

CARMARTHEN TOWN COUNCIL
FINANCE COMMITTEE
HELD ON 16th MARCH 2023 AT 7.30PM

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 attended by means of remote attendance.

Cllr. Gareth John presided over the meeting.

PRESENT: Councillors Andy King, Emlyn Schiavone, Gareth John (Video), Heledd ap Gwynfor, Miriam Moules (video), Wyn Thomas, Jeff Thomas.

Emma Smith – Town Clerk
Wendy Dickson – Deputy Town Clerk

408. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillors Tom Defis, Ioan Matthews a Luned Voyle.

409. Declarations of Interest

None

410. Matters arising from the minutes of the previous Finance Committee Meeting.

None

411. To authorise the signing of the Order for Payment of Accounts Schedules March 2023.

Members scrutinised the payments and were satisfied with the schedule. Councillor Wyn Thomas proposed the schedule of payments totalling **£107115.62** 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.

412. Town Clerk's Report

(a) Financial Report

Council's Bank balances on the 28th of February 2023 were as follows:

HSBC Current Account	£107,544.55
HSBC Reserve Account	£546,721.63
Total Cash in Bank	£654,266.18

Balances in Other Accounts on 28 February 2023:

Mayor's Allowance - £2,077.50

Mayor's Fun Run - £6,672.13

- Gross expenditure for the period 1st April 2022 to the 28th of February 2023 totalled £686,799.
- Income for the same period, including the Park Tea Shop, totalled £139,797. The overall net expenditure is therefore £547,002.
- 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 28th of February 2023.

The financial report was **NOTED**.

413. Schedule of debtors.

The schedule was **APPROVED** by Committee.

414. Review of Town Council Grants Policy

Members considered and **APPROVED** the revised policy.

415. Applications for Small Grants and Financial Assistance.

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

- i) *Kids Cancer Charity* - £300 contribution
- ii) *Cerebral Palsy Cymru* - £300 contribution
- iii) *Eisteddfod yr Urdd – Sir Gaerfyrddin 2023* - £300 contribution
- iv) *On your face – LGBTQ+ Cultural hub* – Cllr. Wyn Thomas proposed that no contribution should be made at this time, but a reply should be sent to request further information with the application being reconsidered when more information is received.
- v) *Carmarthen Antiquarian Society* - £300 contribution
- vi) *Welsh Air Ambulance* - £300 contribution

416. Applications for Red Court Solar Park grants.

- i) *Caerfyrddin Gyda'n Gilydd/ Carmarthen Together*

Cllr. Emlyn Schiavone proposed a contribution of £300 and this was seconded by Cllr. Heledd Ap Gwynedd. All members present **AGREED**.

417. Review of Council's Investment Strategy and Banking Arrangements.

The Clerk advised members that interest rates are now improving and that tying up Council's funds in other accounts could increase the return on the funds. Cllr. Jeff Thomas proposed that the Town Clerk make enquiries and source suitable investments. Cllr. Andy King proposed that £150,000 of the unearmarked reserves would be an appropriate sum and this was seconded by Cllr. Jeff Thomas. All members present **AGREED**.

418. Expressions of Interest from Tradespeople.

In the last month Tradespeople have been invited to send their details to the Town Council to express their interest in opportunities to undertake jobs as and when required.

Cllr. Gareth John commented on the professionalism of the advert.

Town Clerk reported that 28 expressions of interest had been received and that this information would now be kept on file for future use.

The information was **NOTED** by the committee members.

419. Finance and Governance Toolkit Update.

Cllrs. Gareth John and Barry Williams have, alongside the Clerk and Deputy Clerk, completed the work to identify any gaps in the Town Council's finance and governance arrangements.

The Town Clerk provided an update on the Toolkit which was **NOTED** by the committee members.

420. Shared Prosperity Fund.

Carmarthenshire County Council launched the Shared Prosperity Fund at the beginning of March with an information session held for Town & Community Councils on the 9th of March which the Town Clerk attended.

Council members were presented with four proposed events that would meet with the objectives of the Town Councils strategy which would take place between October 2023 and March 2024.

The Town Clerk proposed that an application for funding to improve the Bandstand at Carmarthen Park could also be submitted.

All members were in favour and the proposal was **AGREED**.

421. Date of Next meeting.

It was **AGREED** that the next meeting would take place on the 13th of April 2023 at 7:30pm.

The meeting closed at 8.25 pm.

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