

**CARMARTHEN TOWN COUNCIL**  
**FINANCE COMMITTEE**  
**7.30pm 15 APRIL 2021**  
**VIA REMOTE 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, Gareth John, Ken Lloyd, Miriam Moules, Emlyn Schiavone, Jeff Thomas, Matthew Thomas and Wyn Thomas.

Mr Alun Harries – Clerk to the Town Council  
Mrs Emma Smith - Deputy Town Clerk and Finance Manager

### **300. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillor Dr. Ioan Matthews.

### **301. Declarations of Interest**

Cllr. Tom Defis, item 308(ii).

### **302. Matters arising from minutes of the previous Finance Committee Meeting 11 March 2021**

The Clerk updated the Committee regarding the electricity supply at the public conveniences on Johnstown Welfare Field. An update was also provided on the ownership of the land and pavilion at the site, which had previously been the responsibility of Johnstown Fundraising Committee which had since ceased activity. The pavilion is on Town Council land and covered by Town Council insurance. Members **noted** the update.

### **303. To authorise the signing of the Order for Payment of Accounts Schedule for April 2021**

- (i) A discussion was held regarding prize money payments to schools outside of the council area entering a competition linked to the recent St David's activities. It was **agreed** that the payments would be approved but the issue would be raised with competition organisers in future.
- (ii) Councillor Ken Lloyd proposed that the schedule of payments totalling **£78503.47** should be approved and signed by two members of Council and the Clerk. Cllr. Miriam Moules seconded the proposal. All members agreed and it was **RESOLVED** that all payments should be paid.

## Town Clerk's Report

### 304. Financial Report

A financial report was provided for the period April 2020 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021.

Council's Bank balances as at the 31<sup>st</sup> of March 2021 were as follows:

	£
HSBC Current Account	32,575.26
HSBC Reserve Account	275,576.95
<b>Total Cash in Bank</b>	<b>308,152.21</b>

#### Balances in Other Accounts on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021:

Mayor's Allowance	-	£ 3,177.14
Mayor's Fun Run	-	£ 6,959.75
Carmarthen Park Tea Shop	-	£22,339.70 – As at 28 <sup>th</sup> February 2021

- Gross near actual expenditure for the period 1st April to the 31<sup>st</sup> March totalled £760,453.
- Near actual Income for the same period, including the Park Tea Shop, totalled £154,271. The overall net expenditure is therefore £606,182.
- The Net Budget/Precept requirement for 2020/21 was £768,648. Members will note from the above that Council is within budget as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021.

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

### 305. Schedule of Monthly Income

(i) The Clerk advised committee that the financial forecasting for the year had been very accurate considering that the coronavirus pandemic had not been an issue at the time of budget setting in January 2020.

(ii) Members expressed their gratitude to Mr Clive Evans, Finance Officer who was due to finish his duties with Council soon. Committee sent best wishes to Mr Evans for the future.

(iii) The Clerk informed members that payments from Red Court Solar Farm were now up to date and the money was set aside to support Environmental projects. This year the money will be used to contribute towards the costs of the hanging baskets in the town centre.

The schedule was **NOTED**.

### 306. Quarterly Bank Reconciliation as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021.

Councillor Gareth John proposed that the bank reconciliations for 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 and 28<sup>th</sup> February 2021 (Tea Shop) be approved and the proposal was seconded by Councillor Matthew Thomas. All members agreed.

### 307. Review of Town Council Grants Policy

No changes had been made to the policy which was presented for consideration prior to assessing the grant applications. Councillor Ken Lloyd proposed that section 5, bullet point 2 be revised to read “*Evidence of the benefit to the community and the impact on the four priorities of the Carmarthenshire Well-being Plan.....from the grant shall be required by the Town Council within 12 months of the award being made*” and was seconded by Councillor Wyn Thomas. All members agreed and the amendment was **RECOMMENDED** to Council.

### 308. Applications for Small Grants & Financial Assistance.

Nine applications were presented to committee and the following were **RESOLVED** for contributions:

- (i) *Wales Air Ambulance Charity Emergency Appeal*. Councillor Gareth John proposed a contribution of £500 and the proposal was seconded by Councillor Miriam Moules. A second proposal of £300 was made by Councillor Wyn Thomas and seconded by Councillor Emlyn Schiavone. A vote was held which resulted in a tie, a casting vote in favour of the £300 proposal was made by the Chair of Committee, Councillor Tom Defis. All members agreed.
- (ii) *Urdd National Eisteddfod Carmarthenshire 2023*. Councillor Tom Defis declared an interest as President of the *Eisteddfod yr Urdd Appeal Committee 2023*. Councillor Emlyn Schiavone proposed that the previously agreed contribution of £2000 for the postponed event should stand. Councillor Wyn Thomas seconded the proposal. All members agreed.
- (iii) *Carmarthenshire YFC*. Councillor Emlyn Schiavone proposed that a £300 contribution be made. Councillor Wyn Thomas seconded the proposal. All members agreed.
- (iv) *Cruse Bereavement Care West Wales*. Councillor Ken Lloyd proposed a contribution of £300 and Councillor Julia Ault seconded the proposal. All members agreed.
- (v) *Relate Cymru*. **RESOLVED** that the application be deferred to September 2021.
- (vi) *Shelter Cymru*. Councillor Miriam Moules proposed a contribution of £200. Councillor Julia Ault seconded the proposal, all members were in favour.
- (vii) *Macmillan Carmarthenshire*. Councillor Wyn Thomas proposed a contribution of £300 and Councillor Gareth John seconded the proposal. All members agreed.
- (viii) *Access Wales*. Councillor Ken Lloyd proposed a contribution of £200 and Councillor Wyn Thomas seconded the proposal. All members agreed.

**The meeting closed at 8.29pm.**