

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GREENS & BUILDINGS SUB-COMMITTEE OF
BEAUMARIS TOWN COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY 20 JANUARY 2014 AT 7.30 PM IN THE TOWN HALL**

PRESENT: The Town Mayor Councillor D G Jones
The Deputy Mayor Councillor I Davies
Councillor C M Brimecombe
Councillor J Carr
Councillor G Evans Jones
Councillor D W Gallichan
Councillor J W Jones
Councillor R J Parry

Councillor F Carr attended as an observer

The Town Clerk was in attendance

APOLOGIES: Councillor S Zalot

Councillor J W Jones took the Chair

1.0 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest

2.0 THE CEMETERY

2.1 There was a discussion concerning the crack in the boundary wall.

Generally members felt that it was not getting any worse, but it was more visible because of the removal of ivy. It was noted that Councillor Gallichan had previously offered to monitor the wall, and he agreed to make further checks.

2.2 The Town Clerk gave a summary of work that had been completed during the past few months.

This included repairs to the roof and centre valley over the Chapel of Rest, the installation of a hand rail on the upper steps and laying of 16 tons of chippings on the road around the Chapel of Rest.

The hedges and bushes within the Cemetery had all been cut back along with the grass borders, and hanging branches had been removed from trees near the lower gates.

The walls had been cleared by the removal of ivy and plants growing out of crevices along the tops.

All benches within the Cemetery had been painted and repaired.

One outstanding job was to lay new paving slabs to allow disabled access to the Chapel of Rest. These were going to be supplied by the tenant.

2.3 There was a discussion concerning drainage along the lower road.

This had caused some channelling and it was agreed that the road would be inspected by staff.

3.0 THE GREEN

3.1 The Chairman asked if there had been a general improvement in drainage of surface water from the Green.

The Town Clerk said that in areas where there had been standing surface water, two methods had been used to alleviate the problem: in the worst areas the ground had been rotovated and returfed, in smaller areas new sumps had been dug into the Green and filled with hardcore. Inspections over the winter suggested there had been a major improvement in drainage of surface water.

3.2 Other work completed on the Green had been the installation of bollards outside the entrance to the old Baths site and the installation of new benches along the Promenade. A further new bench had been placed in Mountfield, and the footpath from Mountfield towards the Llanfaes entrance had been cleared. The Green Attendants' hut had been painted inside and a telephone installed. Further work was planned during the next two months: floor covering was to be installed at the Green Attendant's hut along with broadband and a CCTV system. Recently the Boating Pool had been emptied and the plan now was to remove loose plasterwork, replaster damaged areas and then repaint. A couple of benches within the Boating Pool area still needed to be repaired for the summer season.

3.3 A member said that he had been approached with a petition concerning the culling of seagulls.

He had refused to sign it because this was a seaside town. Comment was made that the gulls were a problem in some areas such as Bryn Tirion, but people living in the area frequently fed the birds and enjoyed their presence. Clearly, there was a division of opinion on the subject. A member said that a gel could be obtained for painting on roofs, which deterred seagulls from landing and this worked well. The Town Clerk said that the matter had been looked at by Council staff, and it was noted that seagulls were a protected species, along with their eggs.

3.4 The Chairman stated that an area of tarmac on the pavement near to the exit barrier had sunk below the surface, making a potential trip hazard. It was agreed that this would be investigated.

4.0 HAPPY VALLEY

4.1 A member asked if issues with the Bowling Club had been resolved.

The Town Clerk said they had not, but this was a matter that Council had decided would be dealt with in a full meeting rather than by a Sub-Committee.

4.2 A member said he had seen a person in hi-vis clothing inspecting play equipment in Happy Valley.

The Town Clerk said that this had been an independent inspection of the play equipment which had been organised by the Administrative Assistant. The independent inspection of the equipment was welcomed. The age and amount of play equipment in Happy Valley was discussed and it was felt there was a need for some improvement. A member asked if individuals could embark on a fund-raising exercise. It was agreed that this would be possible but there was also the possibility of grant funding or direct capital expenditure by the Council. This could be looked at following agreement of the Rates Estimates.

4.3 The Town Clerk reported winter work that had been carried out at Happy Valley.

Substantial work had been carried out on the Pavilion including re-felting of the entire roof and fitting new soffits, the refurbishment of the toilets and the

construction of a new entrance step. The hedge at the far end of Happy Valley had been cut back by a few feet, and now looked in a much tidier condition. The main entrance gates had been removed, rubbed down, welded and repainted. They were due to be refitted in the near future.

On a more general level, all strimmers and mowers had been serviced in-house by Council staff, and some 32 benches had been cleaned and painted over the winter.

4.4 A member asked about responsibility for cutting the grassed area in front of the David Hughes Centre.

It was stated that the David Hughes Centre was responsible for the maintenance of this area. The Town Council was responsible for maintaining the old town pumps, and these were due to be repainted in the spring.

5.0 THE TOWN HALL

5.1 The Town Clerk reported that the main focus of attention had been on the Archway toilets.

The cubicle panels had been repaired and new locks fitted, the walls and ceilings had been painted and the floors cleaned with power washers. Whilst the hand dryer in the ladies toilet was working, it was less powerful than the one in the gents and he felt this needed replacing. In the gents toilet, past use of bleach on the urinal meant that this was stained and could not be brought up to a good standard. He had discussed this matter with staff and it was felt that the easiest option would be to replace the unit like-for-like since this would not necessitate alterations to the rest of the plumbing.

Recommendation to the Finance and Planning Committee:

The urinal trough in the gents toilet be replaced with a similar new one, and a new hand dryer be purchased for the ladies toilet.

5.2 The Chairman asked if there had been any progress with the replacement front doors on the Town Hall.

The Town Clerk said that planning permission had now been obtained, but building regulations consent was required. This would be obtained after a final specification had been agreed with a contractor. One company had been brought in by the architect prior to the submission of the planning application, and he was trying to contact this company. Once the specification had been drawn up, this would then go out to tender.

5.3 In relation to the new fire escape, the local Fire Authority had been asked to carry out an inspection of the building.

Generally, he was pleased to report that the procedures and documentation held by the Town Council was satisfactory. A few problems had been noted and one of them had been dealt with on the day by Snowdonia Fire Protection, the company engaged to maintain equipment and advise on procedures.

5.4 Other work carried out on the Town Hall included the repair of two leaks in the roof, one above the Council Chamber and the other above the kitchen.

The wall in the kitchen is being repaired and a small section would soon be repainted.

Door closers were still required on the toilet doors and an improvement to the bolt on the security door was needed.

A small storage cupboard was due to be refurbished.

6.0 BEATING THE BOUNDS 2014

The Chairman said this was an important event that would take place on Monday 26 May, and a lot of preparation was required. Initially this included contacting the landowners and issuing the declaration. Nearer to the time, paths would need to be cleared and refreshments and facilities for walkers on the day would have to be provided.

The Town Clerk said that he had a list of notes that had been prepared for previous events as well as the statutory declaration used in 2007, and copies of service sheets.

It was noted that for previous Beating the Bounds events a Sub-Committee had been set up to sort out the arrangements.

Recommendation to the Finance and Planning Committee:

That a Sub-Committee be established for the Beating the Bounds event 2014
Members of the public should be co-opted to this Committee to ensure its success.

The Town Clerk read out the standard statutory declaration and the press release issued in 2007. This gave an outline of the route and details of the main events of the day.

A member asked if the Beating the Bounds event was another opportunity to ask for the reinstatement of Borough status for Beaumaris. This would be in name only, without the usual statutory powers. It had been reported in the press that Anglesey was to be merged with Gwynedd to form one County Council, thus an application at this time might be successful. It was noted that past efforts had failed.

Recommendation to the Finance and Planning Committee:

An attempt be made to regain Borough status in name only for Beaumaris.

7.0 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the Chairman would liaise with the Town Clerk and call a meeting as necessary.