

Pembrey and Burry Port Town Council
Finance Committee Meeting

Tuesday 14th February 2017

Present: Chair Cllr Andrew Phillips, Cllrs Malcolm Davies, Robert John and David Owens.

Officers: Mrs Melanie Carroll-Cliffe (Town Clerk)

(Meeting room, Burry Port Memorial Hall, Burry Port 9.30am – 10.30am)

1. Personal matters

Apologies were received from Cllrs Mrs Pat Jones and Mrs Mary Wenman, together with the RFO.

2. To receive members' declarations of interest

Members confirmed their usual declarations of interest and no new declarations were made in relation to the business to be transacted.

3. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 10th January 2017

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 10th January 2017 were approved as a true record.

4. To consider any matters arising from the minutes

P1 (4) Matters arising – Outstanding issues relating to Pembrey Memorial Hall

The Clerk updated members that an email had now been received on 10th February 2017 from Mr Jonathan Fearn, Head of Property at Carmarthenshire County Council, which she outlined. This apologised for the fact that it had been necessary to chase up this issue and Mr Fearn had indicated that it was his understanding that the legal requirements surrounding the transfer of Pembrey Memorial Hall had been completed. The Clerk also informed members that documentation had now been received in the last few days from the Legal Department, including a draft lease. Mr Fearn had indicated that the Clerk could revert to him if a meeting was still required. Given the outstanding problems with Pembrey Memorial Hall, members agreed that a meeting with Mr Fearn was still desirable.

5. Outstanding invoices

There was specific discussion in relation to outstanding invoices for Burry Port Town Band. The Clerk updated members that the water supply to the band room had been reconnected on 6th February 2017. During January, a letter had been received from the Chairperson of Burry Port Town Band, requesting that consideration be given to providing a 50% rebate on the rent for the period without water. The Clerk had agreed with the Committee Chair that this request could be fully considered once the reconnection had taken place. Following discussion, members **APPROVED** that there should be a rebate of £330, equating to one quarter's rental.

6. **Budget monitoring**

Due to the absence of the RFO from the meeting, there was no detailed consideration of the budget monitoring report.

7. **To consider the financial implications of the proposed asset transfers from Carmarthenshire County Council and the usage of available Section 106 money (as suggested by Carmarthenshire County Council)**

The Chair informed members that he had specifically requested this item to be placed on the agenda, for consideration.

The Clerk updated members on circumstances since the last Town Council meeting held on 18th January 2017. Since this time, the County Council had refused to fund the cost of an up to date drainage survey and report. Furthermore, in an email from Mr Jonathan Fearn of 24th January 2017, he referred to the availability of Section 106 money and suggested that this could be utilised on improving facilities transferred to the Town Council. Members were reminded that the County Council has previously indicated in writing that it would not undertake remedial work to the drainage at the Memorial Park. This is despite the problems having been known to the County Council for many years.

Members agreed that the Town Council could not make any decision regarding the transfer of Burry Port Memorial Park until the cost of the drainage remedial works is known. Nevertheless, Cllr Andrew Phillips suggested that a recommendation could be made from the Finance Committee to resist all attempts by the County Council to utilise any Section 106 money to rectify the drainage problems. Members however felt that the precise costs needed to be known, to enable an informed decision to be made. Following discussions, it was agreed that there should be a recommendation that a draft press release be prepared and given to the County members to take to the County Council, in an attempt to bring pressure to bear. It was felt that the County Council members should make it clear that the Town Council is unhappy about potentially using Section 106 money.

8. **To consider any referred matters from the other Committees**

- The Clerk advised members that she had recently spoken with the Secretary of Burry Port Memorial Park Bowling Club and also, a letter had been received from the Club dated 13th February 2017, which she outlined. The Bowls Club was seeking assistance from the Town Council in relation to the purchase of a new mower under a proposed arrangement whereby it is purchased by the Council but retained and used by the Bowls Club under a leasing arrangement. On consideration of this, members agreed that it would not be the most appropriate way of assisting the Bowls Club and instead, the Clerk should advise them that they can consider making a further application for financial assistance to the Regeneration and Community Services Committee.
- The Clerk informed members that it had been brought to her attention by the TSO that urgent work was required upon the OAP Hall, as the current rendering is falling off and becoming dangerous. The cost of hacking off the existing rendering and replacing it is £3,500. Due to the urgent nature of this, members **APPROVED** the expenditure of £3,500 for this work to be undertaken.

- The Clerk also informed members that the TSO had obtained costings for the installation of CCTV at Pembrey Memorial Hall. As there have been concerns regarding the number of people accessing the building, it was felt that the site urgently requires monitoring. Members therefore **APPROVED** expenditure of £1,750 for the installation of four cameras and DVR system.