**CARMARTHEN TOWN COUNCIL**

**MONTHLY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

**HELD ON 26TH OCTOBER 2016**

The Mayor, Cllr Wyn Thomas, presided over the monthly meeting of Carmarthen Town Council held in the Council Chamber, St Peter's Civic Hall, on Wednesday, 26th October 2016, at 7.30 pm.

PRESENT: Cllrs: Reverend Tom Defis, Dr Dewi Evans, Philip Grice,

Anthony Jenkins, Alun Lenny, Arwel Lloyd, Kenneth Lloyd,

Douglas Rose, Alan Speake, Wyn Thomas, and

Barry Williams

288. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Dorothy Bere, Dr Richard Edwards, Dr Baba Gana, Peter Hughes Griffiths, Angharad Jones Leefe, Dr Ioan Matthews, and Emlyn Schiavone.

289. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Alun Lenny declared an interest in agenda item 10, Planning Applications, as Chairman of Carmarthenshire County Council Planning Committee.

Cllr Philip Grice declared an interest in agenda items 5 (Matters arising from Council) and 19 (Reports from Councillors) as Council’s representative on the Dr Mz Youth Project Committee.

290. QUESTIONS

No questions were reported.

291. TO CONFIRM AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 28 SEPTEMBER 2016

 It was proposed by Cllr Philip Grice, seconded by Cllr Kenneth Lloyd, and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Council held on the 28th September 2016 be accepted as a true record.

292. MATTERS ARISING

(a) Minute 227(a): Community Education Centre, Furnace Road

 It was **NOTED** that a meeting of the Community Education Centre Management Committee has been arranged and will be attended by Cllrs Philip Grice and Wyn Thomas.

(b) Minute 234: Dr Mz Youth Project

 Members **NOTED** that Cllr Philip Grice would report on the Dr Mz Youth Project under agenda item 19 (Reports from Councillors).

293. TO CONFIRM AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE HELD ON 10 OCTOBER 2016

It was proposed by Cllr Reverend Tom Defis, seconded by Cllr Kenneth Lloyd, and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the monthly meeting of the Finance Committee held on the 10th October 2016 be signed and accepted as a true record.

294. TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS OR OTHER MATTERS ARISING

It was proposed by Cllr Philip Grice, seconded by Cllr Barry Williams, and **RESOLVED** that the following Finance Committee recommendations be approved:

(a) Minute 257: River Festival – Expenditure on Barriers

If no volunteers are available, Council staff could be asked to distribute and collect barriers at the Carmarthen River Festival.

(b) Minute 263: Audit Arrangements for 2016/17

Council appoints L. H. Phillips Chartered Accountants, Auditors and Advisors (6 Quay Street, Carmarthen, SA31 3JX) to scrutinise, and Lyn Llywelyn Audit Services to conduct an internal audit of Council’s annual accounts for 2016/17 prepared by Clive Evans, before submission of the accounts to Grant Thornton, External Auditors appointed by the Wales Audit Office.

(c) Minute 265: Date of 2017/18 Budget Meeting

General Purposes Committee Members will join the Finance Committee on the 12th January 2017 at 8.00 pm, to consider Council’s draft budget for 2017/18 in detail and prepare recommendations for Council to consider at the end of January.

(d) Minute 266: IT Upgrade

Council will purchase:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Item** | **Estimated Cost****£** |
| Windows 365: 8 users @ £7.80 per month per user | 748.80 |
| 22 inch monitors: 5 @ £100 | 500.00 |
| Lenovo laptops: up to 8 @ £429 | 3,432.00 |
| Microsoft Office licences: 8 @ £200 | 1,600.00 |
| **Total** | **£6,280.80** |
| **Plus one Apple Mac @ cost to be determined** |  |

(e) Minute 270: Applications for Funding

Council will donate £100 (one hundred pounds) to Shelter Cymru and £100 (one hundred pounds) to the Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution, and a reply will be awaited from St John Cymru.

295. TO CONFIRM AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON 11 OCTOBER 2016

It was proposed by Cllr Barry Williams, seconded by Cllr Alun Lenny, and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the monthly meeting of the General Purposes Committee held on the 11th October 2016 be signed and accepted as a true record.

296. TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS OR OTHER MATTERS ARISING

 It was proposed by Cllr Anthony Jenkins, seconded by Cllr Alan Speake, and **RESOLVED** that the following General Purposes Committee recommendations be approved:

(a) Minute 276: Carmarthen Cemetery – Additional CCTV

The proposed new electricity connection will not proceed at Carmarthen Cemetery, and the Town Clerk will investigate options for staff to have personal recorders (as supplied to traffic wardens).

(b) Minute 277: Carmarthen Park – Red Brick Shelter

The brick walls of the shelter in Carmarthen Park will be removed, leaving an open-sided structure, in order to discourage anti-social behaviour.

(c) Minute 279: IT Upgrade

This subject has already been resolved under minute 294(d).

(d) Minute 280: Hanging Baskets, Flower Towers and Barrier Baskets

* Council’s 2016 floral scheme be commended, and expanded from year to year, and
* Council will encourage schools and community groups to adopt other green spaces.

(e) Minute 282: Gŵyl Dewi Sant 2017

* the Town Council – in liaison with Menter Gorllewin Sir Gâr, schools and the other usual partners – will organise the St David’s Day activities on the 1st March, as in previous years
* the County Council will lead on the St David’s Parade, which will take place on the previous Saturday (25th February 2017), and terminate at Guildhall Square
* it was also proposed by Cllr Kenneth Lloyd, seconded by Cllr Douglas Rose, and **FURTHER RESOLVED** that purchase of banners, whilst approved in principle, be referred to the Finance Committee to determine the available budget

(f) Minute 283: Request from Calonnau Cymru/Welsh Hearts

Members commended the excellent work of this charity but, recalling that the Mayor has already committed to the Bandi Appeal[[1]](#footnote-1) that evening (via the Mayor’s Christmas Card competition), foresaw some difficulty in supporting the Welsh Hearts/Calonnau Cymru proposal on this particular occasion. The Town Clerk will explain the difficulty to Calonnau Cymru/Welsh Hearts.

(g) Minute 284: Request from Fly a Flag for the Commonwealth

The Mayor will raise the Commonwealth flag and the Ddraig Goch at 10.00 am on Monday, 14th March 2017, in recognition of the Commonwealth’s commitment to human rights (see the Commonwealth Charter[[2]](#footnote-2) of 2013) and as a tribute to the way in which the Commonwealth has long recognised Wales as an independent entrant in the Commonwealth Games.

297. PLANNING

With the Chairman’s consent, two planning notices were tabled, and it was proposed by Cllr Reverend Tom Defis, seconded by Cllr Philip Grice, and **RESOLVED** that:

(a) Council has **NO OBJECTION** to application W/34586, 5 Parc Thomas, extension to side and rear of existing dwelling, full planning, and

(b) in the case of W/34591 (5 Mansel Street, change of use from veterinary surgery to restaurant, full planning):

* Council objects to the rough timber frame which has been added to the façade in a conservation area, next to the listed Zion Chapel
* as the restaurant has been open for some years, the Clerk will ascertain whether the application is retrospective, or applies to a different part of the existing building.

298. HIGHWAYS

No highways matters were reported.

299. LICENSING

With the Chairman’s consent, the Town Clerk tabled a notice that the Poplars’ Inn, Pondside, Johnstown, has applied to the Licensing Authority for their premises licence to be varied, to permit supply of alcohol from Monday to Sunday, from 7.00 am to 1.30 am, late night refreshment from Monday to Sunday, from 11.00 pm to 1.00 am, recorded music from Monday to Sunday, from 11.00 am to 1.00 am, live music from Monday to Sunday, from 11.00 pm to 1.00 am, and the re-opening of the original front entrance.

It was proposed by Cllr Reverend Tom Defis, seconded by Cllr Anthony Jenkins, and **RESOLVED** (by eight votes in favour and three abstentions) that, because of its village location and adjoining housing, the Poplars Inn should not be open later than midnight, and the Town Clerk will respond accordingly to the Licensing Authority.

300. MODEL CHURCH IN WALES SCHOOL – NOMINATION OF MINOR AUTHORITY REPRESENTATIVE

It was proposed by Cllr Reverend Tom Defis, seconded by Cllr Anthony Jenkins, and **RESOLVED** that Cllr Kenneth Lloyd be re-appointed as Minor Authority Representative for the Model Church in Wales School, and that the Town Clerk will inform the County Council accordingly.

301. DATES OF MEETINGS 2017

It was proposed by Cllr Barry Williams, seconded by Cllr Alun Lenny, and **RESOLVED** that the schedule (appendix 2 to the agenda) of proposed dates of Council and Standing Committee meetings in 2017 be approved.

302. CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR WORKING ARRANGEMENTS

It was proposed by Cllr Douglas Rose, seconded by Cllr Kenneth Lloyd, and **RESOLVED** that the staff working arrangements adopted in previous years will apply to Christmas 2016 and the New Year, along with the statutory Bank Holidays, and excluding Park and Cemetery opening and closing, namely:

Friday, 23rd December 2016: Office closed at 12.00 noon

Monday, 26th December 2016: Bank Holiday (Boxing Day)

Tuesday, 27th December 2016: Bank Holiday (in lieu for 25th December)

28th to 30th December 2016: Office closed

Monday, 2nd January 2017: Bank Holiday (in lieu for 1st January)

Tuesday, 3rd January 2017: Normal working arrangements resume

303. WALES LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM

The Town Clerk’s report had detailed the measures proposed for local government in Wales:

* local authorities will work together to deliver key services
* there will be no change in the number of local authorities, but the Welsh Government will support voluntary mergers
* there will be an emphasis on regional collaboration
* the role of town and community councils is recognised, but there is variability in scale, scope, capability and ambition within this sector
* town and community councils, as they exist today, will be helped to become more effective
* also, an independent group will look into the future role of town and community councils, to maximise the potential of this sector
* Mark Drakeford (Welsh Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government) has set out eight key action points:
1. Welsh Government will produce a toolkit for town and community councils taking on devolved services, drawing on existing good practice.
2. The General Power of Competence for local councils will be included in a Local Government Bill scheduled for next year.
3. The Bill will include an obligation for local councils to have and regularly review a training plan for Councillors and staff.
4. The Bill will give the public rights to participate in local council meetings.
5. To improve the relationship between the local council sector and Principal Councils the Cabinet Secretary will host a conference after next May’s elections to re-energise that relationship.
6. Modest funds will be made available for community council clustering pilots to build on existing limited examples.
7. New rules for the Democracy and Boundary Commission will ensure that future boundary reviews are undertaken consistently.
8. A democratic challenge to all Councillors will be that they must improve on how they better represent the demographics of their area including engagement with young people.

Cllr Dr Dewi Evans, having represented Council at the One Voice Wales meeting attended by Mark Drakeford in June 2016, observed that:

* there are three local sectors: principal authorities, town and community councils and voluntary bodies
* principal authorities have statutory responsibilities and other powers and used to have considerable funds - they now have less money, and are reducing their activities to the basic statutory requirements
* town and community councils would function better if their duties were statutory and consistent across Wales - town and community councillors should meet to brainstorm what these duties should be
* town and community councils should look at the way they liaise with the voluntary sector
* communities which do not have town and community councils – e.g. Swansea and Cardiff – do not know what town and community councils do and tend to disregard their significance

Cllr Douglas Rose advised that a common profile might be difficult to achieve for each town and community council, but could be achieved through clustering.

The Mayor reminded Members that all Members will be attending an informal strategy meeting at 6.30 pm on Thursday, 3rd November 2016, in the Committee Room.

The reports of Members and the Town Clerk were **NOTED**.

304. REMEMBRANCE 2016

Members noted the following remembrance services and ceremonies:

* Friday, 28th October, 3.30 pm, Launch of Poppy Appeal, St Peter’s Civic Hall
* Friday, 11th November, Remembrance Day Service, Priory Street
* Saturday, 12th November, 6.00 pm, Eve of Armistice, Fusiliers’ Monument, Lammas Street
* 13th November, Remembrance Sunday Service, St Peter’s Church

Members also noted that Remembrance is run by the Royal British Legion, whose Carmarthen branch has been dissolved, and organisation of Remembrance in Carmarthen is less clear this year.

Members agreed that Remembrance is important in the life of the town, and it was proposed by Cllr Anthony Jenkins, seconded by Cllr Philip Grice, and **RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk is empowered to liaise with the Church, the Royal British Legion, the County Council and the Police, to ensure that Carmarthen’s Remembrance ceremonies proceed in an appropriate manner.

305. PRIDE OF PLACE COMPETITION 2016

Members **NOTED** the winners of Council’s Pride of Place Competition 2016 (Appendix 3 to the agenda) and joined with Cllr Reverend Tom Defis in congratulating the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Retiring Mayor on their deliberations, in commending Council’s enhancement of the town centre in 2016 with barrier baskets, flower towers and hanging baskets, and thanking the Carmarthen Journal for showcasing the community Pride of Place winners.

306. CHANGES TO REFUSE AND RECYCLING COLLECTIONS ACROSS CARMARTHENSHIRE

A County Council notice regarding changes to refuse and recycling collections was attached as Appendix 4 to the agenda. Members noted today’s press reports (and previously on social media) that the County Council will introduce a new composting bin, at an annual charge to householders, instead of the current garden waste bags.

It was proposed by Cllr Reverend Tom Defis, seconded by Cllr Dr Dewi Evans, and **RESOLVED** that discussion of refuse and recycling collections be deferred until the Town Clerk has had an opportunity to ascertain:

* are composting bins proposed by the County Council, if so - why?
* is this a Welsh Government or County Council initiative?
* will there be a charge for this service, if so – how much?
* will the bin be for garden waste only?

307. REPORT OF THE MAYOR

The Mayor referred Members to his report (Appendix 5 to the agenda), which was **NOTED**.

308. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS AS COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr Philip Grice, has sent information about Carmarthen to all members of the National Association of City and Town Sheriffs of England and Wales, in preparation for the 2017 Carmarthen AGM.

Cllr Philip Grice had represented Council at the Dr Mz Youth Project Committee. Fund raising is progressing: £50 from Boots, £100 per month from Excel Bowling Alley Profit, £5,000 from Awards for All for a new computer system and some hardware, £5,000 from Santander Discovery for cooking workshops and some core costs, £300 from O2 Big Ideas Project, and £1,000 from Tree Charter (some of which will go to the Carmarthen Park project). Applications have been submitted to Aviva Community Fund, the Prince’s Countryside Fund, Comic Relief, and the Skiathos Foundation. Applications are in preparation to People and Places, Volunteering in Wales and the Heritage Lottery Fund. Recently Elis James, Carmarthen Comedian and member of the Youth Council which set up Dr Mz, has donated £1,000 to the Dr Mz Go-Fund-Me page and has promised a collection at his Lyric show on the 15th November 2016. The accounts forecast that the project will run out of funds in March 2017, and Cllr Grice therefore looked forward to the promised meeting of Dr Mz representatives with the Finance Committee.

Cllr Douglas Rose reported that the Carmarthen Family Centre (Tŷ Ni and Tŷ Hapus) is anxious that any reduction in Families First[[3]](#footnote-3) funding would impact upon the project.

Cllr Barry Williams has represented Council at the Community Health Council, which is currently piloting a Patients’ Experience Survey pilot at Glangwili, whose findings will be reported to the Hywel Dda Health Board and the Welsh Government.

Cllr Reverend Tom Defis has represented Council at Siop Mobility meetings. The service is extensively used, with over 100 people using the service in a typical month (many more at Christmas). Annual accounts are available for Members’ inspection. Siop Mobility are grateful for the help in kind they have received from Town Council staff from time to time. The project’s finances will be in deficit by July 2017 unless further funds can be identified.

Cllr Alan Speake had attended the Young Achievers’ Awards Ceremony at Parc y Scarlets – a most humbling experience.

**The meeting closed at 8.59 pm.**

1. Bandi Appeal raises funds for a Children's Centre for the sick children of Carmarthenshire  [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. http://thecommonwealth.org/sites/default/files/page/documents/CharteroftheCommonwealth.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Families First is a Welsh Government fund for local authorities to help children, young people and families. Each local authority writes a Families First Action Plan which explains how they will implement Families First locally. (http://gov.wales/topics/people-and-communities/people/children-and-young-people/parenting-support-guidance/help/families-first) [↑](#footnote-ref-3)