



Minutes of the meeting of Whitland Town Council held on 21st January 2019.

Present Cllr Barry Chapman in the chair, Cllrs Gabriela Poore, Jonathan Blandford, Len Shipton, Ron Jenkins MBE, Raymond Jones, Richard Davies, Mathew McDowall, Ffion Scourfield and County Cllr Sue Allen.

To accept apologies for absence: There were apologies received From Cllr Rob Morgan.

To disclose personal and pecuniary interests in the items listed below. No interests were declared.

To review and agree the minutes of the previous meeting on 7th January 2019. In addition to review and agree the minutes of the Christmas Committee on 5th November and 19th November 2018. These were agreed as a true record – proposed by Cllr Allen and seconded by Cllr Shipton, and agreed by all, so were duly signed.

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

- Potential funding connected with level crossing work. The information that had been previously circulated was discussed. It was agreed that representatives of the Council should attend a meeting with Network Rail about this. The Council ideally would like to see the site used for car parking, but were willing to work with them in achieving that aim.
- Budget and precept for 2019-20. The figures for the current year had been previously circulated to all. An extended discussion was had, with all stating their viewpoints. There was widespread concern about the impact on residents of raising the precept when the CCC Council Tax demand is also likely to be raised, and other services people used were also going up, such as gas and electricity. It was also stated that the Council did need enough funds to operate, and there would be hard choices if the recommended amount was not accepted. It was several times stated as the discussion evolved that the Council would have to look closely at all expenditure for the coming year and beyond, and some cutbacks would be necessary, such as on donations, or considering switching off streetlights. After considerable discussion three options (all below the recommended increase) were put forward. The middle option was agreed by a majority vote. The Clerk would send this in to CCC.

To discuss new items of business

- Level crossing closures in February and March. It was agreed that the letter provided by Network Rail was not clear about the closures, which was backed up by correspondence from a resident received by the Clerk. Concern was

Signed by Chair

Date

expressed about access for the elderly and disabled, about access to GPs and other services, and about how the back roads would be used by a level of traffic that was wholly unsuitable. Concern was also raised about how emergency vehicles would manage for the closed periods, and whether the police were aware and would assist when necessary. The actual closure dates and times also needed to be clarified. Cllrs Allen, Blandford and Poore stated they would be definitely be attending the drop-in, and would pass on any information gained. The Clerk would post any information on Facebook and website.

- South West Wales Regional Contractors Framework. This was discussed briefly and it was agreed the Council would be a member so long as there was no commitment to follow a procurement policy which conflicted with the Council's own.
- Broken seat by Pont Pirpiac Bridge. The Clerk explained the background to this. It was agreed to have it removed, and consider replacement seats at a later meeting.

There were no planning reports to receive.

There was no correspondence for information to receive.

Items for next meeting:

Land beside station - discussions with Network Rail

Trevaughan area – future plans

Potential ideas for projects from 2020 onwards, should funds permit.

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

Mayor's Parlour, starting at 7.00pm.

Signed by Chair

Date
