**CARMARTHEN TOWN COUNCIL**

**MONTHLY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

**HELD ON 30TH NOVEMBER 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, 30th November 2016, at 7.30 pm.

PRESENT: Cllrs: Dorothy Bere, Dr Richard Edwards, Dr Baba Gana,

Philip Grice, Peter Hughes Griffiths, Angharad Jones Leefe,

Alun Lenny, Kenneth Lloyd, Dr Ioan Matthews,

Emlyn Schiavone, Wyn Thomas, and Barry Williams

337. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs and Reverend Tom Defis, Dr Dewi Evans, Anthony Jenkins, Arwel Lloyd, Douglas Rose, and Alan Speake.

338. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

All Members declared an interest in agenda item 11, Planning Application W/34681, as the subject land (Carmarthen Park) is managed by Carmarthen Town Council and, if the telephony mast goes ahead, the telephone company would be seeking to enter into a 25 year lease with Carmarthen Town Council in return for a £25,000 payment.

Cllr Alun Lenny also declared an interest in agenda item 11, Planning Applications, as Chairman of Carmarthenshire County Council Planning Committee.

Cllrs Dr Richard Edwards and Emlyn Schiavone declared an interest in agenda item 7, General Purposes Committee minute 317, as Trustees of the Tŷ Ni – Tŷ Hapus Family Centre.

Cllr Emlyn Schiavone also declared an interest in agenda item 7, General Purposes Committee minute 317 and agenda item 9, Finance Committee minute 330, as a member of the Dr Mz Youth Project Board.

339. QUESTIONS

No questions were reported.

340. TO CONFIRM AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 26 OCTOBER 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 26th October 2016 be accepted as a true record.

341. MATTERS ARISING

(a) Minute 292(a): Community Education Centre, Furnace Road

Cllrs Peter Hughes Griffiths and Philip Grice had attended a meeting at the Community Education Centre which revealed a busy and well run facility. A meeting of everyone involved with the centre will take place in February 2017 (date to be confirmed), which will include representatives of Carmarthen Town Council. The reports of Members were noted, and it was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Philip Grice will ensure that Cllr Wyn Thomas (who is one of the Town Council’s nominated representatives on the Community Education Centre Committee) is invited to the February meeting.

(b) Minute 297(b): Planning Application W/34591, 5 Mansel Street, Change of Use from Veterinary Surgery to Restaurant, Full Planning

Members **NOTED** the Town Clerk’s confirmation that application W/34591) related to the renewal of a previous temporary approval.

(c) Minute 306: Changes to Refuse and Recycling Collections across Carmarthenshire

Members **NOTED** the Town Clerk’s confirmation (as emailed to Members on the 28th October 2016) of the County Council’s proposed revised refuse and recycling scheme, and introduction of composting bins in place of garden waste bags.

342. TO CONFIRM AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON 8 NOVEMBER 2016

It was proposed by Cllr Dorothy Bere, seconded by Cllr Peter Hughes Griffiths, and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the monthly meeting of the General Purposes Committee held on the 8th November 2016 be signed and accepted as a true record.

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

It was proposed by Cllr Philip Grice, seconded by Cllr Peter Hughes Griffiths, and **RESOLVED** that the following General Purposes Committee recommendations be approved:

(a) Minute 319: Battle’s Over – A Nation’s Tribute and WW1 Beacons of Light’ – 11th November 2018

The Town Council will participate in the Beacons of Light ceremony (using its existing beacon) on the 11th November 2018 (eighteen), in commemoration of the end of World War One, and the Clerk will inform the organisers accordingly

(b) Minute 320: Renumbering of Duplicate Minute 270 to 270A

The first minute of the General Purposes Committee Meeting held on the 11th October 2017 will be renumbered 270A (instead of 270).

(c) Minute 322: Year of Legends – Dating of the Old Oak

The Town Clerk will arrange for the Old Oak to be dated, with advice from the National Museum of Wales or other appropriate body.

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

It was proposed by Cllr Dr Richard Edwards, seconded by Cllr Kenneth Lloyd, and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the monthly meeting of the Finance Committee held on the 10th November 2016 be signed and accepted as a true record, subject to correction of minute 330, line three – deletion of ‘except 2013/14’ and substitution of ‘except 2008/09’.

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

It was proposed by Cllr Alun Lenny, seconded by Cllr Dr Ioan Matthews, and **RESOLVED** that the following Finance Committee recommendations be approved:

(a) Minute 330: Draft Budget 2017/18

Members noted that the Finance Committee is recommending the draft 2017/18 budget for approval, and further discussion was deferred until the budget meeting on the 13th January 2017.

(b) Minute 331: Fidelity Guarantee Review 2017/18

Council’s fidelity guarantee for 2017/18 will remain at its current level, with an indemnity cover of £400,000.

346. PLANNING

With regard to the planning notices circulated as Appendix 2 to the agenda, it was proposed by Cllr Philip Grice, seconded by Cllr Dr Ioan Matthews, **RESOLVED** that:

W/34681: Carmarthen Park, replacement of existing 13.5 m floodlight pole with 17.5 m pole to support three telecommunications antennae and installation of two dishes and six ground-based equipment cabinets to provide mobile electronic communication services – **NOTED WITHOUT DISCUSSION** as the Town Council has a financial interest in the matter (see minute 338).

W/34736 and W/34737: Zion Chapel, Mansel Street, change of use of former chapel to camera shop, to include removal of fixed pews, repairs, introduction of a new mezzanine floor and staircase, new internal security shutters to the ground floor windows and the widening of an external doorway to the rear of the building – Members were sad to see that Zion might be used for a non-religious purpose but on balance preferred to see the chapel converted than allowed to decay. – **NO OBJECTIONS**.

General Observations on Town Chapels: Members referred to the number of derelict places of worship in town such as Llanelli, and hope that Carmarthen would follow the example set by Parc-y-Felfet Chapel in Mansel Street which has found a good new use and remains as an enhancement to the street. However Members also hoped that some places of worship of special historic interest would retain their original internal features. Members also commended the work of broadcaster and author Huw Edwards in this regard. The reports of Members were **NOTED**.

347. HIGHWAYS

No highways matters were reported.

348. LICENSING: POPLARS INN, JOHNSTOWN - HEARING

The Town Clerk reported that the Licencing Hearing in respect of the Poplars Inn will be held on Tuesday, 13th December, at 9.30 am, and it was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Philip Grice will represent Council at the Hearing, and the Town Clerk will email Council’s response to Cllr Grice.

349. DATE OF DECEMBER 2016 COMMITTEE MEETINGS

It was proposed by Cllr Alun Lenny, seconded by Cllr Philip Grice, and **RESOLVED** that the December committee meetings be moved as follows:

Thursday, 8th December, 7.30 pm: General Purposes

Thursday, 8th December, 8.00 pm: Finance Committee

350. APPLICATION FOR USE OF ST PETER’S CIVIC HALL BY THE POLICE

The Town Clerk’s report had advised Members that the Carmarthen Neighbourhood Policing Team had asked if they may use St Peter’s Civic Hall – free of charge - for a coffee morning for local and vulnerable people on the 8th or 9th December 2016.

It was proposed by Cllr Dr Ioan Matthews, seconded by Cllr Dr Richard Edwards, and **RESOLVED** that the number of occasions that the Mayor is able to allow ‘free uses’ of the Civic Hall during 2016/17 is increased from four to six, and will include free use of the Hall by the Carmarthen Neighbourhood Policing Team for a community event.

351. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE SERICES OFFICER – DEVOLVED POWERS

The Town Clerk’s report had reminded Members of the Committee Services Officer’s retirement on the 2nd December 2016, and suggested that Council’s Management Committee be accorded devolved powers to short-list, interview and appoint the new Committee Services Officer. Members united in the need for cross-party involvement in the appointment, which will be led by the Town Clerk, and it was proposed by Cllr Alun Lenny, seconded by Cllr Dr Ioan Matthews, and **RESOLVED** that:

(a) the Management Committee and the Town Clerk, with the addition of Cllr Philip Grice, are accorded devolved powers to appoint the new Committee Services Officer,

(b) next year Council’s general appointment procedures will be clarified and reviewed.

352. BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR WALES – LETTER

Members **NOTED** the Boundary Commission’s response (Appendix 4 to the agenda) to Council’s letter regarding the 2018 boundaries review.

353. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT (WALES) 2015

1. Report to Carmarthenshire Public Services Board

Members commended and **NOTED** the Town Clerk’s report to the recent meeting organised by the Carmarthenshire Public Services Board (PSB). Carmarthen will be one of the seven town/community councils in Carmarthenshire who will report to the PSB on their progress in respect of the Act’s requirements. The Town Clerk emphasised that Carmarthen may benefit from some of the good ideas which other communities have adopted.

1. Report by Future Generations Commissioner for Wales

Members **NOTED** the availability of a recent report (‘Talking Future Generations – the Conversation so far’) by Sophie Howe, the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales.

354. NOTES OF COUNCIL STRATEGY MEETING HELD ON 3 NOVEMBER 2016

Members **NOTED** the summary (Appendix 6 to the agenda) of the main points discussed by Members on the 3rd November 2016, at the seminar on possible future strategic Council priorities, and which will be fed into relevant Council meeting structures and progressed accordingly.

355. ONE VOICE WALES – REPORT BY CLLR KENNETH LLOYD

Members commended and **NOTED** the report by Cllr Kenneth Lloyd (Appendix 7 to the agenda) on the One Voice Wales Carmarthenshire Area Committee Meeting which he attended on behalf of Council on the 15th November 2016.

356. MINUTES OF THE CARMARTHEN BAR NAVIGATION COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 21 NOVEMBER 2016

Members **NOTED** the minutes of the Carmarthen Bar Navigation Committee Meeting held on the 21st November 2016 (Appendix 8 to the agenda).

357. 2017 SHERIFFS’ AGM

Members **NOTED** the Town Clerk’s report that arrangements (as previously reported) are in hand for the 2017 Sheriffs’ AGM.

358. MINUTES OF FAIRTRADE MEETING HELD ON 25 NOVEMBER 2016

Members **NOTED** the (tabled) minutes of the Fairtrade meeting held on the 25th November 2016.

359. MINUTES OF SIÂN JOHNSTON ENVIRONMENTAL WORKING GROUP MEETING HELD ON 25 NOVEMBER 2016

Members **NOTED** the (tabled) minutes of the Siân Johnston Environmental Working Group meeting held on the 25th November 2016.

360. MINUTES OF CARMARTHEN RIVERSIDE ASSOCIATION MEETING HELD ON 28 NOVEMBER 2016

Members **NOTED** the (tabled) minutes of the Carmarthen Riverside Association meeting held on the 28th November 2016.

361. LETTERS OF APPRECIATION

Members **NOTED** that a letter of appreciation had been received from the Carmarthen and District Swimming Club for Council’s £100 donation.

362. REPORT OF THE MAYOR

The Mayor reminded Members that this was Margaret Evans’s last meeting of Council and he paid a special tribute to her. He mentioned that he had known Margaret for many years before he became involved with the Council and, like everyone else, held her in very high esteem and thanked her for her immense contribution to the work of the Council and the people of Carmarthen over many years. He wished her the very best on her forthcoming retirement.

The Mayor referred Members to his report (Appendix 9 to the agenda), which was **NOTED**.

363. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS AS COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr Dr Ioan Matthews had attended meetings of Ysgol y Dderwen Governors, despite fiscal cutbacks and challenges, is doing excellent

work.

Cllr Barry Williams has continued to chair meetings of the Community Health Council. Changes are proposed to women’s and children’s services at Withybush hospital. A decision on the staffing of the Paediatric Ambulatory Care Unit has been deferred until the public has been consulted. Also, General Practitioner inspections are in progress.

Cllr Philip Grice had attended meetings of the Dr Mz Youth Project, which he would leave to Cllr Schiavone to report. Cllr Grice had also chaired the Riverside Association (as per tabled minutes) which continued to be very well attended.

Cllr Emlyn Schiavone had attended meetings of the Dr Mz Youth Project, which is under financial pressure and awaiting the outcome of a bid to Comic Relief, and where Cllr Peter Hughes Griffiths is also working hard to secure the project’s future. Cllr Schiavone had also attended governors’ meetings at Richmond Park Junior School, which is collaborating with other schools in the face of funding cuts.

Cllrs Dr Richard Edwards and Emlyn Schiavone had attended meetings of Plant Dewi, and the Tŷ Hapus – Tŷ Ni Family Project, which is also battling financial restrictions.

Cllr Alun Lenny, Deputy Mayor, reminded Members that in October he had raised the need for local compensation for traffic congestion caused by the recent pipeline repairs, and water course pollution caused by oil leakage from the pipeline. Cllr Lenny had since put forward the case for compensation to the Valero Oil Company, and the issue will need to aired by the Town Council.

364. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

It was proposed by Cllr Dr Richard Edwards, seconded by Cllr Angharad Jones Leefe, and **RESOLVED**, in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, that the public and press be excluded from the meeting in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

365. TO CONFIRM AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEERTING HELD ON 15 NOVEMBER 2016

It was proposed by Cllr Alun Lenny, seconded by Cllr Angharad Jones Leefe, and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of meeting of the Management Committee held on the 15th November 2016 be signed and accepted as a true record.

366. MATTERS ARISING - MINUTE 336: RETIREMENT OF COMMITTEE SERVICES OFFICER

It was proposed by Cllr Emlyn Schiavone, seconded by Cllr Kenneth Lloyd, and **RESOLVED** that:

* Welsh writing skills be specified as ‘Essential’ in the Person Specification, and
* the Local Agreement dated October 1986 be implemented in respect of the retiring Committee Services Officer

**The meeting closed at 8.58 pm**