



Minutes of the Whitland Town Council meeting held on 6th January 2020

Cllr Chapman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Present: Cllr Barry Chapman (Chairman); Cllrs Sue Allen, Ron Jenkins MBE, Mathew McDowall, Gabriela Poore, Ffion Scourfield, Len Shipton.

1. To accept apologies for absence: Apologies were received from Cllrs Richard Davies, Jenny Davies-Scourfield, Raymond Jones, Rob Morgan, Dave Walsh-Gibbon.

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

3. To review and agree the minutes of the previous meeting on 2nd December 2019. These had been previously circulated, agreed by all present as an accurate record, and so were accordingly signed. Proposed Cllr Poore, seconded Cllr Jenkins MBE.

4. Clerk's report. This had been previously circulated. In addition the Clerk stated that there had been technical issues involving the website and email since 1st January. These were in the process of being resolved. Since one of the underlying problems was the age of the website's software, the Clerk would research potential contractors for a replacement website and draw up a specification for it.

5. Chairman's report. Cllr Chapman gave a brief report on his activities since the last meeting, including attending midnight Mass and also visiting Waungron on Christmas Day. He reported that the Christmas lunch had been a success, and the donations received from that and a raffle held during December in the Post Office would go towards the Mayor's chosen charities. The dates of the pension workshops were confirmed as Tuesday 4th February and Tuesday 3rd March, and this was to be publicised by Simon Hart MP and on social media. Initial ideas for a Mayor's Ball at the end of March to also raise funds for the Mayoral charities were being explored.

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

Whitland Abbey working party. A report was circulated and questions answered. The proposed entry for the Explore Churches website was circulated and discussed. This would be put forward for website entry later in the week, to gain maximum exposure for Whitland Abbey as a potential place to visit. Visits to Strata Florida (a daughter abbey) and Dyfed Archaeological Trust for document research were being arranged. An open day at the site in the spring was planned. It was raised and agreed that the terms of reference for the working party be amended to allow substitutions for members, and also to invite relevant non-Councillors to join.

Signed by Chair

Date

Trevaughan site. Maps of the site were circulated, and it was agreed where to plant three young sweet chestnut trees, with tyre protectors. The planting would be organised as soon as possible. It was also agreed the Clerk should supply a map to the grass cutting contractor to indicate areas to be left to grow to encourage wildlife and biodiversity.

7. To discuss new items of business

St Mary's Street – fencing. This had been fixed by the landowner's contractor after the recent high winds had caused potential issues. Cllr Allen agreed to discuss potential changes to the fencing, and provision of additional parking, with the owner in the near future.

Network Rail land. Cllr Allen explained the background to this in more detail, and the increasing need for parking in Whitland. It was agreed after discussion to budget in the coming year for the initial money required to submit a proposal to Network Rail for this.

Car parking in Whitland. This was becoming a widespread issue, with lack of parking spaces, and with parking in inappropriate places. It would be highlighted on Facebook that illegal parking could be reported immediately to the police by calling 101.

Civil Enforcement Officer. The Clerk raised this as a potential option, working with other councils to share the cost. It was agreed she should explore the feasibility of this further with CCC.

Christmas competition. The winner by popular vote was in Millfield. The shield would be presented to the householder. Next year changes to the competition would be considered, such as a panel of independent judges to decide the winner.

8. County Councillor's report. This had been previously circulated. Cllr Allen highlighted that the budget discussions were currently taking place due to the Welsh Government providing CCC's budget figure two months later than normal. There was also a public consultation process.

9. Budget and precept.

Documentation had been previously circulated to all. Cllr Scourfield took the meeting through the figures, which were then discussed. It was agreed that for clarity reserve funds would be kept in a separate account from the working account. Two budget options had been provided, and it was agreed that the cost of a replacement Mayoral chain could not be justified this year. An honour board in the Town Hall and online would instead be used to formally record the Mayors of the Town Council, and the current chain would be used at events by the Mayor, with the velvet backing replaced. After discussion the budget was agreed by a majority vote, and the precept agreed. The Clerk would pass on the precept request to CCC in due course.

10. Financial report.

Income banked:

- Precept – third and final instalment - £18,333.33
- Stalls income from Christmas event - £45.00

Invoices for consideration:

- Clerk's salary and expenses for December
- John Lewis salary and expenses for December

Signed by Chair

Date

- B+CE Holdings Ltd – pension payment
- Mayoral re-imburement - £60.00
- MenterGSG – children’s gifts - £110.00
- EDF energy – electricity for toilet - £22.00 direct debit
- Welsh Water – water supply for toilet - £20.50 direct debit
- XLN business services CCTV line - £41.93 direct debit
- 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. There were no objections to this.

W/40008. Construct steel portal frame building on existing hard standing for the storage of building materials. Davies Builders, Whitland. There were no objections to this.

W/39874. Non-material amendment to cottage/annex at Pencoed Uchaf, Whitland. This had been granted.

W/39633. Construct steel portal frame building on existing hard standing for the storage of building materials. Davies Builders, Whitland. This had been refused.

12. Correspondence:

- CCC community and town council liaison forum meeting 8-1-20.
- Police and Crime Commissioner precept element consultation.
- Planning Aid Wales event on community-led renewal energy project planning.
- Welsh Government consultation on planning fees increase.
- One Voice Wales innovative practice and national awards conference.
- Planning Aid Wales introduction to the work of planning inspectorate event.
- Christmas cards from other councils.
- Letter from Town Hall committee asking for a representative from the Council to join.

13. Items for next meeting. None were put forward.

14. Date of the next meeting. This was confirmed as Monday 3rd February in the Mayor’s Parlour, starting at 7.00pm.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.55pm.

Signed by Chair

Date
