



Cyngor Tref Rhydaman
Ammanford Town Council

Minutes of the EMERGENCY EXTRAORDINARY MEETING of Ammanford Town Council held on 15th May 2025 in Ammanford Town Hall and via MS Teams

Meeting commenced at 18:00

The Mayor, Cllr. Heulwen Howells presided over the meeting.
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Present:

- Cllr Heulwen Howells (Mayor)
- Cllr Anthony Jones
- Cllr Johnny Owen
- Cllr Clare Hope
- Cllr Llio Davies
- Cllr Colin Evans
- Cllr Nigel Morgan
- Cllr Emyr John

Also Present:

- Mrs Sara Murray – Interim Clerk
- Ms Jayne Grazette – Interim Deputy Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer (RFO)

Apologies for Absence:

- Cllr Maria Griffiths
- Cllr Calum Higgins

Declarations of Interest:

- Cllr Heulwen Howells declared an interest as her spouse is an employee of Carmarthenshire County Council.

1. Update on Current Position Regarding Ammanford Town Hall

The Mayor provided an overview of the current situation and the urgency behind holding this emergency meeting. The Interim Clerk had reported that Carmarthenshire County Council caretakers were seen removing boards and other items from the hallway of the Town Hall. It was emphasised that the Council has been advised that **30th June 2025** is the final date for access to the building.

The Mayor noted that a letter had been sent to Joyce Watson MS, but no response had yet been received.

The Mayor asked Councillors to consider urgent action, given that there are just five weeks remaining before the deadline, and this was the final full council meeting of the month.

2. Discussion on Alternative Premises

Cllr Clare Hope noted that councilors had previously decided staff should not begin searching for properties independently. However, she and the Mayor had visited several properties. While the town library had been offered, it was deemed unsuitable as the Council would not have control over the premises.

Four properties were reviewed, but only one was considered potentially viable. Unfortunately, the landlord has yet to respond. Other properties were dismissed due to issues such as dampness.

Councillors reiterated their disappointment with **Carmarthenshire County Council**, particularly with the lack of consultation and formal process involving the Town Council.

Cllr Anthony Jones also raised concerns over the removal of the Ammanford Town Council **Crest** from the Council Chambers in the Town Hall, expressing deep disappointment.

Resolutions Passed

The following actions were resolved unanimously:

- A letter will be sent to **Wendy Walters**, Chief Executive of Carmarthenshire County Council, and **Jonathan Edwards MP**, Member of Parliament for Carmarthen East and Dinefwr.
 - The letter requests a formal meeting to discuss the situation.
 - It will include a request to reconsider the 30th June deadline.
 - It will detail the properties assessed and explain why they are unsuitable (e.g., due to dampness, access issues, or lack of control).
 - It will highlight the Town Council's proactive efforts in seeking alternatives.
- Legal advice will be sought from a solicitor to clarify the Town Council's legal position and whether there are grounds to challenge the County Council's actions.
 - **Proposer:** Cllr Anthony Jones
 - **Seconded:** Cllr Clare Hope
 - **All in favour**

2. Future Operational Options

- The Mayor and Cllr Clare Hope gave an update on the search for properties.
- Staff were asked if they would be willing to **work from home temporarily**.
 - A **Work from Home allowance** will be considered.
 - The Council will provide the necessary **office equipment**.
- The compound was discussed as possible temporary office space.

3. Way Forward Agreed

- The Council's **photocopier** will be sold, as it will no longer be required.
- A **press release** will be prepared and issued after a response is received from Carmarthenshire County Council.
- On **23rd May**, staff will begin **clearing the storeroom**, disposing of items no longer needed.
- The Council will explore acquiring licenses to allow its **main phone number to be redirected** to laptops.
 - **Proposer:** Cllr Clare Hope
 - **Seconded:** Cllr Anthony Jones
 - **All in favour**

Meeting closed at 19:29

Signed:

Dated:

DRAFT