

**CARMARTHEN TOWN COUNCIL**  
**FINANCE COMMITTEE**  
**7.30pm 14 JANUARY 2021**  
**VIA VIDEO LINK**

The meeting was held in accordance with the Local Authorities (Coronavirus) (Meetings) (Wales) Regulations 2020, enabling meetings of local authorities held before 1 May 2021 to be held by means of remote attendance.

The meeting was chaired by Cllr Tom Defis.

**PRESENT:** Cllrs: Julia Ault, Tom Defis, Peter Hughes Griffiths, Gareth John, Alun Lenny, Ken Lloyd, Ioan Matthews, Miriam Moules, Emlyn Schiavone, Jeff Thomas, Matthew Thomas, Wyn Thomas and Barry Williams.

**187. Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr's Arwel Lloyd and Phil Grice.

**188. Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Ken Lloyd declared an interest in Agenda Item 5e as a Trustee to Oriel Myrddin. Cllr Emlyn Schiavone declared an interest in Agenda Item 5e as a Trustee to Oriel Myrddin and Dr M'z.

**189. Matters arising from minutes of the previous Finance Committee Meeting 12 November 2020**

None

**190.To authorise the signing of the Order for Payment of Accounts Schedule for January 2021**

Invoices were available before and during the meeting for Members' inspection.

It was proposed by Cllr Wyn Thomas and seconded by Cllr Gareth John and **RESOLVED** that the accounts included in the schedule submitted and amounting to £43,650.35 for the month of January 2021 be hereby approved and that the schedule be signed by two Members of Council and the Clerk as authority for payment of the respective sums.

## Town Clerk's Report

### 191. Financial Report

The Town Clerk updated Council's bank balances as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020 as follows:

|                           | £                 |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| HSBC Current Account      | 278,897.27        |
| HSBC Reserve Account      | 115,570.62        |
| <b>Total Cash in Bank</b> | <b>394,467.89</b> |

- Gross expenditure for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April to the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020 totalled £564,265.
- Income for the same period, including the Park Tea Shop, totalled £88,640. The overall net expenditure is therefore £475,625.
- The Net Budget/Precept requirement for 2020/21 is £768,848 and, based on a nine-month period (April to December) a net expenditure of £576,636 would be expected. Members will note from the above that Council is within Budget as at the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020.
- The third and final instalment of the precept amounting to £256,216 was received on the 24th December 2020.

#### Balances in Other Accounts on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020:

- |                            |   |            |
|----------------------------|---|------------|
| • Mayor's Allowance        | - | £ 5,040.64 |
| • Mayor's Fun Run          | - | £ 6,959.75 |
| • Carmarthen Park Tea Shop | - | £20,367.64 |

The Town Clerk's report was **NOTED**.

### 192. Schedule of Monthly Income

The schedule was **NOTED**.

### 193. Schedule of Debtors

The schedule was **NOTED**.

### 194. Quarterly Bank Reconciliation

It was proposed by Cllr Emlyn Schiavone, seconded by Cllr Ken Lloyd and **RESOLVED** that the respective bank reconciliations for the two principal bank accounts (for the month of December 2020) and the Tea Shop account (October 2020) was correct and be accepted.

## 195. Draft Town Council Budget 2021/22

A report with relevant supporting information had been circulated to all Members before the meeting, and the Clerk took Members through the report. A lengthy discussion took place whilst considering the Council budget proposals and level of precept for 2021/22.

**The total projected level of Council expenditure and income for 2021/22 is £885.441 respectively.** The expenditure consists of revenue expenditure, capital expenditure, community benefits (grants) and town centre activities and events. The income includes the council precept and money received from the sale and hire of Council good and services.

Following discussion by Members the following capital projects are proposed during 2021/22:

|  |   |                |
|--|---|----------------|
| a) Parc Hinds – Inclusive play equipment & construction of access road | - | 20,000         |
| b) Penllwyn Park – Inclusive play equipment                            | - | 10,000         |
| c) New CCTV camera unit at Carmarthen Park                             | - | 4,000          |
| d) Disabled toilet in the foyer of St Peter's Civic Hall               | - | 10,000         |
| e) Mower deck for maintenance/grass cutting                            | - | 3,000          |
| f) Mower for the cemetery  | - | 2,000          |
| g) Upgrade of Skate Park   | - | 14,473         |
| h) Repainting of lane lines at the velodrome                           | - | 4,800          |
| i) Purchase of Pressure Washer   | - | 3,000          |
| <u>Total capital budget requirement</u>                                | - | <u>£71,273</u> |

### Un-earmarked Reserves

Un-earmarked reserves are financial reserves set aside for emergency use and not designated for use for any specific purpose other than an unforeseen emergency. In January 2018 Council resolved to retain £100,000 as un-earmarked reserves.

### Carmarthen Town Council Contributions to Events and Organisations:

| Annual Payments & Community Contributions       | £     |
|---|-------|
| Small Grants Fund (S 137 LGA)                   | 3,700 |
| Citizens Advice Bureau (S 142 LGA)              | 500   |
| Oriel Myrddin (S 145 LGA)                       | 3,700 |
| Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Cymru (S 145 LGA)       | 200   |
| Urdd National Eisteddfod (S 145 LGA)            | 200   |
| Llangollen international Eisteddfod (S 145 LGA) | 200   |
| Gwyl Cerdd Dant (S 145 LGA)                     | 200   |
| Carmarthen Youth Opera (S 145 LGA)              | 200   |
| Dr M'z (S 137 LGA)                              | 1,000 |

|   |               |
|---|---------------|
|   |               |
| <b>Sub total</b>  | <b>9,900</b>  |
|   |               |
|   |               |
| <b>Town Centre Activities (Power of Well-being, S 2 Local Government Act 2000</b> |               |
| Annual Sports Awards  | <b>1,000</b>  |
| Christmas Lights switch on  | <b>4,000</b>  |
| Christmas lights installation   | <b>15,000</b> |
| Replacement Christmas Lights  | <b>6,000</b>  |
| Reindeer Day  | <b>4,000</b>  |
| St David's Day  | <b>1,500</b>  |
| River Festival  | <b>2,000</b>  |
| <b>Gwyl Canol Dref</b>  | <b>2,000</b>  |
| Pride of Place Awards   | <b>500</b>    |
|   |               |
|   |               |
|   |               |
| <b>Sub total</b>  | <b>36,000</b> |
| <b>TOTAL</b>  | <b>45,900</b> |

**RECOMMENDATION:**

It was proposed by Cllr Ken Lloyd, seconded by Cllr Peter Hughes Griffiths and recommended that:

- i) the 'Un-earmarked Reserves' be increased to £150,000
- ii) all of the capital projects as listed on the schedule be approved in principle for consideration and approval by Council prior to implementation. All in agreement.
- iii) the list of expenditure on community contributions and events as presented at Annex A of the Finance Committee papers be accepted.

**RECOMMENDATION:** It was proposed by Cllr Emlyn Schiavone, seconded by Cllr Miriam Moules, and recommended that the draft budget be accepted and that an unchanged precept be implemented for 2021/22 – i.e. £779,129 including the tax base. All in agreement.

Members expressed their appreciation for the preparatory work carried out by Town Council staff for this meeting, and also for the circulation of the comprehensive backing data, including the spreadsheet demonstrating how all funds are allocated and how all of the budget figures are calculated.

**The meeting closed at 8.44 pm.**