT-H