

CARMARTHEN TOWN COUNCIL
MONTHLY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
HELD ON 31 JULY 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 held by means of remote attendance.

The Mayor, Cllr. Emlyn Schiavone presided over the meeting.

PRESENT: Councillors Peter Hughes Griffiths, Gareth John (Video), Andy King, Alun Lenny (Video), Miriam Moules (Video), Emlyn Schiavone, Wyn Thomas, Barry Williams.

Emma Smith –Town Clerk
Wendy Dickson – Deputy Town Clerk
Llinos Haf Jones – Translator (Video)

118. Presentation by Ali Harbor from Dr Mz

The Mayor, Cllr. Emlyn Schiavone welcomed Ali Harbor to the meeting.

Ali Harbor summarised the role of Dr Mz in supporting the people of Carmarthen, a role that has evolved greatly over the last few years. Ali noted that due to the cost-of-living crisis, they had seen an increase in demand and a reduction in funding. She stated that they had an initiative that offered free meals for young people which in some instances involved the young people growing some of the ingredients, shopping for other ingredients as well as preparing the meal itself. This serves as an educational piece also as they learn new life skills which they can take into adulthood. Ali noted that as an organisation, they work with many different groups in Carmarthen including Sero, LocalMotion, Carmarthen Youth Project and many others with a common goal of meeting the needs of the young people in Carmarthen.

Ali thanked Council for their support over the years and confirmed that should their request for financial assistance be successful this year, the money would be spent in supporting the continuation of the free meals and also to provide free pool games for the young people attending Dr Mz.

The Mayor, Cllr. Emlyn Schiavone thanked Ali for her informative presentation and for all their great work in supporting the young people of Carmarthen.

Ali Harbor left the meeting at this point.

119. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were accepted from Cllrs. Dai Evans, Angharad Jones Leefe, Ioan Matthews, Russell Sparks, Aled Williams and Luned Voyle.

120. Declarations of Interest

Cllr. Alun Lenny for Item 128(i) due to a close personal relationship with an artist that would have a role in the creation of the mural.

121. Questions from Members

None

122. Questions from the Public

None

123. To confirm and sign the minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Council held on 26th of June 2024.

It was proposed by Cllr. Peter Hughes Griffiths, seconded by Cllr. Wyn Thomas and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Council meeting held on the 26th of June 2024 be accepted as a true record.

124. To confirm and sign the minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on 10th July 2024.

It was proposed by Cllr. Peter Hughes Griffiths, seconded by Cllr. Barry Williams and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Committee meeting held on the 10th of June 2024 be accepted as a true record.

125. Matters arising from the General Purposes Committee.

- i. Page 27: Item No 97 – Review of Council’s Strategy

Members **RESOLVED** that the recommendation noted above should be approved as noted in the General Purposes Committee minutes for the 10th of July 2024.

126. To confirm and sign the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 10th July 2024.

It was proposed by Cllr. Wyn Thomas, seconded by Cllr. Gareth John and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Committee meeting held on the 10th of July 2024 be accepted as a true record.

127. Matters arising from the Finance Committee meeting.

- i. Page 30: Item No 108 – Charges for the Park

Members **RESOLVED** that the recommendation noted above should be approved as noted in the Finance Committee minutes for the 10th of July 2024.

Following the presentation from Ali Harbor, Members discussed the request for financial assistance and, on the proposal of Cllr. Peter Hughes Griffiths, seconded

by Cllr. Miriam Moules, it was **AGREED** that a contribution of £1000 should be made with all Members present in agreement.

Town Clerk's Report

128. Planning

- i. **PL/07997** - Create public art mural that will commemorate the people and events that have contributed to the town's evolution and the building's links while also enhancing the aesthetic appeal of Carmarthen and fostering a more vibrant and promising future for its residents – 32 King Street, Carmarthen, SA31 1BS – **NO OBJECTION**. *Cllr Alun Lenny did not take part in this discussion due to his declared interest.*
- ii. **PL/08012** - Change of use from office to House of Multiple Occupancy - 31 Quay Street, Carmarthen, SA31 3JT – **NO OBJECTION**
- iii. **PL/08003** - Proposal for the Modification: Replacement of single window with single fire exit door - Cwrw, 32 King Street, Carmarthen, SA31 1BS - **NO OBJECTION**
- iv. **PL/07897** - Placement of a 12x12 ft shed in large garden to use as a private/small 1-1 home salon - 19 Millbrook Crescent, Carmarthen, SA31 3DT – **NO OBJECTION**.
- v. **PL/08084** - Construction and operation of a micro battery energy storage facility - Land to the rear of Units 19 and 20 Anthony Way, Cillefwr Industrial Estate, Johnstown, Carmarthen – **NO OBJECTION**

129. Highways Matters

None

130. Licensing Matters

None

131. To receive the internal Auditor's report, Statement of Accounts and Annual Return to Audit Wales.

The Deputy Town Clerk presented the Annual Return, and Internal Auditor's report to Council. The Deputy Town Clerk addressed the issues raised in the Internal Auditor's report and presented the Annual Governance Statement to Council for approval as part of the Annual Return. On the motion of Cllr. Peter Hughes Griffiths, seconded by Cllr. Barry Williams, with all members in favour, it was agreed that the Internal Auditor's report should be **NOTED**, and the Annual Return should be **APPROVED**.

132. Security for the Park and Cemetery.

The Clerk advised Members that three prices had been obtained from companies in the local area with one being substantially lower than the other two. A meeting of the

Security Working Group was held on the 5th of July 2024 whereby the members agreed that the services of one company should be suggested to Council with a short handover period suggested between the current and the new company. It was agreed that there would be a trial period of 6 months initially.

Members **RESOLVED** that the recommendation noted above should be approved.

133. Mayors Report.

Since the last meeting, the Mayor, Councillor Emlyn Schiavone provided a report of attendance at the following engagements:

List of Mayor's Engagements up to 31st July 2024

June

27 Salvation Army – Employability Day

July

6 Menter Gorllewin Sir Gâr – Official open the performance stage at Gwyl Canol Dre
Centre Stage Theatre – Performance of 'Finding Nemo Jr'

13 Kidwelly Carnival

21 Haverfordwest Town Council – Beating of the Bounds/River Festival

22 Carmarthen Stroke Club – Strawberry Tea and Entertainment

Members **NOTED** the report.

134. Reports from Councillors as Council Representatives on outside bodies.

- i Cllr. Wyn Thomas noted that he had hosted a presentation event in the Committee Room at St Peter's Civic Hall to distribute donations to six charities from the Mayor's Charity fund following this year's Mayor's Race. Each Charity received a donation of £500.

135. Correspondence.

- i. Dogs in the Park – The Clerk advised Members that a letter had been received regarding dogs roaming freely at Carmarthen Park. Members agreed that the matter would be discussed at the next meeting of the General Purposes Committee.
- ii. Menter Gorllewin - The Clerk advised Members that a letter of thanks had been received thanking the Town Council for their financial assistance during the Gŵyl Canol Dre event held on the 6th of July 2024.

Members **NOTED** the Correspondence.

- iii. The River Festival – A letter of thanks had been received from the organisers of the Carmarthen River Festival thanking the Town Council for the financial contribution towards the event.

Members **NOTED** the Correspondence.

- iv. Licence agreement for Castle Forecourt - Members were asked to consider if they would like to renew the license for the castle forecourt area. Members agreed that enquiries would be made initially as to Carmarthenshire County Councils plans for the area prior to discussing the matter further at the next General Purposes Committee meeting
- v. Loudspeaker System at Carmarthen Park – Correspondence has been received from Carmarthen Quins Rugby Club requesting permission to position a new loudspeaker system at the Grandstand to improve on the quality of the transmission to Spectators. The Carmarthen Quins intend to cover the cost of the work. Members were happy for the work to be undertaken with the proviso that the equipment would be made available to other hirers should the need arise.
- vi. The Clerk read correspondence received from Carmarthenshire County Council regarding the possible asset transfer of the toilets at John Street Car Park Carmarthen and St Peters Car Park in Carmarthen to Carmarthen Town Council. Members discussed the matter, and it was agreed that the Clerk and Cllr. Andy King would meet with a representative from Carmarthenshire County Council to discuss further prior to reporting to Council at the next meeting.

136. To confirm and sign the Minutes of the Management Committee Meeting of the Council held on the 22nd and 30th of July 2024.

It was proposed by Cllr. Barry Williams seconded by Cllr. Emlyn Schiavone and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Management Committee meeting held on the 22nd and the 30th of July 2024 be accepted as a true record.

137. Exclusion of Public and Press – S.1(2) Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings Act 1960).

It was proposed by Cllr. Wyn Thomas, seconded by Cllr. Peter Hughes Griffiths and **RESOLVED** that due to the confidential items on the agenda (i.e Training Plan for Council, Staff Recruitment) the press and public would be excluded from the meeting in accordance with Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings Act 1960).

The meeting closed at 8:53 pm