

CARMARTHEN TOWN COUNCIL
MONTHLY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
HELD ON 20th OCTOBER 2021 AT 7.30PM

The meeting was held in St Peter's Civic Hall and in accordance with the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021, enabling meetings of local authorities held from 1 May 2021 to be held by means of remote attendance.

The Mayor Cllr Gareth John presided over the meeting.

PRESENT: Councillors: Tom Defis (video link), Baba Gana (video link), Peter Hughes Griffiths, Gareth John, Alun Lenny (video link), Arwel Lloyd, Ken Lloyd (video link), Ioan Matthews, Miriam Moules (video link), Jeff Thomas (video link), Matthew Thomas (video link), Wyn Thomas and Barry Williams.

Mr Alun Harries – Clerk to the Town Council
 Mrs Emma Smith – Deputy Town Clerk and Finance Manager
 Mrs Catrin Llwyd – Translator (video link)

191. Presentation by Superintendent Gary Phillips Dyfed Powys Police

The Mayor welcomed Superintendent Gary Phillips to the meeting and he was invited to address Council. Superintendent Phillips informed members of a review that had been undertaken over the last 12 months looking at improving the service provided to victims of crime. The review informed the new way of working which will be implemented in November this year. The changes will create capacity for officers to attend urgent calls and be more visible and available. Changes to response officer numbers to facilitate the new way of working will be short term, with more recruits in the first half of next year resulting in a greater number of officers.

The Mayor thanked the Superintendent for his presentation and members were given an opportunity to ask questions.

192. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. Emlyn Schiavone.

193. Declarations of Interest

- (i) Cllr. Ioan Matthews for item 198(ii) as allotment holder in Five Fields allotments and 198(iv) due to his role as Chief Executive of Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol.
- (ii) Cllr. Miriam Moules for item 198(ii) as an allotment holder at Five Fields.
- (iii) Cllr. Ken Lloyd for item 198(iv) due a close personal associate with a second home.
- (iv) Cllr. Jeff Thomas for item 198(iv) due to family-owned property.
- (v) Cllr. Alun Lenny for item 201 as a member of Carmarthenshire County Council's Planning Committee and for item 203 due to his son's involvement in the sale of goods to the business concerned
- (vi) Cllr. Barry Williams for item 203 as a close personal associate of the licence holder.

194. Questions from Members

None

195. Questions from the Public

None

196. To confirm and sign the minutes of the Meeting of Council held on 29th September 2021.

It was proposed by Cllr. Wyn Thomas, seconded by Cllr. Ioan Matthews and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Council meeting held on the 29th of September 2021 be accepted as a true record.

197. To confirm and sign the minutes of the General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 12 October 2021.

It was proposed by Cllr. Arwel Lloyd, seconded by Cllr. Barry Williams and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on the 12th of October 2021 be accepted as a true record.

198. To consider the Committee recommendations or matters arising.

(i) Page 41 – Item 172: Actif Sir Gâr – Back on Your Bike

The Clerk explained the background to the eight-week scheme proposed by Actif Sir Gâr, to be run by the Town Council with support from the County Council and volunteers. **RESOLVED** that Council should formally register interest in the initiative.

(ii) Page 41 – Item 174: Transfer of Five Fields Allotments

Cllrs. Ioan Matthews and Miriam Moules left the meeting for this item. A discussion was held regarding the acceptance of the lease for the allotments. **RESOLVED** that the lease should be signed by the Town Council and the agreement formalised.

(iii) Page 41 – Item 175: Parc Myrddin

The Clerk explained that a resident that overlooks Parc Myrddin had expressed concerns over litter left at site. More site inspections had been carried out and the matter would be kept under review. **RESOLVED** that a reply be sent to the resident noting the action taken.

(iv) Page 41 – Item 176: Letter from Cymdeithas yr Iaith

Cllrs. Ken Lloyd and Jeff Thomas left the meeting for this item, Cllr. Ioan Matthews declared a personal interest as Chief Executive of Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol that had paid for the report mentioned in the letter. Members discussed the recommendation of the committee for Council to sign the letter. All members were in favour and matter was **RESOLVED**.

(v) Page 42 – Item 178: Welsh Food, Drink and Craft Festival June 2022

The recommendation to support the festival, which formed part of the Community Well-being and Events Officer's report was **APPROVED** by Council. The Mayor praised the format of the report and the amount of work being undertaken by the officer.

199. To confirm and sign the minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on 14 October 2021

It was proposed by Cllr. Tom Defis, seconded by Cllr. Miriam Moules and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on the 14th of October 2021 be accepted as a true record.

200. To consider the Finance Committee recommendations or matters arising

(i) Page 44 – Item 187: Internal Auditor

Cllr. Peter Hughes-Griffiths proposed that the recommendation to appoint Bevan and Buckland LLP as internal auditor be approved, Cllr. Arwel Lloyd seconded the proposal and were in favour. **RESOLVED** that Bevan and Buckland LLP be appointed as Internal Auditor for at least the 2021/22 Internal Audit.

(ii) Page 45 – Item 188: Hanging Baskets

Members **APPROVED** the recommendation of committee to reintroduce charges for the hanging baskets and use the funds to improve other areas of the public realm. Further details would be discussed by the Finance Committee in an upcoming meeting.

The next two agenda items ('To confirm and sign the minutes of the Management Committee Meeting held on 4 October 2021' and 'To consider the 7 Management Committee recommendations or matters arising') were deferred to the end of the meeting.

Town Clerk's Report

201. Planning

- i. **PL/02768** - Proposed charging facility for 8no. electric buses and a small single storey welfare/office building for the drivers with associated parking for their vehicles at Carmarthen Park and Ride, Llysonnen Road - Nantyci Park and Ride, Junction off A40 to Nant Y Ci, Llanllwch, Carmarthen, SA33 5DR - **SUPPORT**
- ii. **PL/02833** - Change of use of land from domestic garden to use for the siting of a removable wood clad catering trailer/unit (3m x 3m and 2.4m in height) to serve members of the public utilising the adjacent Johnstown Park with hot drinks and food - 4 Heol Salem, Johnstown, Carmarthen, SA31 3HJ - The Town Council resolved to **OPPOSE** this application due to local opposition, possible traffic considerations and the disruption of other users of the path.
- iii. **PL/02525** - Retention of two steel storage sheds (re-submission of PL/01084) - Old Station Yard, Old Station Road, Carmarthen, SA31 1JN. Discussed but **NO COMMENT** to offer.
- iv. **PL/02439** - Permission is sought for the retention of the timber box section windows installed as part of the building refurbishment approved under W/25481 - Plas Y Milwr, Priory Street, Carmarthen, SA31 1AG. The Town Council wishes to **SUPPORT** this application if the windows are in keeping with the conservation area conditions.

202. Highways

None

203. Licensing

Application Type:- Application to Review a Premises licence.

Premise Name And Address:- Poplars Inn, 1 Pondsides, Johnstown, Carmarthen SA31 3HU. **Details of the application:-** Public Health have received numerous complaints about noise, underage drinking, criminal damage, anti-social behaviour and parking issues caused by the premises and its customers, causing a nuisance to residents. During subjective monitoring, officers have witnessed a variety of issues that substantiate some of the complaints received. These include customers urinating in public, cars parked on the roadside, customers vomiting on the roadside and excessive noise emanating from the Poplars Inn. **RESOLVED** that the Town Council would not partake in the review but support Carmarthenshire County Council's decision to do undertake it.

204. Survey of councillors in Wales

Information was shared with members regarding the survey being undertaken by Welsh Government, responses should be sent as individuals.

Members **NOTED** the survey.

205. IRPW Draft Annual Report for the 2022/23 – Consultation

Members **NOTED** the draft annual report and the proposed changes.

206. Correspondence

- (i) Free parking days. Members were asked to consider the allocated free parking days for Carmarthen provided by Carmarthenshire County Council. Councillor Ioan Matthews proposed that the four Sundays leading up to Christmas and the Saturday of the St David's Day Parade should be approved. Cllr. Arwel Lloyd seconded the proposal, all were in favour and the proposal was **AGREED**.

207. Reports from Councillors as Council Representatives on outside bodies

- (i) Cllr. Ioan Matthews recorded attendance at Ysgol y Dderwen Governors' Meetings. Cllr. Matthews noted that the school, like others, continued to experience huge difficulties because of the pandemic, Council expressed to the schools for their excellent work at this difficult time.
- (ii) Cllr. Peter Hughes Griffiths noted that the Twinning Committee will be celebrating 40 years of twinning next year. More details regarding the celebration will be sent to the Town Council shortly.
- (iii) Cllr. Ken Lloyd recorded attendance at the One Voice Wales Larger Council's committee, noting discussions about the development of eco literacy knowledge and cyber security training for Clerks and Councillors.

Prior to the final (deferred) item of the meeting. Cllr. Alun Lenny proposed that the hybrid meetings should be suspended for the time-being due to audio issues and the increasing cases of Covid-19, with meeting reverting to being online only. Cllr. Ioan

Matthews seconded the proposal, all were in favour and the matter was **RESOLVED**.

208. To confirm and sign the minutes of the Management Committee Meeting held on 4 October 2021' and 'To consider the 7 Management Committee recommendations or matters arising'

The Town Clerk and Deputy Town Clerk left the meeting at this point.

- (i) It was proposed by Cllr. Peter Hughes-Griffiths and seconded by Cllr. Wyn Thomas that due to the confidential items for discussion (i.e., staffing structure and job evaluation) the press and public would be excluded from the meeting in accordance with Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings Act 1960) and the motion was **APPROVED**.
- (ii) **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on the 4th of October should be approved as a true record.
- (iii) **RESOLVED** that the seven recommendations relating to changes in line management, role of Town Clerk and Deputy Town Clerk, role of Parks and Activities Officer, job evaluations and training should be approved.

The meeting closed at 9.25pm