



Minutes of the meeting of Whitland Town Council held on 7th January 2019.

Present Cllr Barry Chapman in the chair, Cllrs Gabriela Poore, Jonathan Blandford, Len Shipton, Ron Jenkins MBE, Raymond Jones, Robert Morgan and County Cllr Sue Allen.

To accept apologies for absence: There were no apologies received.

Declaration of new Councillors. Richard Davies, Mathew McDowall and Ffion Scourfield, who had been co-opted onto the Council, made their declarations of office and signed the documentation, and were duly welcomed as Councillors by the Chair.

To disclose personal and pecuniary interests in the items listed below. Cllr Chapman declared an interest in the planning item as a neighbour of the property concerned.

To review and agree the minutes of the previous meeting on 3rd December 2018. These were agreed as a true record – proposed by Cllr Jenkins MBE and seconded by Cllr Blandford, and agreed by all, so were duly signed.

Clerk's report. The Clerk read out a report updating the meeting on progress on various matters. Items requiring Council decisions were discussed later in the meeting.

To receive the following information and decide further actions as required:

- Whitland Abbey ruins. The lease was going through a final review and then would be signed by the Clerk.
- Wifi progress. There were three transmitters/boosters still to install. The planned meeting had not been possible and would be rescheduled. Some statistics on use had been circulated, showing initial usage peaks on Tuesdays.
- Defibrillator. The defibrillator cabinet was due to arrive in the week of the meeting. No electrician had provided a quotation despite the publicity given. It was therefore resolved to approach a known contractor directly in order to complete the work before the end of the month. Proposed Cllr Chapman, seconded by Cllr Shipton and agreed by all. It was suggested that the Council could co-ordinate a map of the defibrillators in the town for general information. It was noted that the planned electrician tender would provide a more effective and efficient way of managing future situations.
- Whitland Town of Culture 2019. The official launch of this was 10th January in Hywel Dda. It was agreed after discussion that the Council could play a leading part in the co-ordination of the year, and that Cllrs Shipton, Davies and

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Allen should be the core of a working party that included representatives from other bodies for that purpose.

To discuss new items of business

- Correspondence requiring Council response. The Clerk summarised two letters that had been received regarding the 1st December event. They were discussed, and resolved that the Clerk should reply in accordance with the Council's views.
- Request for assistance providing a footbridge over the River Gronw. The information provided was discussed, and it was agreed this should be passed on to the February meeting for fuller discussion after more information had been obtained.
- Grass cutting tender. The draft documentation had been previously circulated. This was reviewed, and the areas to be included in the tender discussed. The Clerk was requested to take up with CC permission to take on the grass cutting of the verge outside the ATC. Two areas were to be confirmed in the February meeting but the Clerk was authorised to place adverts for the tender – proposed Cllr Jenkins MBE, seconded Cllr Blandford and agreed by all.
- Electrician tender. The draft documentation had been previously circulated. This was reviewed, and the elements of the tender agreed. The Clerk was authorised to place adverts for the tender – proposed Cllr Poore, seconded Cllr Blandford and agreed by all.
- Training. A Code of Conduct training session had been suggested, for this Council's members but also inviting neighbouring Councils' members. The Clerk would co-ordinate this. CPR training was also discussed, and it was agreed Cllr Allen would co-ordinate this once the defibrillator was installed.
- Play Grant working party. The information on the grant, and draft terms of reference had been circulated. These were agreed for adoption. It was also agreed that the working party should comprise Cllrs Scourfield, Poore and Allen. The Clerk was authorised to incur expenditure specifically for this project if agreed with the Working Party and reported to Council.
- CCC LDP consultation on candidate sites. A map of the sites in Whitland area was circulated, and Cllr Allen provided additional information and answers to questions. It was agreed that all responses should be sent to the Clerk to compile and pass on on the Council's behalf.
- Budget and Precept. This was moved to the end of the meeting for extended consideration
- School Governor appointment. After a brief discussion Cllr Scourfield was nominated to be the Council's representative for Ysgol Llys Hywel. The Clerk would pass on the decision accordingly.
- Storage facilities. Cllr Chapman raised concerns about the storage of the Christmas lights and trees. It was agreed, and accepted by all, that they could be stored by Cllr Poore.
- Nasareth cemetery. This had been considered by the Council the preceding year, but had not been progressed. The Clerk gave some information on the implications for the Council, and agreed to provide a fuller report in the next normal meeting.

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County Cllr's report. This was circulated in the meeting, and additional information provided on the neighbourhood plan, with a feasibility study being funded by CCC. The need for additional parking in Whitland was also discussed under this heading, and the Clerk updated the meeting on the potential community benefit funding from the level crossing work.

To receive the financial report including invoices for consideration. The Clerk circulated details of the current financial situation. She also highlighted that two cheques were outstanding from previous financial years. After discussion it was agreed that one for £1.00 would be written back into the accounts, and she should contact the bank to stop the larger cheque for £897.60. The internal auditor would be informed.

The Council had received the final third of the precept from CCC at the end of December - £14140.17

The list of payments was provided for consideration – all were accepted. It was also agreed to approve the donation to the Alzheimer's Society given by Cllr Chapman. Proposed by Cllr Allen, seconded by Cllr Blandford.

Clerk's salary and expenses for December
John Lewis salary and expenses for December.
HFE signs – banner for Christmas event - £32.06
Sarah's Newsagents – selection boxes for Christmas event - £38.40
E. Jones - Christmas trees – £200.00
Birch utility services – use of cherrypickers - £288.00
Abba Loos – Bryngwenllian toilet - £84.00 and £75.00 (two invoices)
Welsh Hearts – defibrillator cabinet - £495.00
Alan Jenkins – planting King Edward St/Cross St - £140.00
Alzheimer's Society donation – Elf Day - £100.00 – see above.
John Seeley – Christmas PA - £100.00
Rob Thomas –grass cutting of area opp Velfrey Road - £780.00
EDF energy – electricity for toilet - £34.63 direct debit
XLN business services CCTV line - £34.74 direct debit
Llewelyn Davies – payroll services - £23.00 direct debit
Rob Thomas - grass cutting - £420.00 direct debit

To receive and discuss planning information.

- W/38208. Change of use of ground and first floor storage to 2 flats. 16 St John St, Whitland. This was discussed, but there were no comments to offer to CCC.

To receive correspondence.

- CCC disabled parking bay revised proposals.
- PCC LDP consultation.
- OVW Carmarthenshire Area meeting.
- Welsh Govt response to independent review of sector.

A summary of these items was provided verbally.

At this point Cllr Morgan left the meeting. The Chair then presented a powerpoint on a draft budget and precept for the Council for 2019-20, which was discussed at length. It was agreed that there was insufficient time to consider all the information fully, and

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so a special meeting would be called for a fortnight's time. In the meantime Cllrs would be supplied with the powerpoint and could ask the Clerk for any clarification if required.

Items for next normal meeting.

Wifi update.

River Gronw footbridge.

Nasareth cemetery.

Trees Pocket Park.

To confirm the date of next normal meeting as Monday 4th February 2019.

Mayor's Parlour, starting at 7.00pm In addition an extra meeting would be held on Monday 21st January to discuss the budget and precept, starting at 7.00pm in the Mayor's Parlour.

Signed by Chair

Date
