FM Agenda Item. 4.

St Melyd Golf Club

The Paddock Meliden Road Prestatyn
Denbighshire LL19 8NB
Tel: 01745 854405 *e-mail: office@stmelydgolf.co.uk*
Website: www.stmelydgolf.co.uk

Mr. N. Acott
Town Clerk/Financial Officer
Prestatyn Town Council
7 Nant Hall Road
Prestatyn
Denbighshire
LL19 9LR

PRESTATYN
-9 MAR 2005
TOWN COUNCIL

March 5th 2105

Dear Mr Acott

Disabled Toilets

Thank you for your recent letter.

I am pleased to advise that the above project has now been agreed and work will commence on March 23rd. Should you wish to inspect the finished project then could I ask you to contact me sometime after Easter and I will gladly agree a suitable time for you to visit.

I apologise on behalf of the Club for the delay in completion of this project which has largely been down to agreeing the final position of the facility.

I look forward to hearing from you should you wish to visit the Club.

Yours sincerely,

Ceri Evans, Miss
Club Secretary

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Fm Agenda Item 5

24c Stryd y Coleg
Rhydaman
Sir Gaerfyrddin
SA18 3AF

Ffôn: 01269 595400
Ffacs: 01269 598510

Un Llais Cymru

One Voice Wales

24c College Street
Ammanford
Carmarthenshire
SA18 3AF

Phone: 01269 595400
Fax: 01269 598510

RECEIVED
-3 FEB 2015
PRESTATYN TOWN COUNCIL

Mr Nigel Acott, Clerk
Prestatyn Town Council
7 Nant Hall Road
Prestatyn
Denbighshire
LL19 9LN

2nd February 2015

Dear Chair,

Membership of One Voice Wales 2015-16

I am writing to invite your council to renew its membership or join One Voice Wales from April 2015. Once again, the past year has seen many positive developments to our services, many of which are outlined in this letter, which we believe add significantly to the value for money offered by One Voice Wales membership.

We continue to represent the sector on the ***Local Government Partnership Council***, where we ensure that the role of community and town councils is considered in all relevant matters. One Voice Wales is increasing its contributions to public policy developments through our representation on several Welsh Government advisory panels including the ***Future Generations Bill Advisory Panel, National Assets Working Group***, Community Asset Transfer Working Groupand ***Welsh Government Cynefin Place Leadership Board.*** One Voice Wales is playing an ever increasing role in the development of policy for the sector sitting on the Planning Bill advisory group and we work closely with a range of other bodies including the ***Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales, Independent Remuneration Panel, Public Services Ombudsman and Wales Audit Office***. So our influence continues to grow.

There are exciting and challenging times ahead for Community and Town Councils in Wales and again one of my main aims over the coming year will be to continue to develop our lobbying and representational roles. In the last year we have submitted responses to the ***Planning Bill consultations, Local Government White Paper*** and made representations to the ***Minister for Public Services*** during our regular briefing sessions on a range of matters but importantly on the devolution of services and assets agenda. During 2014-15 we have increased our ***representational role*** and through One Voice Wales many councillors across Wales are increasingly able to provide their views across a wide range of policy areas to support our lobbying activities and ***influence government and stakeholder organisations*** in their decision-making including representation on health trust stakeholder forums. These developments have improved and further developed our representational and lobbying roles and we will seek to further develop in 2015-16.

Some of our other accomplishments over the past 12 months include:

- Completed **Climate Change Project** with NRW and Cynnal Cymru
- Held our second ***Larger Councils Conference***; held our second ***joint training conference*** with the ***SLCC*** (Society of Local Council Clerks)

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- Developed a number of ***new collaborations*** including ***NEA Cymru and delivered training seminars on fuel poverty; held a seminar with PLANED in Pembrokeshire on asset transfer and devolution of services and ran two seminars with Wales Audit Office on Land Transfer and Asset Devolution***; additionally successfully completed a Climate Adaptation project with Cardiff University funded via an Environment Wales grant
- ***Area Committees*** continue to play an influential role locally, with many appointments to Local Service Boards, Local Development Plan Stakeholder Groups, Rural Development Partnerships, Standards Committees and the like now being proposed by Area Committees. One Voice Wales has become much more visible at the local level

We will, of course, continue to provide, develop and update the following:

- **Provision of free legal advice** from a team of experienced Solicitors which can save members significant time and cost compared with using local solicitors for advice (These savings can in many cases exceed the membership that is payable
- ***Quality and timely advice and support service*** on topics that is relevant to member councils.
- ***Training*** for members and staff, including policy seminars and new working opportunities.
- ***General information via our website including a members' area***.
- Quarterly editions of our newsletter ***"The Voice".***
- ***Representation*** of the sector on the Local Government Partnership Council.
- Create ***new opportunities for collaboration*** with national organisations across Wales.

The training and development agenda is another area where much progress has been made during 2014-15. Under the auspices of the ***National Training Advisory Group***, chaired by One Voice Wales, we have continued to refine and develop and extend our training provision to the community and town council sector including a successful bid to Welsh Government for support to update and improve the content of our training materials. Once again the breadth of our training programme has been extended and will be available to members throughout the year
Furthermore our ***Consultancy Services*** have been growing at a pace with many councils taking advantage of this service. We are increasingly able to provide 'One Stop Shop' solutions for our members and have supported our councils on ***community planning exercises, accountancy*** *and* ***internal audit, HR*** and **personnel matters including representation at Industrial Tribunals**, assisted in ***policy development and health and safety*** – and at ***costs significantly below market rates***. Please contact the Ammanford Office if you would like further details on how we can support you through these services.

I hope that this summary of current and future developments has demonstrated that One Voice Wales continues to do all it can to represent the sector and provide a high class information and support service for our members.

In order for your council to continue to have a voice in the future of this vital sector of local government, and to benefit from the support provided by One Voice Wales, please complete the enclosed Membership Form and return to Tracy Gilmartin-Ward at our office in Ammanford. If you have any further queries relating to membership, please contact the office on 01269 595400 or email: admin@onevoicewales.org.uk

I trust that your Council will give this invitation full consideration and I hope to be able to welcome you into membership shortly. I look forward to working with your council in 2015-16.

Yours sincerely,

L Cadwallader

Lyn Cadwallader
Chief Executive

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Area: Denbigh Council: Prestatyn ID: 1233 / North

ONE VOICE WALES
The Voice of Community & Town Councils
Membership Form

Please enter all details in block letters and return original form for our records

Date: .....

I write to inform you that my Council has decided to join One Voice Wales for 2015/16

Clerk to the Council Mr / Mrs / Ms / Miss (Delete as applicable)

Signed: ..... Please print name: .....

Name & Address of Council - Enter any amendments clearly alongside

Mr Nigel Acott, Clerk
Prestatyn Town Council
7 Nant Hall Road
Prestatyn
Denbighshire
LL19 9LN

Tel No: 01745 857185

E-mail address: nigel.acott@prestatyntc.co.uk

Website:

Please inform us if any of the above details change

Please tick the preferred language for future correspondence:

☐ Welsh ☐ English ☐ Bilingual

Membership Fee: **£2456**

Based on **8900** chargeable dwellings @ **0.276p** per dwelling
(Based on Valuation List, not Electoral Register)

Please make cheque payable to **One Voice Wales**
Bank details - Account number: 16689360 Sort code: 30-94-85

Please return the form to the following address:
One Voice Wales, 24c College Street, Ammanford, Carmarthenshire, SA18 3AF

e-mail: admin@onevoicewales.org.uk Tel: 01269 595400 Fax: 01269 598510

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Fm Agenda Item 6.
Extracted Copy

Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

www.cymru.gov.uk

Devolution, Democracy and Delivery

Reforming Local Government: Power to Local People (Everyday summary version)

Date of issue: 3 February 2015
Responses by: 23:59 on 28 April 2015

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Overview

The White Paper Reforming Local Government: Power to Local People is the Welsh Government's statement of intent about the future of Local Government in Wales. A White Paper sets out the changes the Welsh Government wants to make to the law so people can give their opinion before it happens.

This paper is a summary of the main changes we want to make, but it is not the White Paper itself. You can use it as the basis for making your views known but for the full detail you should refer to the White Paper which is available on the Welsh Government website: http://wales.gov.uk/consultations/localgovernment/power-to-local-people/?lang=en.

How to respond

This consultation covers a large number of matters. Many are of interest to the general public but some are technical and may only to be of interest to Local Authorities. We have designed a web-based consultation survey in order to make both collecting and analysing responses easier.

You may choose to address all the issues raised by this White Paper or to complete a shorter version of the survey which focuses on the main matters of public interest. You will be able to choose your preferred option when you start the survey. A Word version is also available but we encourage you to use the online survey.

To respond to the consultation please either complete the online form or request the accompanying survey and return it

either by email to RLGProgramme@wales.gsi.gov.uk

or by post to Reforming Local Government
Welsh Government
Cathays Park
Cardiff
CF10 3NQ

Further information and related documents

The full White Paper and a youth friendly version are available on the Welsh Government website.

Large print, Braille and alternative language versions of this document are available on request.

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Ministerial Foreword – Our Vision for Local Government in Wales

If you visit the Gwent Archives at their magnificent new facility in the General Offices of the former steelworks in Ebbw Vale, you can read the minutes of the Tredegar Workmen's Medical Aid Society where Councillor Aneurin Bevan and his colleagues sought to put in place co-operative health solutions for their local community. These records are a reminder that at its best, Local Government in Wales has always had an activist nature, engaging co-operatively with local communities to find collective solutions.

We want all our Councils to be activist Councils, engaged in delivering modern, accessible, high quality public services with their communities. As we have developed our plans, we have looked at the best international experience, and drawn on the experiences of the co-operative councils movement in the UK. But we should never forget that Wales has always pioneered co-operative models, both in Aneurin Bevan's time and today. In 11 Local Authorities in Wales, tenants voted for community mutual or social enterprise solutions for the management of their social housing. The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 legislates for the creation of co-operative and mutual models in social care.

In this White Paper, we set out the terms of a new deal for Local Government in Wales. More than 15 years after the establishment of the National Assembly, it is time to recast the relationship between National and Local Government in Wales. Our new deal for Local Government, based on a smaller number of stronger Councils, will result in National Government in Wales setting a small number of clear national priorities, following the passage of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Bill, enabling Local Government to determine with local people the bulk of local priorities.

We recognise that Local Government in Wales is currently under severe pressure as a result of UK Government austerity policies and rising demand for services. This is not an easy time for anyone in Local Government, whether they are Councillors or Council workers. It is therefore critical that we allow Local Government to focus on key priorities and learn from the best practice – tried and trusted as well as innovative – in improving the delivery of services across Wales.

Meanwhile, we must ensure local Councils are wholly representative of local communities. We need a far more diverse range of Councillors. There is a direct challenge to the leadership of Local Government to ensure this. Local Councils that reflect local communities are more likely to achieve the trust of those communities when difficult decisions have to be taken by local leadership. We should be making it easier for new people to enter Local Government at Town or Community and Principal Council level. We must ensure the system of allowances for Councillors does not mean that Cabinet Members and those with senior responsibility payments simply become another part of the paid bureaucracy. We should be seeking to reduce the cost of politics and management in Local Government.

At a time when public service organisations all around the world are learning that the old ways of doing things are not sufficient for the future, Wales has the opportunity to leap beyond others if our minds are open to the possibility. If we want to reshape our public services,

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and reshape our localities, then we need to see strong, adaptive leadership across all our public services, including Local Government.

We are ambitious for Local Government in Wales, and for our local communities. This White Paper sets out our vision for Local Government in Wales, and explains how we will take these proposals forward.

Leighton Andrews AM
Minister for Public Services

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4. Connecting with Communities

Wales has always had strong communities, where people get involved and make things happen. Sometimes, they find it difficult to get involved because they're not told about decisions until the last minute. This means people often only get involved when there is a threat of closing a service or closing a community facility, such as a library or leisure centre. This results in lost opportunities for communities to take charge of things themselves.

Councillors are chosen to represent their area through Council elections, and then they make decisions on our behalf. This is called 'representative democracy'. But we expect more these days. We pay for local services through our taxes and we expect to have a say more often than every four years when there are Council elections. We expect to be able to participate in all decisions which affect us. This is called 'participatory democracy'.

Councils have not always been very good at helping people to get involved. This must change. In their community leadership role, Councils and Councillors need to be putting people and their views at the centre of everything they do.

4.1 Community governance in Wales

Community governance is the way people in local areas or neighbourhoods organise themselves and manage their services and assets they hold. There are different ways of doing this:

- Council area committees;
- Community Councils;
- Partnerships between public services and voluntary groups;
- Community trusts and social enterprises; or
- Programme partnerships, such as Communities First.

There are already many of these groups working in communities and sometimes it can be difficult for them to make their voice heard and to influence Council decisions. We believe Councillors should have a strong role leading their communities and we are proposing there should be a new system to help do this.

4.2 Councillor-led community governance

With fewer, larger Councils, it is essential that communities play a greater role than at present. We believe the new Councils when they are working with communities should be divided into smaller areas, and a community partnership called an Area Board set up in each of these. The Council should decide the size and shape of these smaller areas after talking with local people and other public services.

The Area Boards should be led by the Councillors for that area acting together, but they must involve charities, community bodies, social enterprises and other public services, including Community Councils. The meetings of these Area Boards must be held in public, and everybody who lives in the area should have the right to speak, so that the Board can take notice of their views and concerns.

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The purpose of these Boards is to shape the local community by changing the way services are delivered there. The Board will be able to call the officers of the Council to explain themselves if services are not up to scratch. They should also help community groups when they want to take charge of local facilities, such as a community centre or playing fields. There's also an opportunity for Area Boards to take responsibility for new ideas and initiatives in their area, including those funded by UK and Welsh Government programmes.

Councils will have to understand that these Area Boards are really important and support them with all the resources they need to carry out their day-to-day roles.

4.3 Community Councils

There are 735 Community Councils in Wales. Community Councils work at the town or village level and some serve a very small area. We believe this is too many and the smaller ones simply don't have the resources to get much done. One strength of Community Councils is that they're closer to local people, however, they aren't always open and don't always involve the public they serve. In principle they are democratic bodies and for this reason they can raise local taxes, but in reality there is no competition for the vast majority of seats in Community Council elections.

4.4 Local Authorities review of Community Councils

There's a lot of good work that Community Councils do. However, we think there is a clear case for making changes. We want Community Councils to be more ambitious and work in partnership with other community groups. We want them to be open about the decisions they are making and involve the people in their area. We need them to see themselves as part of public services in Wales, and be more actively involved in work that support families, children and young people and other vulnerable groups like older people.

They can only do this, if there are fewer, larger Community Councils. Some of the smaller Community Councils should look at joining together to form larger Community Councils that look after wider areas. In order to achieve this, we want to give Local Authorities the power to review the Community Councils in their area and with a view to reducing the overall number, and for them to complete this work by 2022.

4.5 Governance and standards

As well as changes to Community Council areas, the public needs to know there are standards for how Community Councils manage their business and how public money is spent and accounted for. We want to have a set of tests that Community Councils have to pass to be seen as capable and competent.

Councils that pass these tests will have extra rights and responsibilities. They will have wider powers to do things for the benefit of their community. Those that don't pass the tests should look to do so by joining with another smaller Community Council to form fewer, larger Community Councils.

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4.6 Community Councillors serving on more than one Council

Almost half the Councillors on the main Councils are also Community Councillors. This could cause conflicts of interest when main Councils are conducting reviews of Community Councils. Also, some people serve on more than one Community Council as well as being a Councillor of the main Council.

We want your views about whether we should prevent the same person serving on a main Council and a Community Council, and on more than one Community Council.

We want:

- Councillors to be actively involved in their communities and Area Boards;
- Councillors to have an open door, listening to people's needs;
- Councils to work together with other services, voluntary organisations and communities; and
- Councils to look at the Community Councils in their area and consider changes.

To read our full proposals for Connecting with Communities, please refer to Chapter 4 of the White Paper, *Reforming Local Government: Power to Local People*.

http://wales.gov.uk/consultations/localgovernment/power-to-local-people/?lang=en

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5. Power to Local Communities

Wales has a proud history of co-operatives and community or social enterprise, people who run a business not for personal profit but to help the community. There are many examples across Wales of small community trusts which run village halls, leisure centres and sports facilities. There are also many big examples, such as farmers' co-operatives and housing associations, as well as major companies like Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water and the Principality Building Society. In fact, the social housing in half all Council areas in Wales is now run by housing associations and tenants have a major role in running them.

We want to see more of this kind of social enterprise so that communities can have greater rights to decide how things work and people can be involved in the decisions which affect them.

5.1 Community participation

Sometimes people get frustrated because the service they're getting is not good enough and they know it could be improved, often with small changes. We believe that if a community group feels that a service could be improved, they should have a right to approach the Council, set out all their ideas and plans, and get involved in improving the service. In some cases, this could mean the community group taking over the service and running it themselves.

We believe this could be a powerful way for community groups to make sure their voice is listened to. Council staff will need to develop skills to work in new ways and it may take a culture change in leadership.

5.2 Transferring Council property to the community

Councils own lots of buildings, land and property, such as offices, halls, libraries, leisure centres and playing fields. These are known as 'assets'. In these difficult financial times, Councils may no longer afford to keep them and they may want to sell them or get somebody else to run them up. However, they don't always ask the community for their views and whether they would like to take it on themselves.

We believe community groups should have the right to approach the Council and propose that they take over an asset for the benefit of the community. This could mean selling the asset to the community group (at the market rate or below) or the community group may wish to run and manage it for a period of years. We would expect the new Area Boards to help community groups where there was community support for taking over Council property. The Welsh Government has produced a toolkit setting out how to transfer assets successfully.

As well as being able to show support for their plans, community groups would need to have a legal structure with the right skills and financial controls in place. There would need to be safeguards so that the asset remained in the community and was not sold for profit.

For example: Torfaen Council transferred three sports and leisure centres over to a community trust to run and it means the community got to keep using these. Other Councils let community trusts run libraries, so they don't have to close.

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5.3 Community ownership

Communities may also want to have more say over property which is privately owned, such as a village pub or shop or playing fields, or owned by other public services. This kind of property has a special value to the community and can often play an important role in making sure communities thrive, by providing jobs and services for local people. In some areas they can be important for protecting the Welsh language.

The Welsh Government believes community groups should have a right of first refusal when property of community value comes up for sale. They would normally have to buy the property at market value but they would have a period of time in which to raise the funding. There could be an accelerated procedure for property that has been neglected or abandoned. There would need to be certain protections for private property owners.

We are seeking your initial views on this proposal, with a view to consulting further in due course.

We want:

- community groups to have rights and powers they can use; and
- community groups to actively take part in change.

To read our full proposals for Power to Local Communities, please refer to Chapter 5 of the White Paper, *Reforming Local Government: Power to Local People*.

http://wales.gov.uk/consultations/localgovernment/power-to-local-people/?lang=en

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