

LLANDEILO AND DISTRICT CIVIC TRUST SOCIETY

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

Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting, in Shire Hall on Monday September 27th 2004 immediately following the 7pm AGM

Present

Dr. D. Townsley-Hughes (Chairman)

Mr. Paul Regan (Vice Chairman)

Mr. E. Gwilym Hughes

Cllr. Dr. David A. Jones

Mrs. Julia Jones

Mrs. Angela Adams Rice

Mr. Gerald B. Jones (Advisory)

Mr. Michael J. Rees (Advisory)

1. Apologies for absence.

Mr. Peter G. B. Ratcliffe (Treasurer)

2. Minutes of the last meeting on June 28th 2004.

The Minutes were accepted as a correct record after making the following corrections

(a) Railway Station Minutes

In those listed as present delete Mr Owen Philips (Treasurer) and insert Mr. Dewi Jones.

First paragraph: Line 6 insert after 'railway track' : 'and would also carry the colour scheme of Arriva Trains'.

Second paragraph : Correct the spelling of Regan. Line 2 Replace 'Network Wales' with 'Network Rail'. Lines 2 and 3 : Delete 'be converted into a Tea / Refreshment Room, facing the building with wood'. Replace with 'the visual appearance to be improved possibly by facing with wood'.

(b) Executive Committee Minutes

Item 3, Matters Arising, near the end of line 2, typing error : replace 'hoe' with 'how'

3. Matters Arising Not Covered in the Agenda.

Item 8, last paragraph : Society Logo

The Chairman had circulated a classical architectural design, with simple bold lines, as an example of a style in which Llandeilo architecture could be represented in a strong distinctive logo.

Mr. Gwilym Hughes presented a design showing a drawing of the front of Shire Hall and a landscape design of the bridge view of the entrance to Llandeilo by Ms Colette Paterson. Mr. Paul Regan presented a draft design showing a drawing of a side view of the front of Shire Hall.

Mr. Michael Rees commented that the choice of design should be representative of the Society's objectives. The Chairman added that the choice should not appear to just represent a Llandeilo Society, since we also represented the district communities. It was agreed that an architectural design based on Shire Hall, the official address of the Society, should be suitable. Mr. Regan will develop a further Shire Hall design.

4. Llandeilo Public Institute.

Comments from Mr. Gerald Jones about the Public Institute's ownership documents: copies of 1892 Conveyance and Lease.

After over a century, the original owners would have died.

In May 1892 the Trustees of the Methodist connection in Llandeilo leased the Chapel to six named Trustees, for a term of 99 years . Later in December 1892 the freehold estate in the property was sold to the same six Trustees to hold in trust for the benefit of the people specifies in the deed of conveyance. The named beneficiaries would obviously long since have died, and as the 1892 deed does not appear to have created a charitable trust, the law relating to such trusts cannot be invoked for the purpose of determining the question of the present ownership of the property.

After the changes brought about by the 1925 property legislation the first four of the six Trustees named would have become the owners on the 1st January 1926, and eventually the property would have become vested in the last surviving trustee. On his death, ownership would have passed to his executor or administrator, subject to the same trusts contained in the original deed. Searches could be made in Somerset House to determine who was the last Trustee to die, and in the Probate Registry to ascertain whether a grant of representation was taken out to his estate, and it might be possible to trace current ownership by this method.

Questions about the Current Trustees :

- (i) How can they prove title to the property?
- (ii) Did John Owen draw up any documents purporting to vest title in them and if so, would it be possible to have sight thereof?
- (iii) Could it, instead, be the case the "trustees" are basing their claim to ownership purely on adverse possession (i.e. claiming that they have a possessory title) in view of the length of time they appear to have been in undisputed control of the property?

Action

Write to the Secretary of the 'Llandeilo Public Hall and Literary Institute' asking whether there is another deed referring to the ownership of the present Trustees. We note that the documents which we have received from the Secretary do not indicate that the ownership is vested in the present Trustees.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Gerald Jones for studying the documents and coming to the meeting to give his helpful advice.

5. Llandeilo Railway Station.

Mr. Paul Regan has thoroughly photographed the site and is preparing computer generated refurbishment proposals.

6. Llandeilo Provisions Market.

The copies of the architectural plans of Lowery of Cardiff in their feasibility study for converting the Market for multifunctional business / offices use, promised by Mr. Richard Vaughan Evans to members of the Committee during our visit, have not been received; neither has a copy of an ordinance survey map of the site.

The Chairman has received an e-mail response from Mr Vaughan Evans apologising for not sending the information and that he was 'under the impression that the plans had been sent'. He added that the current position is that the Council's Regeneration

Department is currently seeking funds to convert the Market. If they fail then the property will be marketed for sale subject to a Planning Brief. Nevertheless the Committee would still find the plans useful and Mr. Vaughan Evans will be asked again.

**7. Public Lecture and Reception
to launch the Llandeilo & District Civic Trust Society.**

As discussed at the AGM the proposed new date is Thursday November 18th 2004. Mr. Paul Regan will obtain biographical details and lecture summary to enable the Chairman to arrange for newspaper publicity in advance of the lecture.

It was agreed that the Committee will arrange a Cheese and Wine reception after the lecture, to promote the Society and recruit new members.

The Chairman is updating an information sheet summarising what the Society is about. Mr Gwilym Hughes will produce a Leaflet, to include photographs and news about the Society's activities (previously agreed as a Newsletter to be produced from time to time :see Minutes of May 24th 2004 Item 11)

8. Recruitment of New Members.

This item was sufficiently covered in the AGM and item 7 above.

9. Public Meeting about the Llandeilo Statue Project

Cllr. Dr. David Jones withdrew his proposal that the Society should call a public meeting to discuss activation of the Statue Project started by the Town Council, when it became clear that it is not practicable for the Society at the present time. He will arrange the meeting himself with clerical assistance and cost of postage provided by the Town Council. A representative of the L&D CTS will be invited to join the Statue Committee. Current candidates for statues are St. Teilo, Lord Rhys and Thomas Jenkins the Llandeilo Diarist

10. Any Other Business.

- (i) It was agreed that Mrs Ann Keene, formerly archivist at the Victoria and Albert Museum, London, shall be invited to join the Executive Committee of the Society as the Society's Archivist.
- (ii) Mr. Gwilym Hughes displayed the 'How To' Guide to Setting Up Community History Societies, under the Carmarthenshire Rural Community Action Program, Trinity College, Carmarthen. He will study it and advise the committee at a future meeting.

11. Date and Time of the Next Meeting

November 1st 2004, at 7 pm, in The Shire Hall

Informal Meeting in October, to make arrangements for the November Public Lecture and Reception : date and time to be arranged, possibly in a local Inn.

