

CARMARTHEN TOWN COUNCIL
FINANCE COMMITTEE
7.30pm 16 JUNE 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. Tom Defis presided over the meeting.

PRESENT: Cllrs: Tom Defis, Andy King, Miriam Moules, Emlyn Schiavone and Wyn Thomas.

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

56. Election of a Chair 2022/23

Cllr. Wyn Thomas proposed that Cllr. Tom Defis continues in the role as Chair of Committee, seconded by. Cllr. Emlyn Schiavone and the matter was **RESOLVED**.

57. Election of a Vice Chair 2022/23

On the motion of Cllr. Wyn Thomas, seconded by Cllr. Emlyn Schiavone, it was **RESOLVED** that Cllr. Gareth John would continue in his role as Vice Chair of Committee.

58. Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Gareth John, Ioan Matthews, and Jeff Thomas.

59. Declarations of Interest

None

60. To authorise the signing of the Order for Payment of Accounts Schedule June 2022.

- (i) Town Council. Members scrutinised the payments and were satisfied with the schedule. Councillor Wyn Thomas proposed that the schedule of payments totalling **£92,814.90** 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.

- (ii) Tea Shop. Members scrutinised the payments and were satisfied with the schedule. Councillor Andy King proposed that the schedule of payments totalling **£1398.73** 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 approved.

61. Financial Report

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

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

	£
HSBC Current Account	40,323.48
HSBC Reserve Account	558,653.23
Total Cash in Bank	598,976.71

Balances in Other Accounts on 31st of May 2022:

Mayor's Allowance	-	£3,532.04
Mayor's Fun Run	-	£7,392.13
Carmarthen Park Tea Shop	-	£18,675.32

- Gross expenditure for the period 1st April to the 31st of May 2022 totalled £65,705.81
- Income for the same period, including the Park Tea Shop, totalled £24,993.86. The overall net expenditure is therefore £40,711.95
- The Net Budget/Precept requirement for 2022/23 is £788,855.58, of which £262,951.86 has been received. Members will note from the above that Council completed the year within budget on 31st May 2022.

The financial report was **NOTED**.

62. Schedule of Monthly Income

The schedule was **APPROVED** by committee.

63. Regular Payments

In accordance with financial regulation 5.6, a list of regular payees and the typical costs per month or quarter for those suppliers was presented to committee. Approval was sought to facilitate payment to these suppliers ahead of Finance Committee meetings, if necessary. Members **APPROVED** the list.

A list of direct debit payments was also included for the information of members and was **NOTED**.

64. Pre-paid debit card for the Tea Shop.

In accordance with financial regulation 6.19, permission was required for the provision of a pre-paid debit card that could be used in the same way as petty cash for the Tea Shop. A maximum balance of £500 would mirror the current arrangements in place for petty cash and replenishment of funds would be submitted to Finance Committee for approval. Members discussed the proposed arrangement and **APPROVED** the provision of the card.

65. The General Power of Competence

The general power enables eligible community councils to act in their communities' best interests, generate efficiencies and secure value for money outcomes. Eligible community councils will also be able to raise money by charging for discretionary services and to trade for commercial purposes and in their ordinary functions. To formally become an eligible community council, a council must meet the conditions set out in the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 "the Act" and pass a resolution at any meeting confirming that it meets the conditions.

A detailed report about the General Power of Competence had been circulate to Members in advance of the meeting and members received information during the meeting from the Clerk regarding the potential benefits of declaring Council as eligible to use the power, and the criteria that Council must meet to be eligible. Following a discussion, Cllr. Andy King proposed, seconded by Cllr. Miriam Moules and with committee's agreement that it be **RECOMMENDED** that Council should declare itself an eligible Council under the Act.

The meeting closed at 8.05pm.