

**CARMARTHEN TOWN COUNCIL**  
**FINANCE COMMITTEE**  
**7.30pm 10 NOVEMBER 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: Heledd ap Gwynfor, Tom Defis, Andy King, Ioan Matthews, Miriam Moules, Emlyn Schiavone, Jeff Thomas and Wyn Thomas.

Emma Smith - Town Clerk

**258. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillors Gareth John and Emlyn Schiavone.

**259. Declarations of Interest**

Cllr. Jeff Thomas for item 265(ii) below.

**260. To authorise the signing of the Order for Payment of Accounts Schedules November 2022.**

- (i) Town Council. Members scrutinised the payments and were satisfied with the schedule. Councillor Tom Defis proposed that the schedule of payments totalling **£117,028.75** should be approved and signed by two members of Council and the Clerk. Cllr. Wyn Thomas 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 Tom Defis proposed that the schedule of payments totalling **£812.45** should be approved and signed by two members of Council and the Clerk. Cllr. Wyn Thomas seconded the proposal. All members agreed and it was **RESOLVED** that all payments should be approved.

**261. Financial Report**

A financial report was provided for the period April 2021 to 31<sup>st</sup> of October 2022.

**Financial Report**

Council's Bank balances on the 31<sup>st</sup> of October 2022 were as follows:

	£
HSBC Current Account	147,482.43
HSBC Reserve Account	458,998.03
<b>Total Cash in Bank</b>	<b>606,480.46</b>

### Balances in Other Accounts on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2022:

Mayor's Allowance	-	£3,127.50
Mayor's Fun Run	-	£5072.13
Carmarthen Park Tea Shop	-	£33,486.22

- Gross expenditure for the period 1st April to the 31<sup>st</sup> of October 2022 totalled £428,510.49.
- Income for the same period, including the Park Tea Shop, totalled £95,407.16. The overall net expenditure is therefore £333,103.33.
- 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 31<sup>st</sup> October 2022.

The financial report was **NOTED**.

### 262. Fidelity Guarantee review

Members considered the current limit of indemnity cover set at £500,000. Members **RECOMMENDED** that this amount should be increased to cover the current level of funds.

### 263. Purchase of equipment for the Tea Shop

Members **APPROVED** the recent emergency purchase of new hot water heater and griddle for the Tea Shop which were bought to ensure the shop could continue to operate. Members also **APPROVED** the purchase of a new coffee machine and freezer to replace those nearing the end of life.

### 264. Christmas grotto

Members **APPROVED** that there would be no charge for Santa's grotto this year to support the free event during the cost-of-living crisis.

### 265. Applications for Small Grants and Financial Assistance

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

- i. *Carmarthenshire Toybox Appeal*. Committee **AGREED** that £100 plus the takings from the bucket collection at the Christmas event should be contributed to this application.
- ii. *Cylch Meithrin Tywi*. Committee **AGREED** that a contribution of £100 should be contributed to the event outlined by the applicant. *Cllr. Jeff Thomas expressed*

*an interest in this application as the Cylch Meithrin are based at Carmarthen Town Football Club, where Cllr. Thomas is a director.*

## **266. Annual Review of Council Charges**

Committee reviewed the charges and **RECOMMENDED** that no increases should be made this year.

## **267. Budget planning 2023/24**

A lengthy discussion was held to commence the budget discussions for the 2023/24 financial year. The document presented by the Clerk was considered and the proposed capital projects were prioritised and considered for alternative funding. The Town Clerk noted that the revenue budget was within the overall budget, with forecast increases to salaries and inflation included.

The Town Clerk explained the background to each of the proposed capital projects in the budget planning document and it was **AGREED** that the list of projects as prioritised would be re-submitted to the Finance Committee in January for the annual budget meeting.

Members also **AGREED** that work should begin now to seek funding for Carmarthen Cemetery Chapel.

**The meeting closed at 8.18pm.**