



## Minutes of the Whitland Town Council meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2020

Cllr Chapman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

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

### **1. To accept apologies for absence.**

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

**3. To review and agree the minutes of the previous meeting** on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2020. These had been previously circulated, were agreed by all present as an accurate record, and so were accordingly signed. Proposed Cllr Ron Jenkins MBE seconded Cllr Sue Allen.

**4. Clerk's report.** This had been previously circulated. The Clerk also stated that CCC had sent a company out to inspect and jet clean the drains, but that they blocked again within two weeks. She is chasing up for the report and will pass on to Cllrs. Regarding the open meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> March, it was suggested that the DAT documents be returned on that date if possible, for convenience. Natural Resources Wales were aware of the trees that could be a hazard in or over the rivers and were monitoring them – both the earlier ones and new ones caused by the recent storms.

**5. Chairman's report.** This had been previously circulated. The Chairman stated that because of the lack of time he had decided to cancel the Mayor's Ball. He updated the meeting on the Pension Workshops, stating that there were still a good number of people needing to move from the POCA.

**6. Report from the WTC school governor representative.** This had been previously circulated. Cllr Scourfield spoke further about the work involved, and stated that it was an interesting and enjoyable role to take on and had been a good learning curve.

### **7. To receive information on the following and agree actions as required:**

**Trevaughan.** The plan was in the process of being produced and should be available for the next meeting. The offer of free trees or shrubs had been applied for. A few gate options were looked at, and it was agreed to price up for the materials to make one that suited. Planting would be done when the plan was available.

**Network Rail update.** The Clerk had confirmed to them that WTC were still interested in the project, and information was received back about the next steps. Cllr Allen had approached a local firm to assist with the bid. She had also spoken to officers in CCC and been informed that there was potential for funding for the legal costs, since this project would be part of the development of

Signed by Chair

Date

Whitland, and car parking was a key development aspect. As a temporary measure for car parking, since WTC had permission to do so from the owner, various contractors would be approached to price up the work involved in putting back the barriers in St Mary's St. where additional safe parking was possible. Cllr Allen had asked for an update on the disabled parking in King Edward St and by Paris House.

**Christmas costs summary.** These had been previous circulated. It was agreed to make one last attempt to contact the contractor from 2018. The Clerk stated that the letters to businesses in St John St had been delivered, but no-one had come forward to represent them on the Christmas Committee. It was agreed to arrange a meeting and publicise this to give a final chance for representation. The Clerk would follow up on a concern about lights dumped in a waste bin near MPH.

**New website.** The tenders received and additional information including a cost comparison had been previously circulated. The tenders were discussed in detail. It was agreed to approach one for an initial meeting to clarify and confirm costs. If there were no un-anticipated queries, it was agreed to use the preferred tender.

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

**Net zero carbon actions by WTC.** This list had been circulated. It was agreed it should be put on the website.

**Carmarthenshire Area OVW representative for meetings.** After discussion it was agreed that this would be Cllr Poore.

**Storm Dennis etc flooding,** The Chairman expressed his thanks to Cllr Allen for her time and work during the recent series of storms – she had been contacting NRW, assisting and supporting residents, getting sandbags deployed and reporting any issues to CCC that they could resolve. It was very much appreciated. The Clerk would contact the contractor who had helped with the pumping out at the bottom of Trevaughan. It was agreed that a flood strategy needed to be done to resolve who was responsible for unblocking culverts, whether traffic could be prevented for washing water into homes and businesses etc.

**Tree survey.** The Clerk stated that CCC had inspected the trees alongside Station Rd – she would chase up for the actual report if possible. It is important to have an independent risk-assessed survey done periodically for insurance and liability purposes.

**IRPW report – decision on any discretionary payments.** The Clerk outlined the mandated payments. It was agreed to discuss the discretionary payments in the May meeting to consider whether they should be taken up by WTC.

**9. County Councillor's report.** This had been previous circulated, along with a copy of the Message that had been sent to the Senedd for St David's Day. Cllr Allen highlighted the aim of CCC to be carbon neutral by 2030 and would forward the draft report for circulation. She also stated that the legal requirements surrounding school bus disabled access compliance were causing some issues. She highlighted that the budget meeting for CCC was tomorrow.

#### **10. Financial report.**

Income banked:

Signed by Chair

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Invoices for consideration:

- Clerk's salary and expenses for February
- John Lewis salary and expenses for February
- Councillor IPRW allowance – part payment - £75.00
- B+CE Holdings Ltd – pension payment
- One Voice Wales membership - £308.00
- WAO invoice for external audit 2018-19 - £302.75
- 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

The above invoices were all agreed for payment – Cllr Allen proposed, Cllr Davies-Scourfield seconded.

Cllr Morgan left the meeting at this point.

## 11. Planning

**W/39897.** Construction of a detached dwelling with a detached garage. Land adjacent to Silverdene, North Road. No objections.

**W/40215.** Proposed rear double storey extension and proposed single storey annex. Bryn Melin, North Road. No objections.

**W/40008.** Construct steel frame portal building on an existing hardstanding for the storage of building materials. Davies Builders. Full granted.

## 12. Correspondence:

- WAO annual finance report on 2018-19 year for town and community councils.
- Welsh Govt annual alcohol prices information
- CCC liaison forum / OVW I day conference 18-3-2020
- OVW monthly bulletin.
- Police and Crime Commissioner rural policing event 6<sup>th</sup> March.
- Welsh Govt circular economy consultation.
- IRPW annual report.
- OVW Innovative Practice Annual Awards ceremony Builth Wells 26-3-2020.
- OVW minutes from larger Councils meeting.

**13. Items for next meeting.** Tree survey consideration; flood plan strategy; Trevaughan plan update; Christmas meeting date.

**14. Date of the next meeting.** This was confirmed as Monday 6<sup>th</sup> April in the Mayor's Parlour, starting at 7.00pm.

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

Signed by Chair

Date

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