

CARMARTHEN TOWN COUNCIL
FINANCE COMMITTEE
7.30pm 16 JANUARY 2020 AT ST PETER'S CIVIC HALL

The meeting was chaired by Cllr Tom Defis.

PRESENT: Cllrs: Tom Defis, Gareth John, Ken Lloyd, Emlyn Schiavone, Jeff Thomas, Matthew Thomas, Wyn Thomas, Miriam Moules and Alun Lenny.

309. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Julia Ault and Ioan Matthews.

310. Declarations of Interest

Cllrs Ken Lloyd and Emlyn Schiavone declared an interest in relation to Agenda Item 5e (Oriol Myrddin) and Cllr Tom Defis in relation to Agenda Item 5e(Urdd National Eisteddfod).

311. Matters arising from minutes of the previous Finance Committee Meeting 14 November 2019

Mayor's Allowance 2018/19 (referred from Full Council 25.9.19)

Cllr Emlyn Schiavone left the meeting at this point. The Clerk stated that he had undertaken a review of the Mayor's annual allowance account for the period 2018/19, following previous discussion by Committee. This revealed that an overall overspend of £690.20 had occurred on the original annual budget of £4,250.00. All of the payments were made to various charitable and voluntary groups and organisations; a number of cheques (7) have not yet been cashed - but these had all now gone beyond the six-month banking period.

As agreed at the November Finance Committee, the Clerk has spoken to Council's internal auditor about this matter and has also obtained his advice to the Town Council regarding resolving it. Following discussion by Members, it was agreed that there was no misuse of any moneys, and Cllr Schiavone returned to the room and offered an apology to Council for the overspend during his period as Mayor.

RECOMMENDATION: It was proposed by Cllr Gareth John, seconded by Cllr Wyn Thomas and recommended that Cllr Schiavone's apology be accepted by Council and that the matter now be closed. Recipients of those cheques that have not yet been cashed (i.e. gone beyond the 6-month period) to be advised that the cheques will no longer be honoured.

Cllr Emlyn Schiavone re-entered the meeting and formally apologised to the Committee for the overspend on the Mayor's Allowance for the 2018/19 period.

312.To authorise the signing of the Order for Payment of Accounts Schedule for January 2020

Invoices were available before and during the meeting for Members' inspection.

It was proposed by Cllr Wyn Thomas and seconded by Cllr Gareth John and **RESOLVED** that the accounts included in the schedule submitted and amounting to £34,731.88 for the month of January 2020 be hereby approved and that the schedule be signed by two Members of Council and the Clerk as authority for payment of the respective sums.

The Clerk informed the Committee that a 'one off' payment is included in the Payment of Accounts of £6577.20, 50% of this charge is to be met by the Winter Wonderland for the connection of the electricity supply.

Town Clerk's Report

313. Financial Report

The Town Clerk updated Council's bank balances as at 31st of December 2019 as follows:

	£
HSBC Current Account	270,909.04
HSBC Reserve Account	40,481.81
Total Cash in Bank	311,390.85

The Clerk advised Committee that he had made transfers between the Reserve Account and the Current Account during the reporting period in order to pay the December invoices (as previously authorised by Committee), due to the precept payment not being received before 31st December 2019. The amount of money in the Reserve Account has since been increased above the agreed level of £100,000, and this will be reported next month.

Balances in Other Accounts on 31st December 2019:

Mayor's Allowance	-	£3177.14
Mayor's Fun Run	-	£6959.75
Carmarthen Park Tea Shop	-	£12,726.94

The Town Clerk's report was **NOTED**.

314. Schedule of Monthly Income

The schedule was **NOTED**.

315. Schedule of Debtors

The schedule was **NOTED**.

316. Quarterly Bank Reconciliation

It was proposed by Cllr Emlyn Schiavone, seconded by Cllr Ken Lloyd and **RESOLVED** that the bank reconciliation was correct and be accepted.

317. Draft Town Council Budget 2020/21 (Members are joined by the General Purposes Committee)

A lengthy discussion took place whilst considering the Council budget proposals and level of precept for 2020/21.

RECOMMENDATION: It was proposed by Cllr Alun Lenny, seconded by Cllr Jeff Thomas, and recommended that a precept increase of 4.0% be implemented for 2020/21. All in agreement.

RECOMMENDATION: It was proposed by Cllr Jeff Thomas, seconded by Cllr Gareth John, and recommended that all of the Capital Projects as listed on the schedule be approved in principle, subject to the finances being available at that time, and income received from Carmarthen Tea Shop may be used to fund these, as necessary. All requests to progress the listed projects should be brought to Council for consideration and approval prior to implementation. All in agreement.

Annual Payments & Community Contributions	£	Decision
Small Grants Fund (S 137 LGA)	3,700	Retain
Citizens Advice Bureau (S142 LGA)	500	Retain
Oriel Myrddin	4,500	Reduce to 3700
Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Cymru (S 137 LGA)	200	Retain
Urdd National Eisteddfod (S 137 LGA)	200	Not for 20/21
Llangollen international Eisteddfod (S 137 LGA)	200	Retain
Gwyl Cerdd Dant (S 137 LGA)	200	Retain
Carmarthen Youth Opera (S 137 LGA)	200	Retain
Dr M'z (S 137 LGA)	1,000	Review 21/22
Admiralty of the Port (S137 LGA)	200	Remove
Sub total	10,900	
Town Centre Activities (Power of Well-being, Local Government Act 2000)		
Annual Sports Awards	1,000	Retain
Christmas Lights switch on	4,000	Retain
Christmas lights installation	15,000	Retain
Replacement Christmas Lights	6,000	Retain
Reindeer Day	4,000	Retain
St David's Day	1,500	Retain
River Festival	2,000	Retain
Gwyl Canol Dref	2,000 – new	Agreed
Pride of Place Awards	500	Retain
Sub total	36,000	

TOTAL	46,900	
--------------	--------	--

A discussion ensued regarding each item of expenditure on the list.

RECOMMENDATION: It was proposed by Cllr Gareth John, seconded by Cllr Miriam Moules and recommended that the list of contributions to events and organisations be accepted as presented at Annex A of the Finance Committee papers, but with the following amendments:

- a) Contribution to Oriel Myrddin to be reduced from £4,500 to £3,700
- b) Contribution to the Urdd National Eisteddfod not to be made for one year (2021) – due to the £2,000 contribution being made by Council to Eisteddfod Sir Gar 2021
- c) Contribution of £1,000 to Dr M'z to be reviewed in 2021/22
- d) The £200 payment to the Admiralty for the Port to be removed, as this is funded by the Mayor's allowance

The meeting closed at 9.22 pm.