

CARMARTHEN TOWN COUNCIL
FINANCE COMMITTEE
7.30pm 13 OCTOBER 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. Miriam Moules presided over the meeting.

PRESENT: Cllrs: Heledd ap Gwynfor, Andy King, Miriam Moules, Emlyn Schiavone and Jeff Thomas.

Emma Smith - Town Clerk

199. To nominate a Chair for the meeting.

Due to the absence of the Chair following technical issues and apologies from the Vice Chair, members nominated the Mayor, Cllr. Miriam Moules to chair the meeting.

200. Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Tom Defis, Gareth John, Ioan Matthews and Wyn Thomas.

201. Declarations of Interest

Cllr. Miriam Moules for item 208(viii) as a trustee of Shopmobility.

202. To authorise the signing of the Order for Payment of Accounts Schedule October 2022.

- (i) Town Council. Members scrutinised the payments and were satisfied with the schedule. Councillor Andy King proposed that the schedule of payments totalling **£29,048.00** 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 **£1383.83** 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.

203. Financial Report

A financial report was provided for the period April 2021 to 30th of September 2022.

Financial Report

Council's Bank balances on the 30th of September 2022 were as follows:

| | £ |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| HSBC Current Account | 60,258.76 |
| HSBC Reserve Account | 558,823.11 |
| Total Cash in Bank | 619,081.87 |

Balances in Other Accounts on 30th September 2022:

| | | |
|--------------------------|---|------------|
| Mayor's Allowance | - | £3,240.00 |
| Mayor's Fun Run | - | £6,072.13 |
| Carmarthen Park Tea Shop | - | £31,401.48 |

- Gross expenditure for the period 1st April to the 30th of September 2022 totalled £353,789.
- Income for the same period, including the Park Tea Shop, totalled £83,046. The overall net expenditure is therefore £270,743.
- The Net Budget/Precept requirement for 2022/23 is £788,855, of which £525,918 has been received. Members will note from the above that Council was within budget on 31st September 2022.

The financial report was **NOTED**.

204. Quarterly budget update 30th September 2022

RESOLVED that the quarterly budget update should be approved.

205. Quarterly Bank Reconciliation 30th September 2022

Members considered the quarterly bank reconciliations for the current account, reserves account and Tea Shop accounts. No issues were raised, and on the motion of Cllr. Jeff Thomas and seconded by Cllr. Heledd ap Gwynfor, committee **APPROVED** the reconciliations.

206. Town Council Asset Register

Members considered and **APPROVED** the asset register dated 31st March 2022.

207. Review of Grants Policy

Members reviewed the Grants Policy prior to considering the applications for financial assistance. No comments were made on the content, but it was **AGREED** that the policy would be revised before the next applications would be brought to committee in March.

208. Applications for Small Grants and Financial Assistance

Nine applications were presented to committee and the following contributions were **RESOLVED**:

- i. *Carmarthen Amateur Operatic Society*. Committee **AGREED** that £200 should be contributed to this application.
- ii. *Dr Mz*. A contribution had already been made this year in response to this application.
- iii. *Kids Cancer Charity*. More information would be requested regarding the charity's work in Carmarthen.
- iv. *Tŷ Hafan*. A contribution has already been made in March 2022.
- v. *Tenovus*. A contribution of £150 was **AGREED**.
- vi. *Cerebral Palsy Cymru*. More information would be requested regarding the charity's work in Carmarthen.
- vii. *Carmarthenshire YFC*. Committee **AGREED** that £200 should be contributed to this application.
- viii. *Carmarthen Shopmobility*. Cllr Miriam Moules declared an interest went in to the waiting room for this application as a trustee of the charity. Members **AGREED** a £250 contribution in support of this application.
- ix. A further application from HwbTywiHub for essential electric work on the Pavilion in Johnstown, a Town Council asset was considered separately under the routine maintenance. The expenditure of £3320.50 was **RECOMMENDED** for approval to Council.

A request has also been received from Carmarthen Bowling Club to roll forward the contribution received in April this year to June or July 2023 as the planned tournament has been postponed. Members **APPROVED** the extension.

209. Appointment of the Internal Auditor for 2022/23

Cllr. Jeff Thomas proposed that the current internal auditor, Bevan and Buckland LLP be approved for the 2022/23 internal audit as per the details in the tender exercise carried out in 2021. Cllr. Andy King seconded the proposal; all were in favour and the proposal was **RECOMMENDED** to Council.

210. Council Capital Projects and Priorities 2023/24

Committee supported the ideas that had been put forward by the General Purposes Committee on the 11th of October 2022. Committee also **RECOMMENDED** that an extension to the skatepark to include younger users should be considered.

211. Warm banks

Members **APPROVED** a small budget of £500 for the warm banks' initiative should some funding be required at short notice.

212. Hanging Basket Costs 2022

A breakdown of cost for the 2022 hanging basket season was presented to members and on the proposal of Cllr. Emlyn Schiavone, seconded by Cllr. Heledd ap Gwynfor, was **APPROVED** for continuation in 2023.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.

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