KIDWELLY TOWN COUNCIL

7th FEBRUARY 2023

At the MEETING of the FULL COUNCIL held on Tuesday 7th February 2023 at 6.30pm.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Present | Town Mayor | C.Peters |
|  | Deputy Mayor | C.Morgan |
|  | Councillors | J. Gilasbey, S.Ratty, C.Peters-Bond, A.Herbert, G.Beer, J.Tarsnane, A.Herbert, D.Lloyd-Waterford, E.Reeves-Davies, J.Maclaughland |
|  | Town Clerk |  |
|  | Town SecretaryEstates Officer | A PadgettMark Stephens |
| ApologiesNo Apologies | Councillors | H.Griffiths, J WestlakeG.Bras |

307 MEMBER’S DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Minute 323 – Councillors T.Tarsnane, E.Reeves-Daves and S.Ratty left the meeting.

**308 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

It was **RESOLVED** that the following minutes be confirmed:-

* Full Council 10th January 2023
* Estates Committee 17th January 2023
* Finance Committee 17th January 2023

**309 TOWN CLERK’S REPORT**

No report was available due to holiday leave.

**Matters arising from Full Council on 10th January 2023**

**310 APPOINTMENT OF COUNCILLOR**

An election has not been requested. The co-option process has taken place. John Maclaughland was sworn in as councillor for castle ward. It was **RESOLVED** that due to the absence of the Town Clerk, the secretary would act as town clerk for the purposes of the declaration. Councillor Maclaughland was welcomed and took his seat at the table. Note and **Close** this item.

**311 DEVELOPMENT OF TOWN SQUARE**

Concept designs had been prepared and put on view at the Co-op and town square. The architect had attended both sites and had been available for consultations. Comment slips had been made available to the public. A final plan was submitted for planning permission.

**312 PRINCESS GWENLLIAN CENTRE – FUTURE GOVERNANCE**

The Nurture Centre is unable to take over the lease of the hall at present. Various options for future management are being investigated. Setting up a charity will be considered, as a charity would be exempt from the non-domestic council tax charge of £63k. It had been recognised that the current operation is functioning well. It was previously agreed to keep the status quo until the end of March 2023.

**313 RESIGNATION OF COUNCILLORS**

Members had been notified that councillors J.James and C.Davies had resigned. The county council has issued notices accordingly. No election has been requested and the co-option process has begun. For clarity this item will be re-named Co-option of councillors.

**314 ASSISTANT FOR ESTATES OFFICER**

It was recognised that the workload of the estates officer has increased exponentially due to the level of development work being carried out in the town. The Establishment Committee *“in camera”* agreed to the appointment of an assistant.

**315 MOBILE CONECTIVITY AND SMART METERS**

Communication within the Kidwelly area is poor. Technology is not in place to enable smart meters to be used, possibly preventing electricity users to attract reduced tariff deals from their suppliers. Base line infrastructure is not present, making working from home difficult. Market traders are losing trade because of poor signals. The county council is already working with providers but more needs to be done urgently. A working group to progress the matter had been proposed. Councillor A.Herbert will arrange to meet Lee Waters MS to discuss the issues. He will then report back to the council so progress can be monitored.

**316 COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT**

Councillor Lewis Davies attended and had provided a written report. He was welcomed and thanked for his contribution. His report included:-

Former town hall – Causeway Street has been blocked to traffic while structural work is carried out to the building which is in a dangerous state. The roof will need to come down and the protruding wall on the roadside will be taken down to 1st floor level and then rebuilt. Immediate remedial work being undertaken will allow for the west bound carriageway of Causeway street to be opened to traffic. The street will become a single carriageway, one way only as it passes the building in a westerly direction.

It was noted that road closure signs have been incorrectly placed, causing traders to loose business. Residents of Causeway Street have not been informed about any of the activities being undertaken by the county council.

A temporary bus route has been arranged and further negotiations on routes are continuing.

The county council proposes to increase the budget for 2023-2024 by 7%. It may mean parking charges for town car parks will be imposed. This will be opposed.

The new school at Ysgol y Castell has been opened and is very impressive.

Consultation on 20mph restrictions is ongoing. Go Safe volunteers are already trained in speed gun handling. Community swap is a possibility.

**317 COMMUNITY HALLS SCHOOLS AND ORGANISATIONS**

**Mynydd hall**: The trustee meeting was held on 6th February 2023. Twinning event on 10th February, KAMPS pantomime on 17th, 18th, & 19th February, Quiz on 14th April.

**Twinning Association**:- A fundraising evening will be held on 10th February 2023 at Mynydd y Garreg Hall.

**Ysgol y Castell**: The new school was opened on 11th January 2023.

**Ysgol Gwenllian**: The Estyn Report was brilliant. A letter of congratulations will be sent. The Heritage Trail project is going ahead.

**Police meeting**:- The January meeting was cancelled.

**318 MAYOR’S DIARY / FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| | DATE | APPOINTMENT |  |
| 10th February 2023 | Twinning Fundraiser at Mynydd y Garreg Hall | 7.00pm |
| 13th February 2023 | Carnival meeting | 7.00pm |
| 15th February 2023 | 10 Towns | 2.30pm |
| 4th March 2023 | St David’s Day Parade - Carmarthen | 11.00am |
| 24th March 2023 | Cawl a Chan | 7.00pm |

**FORTHCOMING MEETINGS**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| DATE |  |  |
| 7th February 2023 | Full Council  | 6.30pm |
| 14th February 2023 | Estates and Finance Committees | 6.30pm |
| 7th March 2023 | Full Council  | 6.30pm |
| 14th March 2023 | Estates and Finance Committees | 6.30pm |

**319 MAYOR 2023 - 2024**

Nomination papers for the mayor were made available. One nomination has already been received – Councillor G.Beer. Voting will take place at the next Full Council.

**320 CORONATION BIG LUNCH**

The coronation of King Charles 111 will take place on 6th May 2023. There is a bank holiday on 8th May 2023. The council has registered for an information pack containing ideas for various ways of celebrating. The packs will be available in mid February. This link will be circulated. It was noted that the Lottery has grants available for events. The council will support any community groups which wish to organise any celebrations.

**321 DISABLED ACCESS PICNIC TABLES**

Members were informed that there is a need for picnic tables which allow wheelchairs to draw up to the table. Sample photographs were circulated. This matter was referred to the estates committee. Note and **Close** this item.

**322 LOTTERY UPDATE AND SURVEY**

The survey has been available for a week only. It was reported that 81 surveys had been processed with more awaiting. A summary of statistics was given, the overall feedback being favourable with positive responses to most questions. It was recognised that this was a small sample. An information table will be set up at the Co-operative store, manned by councillors, encouraging shoppers to complete the survey.

**323 CORRESPONDENCE – JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2023**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Cllr Tarsnane | A request for funding for a Kidwelly Food and Drink Festival was received. It was **RESOLVED** to agree in principal to support the venture, provided that: the grant application form was completed and details of the projected spend were listed. The market Wi Fi problems and general management issues were referred to the Estates Committee. |