

CARMARTHEN TOWN COUNCIL
FINANCE COMMITTEE
7.30pm 12 JANUARY 2023

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.

The meeting was chaired by Cllr. Gareth John. Members of the General Purposes Committee were invited to attend to discuss the budget for 2023/24.

PRESENT: Cllrs: Heledd ap Gwynfor (video), Peter Hughes Griffiths (video), Gareth John, Andy King, Ioan Matthews, Miriam Moules (video), Emlyn Schiavone, Wyn Thomas and Luned Voyle.

Emma Smith - Town Clerk

328. Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Tom Defis, Angharad Jones Leefe, Arwel Lloyd and Jeff Thomas.

329. Declarations of Interest

Cllr. Ioan Matthews, Emlyn Schiavone and Luned Voyle for item 335 below.

330. Matters arising from the minutes of a previous meeting of the Finance Committee

None

331. To authorise the signing of the Order for Payment of Accounts Schedules January 2023.

Members scrutinised the payments and were satisfied with the schedule. Councillor Wyn Thomas proposed that the schedule of payments totalling **£30,906.09** 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.

332. Financial Report

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

Financial Report

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

	£
HSBC Current Account	353,071.61
HSBC Reserve Account	359,452.75
Total Cash in Bank	712,524.36

Balances in Other Accounts on 31st December 2022:

Mayor's Allowance	-	£3,002.50
Mayor's Fun Run	-	£5,072.13
Carmarthen Park Tea Shop	-	£36,355.03

- Gross expenditure for the period 1st April to the 31st of December 2022 totalled £529,260.
- Income for the same period, including the Park Tea Shop, totalled £128,883. The overall net expenditure is therefore £400,377.
- The Net Budget/Precept requirement for 2022/23 is £788,855, has all been received. Members will note from the above that Council was within budget on 31st December 2022.
- The final instalment of the precept was received on the 29th of December 2022.
- £100,000 was transferred from the reserves to the current account in December to make the monthly payments.

The Clerk noted that the Tea Shop bank account was in the process of being closed, with all transactions ceased on 31st December 2022. The account was being merged into the main Town Council account.

The financial report was **NOTED**.

333. Quarterly Budget Update

RESOLVED that the quarterly budget update should be approved.

334. Quarterly Bank Reconciliation 31st December 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.

335. Draft Town Council Budget

Cllr. Ioan Matthews declared an interest as an allotment holder. Cllr. Luned Voyle declared an interest due to her role with Menter Gorllewin Sir Gâr, and Cllr. Emlyn Schiavone as a trustee of Oriel Myrddin.

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 2023/24.

The total projected Council income and expenditure for 2023/24 is £951,613 and £906,132 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 2023/24:

a)	Topple testing at cemetery (year 2 of 3)	-	3,250
b)	New floodlights at park (lamps and electrics) £75,000 over 3 years @£25k a year (year 2)	-	25,000
c)	Replacement CCTV cameras for St Peter's Civic Hall	-	750
d)	3 mowers for cemetery	-	4,500
e)	New fittings and equipment for tea shop	-	2,000
f)	Repairs to courtyard roof Tea Shop / Park Lodge	-	1,500
g)	Repairs to Grandstand Roof	-	20,000
h)	Repairs to SPC Hall roof and windows (2nd floor)	-	5,000
i)	Velodrome line marking	-	5,500
j)	Upgrade to fire alarm system – Grandstand	-	2,200
k)	Devices for members (10" tablets)	-	3,000
l)	Nadolig Llawen Christmas lights sign	-	3,000
m)	Replacement cherry picker	-	20,000
Total capital budget requirement		-	£95,700

Town Council Contributions to Events and Organisations:

Community Contribution (Annual)	£
S137 Payments - Small Grants	3,500
S142 Payments - Citizens Advice Bureau	500
Oriel Myrddin	3,900
Donations : Urdd Eisteddfod	200
: Llangollen International Eisteddfod	200
: Gwyl Cerdd Dant	200
: Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Cymru (Blynyddol/ Annual)	200
: Carmarthen Youth Opera	200
Dr Mz Youth Organisation	1,000
	9,900
Town Centre Activities (Annual)	
CTC - Annual Sports Awards	1,000
St David's Day	3,000
Pride of Place	500
River Festival	2,000
Gwyl Canol Dref	2,000
Christmas Event	12,000
Christmas Lights Installation (equipment)	10,000
Replacement Xmas Street Decorations	10,000
	40,500

- 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. The list as presented, totalling £40,500 was **RECOMMENDED** to Council for ratification. All members were in favour.
- Budget 2023/24. On the proposal of Cllr. Ioan Matthews, seconded by Cllr. Andy King, committee **RECOMMENDED** that the budget as presented with increases to salaries and increases linked to inflation in areas such as maintenance, electricity, fuel, rates and insurance, should be approved by Council.
- Precept 2023/24. Cllr. Ioan Matthews proposed that the precept rate should remain unchanged this year i.e., £793,011. Cllr. Wyn Thomas seconded the proposal, all members agreed and **RECOMMENDED** the proposal to Council.

Cllr. Gareth John noted his thanks for the preparatory work carried out by the Clerk, and for the circulation of the papers to support the discussion.

The meeting closed at 8.23pm.