



**Minutes for the FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING of AMANFORD TOWN
COUNCIL held at 6pm on the 23RD September 2024 in Ammanford Town Hall
and via MSTeams**

Present from the committee:

Cllr. H. Howells
Cllr. C. Higgins (via MS Teams)
Cllr. M. Griffiths
Cllr. A. Jones
Cllr D. Harries

Also Present:

Mrs S. Murray (Interim Clerk)
Ms J. Grazette (RFO)
Cllr. Ll. Davies
Cllr. E. John
Cllr. J. Owen
Cllr. N. Morgan

FN2409.01

- 1.) Apologies for absence**
None received.

FN2409.02

- 2.) Declarations of Interest**
None.

FN2409.03

- 3.) Matters arising from the Public**
None.

FN2409.04

- 4.) To appoint a Chairperson of the Finance Committee**
Proposed by AJ that Cllr. Calum Higgins be the Chair of the Finance Committee for 2024-25. Seconded by HH. All in favour.
Resolved that Cllr. Calum Higgins be the Chair of the Finance Committee.

18:09 Cllr. D. Harries entered the chambers and apologised for his late arrival.

FN2409.05

5.) To receive a financial report from April 2024 to date

The interim Clerk confirmed that she had previously circulated the report to all councillors via email and they are also on the council's website and asked if there were any questions.

Cllr. A. Jones questioned whether an additional column could be added to the Actual v Budget spreadsheet to show what the percentage equates to in monetary terms. The RFO confirmed that this would be done moving forward.

Councillors were also advised that there would be a further finance meeting which would cover Quarter 2 and that cashbooks would be available.

The RFO also informed Councillors that Reserves need to be earmarked for projects. There is currently an amount of £35,000 earmarked in the budget for parks. Cllr. C. Higgins reminded Council that they had previously agreed to look at both Riverway and Maesycoed playgrounds. The interim Clerk advised councillors that she had met with a playground company to get an idea of costs which will need to be discussed at the next Full Council meeting.

FN2409.06

6.) To receive bank account balances as at 18th September 2024

The interim Clerk confirmed that she had previously circulated bank balances to all councillors via email and they are also on the Council's website.

Cllr. A. Jones queried rates of interest on accounts and whether beneficial to move money from Current account into Reserve account. The RFO advised that the financial requirement is that a minimum of 3 months of Precept is held in accounts.

Cllr. A. Jones proposed that the Council move money from the current account to an account with a higher interest rate. Seconded by Cllr. H. Howells. All in favour.

Resolved that the council leave 3 months of Precept, £99,411.72, in the Current account and move the remaining amount to Reserve account

The Interim Clerk advised Councillors that she had received correspondence from NatWest Bank advising that charges were going to be implemented for transactions on the account and that she would be looking to meet with NatWest to discuss if the Council have the most

appropriate accounts. The Interim Clerk will also look at accounts with other banks for comparison and report back to Council.

Cllr. A. Jones wished to thank the interim Clerk and RFO on behalf of the council for their work in making financial information open & transparent.

FN2409.07

7.) To discuss applying for a debit card

The interim Clerk explained that although the majority of businesses accept payment by BACS that there were times that this wasn't possible. The Interim Clerk and RFO have both had to pay for items using their personal accounts and then claim the money back from the Council.

Cllr. E. John questioned if the card would have a payment by PIN authorisation facility in order to keep the card secure. The RFO stated that only the Interim Clerk & herself would have access to a debit card. Proposed by Cllr. A. Jones that the Council apply for a debit card with PIN authorisation, seconded by Cllr. M. Griffiths. All in favour.

Resolved that the Council apply for debit card with PIN authorisation.

FN2409.08

8.) Grant Update

The Interim Clerk had stated in the Finance Report that the Council's application for the Shared Prosperity Events Fund had been successful and the approved grant award total was £3132.12. This figure may reduce slightly as some items purchased had reduced in cost since submitting the application. A final total will be available once the claim form has been submitted and processed by Carmarthenshire County Council.

The Mynydd Y Betws application for solar lighting in the park is still active and will need to be progressed.

Following a meeting with Caoline Owen, the Council will be investigating other funding pots available.

FN2409.09

9.) Signatories Update

Both the Interim Clerk and Cllr. M. Griffiths have taken the necessary actions to add & remove signatories on the bank accounts as agreed in the Full Council Meeting on 24th June 2024.

Ms J. Grazette and Cllr. C. Higgins will advise Council once they have been notified by Natwest that they are signatories.

FN2409.10

10.) Councilor Allowances

The RFO advised Council that allowances for 2022-23 & 2023-24 need to be paid by 30th September 2024. Forms were circulated to all councillors present to complete. Forms will be emailed to those not present.

Meeting closed at 18:41

Signed

Date