



Minutes of the Whitland Town Council meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2019

Cllr Chapman welcomed everyone to the meeting

**Present:** Cllrs Barry Chapman (Chairman); Cllr Sue Allen; Cllr Gabriela Poore; Cllr Ffion Scourfield; Cllr Mathew McDowall; Cllr Rob Morgan; Cllr Ron Jenkins MBE, Cllr Dave Walsh-Gibbon, Cllr Richard Davies, Cllr Raymond Jones, Cllr Len Shipton.

**1. Apologies for absence:** There were apologies received from Cllr Jenny Davies-Scourfield.

**2. Disclose personal and prejudicial interests in the items to be discussed.** None were disclosed.

**3. To review and agree the minutes of the previous meeting** on 7<sup>th</sup> October. These had been previously circulated. They were agreed so proposed for acceptance by Cllr Jenkins MBE, seconded by Cllr McDowall. Agreed by all, so duly signed by the Chairman.

**4. Clerk's report.** This had previously been circulated to all. There were no queries raised.

**5. Chairman's report.** This had previously been circulated to all. A query was raised about the removal of the old postbox – there was no progress update to provide.

**6. To receive information on the following topics and decide further action as required:**

**Whitland Town of Culture.** The Chair expressed his thanks to the Clerk for organising the successful Whitland Abbey talk. The Clerk briefly reminded those present of the upcoming BBC Radio recording in Canolfan Hywel Dda on 4<sup>th</sup> December. This would be advertised on Facebook bilingually.

**Christmas event.** Cllr Poore provided an update on progress: flyers largely distributed; shield for best dressed house supplied; tree on order for next week; lights due next week; Santa visit and Grotto planned, presents being sorted, outdoor market organised.

**Trevaughan area.** This was discussed in detail at the end of the meeting. It was agreed to have it as a mini park, with fruiting trees such as sweet chestnuts and probably apples in part of it, surrounded by wild flower meadows and paths. The current gate would remain locked with access only for e.g. mowing or maintenance. The Clerk would look into prices for providing a kissing gate with disabled access facilities for general access. A grant would be needed to fund work such as buying trees or the gate. Dogs would be allowed so long as owners did clear up any dog fouling that occurred – if this did not happen, dogs would be banned.

Signed by Chair

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**OAP pension payments workshop.** Cllr Chapman had stated in his update on this in his report that the Post Office was endorsing the scheme, using it as a pilot, and that Whitland had managed to achieve what had not been achieved by the Post Office.

**Mayoral chain.** The various options were reviewed, and the preferred chain and pendant agreed. It was also agreed that all should look around for any other possible option over the next month to ensure the Council obtained best value, before the final decision was made prior to the budget being set.

**Whitland in Bloom.** The Clerk had circulated a report on various commercially available planters, as well as information on permission for them from CCC. Cllr Allen explained the liability issues. Hanging baskets would be possible at a suitable height but would require ongoing maintenance through the year. The Clerk was asked to contact SWTRA about planting bulbs on the roundabouts. It was agreed Cllr Shipton would speak to the gardening club as to whether if they were interested in taking the matter on.

**Biodiversity action plan.** The Clerk had revised the plan in the light of comments, and previously circulated it. It was agreed to adopt the plan.

## **7. To discuss new items of business:**

**Whitland Abbey.** Cllr Walsh-Gibbon stated that he would be compiling a draft leaflet for this. A translator was agreed to make it bilingual. A working party of Cllrs Walsh-Gibbon, Poore and Shipton was agreed to ensure that all work was planned and co-ordinated. The three quotes received for producing the leaflet were discussed, and it was agreed to accept the best value one, with the remainder of the current grant monies to be for laminating copies for onsite use and an onsite storage box.

**Sponsorship request.** It was agreed that there were no funds available for donations this year. The Clerk would convey this to the secretary of CCC's Chairman.

**IRPW report.** The Clerk had previously circulated the information on this. The Clerk stated that it was a draft report, with the full one due in February. There were currently no proposed changes to the two mandatory allowances for Councillors.

**Rugby event.** The Clerk had contacted the rugby club about this – nothing was planned as yet.

**Finance Working Party initial feedback.** A summary of the discussions held were given, and it was agreed to cease hire of the Bryngwenllian toilet with immediate effect. It was agreed by all (proposed Cllr Shipton, seconded Cllr Allen) that this provision could be restarted at Easter and run through the summer. Extensive discussions were also held on the Wifi provision in the town. Clear figures had not yet been provided for the full costs from November 2020 – the Clerk would push for them to be made available. A short survey would be produced to assess actual usage amongst residents and ask whether the cost was justified/acceptable to them.

## **8. County Councillor's report.**

Cllr Allen provided a summary of her report, which would be circulated as soon as possible. She stated that a second One Planet Development had been approved on the edge of Whitland. She also stated that there was ongoing concern about the lack of parking in Whitland, and put forward the idea of providing extra spaces by removing the current barrier fencing on the edge of the old Dairy site on St Mary's Street, after putting up barriers to

Signed by Chair

Date

prevent access to potentially dangerous areas. This would only be a temporary measure for perhaps three years until any planning agreed work took place, and it would be with the permission of the site owner. It was also suggested that any remaining large panels could be painted to provide a better view for local residents. Cllr Shipton would contact the residents directly once a leaflet with the options had been produced. The Clerk would confirm WTC insurance would cover public liability for the area. Costs would be put together for the January budget decision.

**9. To receive financial report including invoices for consideration:**

A spreadsheet was circulated of income, expenditure, bank balances etc. Latest bank statements were made available.

**Income banked:**

None in the preceding month.

**Invoices for consideration:**

Clerk's salary and expenses for October  
John Lewis salary and expenses for October  
B+CE Holdings Ltd – pension payment  
Cllr allowance payment  
Newhall janitorial – supplies for toilet - £20.42  
DP Building Supplies – replacement wooden step and fixings - £9.76  
Mr. E. Jones – Christmas tree for Grosvenor location - £130.00  
Abba Loos – November invoice - £138.00 – pay online after agreement in meeting  
EDF energy – electricity for toilet - £22.00 direct debit  
Welsh Water – water supply for toilet - £23.00 direct debit  
XLN business services CCTV line - £41.93 direct debit  
Llewelyn Davies – payroll services - £23.00 direct debit  
Rob Thomas - grass cutting for month - £480.00 direct debit

The above invoices and payments were agreed by all.

**10. To receive planning reports:**

W/39633 Construction of steel frame portal building on existing hardstanding for storage of building materials. Davies Builders Merchants. No objections.

W/38718. Land adjacent to Sparrow's Nest – One residential dwelling (local needs).  
Granted.

W/38667. Change of use of ground and first floor storage to two flats. 1 St John St, Whitland. Full granted.

**11. To receive correspondence for information:**

- MAWFF roadshows on their draft corporate plan
- Pension credit leaflet
- Understanding Welsh Places website
- VE day 75 advance information
- Wales consultation on Planning Policy Wales.
- Celtic routes website
- Lottery renewal form. It was affirmed that this would be cancelled, as previously agreed.

Signed by Chair

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**12. Items for next meeting:**

Mayoral Chain

Budget preliminary figures.

Trees blocking the river bank – images and detailed map would be provided by Cllr Jones.

Possible rugby event.

Tasks for handyman.

**13. Date of next meeting** – This was confirmed for Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2019, Mayor's Parlour, starting at 7.00pm

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.50pm.

Signed by Chair

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Date

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