

**CARMARTHEN TOWN COUNCIL
GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE
HELD ON 7th FEBRUARY 2023 AT 7.30PM**

The meeting was held online in accordance with the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021, enabling meetings of local authorities held from 1 May 2021 to be attended by means of remote attendance.

Cllr. Angharad Jones Leefe presided over the meeting.

PRESENT: Peter Hughes Griffiths , Marc Ingram, Angharad Jones Leefe, Alun Lenny (video), Arwel Lloyd (video), Miriam Moules (video), Wyn Thomas, Barry Williams (video).

Emma Smith – Town Clerk

Wendy Dickson – Deputy Town Clerk

354. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillor Russell Sparks and Councillor Dai Evans.

355. Declarations of Interest

None

356. Matters arising from minutes of the previous General Purposes Committee Meeting

None

Town Clerk's Report

357. Planning Applications

- (i) **PL/05350** - Change of use from vacant offices over first and second floors into 2 No. self-contained residential flats (1 No. flat per floor) - 62 King Street, Carmarthen, SA31 1BA. **NO OBJECTION**
- (ii) The formal notification relating to a Pre-Application Consultation exercise in preparation of a submission for full planning permission for the following development – Proposed Residential Development (20 dwellings) and highway improvements at land north of Parc y Delyn, Carmarthen, SA31 1TS. **TOWN CLERK TO RAISE CONCERNS RE HIGHWAY ACCESS AND THE USE OF RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES.**
- (iii) Planning Appeal at Penlan fach. **NOT SUPPORTED.** Initial comments will be resubmitted.

358. Highways Matters

None

359. Licensing Matters

None

360. Revised Welsh Language Scheme

Members considered the revisions to the Town Council's Welsh Language Scheme. The scheme was **RECOMMENDED** to Council by Cllr. Wyn Thomas and seconded by Cllr. Peter Hughes Griffiths.

361. Carmarthen Spring Clean

Carmarthen Town Council's Spring Clean will commence in February extending into March. Work to include cleaning, painting and planting around the town with all members of staff being involved.

Members discussed the need for Councillors to support the scheme wearing hi-vis jackets to demonstrate their support towards the campaign.

Town Clerk informed members of a proposed "walkabout" arranged on the 15th of February with Carmarthen County Council to discuss areas of improvement within the Town in support of the spring clean.

Cllr Wyn Thomas commented on a complaint that he had received regarding litter being left on local paths, with Cllr Alun Lenny noting a complaint regarding dog mess. It was **AGREED** that these issues would be raised during the "walkabout" with Carmarthen County Council.

362. Licence Relating to land at Carmarthen Castle Forecourt

Members were asked to consider if they would like to renew the license for the castle forecourt area.

On the proposal of Cllr. Mark Ingram, seconded by Cllr. Miriam Moules, it was **RECOMMENDED** that the licence be renewed.

363. St David's Day Celebrations

All preparations are coming along as expected. Cllr Peter Hughes Griffiths outlined some of the events planned including "Cawl a chan a Pwdin Reis" on the Saturday night at the Quins club and a service by Rev. Beti-Wyn James which will be recorded and available online.

364. Council Tax Premium on Second Homes and Empty Properties.

Carmarthenshire County Council is consulting with its residents on the review of the Council Tax Premium Scheme for long-term empty properties and second homes.

Members discussed the effect on the Town with approximately 1300 properties classed as long-term empty especially given the number of new properties being constructed. On the proposal of Cllr. Peter Hughes-Griffiths, seconded by Cllr. Mark Ingram the following recommendations were made.

Second Homes - members **RECOMMENDED** that Council support the increase in the premium whilst ensuring a consistent approach with neighbouring counties.

Empty Properties – members **RECOMMENDED** that council respond in favour of the increased premium.

365. Kings Coronation May 2023

Members discussed the upcoming coronation of King Charles III. It was **RECOMMENDED** that the Town Council would be willing to facilitate celebrations at the park or St Peter's Civic Hall if anyone in the community should wish to hold an event.

366. Risk Management Policy and Risk Assessment 2023/24.

Members considered the whole document and paid particular attention to areas where the "Residual Risk" was high and coded red. Amendments to the policy were **AGREED** on these areas which will be forwarded to Council along with comments made by the Finance Committee.

The meeting closed at 8.34pm.