



Cllr Chapman welcomed everyone to the meeting, including Miss Katie Thomas, Miss Chloe Thomas and Miss Katie Dickinson, who were there to sign the Whitland Town Council Achievements book.

Katie Thomas briefly described the recent competition in which she represented Wales for under 21 ladies bowling team, and how she won the match after it was went to 29 rounds instead of the normal 21 rounds. Chloe Thomas stated that she had been selected for the under 25s team for the first time, and Katie Dickinson that she had been selected for both the under 18s and under 25s team, and in the most recent under 18s team, when Wales came second by only 4 points.

The Council congratulated all three on what they had achieved, and expressed their thanks for coming to the meeting and signing the Whitland Town Council Achievements book. The girls left after they signed the book and photographs had been taken.

Present: Cllrs Barry Chapman (Chairman); Cllr Sue Allen; Cllr Gabriela Poore; Cllr Jenny Davies-Scourfield; Cllr Mathew McDowall; Cllr Rob Morgan; Cllr Ron Jenkins MBE.

The recently co-opted Councillor then made his declaration of office, it was duly signed, and Cllr Walsh-Gibbon was welcomed to his first meeting.

1. Apologies for absence: There were apologies received from Cllrs Richard Davies, Raymond Jones, Len Shipton, and Ffion Scourfield.

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

At this point a member of the public entered the room. Cllr Chapman stated that they were very welcome to watch, but not to participate in the meeting.

3. To review and agree the minutes of the previous meeting on 2nd September 2019. These had been previously circulated to all. The minutes were reviewed, and considered by all a true record and were therefore duly signed – proposed Cllr Davies-Scourfield, seconded Cllr Allen.

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. Cllr Chapman spoke briefly on the Christmas Day lunch he was planning as a private individual, and stated that he wished it recorded that this was not a Council sponsored or provided event. He also updated Council on the Pensions workshops, stating that two banks, the Post Office, and the DWP were

Signed by Chair

Date

supporting it, and that a pension credit advisor would attend to help raise awareness of what was available.

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

Whitland Town of Culture 2019. The Clerk gave brief details of the upcoming talk on and hopefully at Whitland Abbey. Funding for the talk, and towards a leaflet, had been received from CCC. After discussion it was agreed that it would not be sensible to block the byway at the North Road entrance, but a notice should be placed there to advise people to use the Roadhouse access route.

Christmas committee update. A summary report had been circulated, and was discussed. It was agreed that only 23 of the Council owned light lengths should be passed to the contractor for testing and use on the two trees – the remainder could be used at the Christmas event or otherwise for decoration by the Council. It was agreed to purchase the same number of the flyers (which had been circulated) from the same supplier as last year. In addition, a shield would be purchased to present to the best dressed house. An idea to use the Council owned small trees on a stall as a decorating competition on the night was raised, and it was agreed, if YFC would be willing to manage that stall.

Trevaughan area. Ideas were brought forward for potential uses for the area concerned. The provision of community fruit trees was raised, and it was agreed after discussion that the Clerk would research potential options. In addition the Council was in favour of providing a play area for children, and an area for dog walkers to exercise their pets, but was aware that the two could not necessarily be in the same area for safety and health reasons. The provision of wild flowers to make a relaxing garden/park/seating area was also suggested. It was agreed to look at this again next month, with maps available, recommended tree planting distances etc. to gain a clearer idea of what would be possible.

OAP workshops. Cllr Chapman had included a summary of this in his verbal report to Councillors earlier.

7. To discuss new items of business:

Defibrillator training. The Clerk stated that this had again had to be cancelled at short notice. She would arrange a new session as soon as possible.

Expenditure ideas for 2020-2021. Various suggestions were put forward to be considered by the Finance Working Party for consideration towards the budget for next year. These included speed awareness sign at Velfrey Road; Whitland abbey ruins site promotion; funding for the Trevaughan area; funding for the Mayoral chain; a reserve fund for the cemetery.

Parc Dr. Owen request regarding grass cutting machinery. Cllr Allen briefly gave the background to this. It was agreed after discussion that the Council could not take on purchasing responsibility under the circumstances.

Ash die-back. Cllr Allen supplied information to the meeting on this, and recommended the Suffolk County Council document: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/assets/planning-waste-and-environment/suffolks-countryside-and-wildlife/Chalara-Action-Kit.pdf> . It was noted that Bryngwenllian play area should have the trees reviewed in the spring, not only for disease but also as to whether they were interfering with the power lines.

Signed by Chair

Date

Whitland Abbey promotion. There was good interest being shown in the event on 10th October. Funding from CCC had been granted towards it and the associated bilingual leaflet on the Abbey that the Council planned to produce. It was agreed that the Clerk should proceed with that.

Town in Bloom competition. Cllr Chapman stated that the idea had stemmed from the Gardening Club event. After discussion it was agreed the Clerk should investigate potential sources for all year round planters, for locations at the Station, outside the dentist and outside the Grosvenor. The boxes at the town entrances could also be reviewed.

Ten Towns launch. It was agreed the Clerk would go to this event.

Growth plan. Cllr Allen provided the background to this, and stated that the consultants would be in Whitland towards the middle or end of the month.

Biodiversity plan. The Clerk provided the background and legal requirements for this, and stated the draft as it stood would be forwarded to all Cllrs. Feedback would then be used for a review by the Policy WP and the document brought to full Council next month.

Mayoral chain. The Clerk had previously circulated a report on this. The current chain was fully engraved, and prices had been obtained for various extensions or for replacement. The Clerk would obtain a second price from the other main civic regalia supplier, and pass it on for consideration. It was agreed this needed to be in the budget plans for 2020-2021.

8. County Councillor's report.

Cllr Allen stated that she had that day had a meeting regarding the LDP, and was pleased to report that the Council views had been taken into consideration. She stated that under the current plans smaller developments would be encouraged over larger ones because they were more likely to reach completion. The number of new houses required within Carmarthenshire had reduced from the previous LDP, and the focus would be on the three main towns for this development.

Cllr Allen also stated that the Dementia Friendly Steering Group had received a grant of money from the NHS, and asked Council whether they would approve of the three relevant Clerks becoming bank signatories and account administrators for the Group. This was agreed in principle, if it was acceptable to the other Clerks and Councils.

Finally Cllr Allen highlighted that the annual CCC toybox appeal had started.

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. It was agreed Cllr Davies-Scourfield should join the Finance Working Party.

Income banked:

£59.54 – EDF energy refund. Direct debit set too high. Reduced to £22.00 monthly from October 2019

£2200.00 – additional funding from Parc Dr. Owen committee towards resurfacing of tennis courts – to make up shortfall between s106 funds and ex VAT cost of work.

£0.40 – Natwest refund for erroneous transaction charges.

Invoices for consideration:

Clerk's salary and expenses for September

Signed by Chair

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John Lewis salary and expenses for September
B+CE Holdings Ltd – pension payment
HMRC – tax and NI payments
Abba Loos –October invoice - £126.00 to be paid online after the meeting.
EDF energy – electricity for toilet - £22.00 direct debit (reduced from this month)
Welsh Water – water supply for toilet - £23.00 direct debit
XLN business services CCTV line - £40.68 direct debit
Llewelyn Davies – payroll services - £23.00 direct debit
Rob Thomas - grass cutting for month - £480.00 direct debit
Lewis and Lewis - £500.00 on account for cemetery purchase paid 7-9-19 (authorised
in September mtg)

The above invoices and payments were agreed; proposed Cllr Poore, seconded Cllr Jenkins
MBE.

10. To receive planning reports:

W/39206. Full granted. Extensions and alterations to dwelling. Maes y Celyn, 8 Llys y Crofft,
Whitland.

11. To receive correspondence for information:

[Ysgol Llys Hywel consultation report](#)

[Moving rural Carmarthenshire forwards launch](#) -8-10-19 Newcastle Emlyn

[Actif sport awards.](#)

Scout Jamboree thank you.

Dog Walking enclosed area request

One Voice Wales Carms Area meeting 2-10-19 Pontyberem Memorial Hall.

NRW workshop re [Area Statement 3rd and 10th Oct](#)

[Cruse celebration of 60 years](#) invitation – 20/10/19 St David’s Cathedral

Police Crime Commissioner CCTV event 9-10-19

[Celtic Routes information and event on 21-10-19](#) 3pm Yr Egin

12. Items for next meeting:

Mayoral Chain

Biodiversity action plan.

13. Date of next meeting – This was confirmed for Monday 4th November 2019, Mayor’s
Parlour, starting at 7.00pm

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

Signed by Chair

Date
