

CARMARTHEN TOWN COUNCIL
FINANCE COMMITTEE
7.30pm 14 APRIL 2022

The meeting was held in the Council Chamber, 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.

Cllr. Ken Lloyd presided over the meeting.

PRESENT: Cllrs: Ken Lloyd (video link), Matthew Thomas and Wyn Thomas

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

In the absence of the Chair and Vice Chair of the committee, Cllr. Ken Lloyd was nominated as Chair for this meeting.

408. Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Ioan Matthews and Jeff Thomas.

409. Declarations of Interest

- (i) Cllr. Ken Lloyd for item 412(f) due to being a member of an organisation that hires the hall on an annual basis.
- (ii) Cllr. Matthew Thomas, for item 412(f) due to being a member of an organisation that hires the hall on an annual basis.

410. Matters arising from minutes of the previous Finance Committee Meeting

No matters arising.

411. To authorise the signing of the Order for Payment of Accounts Schedule April 2022.

Members scrutinised the payments and were satisfied with the schedule. Councillor Wyn Thomas proposed that the schedule of payments totalling **£159,594.14** should be approved and signed by two members of Council and the Clerk. Cllr. Matthew Thomas seconded the proposal. All members agreed and it was **RESOLVED** that all payments should be approved.

412. Financial Report

A financial report was provided for the period April 2021 to 31st of March 2022.

Council's Bank balances on the 31st of March 2022 were as follows:

	£
HSBC Current Account	47,234.14
HSBC Reserve Account	358,624.87
Total Cash in Bank	405,859.01

Balances in Other Accounts on 31st of March 2022:

Mayor's Allowance	-	£3,682.04
Mayor's Fun Run	-	£6,546.06
Carmarthen Park Tea Shop	-	£12,403.90

- Gross expenditure for the period 1st April to the 31st March 2022 totalled £722,666.78
- Income for the same period, including the Park Tea Shop, totalled £139,162.34. The overall net expenditure is therefore £583,504.44
- The Net Budget/Precept requirement for 2021/22 was £779,129.57, as received. Members will note from the above that Council completed the year within budget on 31st March 2022.
- Payments to clear larger bills were made prior to the end of the financial year for pre-budgeted expenditure for both revenue and capital costs as follows:

Footway Lighting 2021-22	£19,257.66
Footway Lighting LED replacement loan	£7,380.90
Salaries – March 2022	£40,898.42
Installation of accessible path at Parc Hinds	£12,372.00

- £130,000.00 was transferred from the reserves account to the current account during March to cover expenditure.

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

413. Schedule of Monthly Income

The schedule was **APPROVED** by committee.

414. Quarterly Bank Reconciliations as at 31st March 2022

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.

415. Direct Debits 2021-22

Members considered and **NOTED** the direct debit report for the 2021-22 financial year.

416. Purchase of outdoor furniture for the Tea Shop.

Permission was sought for the purchase of outdoor furniture for the summer months at the Tea Shop. Suitable furniture costs £1835 + VAT. Cllr. Matthew Thomas proposed that the purchase should be recommended to Council and was seconded by Cllr. Wyn Thomas and **RECOMMENDED** to Council.

417. Review of hall charges

Cllr. Ken Lloyd and Cllr. Matthew Thomas reiterated their declarations of interest made under item 409 (i) and (ii) above as members of CAMRA. Cllr. Lloyd noted a dispensation from the Monitoring Officer which enables him to take part in the discussion

The Town Clerk suggested that some amendments are made to the current charges, namely:

- Remove the minimum charge of £60
- Additional cost for using the kitchen due to the cleaning time involved - £10 for the kitchen, £20 if also using the oven.
- Remove additional charge for a Sunday.
- Offer the committee room for £15 an hour during office hours.
- Re-consider the current arrangements for giving the hall free of charge a certain number of times a year.

Members considered the suggested changes and **RECOMMENDED** each one to Council and also **RECOMMENDED** removing the facility for the Mayor to offer the hall free of charge.

The meeting closed at 8.02pm.