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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> March 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), J Blandford, R Davies, M McDowall, R Jones, S McDowall and E Morgans.

Also present – The Clerk

Meeting commenced – 19.06

### Agenda

**2023/03 218 Apologies for Absence - None**

**2023/03 219 To receive any declarations of Office** – Cllr E Morgans read the Declaration of Office and took her seat as Councillor for Whitland Town Council.

**2023/03 220 To receive any personal and prejudicial Declaration of Interests as per the Code of Conduct.**

**2023/03 221 To receive the Mayors Report**

Cllr Davies-Scourfield reported that she had attended the St David's Day celebrations at the Hywel Dda Centre and a meeting of the Ten Town steering group.

Upcoming events – The opening of the Bowls 2023 season and the Consultation regarding the proposed new hospital site.

**2023/03 222 To receive any updates relating to Co-option** – It is confirmed that there have been two enquiries regarding co-option.

**2023/03 223 To Receive the Minutes of the Meeting Held on the 16<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

Cllr Blandford proposed that the Minutes of the General meeting held on the 16<sup>th</sup> February be signed as a true record of the meeting; Cllr Shipton seconded the proposal with all Cllrs in full agreement.

**2023/03 224 Matters Arising from the Minutes – Information Only**

None

**2023/03 225 To acknowledge and approve account(s) for payment**

<b>INCOME -</b>			
31.01.2023	Interest Received	£	4.79
28.02.2023	Interest Received	£	4.72
31.12.2022	Interest Received	£	4.49
		£	14.00

<b>To Be Approved/Acknowledged</b>			
01.03.2023	1575	Wages	£ 87.50
01.03.2023	1576	Salary	£ 993.40
01.03.2023	1577	postage stamps	£ 21.76
13.03.2023	1577	Allsortz - Various items on account	£ 36.32
13.03.2023	1578	AmityWeb - 1 year server	£ 58.79
13.03.2023	1579	Davies Builders Merchant - post creat	£ 47.73
13.03.2023	1580	Robert Thomas - Grass Cutting 2022/2023	£ 960.00
			£ 2,205.50

Addition item to be considered – One Voice Wales membership for 2023/2024 £367.00

**Total: £2,572.50**

Cllr Jones proposed that the invoices, as presented, be accepted; Cllr Blandford seconded the proposal with all Cllrs in full agreement.

**2023/03 226 To consider and approve the bank/cash book reconciliation – See finance report**

<b>Cash Flow</b>			
<b>31.01.2023-28.02.2023</b>			
Balance	£	<b>34,602.63</b>	B/F
Payments Made	£	9,083.52	
Income Received	£	14.00	
	£	<b>25,533.11</b>	C/F

Cllr Davies-Scourfield 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.

**2023/03 227 Planning Application(s) Received – None as of 07.03.2023**

Application received after the publishing of the Agenda – PL/05608 Replacing of electrical poles – due to the nature of this application, Whitland Town Council did not raise any concerns.

**2023/03 228 To consider any planning application Notices received from the Carmarthenshire County Council - None**

**2023/03 229 Consideration of Correspondence Received including –**

- **Hywel Dda Engagement** - Public consultation event dates for location of new planned and urgent care hospital – Listed at the end of the Agenda
- Email received from Carmarthenshire County Council Planning Enforcement Officer advising that the investigation into the building plot located at Trevaughn Road has been closed. The Clerk to write to the Officer advising that the Whitland Town Council are disappointed with the result of the investigation, due to the risk of the existing banks potentially adding to the risk of flooding.
- Notice from Carmarthenshire County Council requesting confirmation as to which Bus Shelters the Whitland Town Council are responsible for. It was confirmed that Whitland Town Council are not responsible for any bus shelters within the Whitland Ward.
- Information received relating to the formal consultation regarding the Community review of all Town/Community Councils in Carmarthenshire. All Cllrs confirmed that they had received the information. NFA at this time.

**2023/03 230 To Receive Any Reports from Working Parties**

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

- The signage has been installed at the Bryngwenllian Park advising that Whitland Town Council do not accept any responsibility of persons using the play equipment.

- The Clerk to meet with Cllr Shipton next week to ensure that the trees identified with Ash Die Back, within the recent tree survey, are located on Whitland Town Council land. Also to assess the hedges around Bryngwenllian Park as to whether they require cutting back.
- Consideration to be given as to whether the local business owners are asked to 'adopt' the flower pot bike locks which are situated outside their premises.

### **2023/03 231 To Receive Reports from Council Representatives of Outside Bodies**

Including an update regarding the

- Ten Towns - Digital Project
  - Following receipt of the latest bank statement the Clerk will submit all the relevant paperwork to the Carmarthenshire County Council to enable the LEADER funding to be paid.
- Ten Towns - LEADER funding (£100,000) and a possible additional car park within Whitland.

A meeting of the Ten Towns Steering group was held on 08.03.2023 with a number of new members attending. These members currently own or have a connection to businesses located within Whitland.

The results of the recent survey were considered, the results showed that just over 50% of responses received considered that parking within St Mary's Street should remain a priority.

The views of members' present were to the contrary with alternative projects then being discussed.

The main point of conversation was the fact that with Whitland not being able to offer the services of a Post Office, the footfall on the main street had decreased greatly.

Following a lengthy discussion and consideration of additional funding available it was concluded that actions will be carried out to ascertain if it is feasible for a property to be secured to enable a hub and post office services be offered in Whitland main street.

Date of the next meeting to be confirmed.

### **2023/03 232 To consider the request for a donation from the Clarby Warriors towards the cost of the hire of a bus to transport players to matches – completed request form Emailed to all Councillors for their consideration. Request for £100**

Following consideration of all the information provided Cllr Shipton proposed that Whitland Town Council grant a donation of £100; Cllr Jones seconded the proposal with all Cllrs in full agreement.

### **2023/03 233 Carried forward – 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 nomination at present – To be re-considered at the July 2023 meeting.

### **2023/03 234 To consider the recent Notice received from the Whitland Town Council's Handyman of his impending Retirement and the impact of such on the Council**

Councillors were saddened to receive the news that John had made the decision to retire from Council work.

Consideration was given to the Council position to employ a replacement handyperson. The position to be advertised with consideration to the position being filled as soon as possible.

**2023/03 235 To consider the possibility of Whitland Town Council installing payment locks on the public toilets** – The locks would possibly be installed to deter acts of vandalism.

The Clerk advised that two quotations of three locks had been received. On condition that the doors, frames and that the building is able to accommodate the associated electrics the cost of such installed is in excess of £8,000. The Clerk further advised that the Carmarthenshire County Council had been contacted requesting if this was something that they could offer any assistance with. A response is awaited.

It was agreed that, at this time, Whitland Town Council could not warrant a spend in excess of £8,000.

The Council will consider the additional information once received from Carmarthenshire County Council.

**2023/03 236 To consider the tenders received relating to the Whitland Town Council grass cutting contract** – This contract will be awarded for a 5 year term.

Cllr S Mc Dowell proposed that the tender submitted be accepted and a five year contract awarded; Cllr Shipton seconded the proposal with all Cllrs in full agreement.

**2023/03 237 To consider Whitland Town Council commencing on-line banking** – Due to several service providers ceasing to accept payment by Cheques, provisions are required to be made to make payments via electronic banking.

Cllr Davies-Scourfield proposed that the Clerk commence the process to enable the Whitland Town Council to carry out on-line banking and make electronic payments; Cllr Blandford seconded the proposal with all Cllrs in full agreement.

**2023/03 238 To consider the Landscape Character Assessment LDP Supplementary Planning Guidance Consultation: 22nd February to the 26th May 2023** – Documents accessible on the Carmarthenshire County Council's website, under the current consultations section, and on publically accessible computers at public libraries where available.

All Councillors noted that they had received all the relevant information.

**2023/03 239 Considerations for discussion at the next meeting**

It was brought to the Councils attention that several properties along the main street of Whitland require some remedial works and painting.

The fact that there is a grant available for business owners/tenants to apply for that will offer financial assistance to enhance business properties and surrounding areas. **The Property Development Fund**

For more information contact Linda - the Rural Market Town Officer | Economic Development Team on 07814 064 341

Meeting closed 20.51

2023/03 229 Details of the public drop-in events, which will be held between 2pm and 7pm, include:

- 10 March, The Great Hall, Guildhall, Cardigan, SA43 1JL
- 14 March, Selwyn Samuel Centre, Llanelli, SA15 3AE
- 16 March, Haverfordwest Rugby Club, Haverfordwest, SA61 1LY
- 21 March, Ivy Bush Royal Hotel, Carmarthen, SA31 1LG
- 24 March, Regency Hall, Saundersfoot, SA69 9NG
- 28 March, Llandybie Public Memorial Hall, Llandybie, SA18 3UR
- 17 April, Whitland Sports and Social Club, Whitland, SA34 0QE
- 21 April, Morlan Centre, Aberystwyth, SY23 2HH
- 24 April, St Clears Leisure Centre, St Clears, SA33 4BT