

CARMARTHEN TOWN COUNCIL
FINANCE COMMITTEE
HELD ON 11th APRIL 2024 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.

The meeting was chaired by Cllr. Jeff Thomas.

PRESENT: Councillors: Heledd ap Gwynfor (video), Gareth John (video), Andy King (video), Jeff Thomas, Wyn Thomas, Aled Williams and Luned Voyle.

Emma Smith – Town Clerk
 Wendy Dickson – Deputy Town Clerk and Finance Manager
 Catrin Llwyd - Translator

398. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillors Tom Defis, Ioan Matthews.

399. Declarations of Interest

None

400. To authorise the signing of the Order for Payment of Accounts Schedule for April 2024.

Members scrutinised the payments and were satisfied with the schedule. Cllr. Emlyn Schiavone proposed the schedule of payments totalling **£7,480.85** should be approved and signed by two members of Council and the Clerk. Cllr. Luned Voyle seconded the proposal. All members agreed and it was **RESOLVED** that all payments should be approved.

Town Clerk's Report

401. Financial Report

Council's Bank balances on the 31st of March 2024 were as follows:

	£
HSBC Current Account	54,768.90
HSBC Reserve Account	356,227.94
Total Cash in Bank	410,996.84

Balances in Other Accounts on 31st of March 2024:

Mayor's Allowance	-	£2,457.15
Mayor's Fun Run	-	£7,695.12

- Gross expenditure for the period 1st April to the 31st of March 2024 totalled £967,070.90.
- Income for the same period totalled £202,582.03. The overall net expenditure is therefore £764,488.87.
- The Net Budget/Precept requirement for 2023/24 is £793,011 which has all been received.

Members were reminded that the gross expenditure total did not include the Fixed Assets purchased in the year 2023/24 which totalled £84,806.50. The Deputy Clerk also advised Members that a sum of £28,761 was received during 2023/24 which is not reflected in the Income total.

The Clerk advised Members that the total Cash in Bank figure included £402,500 of earmarked and unearmarked reserves leaving a residual balance for 2023/24 of approximately £8,500.

The final figures will be provided in the statement of accounts which will be provided by the Town Council's accountant.

The financial report was **NOTED**.

402. Quarterly budget update

Cllr. Emlyn Schiavone proposed that the quarterly budget update be **APPROVED**, and the proposal was seconded by Cllr. Luned Voyle. All members agreed.

403. Quarterly Bank Reconciliation

Cllr. Emlyn Schiavone proposed that the bank reconciliations for the quarter be **APPROVED**, and the proposal was seconded by Cllr. Wyn Thomas, with all members in agreement.

404. Direct Debits 2023-24

Cllr. Aled Williams proposed that the Direct Debits for 2023 - 2024 be **APPROVED**, and the proposal was seconded by Cllr. Heledd ap Gwynfor. All members agreed.

405. Replacement of RTV vehicle for the cemetery

The Clerk shared with Members the details of three possible options in replacing the current RTV at Carmarthen Cemetery. Members considered the three options with Cllr. Gareth John requesting that the second option be pursued further and details of lease options being brought to Council at the end of the month. Cllr Wyn Thomas also requested that further prices be sought for comparison and procurement purposes.

406. Appointment of a Professional to complete Bandstand Restoration

Committee was presented with tenders from three firms who had bid for the work. The tenders were assessed on price, qualifications to carry out the work and location.

The Clerk advised that discussions were taking place with the bureau at Carmarthenshire County Council and the project consultant about the way forward for this project given the high cost of the tenders received. Options for grant funding would also be pursued.

Members discussed the tenders and on the proposal of Cllr. Gareth John, seconded by Cllr. Andy King, members **RECOMMENDED** that Bid 2 be appointed for the restoration work on the Bandstand.

The meeting closed at 8:20 pm.