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Minutes of the General Meeting of Whitland Town Council held remotely, via the medium of Zoom, on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2023, at 7.00pm.

Correspondence and planning documents have been Emailed to Councillors prior 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 J Davies-Scourfield (Mayor), L Shipton (Deputy Mayor), M McDowall, R Jones, S McDowall and one member of the public.

Also present – The Clerk

Meeting commenced – 19.09

**2023/02 200 Apologies for Absence** - Cllrs R Davies and J Blandford,

**2023/02 201 To receive any personal and prejudicial Declaration of Interests as per the Code of Conduct.**

None

**2023/02 202 To receive the Mayors Report**

Cllr Davies- Scourfield reported that, although February 2023 has been a quiet month, she has been invited to two upcoming events, one in the Hywel Dda Centre to celebrate St David's Day on March 1<sup>st</sup> and one with Whitland Male Voice Choir, both of which Cllr Davies-Scourfield will be delighted to attend.

**2023/02 203 To receive any updates relating to Co-option**

The Council have been informed that one person has been requested to be considered for Co-option.

**2023/02 204 To Receive the Minutes of the Meeting Held on the 9<sup>th</sup> January 2023**

Cllr M McDowall proposed that the Minutes of the General meeting held on the 9<sup>th</sup> January 2023 be signed as a true record of the meeting; Cllr Jones seconded the proposal with all Cllrs in full agreement.

**2023/02 205 Matters Arising from the Minutes – Information Only**

None

**2023/02 206 To acknowledge and approve account(s) for payment**

Cllr M McDowall proposed that the invoices, as presented, be accepted and paid in full; Cllr Shipton seconded the proposal with all Cllrs in full agreement.

To Be Approved/Acknowledged				
13.02.2023	1568	Carmarthenshire County Council - Inspection Pocket Park	£	96.00
13.02.2023	1569	Mr Alan Jenkins - King Edward Street Planters	£	100.00
13.02.2023	1570	Aminity Web (Ten Towns Website)	£	540.00
13.02.2023	1571	City Illuminations - 2023 Christmas Lights	£	5,400.00
13.02.2023	1572	Four Seasons Christmas Tree	£	195.00
13.02.2023	1573	Messrs Edwards - Office Costs Apportioned	£	260.78
13.02.2023		ACDC CCTV Parc Dr Owen	£	1,134.30
		DATA only sim card (Feb)	£	24.00
	1574	Secure box for CCTV Recorder	£	230.78
			£	1,389.08
			£	7,980.86

**2023/02 207 To consider and approve the bank/cash book reconciliation – See finance report**

CLlr M McDowall proposed that the bank reconciliation be signed as a true record of the Whitland Town Council's financial position; Cllr Shipton seconded the proposal with all Cllrs in full agreement.

**Cash Flow**

**30.12.2022-31.01.2023**

Balance	£	<b>36,929.11</b>	B/F
Payments Made	£	2,326.48	
Income Received	£	-	
	£	<b>34,602.63</b>	C/F

**2023/02 208 Planning Application(s) Received – None**

**2023/02 209 To consider any planning application Notices received from the Carmarthenshire County Council - None**

**2023/02 210 Consideration of Correspondence Received**

- Email received raising concern relating to the closure of the public toilets in Whitland – See agenda item 2023/02 215
- Several Emails received regarding the unfunctional surface water drains along the main street in Whitland. The Clerk contacted Carmarthenshire County Council with two Officers attending on site. Following a site meeting it was agreed that the Carmarthenshire County Council will carry out various investigations as to the best way to eradicate the problem of water pooling on the road. It was suggested by the Officers that the drains will be removed and large open drains are placed in the problematic areas.
- Various Emails received relating to the ongoing consultation regarding the new Hospital Site. For more information contact the Carmarthenshire County Council.
- Telephone call received from the Tree Safety Officer at Carmarthenshire County Council advising the Clerk that the problematic trees at Pocket Park can quite rightly be removed, at a cost to Whitland Town Council, as they were not intended to have been left to grow so tall. He is in agreement with the recent tree report and that, at this point in time, any works should be carried out in the next five years.
- Email received from the Whitland Town Council's Solicitor advising that communication is still awaited from the Trustees of Parc Dr Owen.

**2023/02 211 To Receive Any Reports from Working Parties**

**Grounds Management Working Party – Cllr L Shipton**

- Signs ready to be erected in the park advising of the age limit of children using the play equipment
- Concerns still being raised of older children using the play equipment -hopefully the sign and CCTV will help this situation.
- Plans to be drafted regarding the long term management and designs for the land under the Whitland Town Council's management at Tevaughn.

**Festivities Working Party**

- To consider how Whitland Town Council will celebrate the Kings Coronation
  - Tea party
  - Something for teenagers/older children
  - One night of celebration – Provisionally on the Sunday evening

Ideas to be sent to the Clerk prior to the March 2023 meeting.

**2023/02 212 To Receive Reports from Council Representatives of Outside Bodies**

Ten Towns - Digital Project

- A meeting was held relating to the launch of the Community Website – managed by two residents of Whitland. It was agreed that a 'launch day' will be held. All businesses will be invited to have a preview of the site and ask any questions they may have.
- The on-going costs of the site (£450 per annum) will be met by the funds paid by local businesses to advertise on the site. No information was given as to how this money will be managed.

Ten Towns - LEADER funding (£100,000) and a possible additional car park within Whitland.

A meeting was held on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2023. In attendance 3 representatives from Whitland Town Council, 3 Carmarthenshire County Council Officers, Whitland County councillor and 2 members of the steering group.

- Once again the Whitland Town Council were asked to re-consider its decision not to assist with the funding of the car park on the proposed St Mary Street site. Cllr Davies-Scourfield reiterated that the Whitland Town Council are not opposed to a car park in any part of Whitland, having put forward two alternative sites which would come well within budget if approved, but
  - following professional advice received that the development on that site would cost more than the grant being offered, with no guarantee that the extra monies spent by the Whitland Town Council would be refundable.
  - The developers of the site are already considering putting a public car park on the proposed site – The Whitland Town Council does not wish to pay towards a business development with public money.
  - A public consultation is being held with Carmarthenshire County Councillor Officers asking business owners in Whitland if they consider there is a need for extra vehicle parking in St Mary Street or if they have any other projects that they consider would be of assistance to Whitland.

**2023/02 213 To consider the request for a donation towards the costs incurred producing the Y Cardi Bach**

A donation request for has been forwarded.

**2023/02 214 To consider the nomination of Town Council representative on the Governing Body of Ysgol Llys Hywel**

The Whitland Town Council have been advised that there is a vacancy for one Additional Community Governor on the Governing Body of Ysgol Llys Hywel and that it is therefore necessary for the Council to consider filling the vacancy. The vacancy can only be filled through nomination from the Town Council, but the nominee does not need to be a Community Councillor.

No nominations at this point in time.

**2023/02 215 To receive any updates relating to the on-going problems and the management of the Public Toilets in Whitland.**

Due to the recent acts of vandalism against the public toilets in Whitland, the toilets are locked at present.

The Clerk advised that an apology letter and the requisite £12 towards the cost of a replacement lock, had been received from the person who had caused the damage.

Following a lengthy discussion Cllr S McDowall proposed that following the half term holidays the toilets to be unlocked from 9.30 am to 2.30pm on weekdays, with the situation being monitored and if further vandalism is caused, they are to be re-locked.; Cllr Davies-Scourfield seconded the proposal with all Cllrs in full support.

Consideration to be given into charging for the use of the toilets. This will be considered at a later meeting.

**2023/02 216 To consider how the Whitland Town Council can co-opt Members by means of promoting the works carried out by the Council.**

A message to be placed on Facebook and Councillors to talk to locals advising what Whitland Town Council does for the community.

**2023/02 217 Considerations for discussion at the next meeting**

- The Whitland Town Council to consider electric banking
- Celebrations for the Kings Coronation
- To continue with the co-option process
- Christmas Lights in Whitland – May 2023 meeting

Meeting closed 20.14