



Minutes of the Whitland Town Council meeting held on 3rd February 2020

Cllr Chapman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Present: Cllr Barry Chapman (Chairman); Cllrs Sue Allen, Ron Jenkins MBE , Gabriela Poore, Ffion Scourfield, Raymond Jones, Dave Walsh-Gibbon.

Lee Hind from Pembrokeshire Timebanking gave a presentation to the Council on timebanking – the history of it, how it works, and the new initiatives for it that are coming in Carmarthenshire, Pembrokeshire and Ceredigion. He emphasised that timebanking was a way of people giving back to their community and bringing that community together, with all offers of help being valued equally. An online portal was scheduled for release in the summer to enable people to log their offers of help and requests for help more easily. He then answered various questions from the Council.

1. To accept apologies for absence: Apologies were received from Cllrs Mathew McDowall, Jenny Davies-Scourfield, Len Shipton, Rob Morgan.

2. To disclose personal and pecuniary interests. No personal interests were declared.

3. To review and agree the minutes of the previous meeting on 6th January 2020. These had been previously circulated, were agreed by all present as an accurate record, and so were accordingly signed. Proposed Cllr Jenkins MBE, seconded Cllr Allen.

4. Clerk's report. The Clerk had circulated the report prior to the meeting, and also provided paper copies for those present. She stated that the meeting with the CCC Highways officer regarding the speed warning sign at St George's Avenue had been positive. The approximate cost suggested was within the budgeted amount for next year, so that project would go ahead.

5. Chairman's report. The Chairman summarised his report, which had been previously circulated. More detail was given on the Mayoral Ball, and it was agreed that with the cost estimates provided it should enable money to be made for the Mayor's charities. He stated that there was an ongoing problem with the toilets in that they were getting blocked at least once a month, requiring the handyman's time to unblock them. This was discussed, and it was agreed that the Clerk should contact CCC in the first instance to do a drains survey, and if that was not possible, ask a private contractor to carry one out. The Council would then consider the report from the survey for next steps.

6. To receive information on the following and agree actions as required.

Signed by Chair

Date

Whitland Abbey Working Party. The visit to Strata Florida had been very informative and useful, and the curator there was willing to help with the promotion and development of the Abbey site. A local vineyard had been contacted and from next year there would be Whitland Abbey red and white sparkling wine available. The vineyard owners were also keen to be involved in work with the Council and had offered to work with them on provision of a website for Whitland Abbey, which was agreed. The Working Party would soon set up a meeting with local people who were interested in supporting the Abbey development.

Trevaughan. The trees were due to be planted soon. It was agreed to look at the provision of a kissing gate for access next month when it was clearer what funds remained unspent. It was agreed Cllr Walsh-Gibbon should approach a gardening expert to provide a map of the area to assist with path-planning and planting.

New website. The website specification had been circulated to all and discussed in an informal meeting the previous week. The Clerk summarised the situation – that the current website was dated and not fit for purpose, and new legal requirements were coming in. It was agreed that the Clerk should send out the specification to various local and national potential contractors.

7. To discuss new items of business

Councillor resignation. The Council formally accepted the resignation of Richard Davies from the role of Councillor. The Clerk had commenced the legal procedure for a casual vacancy, and would keep the Council informed of progress.

Mayor making. This was discussed, and it was agreed to look at this again when the new Mayor for 2020-21 was known after the May meeting.

Parc Dr Owen tennis court. The Clerk summarised progress so far and stated that the only element remaining was providing the tennis court markings. Two quotations had been obtained - other potential contractors had not responded. After discussion it was agreed that the Council would pay for the white lining, and then pass the completed project over to the Parc Committee to maintain and manage from then on. The Council asked the Clerk to request a report from the Parc Committee towards the end of the year on usage and other aspects.

Timebanking. The Council discussed how this could be useful for projects around Whitland, it was agreed to look at how the Council might be able to work with timebanking once the online system was live. ...

8. County Councillor's report. This had been previous circulated. Cllr Allen highlighted the aim of CCC to be carbon neutral by 2030 and would forward the draft report for circulation. She also mentioned the LDP deposit plan consultation which closes in March

9. Financial report.

Income banked:

- CCC – s106 release for tennis court work - £18,000.00

Invoices for consideration:

- Clerk's salary and expenses for January

Signed by Chair

Date

- John Lewis salary and expenses for January
- B+CE Holdings Ltd – pension payment
- Mayoral donation to CCC Chair chosen charities - £25.00
- GD Harries – tennis court resurfacing - £23040.00
- City Illuminations – Christmas street lighting - £5958.00
- Gomer Press – Whitland history leaflet - £260.00
- Tindle Newspapers – Christmas advert -£49.44
- Whitland Town Hall – rent for 2020 - £600.00
- EDF energy – electricity for toilet - £22.00 direct debit
- Welsh Water – water supply for toilet - £20.50 direct debit
- XLN business services CCTV line - £66.53 direct debit (increased)
- Llewelyn Davies – payroll services - £23.00 direct debit
- Rob Thomas - grass cutting for month - £480.00 direct debit

11. Planning

W/39897. Proposed rear conservatory extension. Bethany, North Road, Whitland. This had been fully granted.

12. Correspondence:

- CCC notification of decision on Ysgol Llys Hywel – Welsh language
- CCC celebration of culture awards 2020
- Network Rail planned works January and February 2020
- Cllr Peter Hughes-Griffiths on behalf of CCC – email of thanks for Town of Culture
- Welsh Govt – proposed amendments to SuDS orders
- OVW response to Local Govt and Elections (Wales) Bill
- Police CCTV event 14-2-2020
- Transport for Wales bus pass letter.
- Planning Aid Wales event on how to make effective planning responses.

13. Items for next meeting. Trevaughan gate purchase, Christmas costs feedback, Network Rail update.

14. Date of the next meeting. This was confirmed as Monday 2nd March in the Mayor's Parlour, starting at 7.00pm.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.00pm.

Signed by Chair

Date
