



Email: clerk@whitlandtowncouncil.co.uk

MINUTES

Minutes of the General Meeting of Whitland Town Council held remotely, via the medium of Zoom, on Monday 11th October 2021, at 7.00pm.

Members of the public were given the opportunity of joining the meeting by Emailing the Clerk and requesting the meeting details (Email: clerk@whitlandtowncouncil.co.uk)

Present: Cllrs Jenny Davies-Scourfield (Chair), Len Shipton (Deputy Mayor), Ffion Scourfield, Mathew McDowall, Jonathan Blandford, Barry Chapman and John Dobson

Also present – The Clerk

Meeting commenced at 19.02

2021/10 99 To accept Apologies for Absence – Cllrs Natasha West, Julie Jones, Enfys Eynon, Frank Connor-Hughes, Rhys Davies and Raymond Jones

2021/10 100 To Receive any Personal and Prejudicial Declaration of Interests - None

2021/10 101 To Receive the Minutes of the Meeting Held on the 13th September 2021

Cllr Scourfield proposed that the Minutes, as presented, be accepted as a true record of the meeting held on 13th September 2021 and be signed by the Mayor as such; Cllr Blandford seconded the proposal with all Cllrs in full agreement

2021/10 102 Matters Arising from the Minutes – Information Only – None

2021/10 103 Chairs Report

Cllr Davies Scourfield reported that she had attended the recent event at the Abbey and that she has been invited to the Whitland Male Voice choirs' dinner to celebrate their 121 years anniversary at the end of October. She will also be laying a Remembrance Wreath on behalf of Whitland on Sunday 14th November 2021.

2021/10 104 To consider any account(s) for payment

To Be Paid			
30.09.2021	1335	(September Wages)	£ 234.10
30.09.2021	1336	(September Wages)	£ 671.67
30.09.2021	1337	Donation play school	£ 75.00
30.09.2021	1338	S/Foot Communtiy Council - Donation for gate	£ 150.00
11.10.2021	1339	Remuneration - Whitland Week buffett	£ 230.00
11.10.2021	1340	Amazon - No Dogs Signs (6 no) and Minute book	£ 43.52
11.10.2021	1401	Davies Builders Merchants - Light Bulbs - Toilets (4 no)	£ 70.80
11.10.2021	1402	B P Building Supplies - Woodstain	£ 24.34
11.10.2021	1403	Robert Thomas - Grass Cutting Contract (October 2021)	£ 480.00
11.10.2021	1404	PAYE and NI (July, Aug and Sept)	£ 805.20
11.10.2021	1405	Messrs Lewis - Office apportionment of costs (3 mths)	£ 167.22
11.10.2021	1406	Jamie king - Website Complaince Certificate and hosting costs	£ 180.00
11.10.2021	1407	Xpresspat - Historic invoice from Jan 20219 (Not paid)	£ 1,166.03
			£ 4,297.88

All Councillors confirmed that they had received the financial report and information.

Cllr Shipton proposed that all invoices except form the invoice raised by Xpresspat, as presented, be paid in full; Cllr Chapman seconded the proposal with all Cllrs in full agreement.

The Clerk advised the Council that a historic invoice had been received from Xpresspat for electrical works carried out in December 2018/January 2019, as instructed by Whitland Town Council, but for unknown reasons went unpaid. Following a short recall of events from Councillors, it was concluded that all works being charged for had been carried out to a satisfactory standard. Cllr Chapman proposed that this invoice be paid in full; Cllr Shipton seconded the proposal with all Cllrs in full agreement.

2021/10 105 To consider the Financial Report and Bank Reconciliation

Following consideration of the information provided, Cllr Dobson proposed that Whitland Town Council accept the figures, as presented, as a true record of the Council 's finances to date; Cllr Scourfield seconded the proposal with all Cllrs in full agreement.

Cash Flow		
30.08.2021-30.09.2021		
Balance	£ 64,891.21	B/F
Payments Made	£ 1,788.33	
Income Received	£ -	
	£ 63,102.88	C/F

Cllr Scourfield lost connection to Zoom for a short period

2021/10 106 To receive any update regarding the 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 External Audit process

The Clerk advised the Council that an Email had been received from the Auditor General for Wales advising that the Audits for 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 had not been finalised and a none completion notice, along with a copy of the Financial Statement, should be displayed on the Council's website and notices displayed in prominent places. The Clerk confirmed that this had been carried out.

2021/10 107 To consider any Planning Applications received after the publication of the agenda.

None received prior to this meeting.

2021/10 108 To receive any Planning Decision Notices from the Carmarthenshire County Council

- Land Adjacent to Cartref – Proposed new dormer bungalow – Outline Refusal
- Clare House- Proposed rear single storey extension - Granted
- Land adjacent to Sliverdene- Variation of conditions 3 and 4- Granted
- 2 Westerville- 2 storey rear extension- Granted

2021/10 109 Consideration of Correspondence Received

- Technical advice Note 15 and flood map for planning Emailed to all Cllrs 29.09.2021
- Consultation – Local Taxes 2nd home/self-catering accommodation Emailed to all Cllrs 29.09.2021
- Email from One Voice Wales advising of training opportunities available.
- Councillor smart survey Emailed to all Cllrs 06.10.2021
- Christmas tree due for delivery 29.11.2021 (Rob and john both aware)
- Lights have been arranged to be erected ready for tree switch on, on the 3rd December 2021
- Message received by the Clerk raising concerns regarding rust spots appearing on one of the new hand dryers. The Clerk has contracted the contractors and this is a manufactures error and will be replaced free of charge.
- Message received by the Clerk that the lady's toilet was overflowing and causing a flood. The Clerk contacted the Council's handyman who attended within 3 minutes, unblocked to toilet but noted

that there is a historic problem of the pipe connecting the toilet to the sewer not being lined up. The Clerk to contact the plumber and request him to have a look and advise the Council accordingly.

- Pictures and quotation have been requested for use on the Welcome to Whitland Banner to be displayed at the train station.
- Telephone call received from a member of the public requesting clarity regarding dog walking routes which are depicted on the Play Map displayed in Whitland. Some routes depicting dog walks run through land where no dogs are allowed. The Grounds Working Party to consider the information provided and report back to Council at the November 2021 meeting.
- Email received from the Enforcement Officer – Carmarthenshire County Council advising that an incident regarding the none clearing up of dog mess has occurred and if covered by the CCTV there could be the possibility of a fine being issued. The Clerk to respond to the Officer accordingly.

2021/10 110 To receive County Councillor's Report – None received

2021/10 111 To Receive Any Reports from Committees/Working Parties

To include reports from the:

Grounds Management Working Party – Cllr L Shipton

- Mr Rob Thomas will be trimming back the trees along the main street of Whitland ASAP. This is part of his grass cutting contract so no extra cost will be incurred. It was noted that Mr Thomas was requested not to cut the trees in 2020 and 2019.
- The access gate for Trevaughan has been picked up and being sored safely. Cllrs to attend on site to confirm the best position for such to be installed.
- Tree management at Pocket Park is being considered as there is a large number of tall trees with small root balls that need cutting back or removing before they are blown down in high winds. There will be a site visit with an officer from Carmarthenshire County Council to establish where the liability of such lies. It is also noted that the electrical overhead lines are within close proximity of the trees.

Festivities Working Party

An Email from Cllr West was read out by the Clerk.

Cllr Shipton gave a brief explanation of the meeting and explained how, due to current Covid restrictions and the rising number of covid cases locally within all age groups, to try and arrange a safe Christmas event for the Children of Whitland is proving difficult. Following a lengthy discussion further advice to be sought from the Carmarthenshire County Council regarding Covid restriction and the holding of a large-scale event, the regulations regarding the Children being able to visit Farther Christmas safely and not being upset they can not have contact with him. This will be considered in a working Party meeting then brought to full Council at the November meeting. The Working Party have been advised that a proposed budget of £500 would be available pending further information.

2021/10 112 To Receive Reports from Council Representatives

Ten Towns of Growth – this is a County Council lead intuitive. Several years ago, investigative works were undertaken by a rural task force working with other key parties. Carmarthenshire County Council secured funding of £1,000,000 to be shared between Ten Towns to encourage Economic Growth within the Community. Whitland is one of the ten towns which satisfied the strict criteria and has been invited to put ideas forward ideas as to how Whitland's economic growth would benefit from a portion of the money being offered.

A meeting was held, via Zoom, on 03.10.2021 to enable Councillors to discuss any ideas to be put forward for consideration by the Ten Towns of Growth. Ideas being put forward by other members of the Ten Towns group representing Whitland are – more parking spaces, electric community cars for rural areas, cycle racks undercover on train station, information boards and a Town Website.

Following consideration of the above it was concluded that the following ideas be put forward for consideration – Support regarding the addition car parking spaces within Whitland, cosmetic enhancement of St Johns Street, additional signage along the A40 to reflect facilities offered in Whitland and additional defibrillators located in rural areas and training regarding the use of such. A further meeting of the Ten Towns intuitive group will be held at 6.30pm 3.10.2021

2021/10 113 To consider the proposal made by the Nazareth Cemetery Working Party to be put to members of the Nazareth Chapel- Members of the working party will formulate a proposal to be considered by the Council taking into account information received from the Members of the Chapel and One Voice Wales's Solicitor.

A meeting of the task and Finish group was held on 06.10.2021, via Zoom, to discuss the legal advice received from One Voice Wales's Solicitors regarding the possibility of Whitland Town Council taking on the ownership/management of Nazareth Cemetery.

Section 124 of the Local Government Act 1972 gives the Town Council the power to acquire land for any of its functions or for the benefit of the Community.

Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 requires the Town Council to promote equality for those with protected characteristics including religion. Further section 29 of the 2010 Act requires all service providers not to discriminate on protected characteristics.

Considering the above it was concluded that a letter be written to members of the Nazareth Chapel requesting confirmation that they would like the Whitland Town Council to continue to consider taking on the ownership/management but that the Council would not be able to offer any free burial plots.

The Task and Finish group also considered that if the procedure was to continue strong thoughts would be given to the fact that no charge would be made to anyone wishing to be buried with their family members in an existing grave, (past or future graves).

The Council acknowledged the work of the Task and Finish group and all agreed that this really is a very emotive scenario and thanked Members of the Nazareth Chapel for their patience and understanding but Whitland Town Council must ensure it is fully compliant in all of its actions.

2021/10 114 To consider any proposal put forward by the Festivities Working Party regarding the Christmas Arrangements for Whitland

See agenda item 2021/10 111

2021/10 115 To receive any updates regarding the arrangements for 'Ron's Plaque' – To be situated on the Platform at Whitland Train Station.

The Clerk advised that the wording, in Welsh and English, has been forwarded to the plaque manufacturer for a price.

2021/10 116 Parking problems along North Road during school time – To consider the possibility of children attending the school parking in the school's car parking area and not across private residents' driveways.

Complaints have been received from home owners adjacent to the school advising that pupils who drive to school are parking on the road and blocking driveways. Residents note that there are many spaces in the bus parking area to the front of the school as now the majority of busses park behind the co-op in the bus park there.

Cllr Shipton proposed that Whitland Town Council write to the head teacher of the school requesting if a designated parking space, on site, could be provided for pupils to use; Cllr McDowell seconded the proposal with all Cllrs in full agreement.

2021/10 117 Considerations for discussion at the next meeting – Budget review

Meeting closed 20.49