

**CARMARTHEN TOWN COUNCIL**  
**FINANCE COMMITTEE**  
**7.30pm 13 JANUARY 2022**

The meeting was held via video link 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 meeting was chaired by Cllr. Tom Defis and members of the General Purposes Committee were invited to attend to discuss the budget for 2022/23.*

**PRESENT:** Cllrs: Tom Defis, Peter Hughes Griffiths, Gareth John, Alun Lenny, Ken Lloyd, Ioan Matthews, 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

**278. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillor Miriam Moules.

**279. Declarations of Interest**

None.

**280. Matters arising from minutes of the previous Finance Committee Meeting**

No matters arising.

**281. To authorise the signing of the Order for Payment of Accounts Schedule for January 2022.**

Members scrutinised the payments and were satisfied with the schedule. Councillor Ken Lloyd proposed that the schedule of payments totalling **£13,154.22** should be approved and signed by two members of Council and the Clerk. Cllr. Emlyn Schiavone seconded the proposal. All members agreed and it was **RESOLVED** that all payments should be approved.

**282. Financial Report**

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

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

	<b>£</b>
HSBC Current Account	334,519.43

HSBC Reserve Account	288,602.43
<b>Total Cash in Bank</b>	<b>452,081.85</b>

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

Mayor's Allowance	-	£4,165.64
Mayor's Fun Run	-	£5,846.06
Carmarthen Park Tea Shop	-	£6,776.07

- Gross expenditure for the period 1st April to the 31<sup>st</sup> of December 2021 totalled £507,577.89.
- Income for the same period, including the Park Tea Shop, totalled £101,629.36. The overall net expenditure is therefore £405,948.53
- The Net Budget/Precept requirement for 2021/22 is £779,129.57, which has all been received. Members will note from the above that Council is within budget as at 31<sup>st</sup> of December 2021.

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

### 283. Schedule of Monthly Income

The schedule was **APPROVED** by committee.

### 284. Quarterly Bank Reconciliations

Members considered the quarterly bank reconciliations for the current account, reserves account and Tea Shop accounts. No issues were raised, and committee **APPROVED** the reconciliations.

### 285. Draft Town Council budget 2022/23

*Cllrs. Ken Lloyd and Emlyn Schiavone declared an interest as trustees of Oriel Myrddin, appointed by Carmarthenshire County Council.*

A report with relevant supporting information had been circulated to all members before the meeting, which was now presented to members by the Town Clerk. A lengthy discussion took place whilst considering the Council budget proposals and level of precept for 2022/23.

The total projected Council income and expenditure for 2022/23 is £898,355.58 and £915,858 respectively. The income includes the council precept and money received from the sale and hire of Council good and services. The expenditure consists of revenue expenditure, capital expenditure, community benefits (grants) and town centre activities and events.

Following discussion by members the following **capital projects** are proposed during 2022/23:

a)	Repairs and upgraded heating system at the chapel in the Carmarthen Cemetery	-	12,000
b)	Topple testing at cemetery (3-year programme)	-	3,250p.a.
c)	New floodlights at park (lamps and electrics) (£75,000 over 3 years @£25k a year)	-	25,000
d)	Defibrillator for telephone kiosk	-	1,500
e)	Air ventilation to St Peter's Civic Hall	-	14,000
f)	New digital sound desk for hall	-	1,600
g)	New DVR recorder for St Peter's Civic Hall CCTV	-	523
h)	Battery hedge cutter	-	1,500
i)	Boards to cover open graves in cemetery	-	1,200
j)	Refurbishment of storage area to create sheltered eating area for tea shop	-	9,600
<b>Total capital budget requirement</b>		-	<b>£70,173</b>

### Town Council Contributions to Events and Organisations:

<b>Annual Payments &amp; Community Contributions</b>	<b>£</b>
Small Grants Fund (S 137 LGA 1972)	<b>3,700</b>
Citizens Advice Bureau (S 142 LGA 1972)	<b>500</b>
Oriel Myrddin (S 145 LGA 1972)	<b>3,700</b>
Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Cymru (S 145 LGA 1972)	<b>200</b>
Urdd National Eisteddfod (S 145 LGA 1972)	<b>200</b>
Llangollen international Eisteddfod (S 145 LGA 1972)	<b>200</b>
Gwyl Cerdd Dant (S 145 LGA 1972)	<b>200</b>
Carmarthen Youth Opera (S 145 LGA 1972)	<b>200</b>
Dr M'z (S 137 LGA1972)	<b>1,000</b>
<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>5,000</b>
Christmas lights installation	<b>15,000</b>
Replacement Christmas Lights	<b>6,000</b>
Reindeer Day	<b>5,000</b>
St David's Day	<b>3,000</b>
River Festival	<b>2,000</b>
Gwyl Canol Dref	<b>2,000</b>
Pride of Place Awards	<b>500</b>
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>39,500</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>49,400</b>

- Capital Projects. All members were in favour of the list as presented which was **RECOMMENDED** for approval by Council.
- Financial Support for local organisations and town centre events. Cllr. Gareth John proposed that considering the differing opinions regarding some of the contributions, that the list as presented should be **RECOMMENDED** to Council for ratification. All members were in favour.
- Budget 2022/23. Committee **RECOMMENDED** that the budget as presented with anticipated modest increases to salaries and increases to utility bills should be approved.
- Precept 2022/23. Cllr. Matthew Thomas proposed that the precept rate should remain unchanged this year i.e., £788,855.58. Cllr. Wyn Thomas seconded the proposal, all members agreed and **RECOMMENDED** the proposal to Council.

The Mayor, Cllr. Gareth John noted his thanks for the preparatory work carried out by Town Council staff for this meeting, and for the circulation of the comprehensive papers to support the discussion.

**The meeting closed at 8.47pm.**