

Clerk - Whitland Town Council
Mayor's Parlour
Whitland Town Hall
Whitland
Carmarthenshire



Email: clerk@whitlandtowncouncil.co.uk

Minutes of the General Meeting of Whitland Town Council held remotely, via the medium of Zoom, on Monday 12th December 2022, at 7.00pm.

If any member of the public wishes to attend, please contact the Clerk by 1pm on Monday 12th December 2022 and you will receive all information to enable you to connect to the meeting.

Please note that Audio or Video recording of Full Council meetings is not permitted.

All Whitland Town Council meetings are regulated by its Standing Orders.

Present: Cllrs L Shipton (Deputy Mayor), J Blandford, M McDowell, R Davies, R Jones and S McDowell.

Also present – The Clerk

Meeting commenced – 19.00

In the absence of Cllr Davies Scourfield, Cllr Shipton Chaired the meeting.

Agenda

2022/12 122 Apologies for Absence – Cllr J Davies Scourfield

2022/12 123 To receive any Declarations of Office - None

2022/12 124 To receive any personal and prejudicial Declaration of Interests as per the Code of Conduct
None

2022/12 125 To receive the Mayors Report – Cllr Davies Scourfield's Christmas Message –

I'm delighted, as Mayor, to have the opportunity, for the second Christmas, to send this festive message to everyone in Whitland. The Christmas season is with us once again and it gives us the opportunity to pause and reflect on the important things around us. It is a time to look back on the events of the past year, and to look forward with excitement and hope to a New Year.

There is tremendous community spirit throughout Whitland and I am sure that this will flourish even more at Christmas when people gather together to share in the festivities.

Whitland Town Council have achieved great things during the year. The Picnic in Parc Dr Owen to celebrate the Queens jubilee was a fantastic success. The sun shone down on Whitland and really was a very special event, attended and enjoyed by many. On the same day we officially opened Phase I of the new Play Park at Parc Dr Owen. It was an absolute privilege and honour, as Mayor, to open the Park and I don't think there has been a day since when children have not been playing on the equipment.

Later in the year, the Council were faced with an unexpected requirement for the safety flooring at Bryngwenllian Play Park to be replaced. To ensure that the play park could remain open the Council, along with the responsible Finance Officer, scrutinised the budget and works commenced to not only replace the flooring but to ensure that a new drainage system was put in place to prolong the life span of the new safety flooring.

Whitland, together with the rest of the World, mourned the Passing of Queen Elizabeth II. Whitland's Book of Remembrance was signed by many residents expressing their personal grief. This book is now being held in the archives at County Hall, Carmarthen.

Cash Flow

31.10.2022-30.11.2022

Balance	£	51,424.88	B/F
Payments Made	£	3,721.39	
Income Received	£	2.22	
	£	47,705.71	C/F

2022/12 130 Planning Application(s) Received – None

2022/12 131 To consider the Pre-Planning Application - Land South of St Marys Street, Whitland - Proposed Residential Development and Public Car Park

The Council note that there is a public consultation relating to this per-planning application on Thursday 15th December 2022 at the Hywel Dar Centre starting at 6pm.

The Clerk advised the Council that several Emails have been received regarding this application. These were read out in the meeting.

Following consideration of all the information provided by the developers Whitland Town Council made the following observations and will request clarity from the developers:

- Is the sewerage system in this area adequate to service a development of this size?
- What precautions will be taken to ensure the safety of houses along St Mary's Street – These houses were damaged when the old dairy was demolished.

Councillors noted the public car parking area depicted on the plans – This was a site that was put forward by the Ten Towns Group for development into a public car park funded by grant monies.

2022/12 132 To consider any planning application Notices received from the Carmarthenshire County Council - None

2022/12 133 Consideration of Correspondence Received

- Email received from Whitland and Henllanfallteg Appeal Committee requesting Whitland Town Council to consider the request for a financial contribution to the cost of the 2023 Urdd Eisteddfod, to be held in Carmarthenshire – Following consideration Whitland Town Council, at this point in time, is not able to offer any financial contribution to the 1.8 million pounds which the Urdd Eisteddfod is estimated to cost.

2022/12 134 To Receive Any Reports from Working Parties

To include reports from the

Grounds Management Working Party – Cllr L Shipton

- The safety surfacing and associated drainage works at Bryngwenllian have been completed.
- The public toilets have been vandalised, the police have been informed and all persons identified from the CCTV provided to the Police.
 - Following discussions, it was agreed that the Clerk should talk with the investigating Police Officer and, as their suggestions, pursue a Youth Restoratives Disposal – the offender pays for any damage they have inflicted on Council's property, without the incident going down on their criminal record.
 - The Council agreed that the toilets should be locked over night with the situation being monitored and if further damage is caused the Council will reassess the situation with possibly closing the toilets for a period of time or having to charge for the use of the toilets.
 - The CCTV to be repositioned to cover more of the area outside the toilets.
- A mattress had been dumped outside the toilets – Carmarthenshire County Council removed such.

The Parc Dr Owen Play Park Task and Finish Group

- The damaged area of artificial grass has been replaced.
- There are still several areas of sunken safety flooring that require addressing.
- No further information from the Council's Solicitor regarding the proposed lease.

2022/12 135 To Receive Reports from Council Representatives of Outside Bodies

Ten Towns - Digital Project

- The Website is due to go live prior to Christmas
- The Clerk will go through all the paperwork with an Officer from Carmarthenshire County Council in January 2023, prior to it being submitted for reimbursement.
- The computer equipment purchased by the Council, as part of the screens along the Whitland main street, will be sold and the Whitland Town Council reimbursed part of the money spent. This is due to the project being pulled due to lack of support from the Ten Towns Steering Group.

2022/12 136 To consider the recent spate of vandalism to the public toilets – These recent incidents have been reported to the Police and the Police are following up with the assistance of the CCTV coverage of the area.

This agenda heading was covered within Cllr Shipton's report

2022/12 137 To consider the draft budget for 2023/2024 and approve the Precept request

It was agreed that this agenda heading should be carried over to the January 2023 meeting.

2022/12 138 To finalise the arrangements for Father Christmas' visit to Whitland – Friday 16th December 5.30pm

Cllr Shipton confirmed that all the arrangements have been finalised and Father Christmas will be attending from 5.30pm. Every is welcome.

2022/10 122 Considerations for discussion at the next meeting

Meeting closed 19.37

Next meeting 9th January 2023 Via Zoom