**CARMARTHEN TOWN COUNCIL**

**MONTHLY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

**HELD ON 27TH JULY 2016**

The Mayor, Cllr Wyn Thomas, presided over the monthly meeting of Carmarthen Town Council held in the Council Chamber, St Peter's Civic Hall, on Wednesday, 27th July 2016, at 7.30 pm.

PRESENT: Cllrs: Dr Richard Edwards, Dr Dewi Evans, Dr Baba Gana,

Philip Grice, Peter Hughes Griffiths, Angharad Jones Leefe,

Alun Lenny, Kenneth Lloyd, Dr Ioan Matthews,

Emlyn Schiavone, Alan Speake, Wyn Thomas, and

Barry Williams

155. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Reverend Tom Defis, Anthony Jenkins, Arwel Lloyd, and Douglas Rose.

156. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Alun Lenny declared an interest in agenda item 10(a), Current Planning Applications, as Chairman of Carmarthenshire County Council Planning Committee.

157. TO CONFIRM AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 22 JUNE 2016

It was proposed by Cllr Philip Grice, seconded by Cllr Barry Williams, and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Council held on the 22nd June 2016 be accepted as a true record, subject to the following correction: Minute 118 (Reports from Members, last paragraph, second line), delete *‘which he will chair from 2017’* and substitute *‘which he chairs’*.

158. MATTERS ARISING

(a) Minute 100(b): Community Education Centre, Furnace Road

The Town Clerk reported that no decision has been made yet by the County Council regarding the future of the Community Education Centre.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk will ascertain whether there are plans for the Community Education Centre Management Committee to meet.

(b) Minute 105(g): Penllwyn Park Play Equipment – Press Release and Photo Shoot

Members **NOTED** the Town Clerk’s report that the press release and photo shoot will post-date installation of the play area fencing.

(c) Minute 105(j): Carmarthen Town Council Website

Members **NOTED** that the Town Clerk is chasing progress with Vision ICT regarding Council’s new website.

159. QUESTIONS

No questions were reported.

160. TO CONFIRM AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON 12 JULY 2016

It was proposed by Cllr Alun Lenny, seconded by Cllr Angharad Jones Leefe, and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the monthly meeting of the General Purposes Committee held on the 12th July 2016 be signed and accepted as a true record.

161. MATTERS ARISING

(a) Minute 127: Draft Annual Report 2015/16

It was proposed by Cllr Dr Ioan Matthews, seconded by Cllr Dr Richard Edwards, and **RESOLVED** that Council adopt and publish the draft Annual Report for 2015/16, as presented to the General Purposes Committee, subject to the addition of more illustrations and a vibrant layout.

(b) Minute 129: Christmas Lights – Spilman Street and Priory Street

It was proposed by Cllr Dr Richard Edwards, seconded by Cllr Dr Ioan Matthews, and **RESOLVED** that:

(i) Council approves in principle introduction of Christmas lighting in Spilman Street and Priory Street, on a phased basis, starting with Spilman Street, and

(ii) the Finance Committee will receive a proposal detailing how many lighting units would be needed in each street to make an effective display, at what cost, and whether this could be achieved within Council’s budget.

(c) Minute 131: IT System in Town Council Office

It was proposed by Cllr Peter Hughes Griffiths, seconded by Cllr Kenneth Lloyd, and **RESOLVED** that Council staff will:

* investigate the IT operating systems available, and
* report to the Finance Committee on options for new PCs, laptops, docking stations, storage and, where necessary, new compliant VDUs.

(d) Minute 132: IT System in Civic Hall Committee Room

It was proposed by Cllr Angharad Jones Leefe, seconded by Cllr Peter Hughes Griffiths, and **RESOLVED** that the Finance Committee should consider in detail the options for upgrading IT facilities in the Committee Room at St Peter’s Civic Hall.

(e) Minute 133: IT System in Park Lodge, Morfa Lane

It was proposed by Cllr Angharad Jones Leefe, seconded by Cllr Peter Hughes Griffiths, and **RESOLVED** that the upgrading of IT facilities in the Park Lodge meeting room be referred to the Finance Committee for detailed consideration.

(f) Minute 135: Christmas Grotto

Members **NOTED** the Town Clerk’s confirmation that the location of the 2016 Christmas Grotto would be discussed and decided by the General Purposes Committee.

162. TO CONFIRM AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE HELD ON 14 JULY 2016

It was proposed by Cllr Kenneth Lloyd, seconded by Cllr Dr Richard Edwards, and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the monthly meeting of the Finance Committee held on the 14th July 2016 be signed and accepted as a true record.

163. MATTERS ARISING: MINUTE 144: DR MZ YOUTH PROJECT – REQUEST FOR FUNDING

Following discussion, it was proposed by Cllr Dr Ioan Matthews, seconded by Cllr Alun Lenny, and **RESOLVED** that:

(a) Council will donate £1,000 to the Dr Mz Youth Project now in order to address the influx of children during the summer holidays (this is a separate sum from the possible Red Court £1,000 for work in the Carmarthen Park garden).

(b) in the autumn the Finance Committee will:

* receive a visit from Dr Mz staff plus financial update and report on the steps taken to find other funds, and Members will consider a further donation at that point,
* receive a full report from Cllrs Philip Grice and Emlyn Schiavone as Town Council’s representatives on the Dr Mz committee, and
* discuss whether or not the Town Council should under-write Dr Mz on a permanent basis.

(c) in the autumn the Finance Committee will receive a report from the Town Clerk on the whole topic of Council’s donations, and prepare options for Council regarding:

1. the total amount to be donated per annum
2. guiding principles and criteria
3. the application and decision process
4. promotion of the scheme
5. post-donation reports or presentations required from applicants

164. PLANNING - CURRENT APPLICATIONS

The following application had been received since circulation of the agenda, and was **NOTED** without objection:

W/34177, 15 Maes y Wennol, demolition of existing garage, construction of a two-storey extension and single-storey garage for elderly dependants, and altered access, full planning.

165. HIGHWAYS MATTERS

(a) The Quay

Attached as Appendix 2 were details of a County Council proposal for regulated limited waiting bays, a regulated loading bay, and prohibition of waiting restrictions on the Quay, to enable orderly parking management. It was **RESOLVED** that Members supported the proposal.

(b) Tabernacle Terrace

Members **NOTED**, without objection, the County Council proposal (attached as Appendix 3 to the agenda) to revoke part of an existing resident’s parking bay in Tabernacle Terrace, to enable safe turning movements for vehicular access to an adjacent garage.

166. LICENSING MATTERS

No licensing matters were reported.

167. DEFIBRILLATOR – CARMARTHEN LIONS CLUB

Carmarthen Lions Club has offered a defibrillator for the outside wall of St Peter’s Civic Hall.

It was proposed by Cllr Dr Baba Gana, seconded by Cllr Dr Dewi Evans, and **RESOLVED** that, subject to the response of the County Building Conservation Officer, the Town Council will accept the Carmarthen Lions Club offer of a defibrillator for the external wall of St Peter’s Civic Hall.

168. MINUTES OF THE FAIR TRADE MEETING HELD ON 14 JULY 2016

The minutes of the 14th July 2016 Fairtrade meeting were attached as Appendix 4 to the agenda. The Town Clerk’s report had highlighted the recommendations set out in minutes 7 and 16.

It was proposed by Cllr Dr Richard Edwards, seconded by Cllr Peter Hughes Griffiths, and **RESOLVED** that henceforth Council will:

* 1. serve (where feasible) Fairtrade refreshments to Town Council guests (e.g. Christmas nibbles, Mayor-making reception), and promote the refreshments’ Fairtrade status to guests,
  2. allocate a budget in recognition of the fact that Fairtrade refreshments sometimes cost more, and
  3. offer a discount, during Fairtrade Fortnight, to users of the Civic Hall who use Fairtrade products.

169. MINUTES OF THE SIÂN JOHNSTON ENVIRONMENTAL WORKING GROUP MEETING HELD ON 14 JULY 2016

The minutes of the 14th July 2016 Siân Johnston Environmental Working Group meeting were attached as Appendix 5 to the agenda. The Town Clerk’s report had highlighted the recommendations set out in minutes 5 and 6.

It was proposed by Cllr Dr Ioan Matthews, seconded by Cllr Alan Speake, and **RESOLVED** that Council will:

* 1. install a charging point for electric vehicles somewhere in the town centre (possibly, if the County Council agree, in St Peter’s Car Park to encourage use of that part of town).
  2. ask local schools (including Ysgol Rhyd y Gors and Home Education Organisations), youth groups and scouts/guides to send a representative to the next meeting of the Siân Johnston Environmental Working Group. The next meeting could be in the afternoon – at a time to be advised by headteachers.
  3. ask local schools (including Ysgol Rhyd y Gors and Home Education Organisations), youth groups, scouts/guides to adopt a bed (or group of beds) in the town centre. The aim would be to plan the scheme this autumn and plant in the spring of 2017.
  4. ask the Civic Society to provide photographs of beds which need improvement.
  5. allocate monies from the Red Court Solar Farm Fund for the purchase of bushes and plants, and fresh soil/compost if needed for the town beds.
  6. reserve sufficient Red Court Solar Farm Fund monies for a sign to be placed on each bed stating bilingually ‘*This area is planted and maintained by* [name of school or organisation], *using the Red Court Solar Farm Community Benefit Fund, organised by Carmarthen Town Council’* or similar.

170. DOG FOULING AND CONTROL OF DOGS IN PUBLIC PLACES

The Town Clerk’s report advised Members that on the 1st July 2016 Carmarthenshire County Council introduced Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs). These provide greater flexibility in tackling irresponsible dog owners and incidents involving dogs. Some provisions replace existing powers; others are new. The PSPO includes:

* [cleaning up after your dog](http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/residents/environmental-health/dog-orders/dog-fouling/)
* [dogs on lead by direction](http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/residents/environmental-health/dog-orders/dogs-on-leads/)
* [dog exclusion](http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/residents/environmental-health/dog-orders/dog-exclusion/)

It was proposed by Cllr Alan Speake, seconded by Cllr Alun Lenny, and **RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk will arrange new dog control signage at Council’s play areas.

171. MINUTES OF THE CARMARTHEN RIVERSIDE ASSOCIATION MEETING HELD ON 20 JUNE 2016

The minutes of the 20th June 2016 Carmarthen Riverside Association meeting were attached as Appendix 6 to the agenda.

The minutes and report were **NOTED**, with particular thanks to the several groups and individuals who had produced a successful River Festival.

172. MINUTES OF THE COURT OF ADMIRALTY HELD ON 22 JULY 2016

The minutes of the 22nd July 2016 Court of Admiralty were tabled. Cllr Philip Grice highlighted issues raised under minute 6.4:

* steel shuttering at the base of the quay wall, next to Pont King Morgan, which at certain tides is a submerged hazard to boats, and is out of keeping with the wall’s listed character,
* vegetation damaging the quay wall, and
* Japanese Knotweed and other vegetation is defeating the purpose of the riverside path, which was repaired to enable local people and visitors to enjoy views of the river.

The minutes and report were **NOTED**.

173. MINUTES OF THE MAYOR’S FUN RUN STEERING GROUP MEETING HELD ON 26 JULY 2016

The minutes of the 26th July 2016 Mayor’s Fun Run Steering Group meeting were tabled and **NOTED**, with particular thanks to Mr Noelwyn Daniel, as voluntary Race Organiser, who had again steered the Mayor’s Fun Run to a successful outcome in 2016.

174. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS AS REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES, AND THE MAYOR’S REPORT

The Mayor, Cllr Wyn Thomas, referred Members to his previously circulated list of engagements, and highlighted his visit to Mr Emlyn Rees, who had celebrated his 100th birthday.

The Sheriff, Cllr Emlyn Schiavone, had attended further meetings of the Tŷ Ni – Tŷ Hapus Family Centre. There is a suggestion that management of Parc Hapus might be taken over by Plant Dewi.

Cllr Peter Hughes Griffiths reported that a recent meeting of the Carmarthenshire County Council Executive Board had decided to purchase the Guildhall, thereby safeguarding this historic building as an asset to the town and locality. At that Board meeting the Chief Executive had expressed the County Council’s appreciation for the support received from Carmarthen Town Council in this matter. The County Council’s Carmarthen Town Regeneration Forum had also been closely involved with the Guildhall deliberations. Other projects are also in the pipeline, such as the enhancement of Gerddi Llydaw in Jackson’s Lane, which will be the subject of an exhibition in the autumn.

Members noted and **COMMENDED** that in recent months Carmarthenshire County Council had saved both the Guildhall and the Carmarthenshire Archives, alongside other initiatives elsewhere in the county.

Cllr Dr Dewi Evans had attended the county AGM of Un Llais Cymru at Newcastle Emlyn. It appears that many community and town councils are accepting responsibilities devolved from unitary authorities. Also, re-structuring of local government is unlikely in the short term.

Cllr Alan Speake had attended meetings of the St Mary’s Church School Governors.

**The Mayor, Cllr Wyn Thomas, closed the meeting at 8.32 pm by urging all Members to sell raffle tickets on behalf of the Mayor’s Charity Appeals Committee.**