**CARMARTHEN TOWN COUNCIL**

**MONTHLY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

**HELD ON 25TH NOVEMBER 2015**

The Mayor, Cllr Barry Williams, presided over the monthly meeting of Carmarthen Town Council held in the Council Chamber, St Peter's Civic Hall, on Wednesday, 25th November 2015, at 7.30 pm.

PRESENT: Cllrs: Dorothy Bere, Dr Dewi Evans, Philip Grice,

Peter Hughes Griffiths, Angharad Jones Leefe, Alun Lenny,

Arwel Lloyd, Dr Ioan Matthews, Kenneth Lloyd, Wyn Thomas and Barry Williams

291. OPENING REMARKS AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Mayor, Cllr Barry Williams, opened the meeting by announcing that Council’s Sword Bearer Emeritus, Mr John Mattick, is in hospital. Cllr Arwel Lloyd reported that Mr Mattick is making good progress. Members joined with the Mayor in wishing Mr Mattick a speedy recovery.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Reverend Tom Defis, Dr Richard Edwards, Anthony Jenkins, Douglas Rose and Emlyn Schiavone.

292. 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.

Cllr Dr Dewi Evans declared an interest in agenda item 10(a), Planning Appeal against refusal of outline planning permission for thirteen dwellings in a field south of Pantglas, Bronwydd Road, as a neighbour of the subject land.

Cllr Philip Grice declared an interest in agenda item 3, minute 248(c) of the Council meeting held on the 28th October 2015 – Dr Mz Youth Project – as Council’s Dr Mz representative.

293. TO CONFIRM AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 28 OCTOBER 2015

It was proposed by Cllr Alun Lenny, seconded by Cllr Peter Hughes Griffiths, and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Council held on the 28th October 2015 be accepted as a true record, subject to the following corrections

Minute 248(c), Dr Mz Youth Project, last paragraph: replacement of *‘It was NOTED that, for the present, the Finance Committee need not consider a future monthly donation to the Dr Mz Youth Project’* with *‘It was RESOLVED that support of the Dr Mz Youth Project will remain on the Finance Committee agenda each month’.*

Minute 256(b), Christmas and New Year Working Arrangements: addition of *‘supported by the Operations Officer and Outside Supervisor’*.

Minute 262, Reports from Councillors as Representatives on Outside Bodies, last paragraph, second line: replacement of *‘Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Bro Myrddin’* with *‘Ysgol Gynradd Myrddin’*.

294. MATTERS ARISING

No matters arose.

295. QUESTIONS

No questions were reported.

296. TO CONFIRM AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON 10 NOVEMBER 2015

It was proposed by Cllr Arwel Lloyd, seconded by Cllr Angharad Jones Leefe, and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the monthly meeting of the General Purposes Committee held on the 10th November 2015 be signed and accepted as a true record.

297. MATTERS ARISING

(a) Minute 273: Welsh Language Award Scheme

Members **NOTED** that Cllrs Dorothy Bere, Philip Grice and Angharad Jones will meet shortly to progress the Welsh Language Award Scheme.

(b) Minute 275: Storenet System in Carmarthen Town

Members **NOTED** Cllr Wyn Thomas’s report that the Provisions Market is already included in the Storenet System, under the heading of the County Council.

(c) Minute 276 – The Environment Act 1995 – Air Quality in Carmarthen

It was proposed by Cllr Arwel Lloyd, seconded by Cllr Peter Hughes Griffiths, and **RESOLVED** that Members will respond individually to the County Council’s consultation on air quality, and the Town Clerk will write to the County Council’s Public Health Services Manager to suggest that:

* faded ‘keep clear’ road markings should be refreshed to avoid traffic hold-ups
* filter lanes should be adopted wherever possible, to improve flows

(d) Minute 277 – Sale of Ice Cream in Carmarthen and Johnstown Parks

It was proposed by Cllr Peter Hughes Griffiths, seconded by Cllr Dr Ioan Matthews, and **RESOLVED** that:

1. the Town Council does not extend the arrangements already in place regarding the sale of food and other items at any of its parks, and
2. the Town Clerk will draft a policy regarding use of the parks for Council’s determination in the future.

298. TO CONFIRM AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE HELD ON 12 NOVEMBER 2015

It was proposed by Cllr Wyn Thomas, seconded by Cllr Dr Ioan Matthews, and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the monthly meeting of the Finance Committee held on the 12th November 2015 be signed and accepted as a true record.

299. MATTERS ARISING

(a) Minute 282(a): Mayoral Donations 2014/15

It was proposed by Cllr Arwel Lloyd, seconded by Cllr Dr Ioan Matthews, and **RESOLVED** that:

(i) £2,411.61 will be vired from Council’s reserves to the current and next year’s Mayoral charity funds, and

(ii) henceforth mayoral donations will appear in a separate budget heading in the year end accounts, to facilitate monitoring by Members.

(b) Minute 286: Draft Budget 2016/17 – Level of Reserve Funds

It was proposed by Cllr Arwel Lloyd, seconded by Cllr Dorothy Bere, and **RESOLVED** that Council maintain its current level of reserve funds.

(c) Minute 287: Fidelity Guarantee Review 2016/17

It was proposed by Cllr Philip Grice, seconded by Cllr Kenneth Lloyd, and **RESOLVED** that Council maintain its current level of fidelity guarantee at £400,000.

(d) Minute 288(b): Velodrome Project – Fundraising – Local Companies

It was proposed by Cllr Peter Hughes Griffiths, seconded by Cllr Dorothy Bere, and **RESOLVED** that, rather than visits to large companies, in due course letters will be sent to large companies seeking sponsorship of the velodrome (subject to any heritage issues which might prevent permanent posting of banners etc).

(e) Minute 289: Red Court Solar Park – Community Benefit Payment

It was proposed by Cllr Peter Hughes Griffiths, seconded by Cllr Arwel Lloyd, and **RESOLVED** that the new solar park community benefit payment be accorded a separate ‘Solar Park Community Benefit Account’, and that applications for grants be invited (with closing date etc) from Carmarthen-based good causes, and widely advertised, for the purposes set out in clause 2.2 of Council’s agreement (dated 18th November 2014) with TGC Solar Red Court Ltd:

*‘for charitable, educational, environmental, amenity or other appropriate purposes within the areas of the Community. Wherever possible the Payment shall be applied towards the promotion of sustainable energy and uses. For avoidance of doubt, the Payment shall not be used for political, religious, entertainment or hospitality purposes, or for any purpose adverse to the Operator’s interest in the scheme.’*

(f) Minute 290: Footway Lighting

It was proposed by Cllr Philip Grice, seconded by Cllr Dr Ioan Matthews, and **RESOLVED** that any further discussion of footway lighting be deferred until the next local government re-organisation, and that this issue will not be re-visited before then.

300. PLANNING MATTERS

(a) Current Planning Applications

Attached as Appendix 2 to the agenda was a list of current applications. The following applications were **NOTED**:

W/32934: Cwmau Isaf, St Peter’s, rural enterprise dwelling, full planning.

W/32963: Land (part of Mekatek) Amex Park, Johnstown, formation of HGV hard-standing and lorry park, full planning.

(b) Appeals

With the Chairman’s consent, the Town Clerk reported the following County Council notices in respect of planning appeals against:

W/31902: Field south of Pantglas, Bronwydd Road, refusal of full planning permission for development of thirteen dwellings.

W/32051: 8 Dark Gate, refusal of outline planning permission for change of use from Class A1 (retail) to Class A2 (financial and professional services).

The report of the Town Clerk was **NOTED**.

301. HIGHWAYS MATTERS

No highways matters were reported.

302. LICENSING MATTERS: CARMARTHENSHIRE CHEESE COMPANY, LLYSONNEN ROAD

Members **NOTED** the Carmarthenshire Cheese Company application for a licence to sell alcohol Monday to Saturday, 8.00 am to midnight, and on Sunday 10.30 am to midnight, circulated as Appendix 3 to the agenda.

303. DRAFT BUDGET 20-16/17

Attached as Appendix 3 to the agenda was the draft budget for 2016/17. The Town Clerk’s report invited Council to give their initial observations, and an indication as to whether the precept would decrease, stand still, or increase in 2016/17.

The draft budget was **NOTED**, and further discussion was deferred until January 2016.

304. DRAFT PUBLIC SERVICES OMBUDSMAN (WALES) BILL

Members **NOTED** the National Assembly for Wales consultation on the draft Public Services Ombudsman (Wales) Bill, attached as Appendix 5 to the agenda.

305. CARMARTHENSHIRE LOCAL SERVICE BOARD – ANNUAL FORUM – TOWN COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE(S)

The Town Clerk’s report had summarised the role of the Local Service Board (LSB) in bringing together local authorities, voluntary and community sectors, and the Welsh Government. The aim is to ensure that services are planned, coordinated, overcome barriers and blockages, and put the customer first. The LSB is part of a wider network of partnerships known collectively as the Carmarthenshire Partnership, which oversees delivery of the Integrated Community Strategy for Carmarthenshire 2011-2016 and reports to the Annual Forum on progress. Council is invited to attend the 2015 Forum.

It was proposed by Cllr Philip Grice, seconded by Cllr Arwel Lloyd, and **RESOLVED** that either Cllr Douglas Rose or Cllr Dorothy Bere will represent Council at the LSB Annual Forum on Tuesday, 1st December 2015, at the Quinnell Lounge, Parc Y Scarlets, Llanelli, depending on their availability.

306. CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES

Members **NOTED** the schedule of Council’s Christmas events and activities, circulated as Appendix 6 to the agenda.

307. TOWN CENTRE – CHRISTMAS CAR PARKING

Members welcomed and **NOTED** the parking arrangements in Carmarthen’s town centre car parks this Christmas, detailed in Appendix 7 to the agenda.

308. MINUTES OF THE CARMARTHEN BAR NAVIGATION COMMITTEE HELD ON 19 OCTOBER 2015

Members **NOTED** the minutes of the Carmarthen Bar Navigation Committee meeting held on the 19th October 2015.

309. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS AS REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES, TOGETHER WITH THE MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor, Cllr Barry Williams, referred Members to his previously circulated list of mayoral engagements.

Cllr Dr Ioan Matthews had attended meetings of the Ysgol y Dderwen Governors, who remain concerned at the possible impact of cuts in services.

Cllr Peter Hughes Griffiths has continued to attend meetings of the Carmarthen Town Regeneration Forum. With the Chairman’s consent, Cllr Hughes Griffiths tabled a promotional flyer detailing the Wythnos Gŵyl Dewi planned by the Forum for 27th February – 6th March 2016, in partnership with Carmarthen Town Council, Yr Atom, Menter Gorllewin Sir Gâr, Carmarthenshire County Council and the Welsh Government, and under the tag line *‘Dewch i ddathlu’r iaith yn nhref hynaf Cymru – Come and celebrate all that’s Welsh in Wales’ oldest town’*.

Cllrs Peter Hughes Griffiths and Arwel Lloyd had attended a meeting of the Ysgol Bro Myrddin Governors, and asked Council to note a recent Sunday Times report that Ysgol Bro Myrddin is the third (overall) best performing secondary school in Wales, with only two private schools ahead, and is therefore the highest-achieving state-run school in the whole of Wales.

Cllr Dr Dewi Evans had attended a meeting of the Richmond Park School Governors, who share the concerns expressed above by Cllr Dr Ioan Matthews. Cllr Dr Evans called upon the Welsh and UK Governments to accord the highest priority to children’s welfare and education.

**The meeting closed at 8.12 pm.**