

Boverton Road Regeneration Project Sub-Committee report of meeting held on Wednesday, 7th May, 2014, at 10am, in the Heritage Centre, Town Hall, Llantwit Major.

Present; Councillor G John – Chairman

 Councillors M Mason
 Mrs S Hanks
 Mrs P Lancaster

Apologies

Councillor Mrs A Knight

Declaration of Interest forms. There were none.

Councillor G. John welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Report of last meeting held on 11th February 2014

Committee members had previously been circulated with a copy of the report from the Boverton Road Regeneration Committee meeting held 11th February 2014. Noted.

Update with regards situation on ‘handing’ back’ lights and area

Committee members had previously been circulated with copies of emails received from SWALEC in relation to handing over the ownership of the lights back to the landowners. Councillor John reminded members that a letter had been sent to all landowners informing them that the Town Council will no longer take responsibility for the up keep or maintenance of the area along Boverton Road. With effect from 1st April 2014 the lights, column etc will be handed back to them. If they wished for an inspection of their areas, prior to this to contact the Town Council office, as per advice received from Vale of Glamorgan contractor. To date no landowner had requested a site inspection, and only two had been in contact regarding the lights, one asking for a landowners committee to be formed and the other stating they would not be prepared to pay for the lighting and will therefore be instructing SWALEC to turn theirs off. The landowner who wished to form a committee had been forwarded contact details for all other landowners. It is hoped that all details will be forwarded to SWALEC by the relevant owners.

To discuss way forward in relation to Llanilltud Fawr in Flower and monies

Committee members had previously been circulated with a copy of a meeting which had taken place between the Town Clerk and Mrs T Benfield from Llanilltud Fawr in Flower on 30th January 2012, and the subsequent Minute page where the report was ratified and adopted by Full Town Council. Councillor John informed members that there was concern that now the area had been handed back to the owners, the Town Council does not want to be seen to be part of the frontage. This would not happen if the gardener/handy person is seen watering the baskets. The Town Clerk reminded members that as stated in the report from 30th January 2012, the Town Council agreed to give Llanilltud Fawr in Flower 6 months’

notice should they wish to stop watering the flowers. Committee members discussed the best way forward and it was;

RESOLVED: That a meeting be arranged between Councillor John, Councillor Mrs Lancaster (as one of the Town Council representative on Llanilltud Fawr in Flower), Mrs T Benfield (Chair of Llanilltud Fawr in Flower), and the Town Clerk to discuss a way forward, with the suggestions that the Town Council looks to support Llanilltud Fawr in Flower with a grant of a maximum £450 for 3 years to 2018, from the Boverton Road fund. This will allow them to employ someone to take over the watering of the flowers. The new Council of 2018 could then negotiate with the Committee how to proceed for the following year.

Further

RESOLVED: That at the meeting a suggestion be put forward to look at the Vale Volunteer Bureau. It should also be mentioned that the bowser would no longer be able to be stored in our garage should they employ someone.

Further

RESOLVED: That subject to permission from the Full Town Council the Town Clerk look into the costings for purchasing a bowser to continue the watering of flowers on the Town Hall and Old School.

**Report from the meeting held with Mrs T Benfield, Llanilltud Fawr in Flower, on Tuesday
13th May 2014, following the recommendation from Boverton Road Regeneration
Committee meeting 7th May 2014**

Present; Councillor G John
 Councillor Mrs P Lancaster
 Mrs T Benfield – Chair of Llanilltud Fawr in Flower
 Mrs R Quinn – Town Clerk

Councillor John thanked Mrs Benfield for attending the meeting and explained that the Boverton Road Regeneration Committee had held a series of meetings regarding the future of Boverton Road. When the project first started we were initially only a go between for the landowners, grant providers, Vale of Glamorgan Council and contractors. Unfortunately due to a number of issues this role had continued and became a larger role than first envisaged.

Over the past couple of months the Town Council has written to all the landowners within the project area and informed them that the Town Council were no longer going to be involved in the area and as of 1st April 2014 their areas would become their responsibility, including columns, posts, paving etc, this also includes covering the cost of the electricity supplying the lighting columns.

Councillor John continued that we have also received a number of requests from other businesses within the Town to water their hanging baskets, as they see the gardener/handyman watering along Boverton Road and assume he will do theirs as well.

Following the last Boverton Road Regeneration Committee meeting held on 7th May 2014, the Committee are recommending to the Full Town Council that as per our agreement the Gardener/handyman continues to water the flower for this year, but for the following 3 years Llanilltud Fawr in Flower submit a grant application for a maximum of £450 to cover the cost of employing someone to water the flowers. This works out at approximately 51 days watering between June and September, so there is some flexibility on the amount to be paid. After the 3 years Llanilltud Fawr in Flower would have to negotiate with the new incoming Council.

Mrs Benfield expressed concern regarding any repairs required to either the watering bollards or the brackets from which the baskets hang. Councillor John informed Mrs Benfield that as the Town Council does not own this land they would not take any responsibility for these repairs, this is up to individual landowners. The Town Clerk agreed to supply Mrs Benfield with a list of landowners contact details.

Councillor Mrs Lancaster stated that perhaps the Committee could consider approaching the Vale Volunteer Bureau. Mrs Benfield stated that her Committee did not have the manpower to cover the watering of the baskets, and she did not feel it fair to ask any of her members to commit more time to watering them. She informed those present that

Llanilltud Fawr in Flower covers the insurance for the baskets, but this did not cover the posts etc. Without the support of the Town Council in watering, there would be no flowers.

Councillor John assured Mrs Benfield the Town Council does support the flowers, as he believes they make the area, but the Town Council cannot continue to water the flowers and take responsibility for an area that they do not own. Mrs Benfield asked that if the Town Council did own the area would they water the flowers then. The Town Clerk confirmed that yes they would, but we do not own the area in question.

Mrs Benfield stated that previously she had asked Tony Bennett to look into the possibility of installing an automatic watering system for the baskets. He had stated that it would not be cost effective to do as it was in the region of £4,000. The Town Clerk assured Mrs Benfield that Tony Bennett had spoken to the contractor who had overseen Boverton Road, and he stated that to lay the system it would involve raising the paving slabs and this would cause inconvenience to members of the public and possibly damage to the slabs.

Councillor John informed Mrs Benfield that the reason this was being discussed now was to give plenty of notice for her and her committee to look into alternative possibilities. The Town Clerk added that storage would also have to be found for the bowser. Mrs Benfield stated that a new 'shed' was being sited inside the garden area of Colston and Colston so it could be stored there. The Town Clerk reminded her that it would also need charging 3 times a week for approximately an hour, Mrs Benfield stated that she was sure this could also be done from there.

Mrs Benfield thanked Councillor John and Councillor Mrs Lancaster for giving this amount of notice and agreed to take the recommendation to her next committee meeting.