KIDWELLY TOWN COUNCIL

5th SEPTEMBER 2023

At the Hybrid MEETING of the FULL COUNCIL held on Tuesday 5th September 2023 at 6.30pm.

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| Present | Town Mayor | C.Peters |
|  | Deputy Mayor | C.Morgan |
|  | Councillors | J. Gilasbey, C.Peters-Bond, A.Herbert, J.Maclaughland, G.Bras, J.Westlake, L.Jones, E.Reeves-Davies, G.Beer, |
|  | Town Clerk | Virginia O’Reilly |
|  | Town Secretary | A Padgett |
| Apologies | Councillors | H.Griffiths, S.Ratty, J.Tarsnane |
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Mr Philip Abraham, Cadw, Head of Heritage and Regeneration, attended on zoom and addressed council. The content is noted in Minute 111.

103 MEMBER’S DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Minute 107 – Councillor J.Maclaughland declared an interest and left the room

Minute 109 – Councillor J.Westlake declared an interest and left the room

Minute 111 – Councillor J.Gilasbey declared an interest and left the room

**104 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

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

* Full Council 4th July 2023
* Policy Committee 4th July 2023
* Estates Committee 11th July 2023
* Community Development 11th July 2023
* Finance Committee 11th July 2023

**105 TOWN CLERK’S REPORT**

The report had been circulated. Matters arising:-

A meeting with the Lottery officer will be held on 12th September 2023.

One Voice Wales Conference 30th September 2023 – members were invited to attend

Telemat – blackspots are preventing adequate wifi coverage. Boxes may be in the wrong location or even too old for purpose. More boxes in better positions are needed but this would be expensive. To be investigated.

**106 COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT**

No report had been submitted. The councillor will be requested to submit reports prior to the meeting so that they can be considered beforehand. Presence at Full Council will also be requested.

**Matters arising from Full Council on 4th July 2023**

**107 PRINCESS GWENLLIAN CENTRE – FUTURE GOVERNANCE**

The trustees have taken over management of the hall from Nurture, as from 1st September 2023 and are now responsible for general expenditure. Utility meters have been read and transitional arrangements will be processed. A new noticeboard has been installed. It was **RESOLVED** that councillor J.Maclaughland be appointed council representative on the trust.

**108 CONECTIVITY**

Councillor Herbert had submitted comprehensive minutes of a meeting held with Lee Waters MS and county councillor Lewis Davies on 17th February 2023. The meeting had identified the many problems, the most urgent being: base line infrastructure is not present, making working from home difficult, market traders are losing trade because of poor signals. The minutes outlined the current position and the steps being taken to improve the situation. A working group to progress the matter lead by Councillor Herbert with councillors Beer and Maclaughland to assist has been set up. Councillor Herbert detailed the proposed BT infrastructure improvements and the implications for residents.

County Councillor Lewis Davies had provided information about the new 3 mobile coverage and the activities of the county council in upgrading the town wifi.

**109 LOTTERY UPDATE AND SURVEY**

The lottery project has been extended until the end of September 2023.

Banners – graphics have been finalised and manufacturing is ready to proceed. The current lamppost brackets do not comply with pending legislation. Consequently new stronger brackets will be required. These will be ordered. The county council has funding for signage. An application for a grant towards the installation will be made. The banners will be erected in the spring after the bad winter weather has passed.

**110 HALBERDIERS**

There are 6 halberdier positions, only 3 being filled by hereditary precedent. The 3 vacancies will now be offered to those outside the designated families. An outline of the historical position will be posted on the website and social media.

**111 KIDWELLY INDUSTRIAL MUSEUM**

Malcolm MacDonald had submitted a report outlining the position at the museum. Concern was expressed at the total lack of any progress at the site, the county council showing no interest in restoration work. New trustees are needed. The town clerk will write to the county council to request action. It was noted that the county is ignoring the recommendations made in the consultation report they themselves had commissioned.

**112 CADW**

Mr Abraham agreed that the relationship between Cadw and the council needs strengthening.

The castle is an important symbol of the town’s heritage and greater emphasis needs to be put on using it as a focus for community and visitor involvement.

The cost of installation of new lights will cost over £30k. Cadw wanted a separate power supply and various other technical requirements which caused delays and communication difficulties. Cadw was requested to assist with the costs, although it was acknowledged that this would be highly unlikely. Different ways of funding the lighting were considered by levying entry charges.

Concern was expressed over the lower number of events held at the castle compared to other cadw sites. Lack of publicity for events was also an issue. It was recognised that links between Cadw and the community were inadequate. To enable more joint projects a small working group will be set up to plan events and enhance working relationships. This will benefit both Cadw and the community. Note and **Close** this item.

**113 EXECUTIVE ACTION DURING RECESS**

No executive action was needed during recess. Note and **Close** this item.

**114 COMMUNITY HALLS SCHOOLS AND ORGANISATIONS**

**Mynydd hall**: A fete was held on 19th August 2023 and despite inclement weather was a great success. A beer festival will be held on 23rd September 2023 – cost £10 to include entertainment, vouchers and a free glass.

**Police:**- The officers are to meet with councillor J.Gilasbey to discuss the latest reports.

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

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| | DATE | APPOINTMENT |  |
| 12th August | Kidwelly Allotment open day & Kidwelly in Bloom Prizegiving | All day |
| 17th August | PGC Trustee meeting | 6.30 p.m. |
| 19th August | Mynyddygarreg Summer Fete | All day |
| 21st August | Kidwelly Old Town Hall Group | 6.00 p.m. |
| 24th August | PGC meeting | 6.30 p.m. |
| 28th August | Riverside Carnival - Carmarthen | 2.00 p.m. |
| 31st August | Christmas Lights meeting | 6.30 p.m. |
| 14th September | Ffasiwn a Ffizz – Eglwys Sant Teilo, Mynyddygarreg | 7.00 p.m. |
| 23rd September | Mynyddygarreg Beer Festival |  |
| 8th October | Scouts AGM – Pontyberem Memorial Hall | 3.30 p.m. |

**FORTHCOMING MEETINGS**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| DATE |  |  |
| 5th September | Full Council and Policy Committee | 6.30 pm |
| 12th September | Estates, Community Development and Finance Committees | 6.30 pm |
| 3rd October | Full Council and Policy Committee | 6.30 pm |
| 10th October | Estates, Community Development and Finance Committees | 6.30 pm |

**116 ANNUAL REPORT**

The annual report had been circulated and considered. It was **RESOLVED** to accept the report. The report will be posted on the website. Note and **Close** this item.

**117 DEVELOPMENT OF TOWN SQUARE**

Due to delay on the part of the county council during the tender process, the cost of the project has escalated by £90k. Councillor A. Herbert wished that his dissatisfaction with the holdup be noted. The county council will pay £175k and the town council approximately £132k for the development.

It was **RESOLVED** that land known as GL25, near Commissioner’s Bridge, be put up as collateral and a legal charge on the property be imposed by the county council.

**118 PROPOSED POLLING DISTRICT AND POLLING PLACE REVIEW**

A review is being undertaken as required every 5 years. This will commence on 12th October 2023. Consultation period will close on 9th November. This matter will be considered further.

**119 STAFF HANDBOOK AND H & S MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**

The handbooks had been circulated and were considered. It was **RESOLVED** to accept them. Note and **Close** this item.

**120 CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLOR**

It was **RESOLVED** to co-opt Stephen John as councillor for Castle Ward. Note and **Close** this item.

**121 BUDGET 2024-2025**

The first draft of the budget had been circulated. Members were requested to consider the expenditure sheet and prepare for discussion at the Finance Committee on 12th September 2023.

**122 GWEN GWEN FESTIVAL 2023**

The festival had been cancelled at such short notice, the day before it was due to start. This caused great problems. Businesses had ordered stock which could not be reused and had employed personnel to man the event. In some cases this was a considerable financial loss. Staff working in one town centre business experienced verbal abuse and complaints about the cancellation of the event causing considerable distress. Festival visitors had travelled great distances to get here to find it cancelled. Capel Sul and the Masons have been commended for the entertainment they provided on the Saturday night which slightly alleviated the disappointment.

Press and news coverage was negative and implicated the town council which had no input whatsoever into the festival. Kidwelly as a town was not portrayed in a very good light, detrimental to any future projects planned for the area.

The Gwen Gwen name is owned jointly by the town council and the Hub. It was **RESOLVED** to remove the right to use the name in future. The Hub will be informed. All Gwen Gwen signage will be reclaimed.

County councillor C. Davies had written to the council with an explanation of events leading up to the cancellation. It was regrettable that the festival was not cancelled earlier when it became evident it was not economically viable and administratively non functioning. It was noted that both directors of the Hub were seen socialising during the weekend which was not appreciated by members of the community who had lost money.

Due to maladministration and failure to cancel in a reasonable time period the festival has caused severe problems either directly or by association to individuals, organisations and businesses. It was therefore **RESOLVED** that a Vote of No Confidence be taken for County Councillor Crisial Davies. Note and **Close** this item.

**123 CORRESPONDENCE – AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2023**

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| 1 | Police | Members were informed of the intended sale of the police station. It was noted that the CETMA foodbank had to relocate. Note and **Close** this item. |