

CARMARTHEN TOWN COUNCIL
FINANCE COMMITTEE
HELD ON 12 JUNE 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. Gareth John (Item 53 onwards)

PRESENT: Councillors Heledd ap Gwynfor (Video), Gareth John (Video), Emlyn Schiavone (Video), Jeff Thomas, Wyn Thomas, Aled Williams a Luned Voyle.

Emma Smith – Town Clerk

Wendy Dickson – Deputy Town Clerk and Finance Manager

52. Election of a Chair

Cllr. Jeff Thomas proposed that Cllr. Gareth John be elected as Chair of Committee, and the proposal was seconded by Cllr. Wyn Thomas and the matter was **RESOLVED**.

53. Election of a Vice Chair

On the motion of Cllr. Wyn Thomas, seconded by Cllr. Jeff Thomas, it was **RESOLVED** that Cllr. Luned Voyle would be elected as Vice Chair of Committee.

54. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr. Andy King.

55. To authorise the signing of the Order for Payment of Accounts Schedules June 2023.

Members scrutinised the payments and were satisfied with the schedule.

RESOLVED that the schedule of payments totalling **£48,634.64** should be approved and signed by two members of Council and the Clerk.

56. Town Clerk's Report

(a) Financial Report

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

HSBC Current Account	£120,455.51
HSBC Reserve Account	£557,758.34
Total Cash in Bank	£678,213.85

Balances in Other Accounts on 31st May 2024:

Mayor's Allowance - £1,569.65
 Mayor's Fun Run - £7935.12

- Gross expenditure for the period 1st April 2023 to the 31st of May 2024 totalled £98,309.33.
- Income for the same period totalled £58,052.89 The overall net expenditure is therefore £40,256.44.
- The Net Budget/Precept requirement for 2024/25 is £874,221, of which £291,407.00 has been received. Members will note from the above that Council completed the year within budget on 31st May 2024.

The financial report was **NOTED**.

57. Regular payments and Direct Debits.

In accordance with financial regulation 5.6, a list of regular payees and the typical costs per month or quarter for those suppliers was presented to committee. Approval was sought to facilitate payment to these suppliers ahead of Finance Committee meetings, if necessary. Members **APPROVED** the list.

A list of direct debit payments was also included for the information of members and was **NOTED**.

58. Monthly 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.

59. Agency Services.

The Clerk shared with Members the current charges levied for the provision of services to community organisations and neighbouring town and community councils for events in the community. Members discussed the charges and on the proposal of Cllr. Jeff Thomas, seconded by Cllr. Wyn Thomas, members agreed that the cost of hiring the cherry-picker and two members of staff should be increased to £60/ph with the other charges remaining at the current level and the matter being **RECOMMENDED** to Council.

60. Town activities and Financial Assistance.

The Clerk reported that a request for financial assistance had been received from Carmarthen River Festival. Cllr. Jeff Thomas proposed a contribution of £1,800 as budgeted which was seconded by Cllr. Gareth John. All members **AGREED**.

61. Application for Non-Domestic Rates relief 2024-25.

The Deputy Clerk advised Members of a Welsh Government grant available to eligible businesses which offers a 40% discount on non-domestic rates for the Retail, Leisure and Hospitality sector.

Members discussed the scheme and **AGREED** that an application should be submitted for St Peter's Civic Hall, the Tea Rooms at the Park and Carmarthen Cemetery.

62. Correspondence

(i) Carmarthen Round Table re: hall hire.

The Clerk reported that correspondence had been received from Carmarthen Round Table regarding a recent invoice for an event held at St Peter's Civic Hall.

Members discussed the request and for reasons that would be noted in a reply to the Round Table, council would be unable to agree to the request.

The meeting closed at 8:23 pm.