

MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF NEYLAND TOWN COUNCIL, HELD ON MONDAY 5TH
FEBRUARY 2024, 6.00PM AT NEYLAND COMMUNITY HUB

This meeting was recorded.

This meeting was livestreamed.

IN ATTENDANCE: Cllr B Rothero (Chair)

Cllr S Thomas
Cllr A Thomas
Cllr A Phelan
Cllr E Phelan
Cllr M Harry
Cllr P Hay
Cllr A Radice
Cllr A Richards
Cllr S Campodonic
Cllr D Devauden

APOLOGIES: None received

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Libby Matthews – Town Clerk & RFO

Mr Ian Hatchett, Miss Bethan Thomas, Mrs Nicola Hutchings – Members of public.

The meeting opened at 6.07pm

4355 – A PRESENTATION FROM FLOVENTIS ENERGY ON KEY ASPECTS OF THEIR PROJECT TO DEVELOP 2 X FLOATING OFFSHORE WIND SITES OFF THE COASTLINE OF PEMBROKE

Due to the lengthy agenda for this meeting, Members had decided to postpone this presentation.

4356 – TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS REGARDING THE BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED

The onus is on Members to declare interests which may relate to the meeting and/or any transactions to be made.

Member:	Interest:	Agenda Item:
Cllr M Harry	Non-paid Director of Neyland Community Hub	Item 14
Cllr A Phelan	School Governor	Items 20 & 21
Cllr A Thomas	School Liaison	Items 20 & 21
Cllr A Radice	Member of Neyland Ladies Choir	Item 14
Cllr S Thomas	Member of Llanstadwell Community Council	N/A

4357 – REPRESENTATION BY THE PUBLIC (limited to 15 minutes)

Cllr B Rothero invited Mr. Ian Hatchett to address Council. Mr. Hatchett advised that he had attended the meeting in reference to item 14 on the agenda regarding the Town Improvements Grant application received from Community Care CIC. Mr. Hatchett had concerns that the Community Care CIC are affiliated with Neyland Town Council and therefore, did not feel it appropriate for Neyland Town Council to award them a grant. Cllr Rothero addressed the concern with agreement and advised it was not usual for Neyland Town Council to offer grants to an established business. Mr. Hatchett also raised a concern over Cllr Harry's interest, as he is a non-paid Director of Neyland Community Hub, which is the parent company of Community Care CIC. Cllr M Harry asked Mr. Hatchett where he had derived his information from, to which Mr. Hatchett replied that he had seen the grant application on the agenda which had been publicly published. Cllr Rothero advised that as this was an agenda item, this would be discussed in depth further into the meeting and Mr. Hatchett was invited to stay until the discussion had taken place, if he wished. Mr. Hatchett agreed to stay present until the discussion arose.

4358 – TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON 08.01.2024

- 4332 - (4297) Cllr A Phelan commented that as Standing Order 25B had not been added to Standing Orders correctly in the first instance, it was a moot point to debate whether it had been removed correctly.
- 4332 – (4321) Cllr S Thomas commented that he did not believe that the Clerk had completed all jobs given to her by the Christmas Working Group.
- 4334 – Cllr S Thomas advised that he had proposed to accept and confirm the Clerks' pay rise. Clerk to amend this before publishing the minutes.
- 4334 – (d) Cllr S Thomas advised that this should read 'amounted' and not 'surmounted'. Clerk to amend this before publishing the minutes.
- 4336 – Cllr A Phelan advised that he had also received complaints on this matter.
- 4339 – Cllr S Thomas advised that it was he who had brought this item to the agenda.
- 4345 – Cllr S Thomas advised that he had stated that the chocolate selection boxes had been taken to the Christmas Day meal at the Foresters Bar and Bistro, and that the Haribo selection boxes had been left in the office and will need to be taken to the food bank for donation.
- 4349 – Cllr A Phelan advised that he had raised this issue.
- 4346 – Cllr S Thomas did not feel this should include the word 'perceived' and asked for it to be removed. Clerk to amend before publishing the minutes.
- 4346 – Cllr S Thomas advised that this should include the Clerk stated she would look into this. Clerk to amend before publishing the minutes.
- 4349 – To add that the Clerk advised she would take advice from the internal auditor, Bernie Scourfield.
- 4351 – Cllr S Thomas asked that this also reads that the accusations were challenged by the accused Members. Clerk to amend this before publishing the minutes.

Proposal: To approve the minutes, with amendments, of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 08.01.2024

Proposed: Cllr S Thomas

Seconded: Cllr D Devauden

All in favour.

RESOLVED: MINUTES, WITH AMENDMENTS, TO BE APPROVED AS A TRUE RECORD.

4359 – MATTERS ARISING

- 4333 – Clerk to check if we need to pay upfront and then get reimbursed for an Enhanced DBS certificate.
- 4334 – (b) Cllr S Thomas queried if there was any updating on the new landline. The Clerk advised that she had further liaised with Patrick from The Hub, who has advised her that all of the phone lines and internet lines will be switched to a new provider, OGI, Patrick had also advised that this will include a new landline, which will have VoIP access for the Clerk to work hybrid and keep access to the phone.
- 4351 – Cllr M Harry raised that the Monitoring Officer had also sent an email outlining her concerns of the treatment that the Clerk had received, and that he had also stated this at the time of the discussion.

4360 – TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON 16.01.2024

There were no amendments requested.

Proposal: To approve the minutes of the Extraordinary meeting of Council held on 16.01.2024

Proposed: Cllr A Thomas

Seconded: Cllr A Richards

All in favour.

RESOLVED: MINUTES TO BE APPROVED AS A TRUE RECORD.

4361 – MATTERS ARISING

- 4353 – Cllr A Phelan asked if the precept had been confirmed with Pembrokeshire County Council. The Clerk confirmed that she had submitted the precept request for 2024-25 with PCC, but had not yet received confirmation of submission.
- 4354 – Cllr P Hay asked if there had been any update from Audit Wales. The Clerk confirmed that she was still yet to receive correspondence, despite many further attempts to contact Audit Wales. The Clerk updated that she had liaised with the internal auditor, Bernie Scourfield, and was due to arrange a meeting with him for support on the submission of the 2022-23 audit.

4362 – TO UPDATE COUNCIL THAT THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE SALT BINS HAS BEEN TRANSFERRED TO CTC'S AND TO DISCUSS THE POTENTIAL PURCHASE OF ADDITIONAL SALT BINS FOR THE TOWN

The Clerk updated Members that responsibility for maintaining the Salt levels in the Salt Bins has been transferred to all local CTC's. The process for requesting a refill remains unchanged, however, it is now the responsibility of NTC to ensure that salt levels in the bins are kept up with.

Cllr A Phelan advised that he had also added to the agenda the potential purchase of additional salt bins for the Town, as he believes Neyland has a few further areas that would benefit from a salt bin during adverse weather. There was discussion between Members regarding the current position of the salt bins throughout the town, and potential additional areas to implement a salt bin. There was some confusion on which salt bins had been purchased by NTC and therefore were NTC's responsibility, and which salt

bins remained the responsibility of PCC. The Clerk was asked to clarify this before a proposal was made on the additional purchase of further Salt Bins.

Action: Clerk to confirm position and responsibility of all Salt Bins throughout Neyland.

4363 – TO DISCUSS THE PURCHASE OF A DEFIBRILLATOR TO BE SITUATED AT THE ROSE AND WILLOW

Cllr A Phelan advised that the purchase of a defibrillator to be situated at the Rose & Willow had already previously been agreed and resolved in Council. He also advised that currently, the British Heart Foundation were offering free defibrillators and thought it would be a good idea for NTC to apply for one. There was an in depth discussion between members surrounding the current position of the defibrillators throughout the town and the responsibility of the defibrillators being maintained. It was advised to members that former Cllr Gareth Lawlor had previously liaised with the Landlord of the Rose and Willow regarding the installation of a defibrillator, Cllr Rothero advised that he was happy to further liaise with the Landlord on the matter. Members questioned what will be provided by the British Heart Foundation i.e. Casing, maintenance, or just the defibrillator itself. Cllr A Phelan advised he would further look into the scheme and update members on what will be provided. Cllr S Thomas suggested contacting the Tenby and Saundersfoot First Responders to see if they would maintain the defibrillator. Members further discussed that the position of all available defibrillators in Neyland was not particularly well known throughout the Town, and it would be good if NTC could put together 'map' of all defibrillators throughout the town. This was agreed to be a good idea by all.

Action: Clerk to gather information on the position of all defibrillators throughout the Town.

Action: Cllr A Phelan to find out more information on the British Heart Foundations free defibrillator scheme.

4364 – AN UPDATE FROM THE CHRISTMAS WORKING GROUP ON THE CHRISTMAS EVENTS

A lengthy statement had been compiled by the Christmas Working Group after their meeting to discuss the events, which was read out by Cllr S Thomas and Cllr Rothero. The statement outlined positive aspects of the events, which included but were not limited to; A lot of positive feedback, a good attendance to all events and requests from the public for events to continue for this year. The statement also outlined negative aspects of the events, which included, but were not limited to; lack of support by the School and Youth Club, lack of support from other Members of Council and that upon reflection, it was too many events for one weekend and events should be spread out. Cllr S Thomas also read from the statement that there was a surplus of the budget of approx. £2,000, which the Christmas Working Group were asking to be added to this year's budget. In addition, the statement read out included dates and plans for Christmas 2024, which were as follows:

1. 1st December – Lighting of the Tree and Miscellany
2. 6th December – Santa's Grotto, Christmas Market & Ice-rink at St Clements Road
3. 14th December – Santa Fun Run

Cllr's Rothero and S Thomas further advised that they had been approached by the Neyland PLC regarding hosting an ice-rink during the festive period and that the PLC would like to collaborate with NTC's Christmas events. Cllr Rothero welcomed comments from members.

Cllr A Phelan felt strongly that it was wrong to criticize the School and the Youth Club the Youth Club had participated in the Christmas market with a raffle stall and that both the School and Youth Club had attempted to create a group for the Miscellany, but due to the short notice given and many other commitments of families during the busy festive period, they had not had many children able or willing to participate. Cllr Rothero agreed with this in principle, however, stated that it was a shame that they had not done more to be involved as NTC often donate towards both the school and Youth Club.

There was a lengthy discussion surrounding all aspects of the statement that had been read out, with Members asking for further clarification on the ice-rink collaboration with PLC along with a detailed clarification of the figures confirming the exact surplus of monies for the Christmas events. Members also asked for a copy of the statement to be circulated. Cllr S Thomas advised he would clarify the figures and would send a copy of the statement to the Clerk for circulation.

After much deliberation on the events and statement read, the Christmas Working Group asked for plenary powers to be granted to the group to begin the planning and organisation of events, as outlined above, for 2024 and for the usage of the surplus monies from the Christmas events of 2023.

Proposal: To form a Working Group for Christmas Events 2024 and that the Working Group be given plenary powers to begin the organisation of the events for 2024, as listed above, and that the confirmed and proven surplus monies of the Christmas events 2023 be an addition to the budget for the Christmas events 2024.

Proposed: Cllr S Thomas

Seconded: Cllr D Devauden

All in favour.

RESOLVED: A WORKING GROUP FOR THE CHRISTMAS EVENTS 2024 TO BE FORMED AND PLENARY POWERS GRANTED TO THE GROUP TO BEGIN ORGANISING EVENTS FOR 2024, AS OUT LINED IN THE STATEMENT.

RESOLVED: ANY CONFIRMED AND PROVEN SURPLUS OF MONIES FROM THE CHRISTMAS EVENTS 2023 TO BE ADDED AS AN ADDITION TO THE BUDGET FOR CHRISTMAS 2024.

4365 – RATIFICATION FROM COUNCIL FOR APPROVING PLENARY POWERS OF SPEND TO CLLR S THOMAS OF THE COMMUNITY COHESION FUND AND ORGANISATION OF THE DISABILITY CONFERENCE

During December, there had been no meeting of Council due to various reasons. This led to an email vote taking place where plenary powers of spend were granted to Cllr S Thomas to enable him to utilise the awarded Community Cohesion Grant of £1,500 and to organise the Disability Conference as set out in the application form of the grant. Members had been circulated detailed information of this at the time. After seeking advice on the legality of email voting, the Clerk had advised that whilst email voting was possible for an urgent decision, the voting was not legally binding, and all decisions made via this way needed to be returned to Council at a public meeting for ratification from Full Council.

Proposal: Cllr S Thomas to be granted plenary powers of spend of the £1,500 Community Cohesion Grant and to organise the Disability Conference as set out in his application for the Grant.

Proposed: Cllr S Thomas

Seconded: Cllr A Radice

9 in favour, 2 abstentions

RESOLVED: PLENARY POWERS OF SPEND OF THE £1,500 COMMUNITY COHESION FUND GRANTED TO CLLR S THOMAS TO ENABLE TO ORGANISATION OF THE DISABILITY CONFERENCE.

4366 – A PROPOSAL TO ADD AN AMENDMENT TO STANDING ORDER ON EMAIL VOTING IN URGENT SITUATIONS

The Clerk had prepared the following proposal on email voting in urgent situations, which had been circulated to Members prior to this meeting:

“In the event of urgent matters needing to be dealt with, in the form of payments or decisions to be made, and in the event that for circumstances beyond control an EGM cannot be called, the Clerk may circulate an email fully detailing the decision in question to all Members, marked as urgent. Members henceforth have 48 hours to respond to this email with their vote on the matter, with email responses being “reply all”, to ensure all Members can clearly see the vote of others, as would be appropriate in a face-to-face meeting. If 48 hours have passed with no response from a Member, their position will be considered as an abstention to the vote. Any decision must hold a quorate vote from Council in order to proceed. All decisions determined via this manner must be brought back to Council at the soonest scheduled meeting of Full Council for ratification in a public meeting.”

Members discussed the proposal and asked the Clerk to amend the proposal to include the following:

1. Councillors are bound by their vote presented in the email chain, whether that be a vote in favour, a vote against, or an abstention.
2. Clarification that matters classed as urgent are either to be
 - i. Financial matters which could incur further costings for the Council and/or invoices to be paid to tenders for works already completed.
 - ii. Matters that are time sensitive and a decision is required before the next available opportunity of face-to-face discussion.
3. Full disclosure of, and any documentation relating to, the decision to be made should be presented within the initial email sent by the Clerk to enable an informed decision.

Proposed: Cllr P Hay

Seconded: Cllr S Thomas

10 in favour, 1 against

RESOLVED: AMENDMENT TO STANDING ORDERS ON EMAIL VOTING IN URGENT SITUATIONS, WITH ADDITIONS, BE ACCEPTED AND INCLUDED IN STANDING ORDERS.

4367- TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE TOWN IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE

- a) To confirm the renaming of the Town Improvements Committee to the Community Enhancement Committee

Cllr A Phelan, elected Chair of the Town Improvements Committee, advised Members that during the meeting, Members had discussed the renaming of the Committee/Grant. After discussion and debate, Committee Members had agreed upon renaming the Committee to the “Community Enhancement Committee”.

- b) To confirm and override the present ruling that no businesses may apply for the grant in order to support a funding request from the Community Care CIC

As this was the item Mr Hatchett had attended the meeting to discuss, Mr Hatchett was invited to speak. He reiterated his concerns that as a company that is affiliated closely with NTC, he does not believe it appropriate for NTC to offer funding support to a grant application submitted by the Community Care CIC. Mr Hatchett also reiterated his concern regarding any interest Cllr Harry may have as a non-paid Director of Neyland Community Hub, which is the parent company of Community Care CIC. Cllr Harry advised Mr Hatchett that he was in no way part of the running of or organising of the care company. Mr Hatchett suggestively disagreed with Cllr Harry’s explanation, to which Cllr Harry robustly refuted. The Chair called for calm, to which Mr Hatchett apologised to Cllr Harry and the debate moved along. There was a lengthy and robust debate on the matter, which proved difficult for members to conclude. After much discussion, a proposal was determined to reject the grant application from the Community Care Company, based on the ruling that no businesses can apply, and that members would not support overriding this rule in order to support the application.

Proposal: To reject the application form received from Community Care CIC, based on the rules of the Town Improvement Grant stating that no businesses may apply.

Proposed: Cllr D Devauden

Seconded: Cllr S Thomas

9 in favour, 2 against

RESOLVED: THE TOWN IMPROVEMENT GRANT APPLICATION FROM THE COMMUNITY CARE CIC TO BE REJECTED

Mr Ian Hatchett left the meeting at 8.05pm

Members took a 5 minute refreshment break between 8.05pm-8.10pm

The recording device was switched off during this time, resuming at 8.10pm.

4368 – TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Cllr P Hay addressed members as the Chair of the Planning Committee. He advised that the committee had received and discussed two planning application forms:

23/0734/PA – Replacement of the existing mast top headframe and 3 antennas at the Telephone Exchange in George Street. Cllr Hay advised that the committee had voted to support in full.

23/0793/PA – To change the use of the building from Class C3 (Dwellinghouse) to Class C2 (Residential Institutions) at 108 High Street, Neyland. Cllr Hay advised that the planning application had been received from an already established care company, who had other similar properties throughout Neyland. He advised that the committee had also agreed to support the application in full.

4369 – TO CONFIRM THE ADVERTISEMENT FOR THE CASUAL VACANCY FOR NEYLAND WEST WARD

Cllr B Rothero asked if NTC were legally obliged to advertise and fill the vacancy. The Clerk advised she was unsure if it was a legal obligation but was happy to liaise with the Electoral Services at PCC to confirm. Members discussed that, due to high costings of an election, with the previous election being recent and costing upwards of £8,000, if we were not legally obliged to fill the vacancy, perhaps we could postpone advertising to avoid incurring the costs at present.

It was further discussed and agreed between Members that, once the Clerk had confirmed our legal obligations, if we were obligated then the Clerk is to go ahead with the advertisement and if it is NTC's prerogative to fill the Vacancy, to bring this back to the next meeting for further discussion.

4370 – TO CONFIRM A RESOLUTION REGARDING RUNNING OF THE PUBLIC TOILETS IN NEYLAND

During the precept meeting dated 16.01.2024., it had been thoroughly discussed and decided that it was not feasible for NTC to absorb the full running costs of the public toilets at Neyland Marina, at an approx. sum of £10,000 per annum. Members had all previously explored many options and attempted to find a solution to enable the public toilets to stay open, however, as PCC are absolute in their decision to absolve any responsibility of costings of the public toilets, during the precept meeting, Members felt there was little more we could do as a small Town Council.

A lengthy and in depth discussion commenced between members on any possible further solutions being reached to avoid PCC closing the public toilets, as all Members felt very strongly that the public toilets were an asset to Neyland and feel that the decision made by PCC to close them is particularly detrimental to Neyland. The Clerk advised that the deadline for absolute and final decision is April 2024. Cllr Rothero invited Members to, by the following meeting, offer a viable proposal, if they have one, on the running of the public toilets, where a discussion and absolute decision will take place.

4371 – TO DISCUSS THE ADOPTION OF FORMALLY REQUESTING MINUTES AND ACCOUNTS ON A REGULAR BASIS FROM THE NEYLAND AND LLANSTADWELL BURIAL BOARD

Prior to the meeting, the Clerk had circulated the most recent minutes and accounts from the Burial Board that she had recently received. Cllr Hay asked members if they had taken the time to go through the accounts provided by the Burial Board, as he had looked at them and he further stated that the current position of the accounts presented was appalling. Cllr Hay addressed members of the Burial Board and advised that they would need to speak to the Clerk of the Burial Board to put them right. Cllr A Phelan advised, as a member of the Burial Board, that the accounts were scrutinized regularly at meetings and that errors were addressed. Cllr Richards, as Deputy Chair of the Burial Board, also advised that it had been formally resolved in the previous meeting that accounts would be sent monthly and minutes would be sent quarterly, as approved.

A robust discussion ensued between Members regarding Cllr Hay's concerns and comments of the Burial Board accounts, with objections to the statements made about the Clerk to the Burial Board being voiced.

Cllr Radice left the meeting at 9.00pm

4372 – MAYORS CHARITY DONATION

Cllr Rothero advised Members that his chosen charity for donation was the Megan's Starr Foundation. £550 of monies raised at the Christmas Market would be donated to the charity. Cllr Rothero asked the Clerk to liaise with the Director of the charity and proceed with the payment.

4373 – TO DISCUSS SUPPLYING 'COLOUR RUN' MEDALS FOR NEYLAND COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Cllr A Phelan advised that he had attended a Governor's meeting at the school, and that the school had asked if NTC would be happy to supply medals once again for the school's annual 'Colour Run', as done previously. Cllr Phelan advised that he had looked into costings and 300 medals would cost approx. £230. Cllr Phelan advised he was happy to take on the responsibility of ensuring these were purchased and would liaise with the Clerk.

Proposal: To purchase and gift 300 medals to Neyland Community School for their annual Colour Run

Proposed: Cllr A Phelan

Seconded: Cllr B Rothero

All in favour

RESOLVED: 300 MEDALS TO BE PURCHASED AND GIFTED TO NEYLAND COMMUNITY SCHOOL

4374 - TO DISCUSS A CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS MERCHANDISE THAT PROMOTES NEYLAND COMMUNITY SCHOOL FOR THEIR TRIP TO SANGUINET

Cllr A Phelan advised Members that there are 5 schools throughout Pembrokeshire taking trips to either France or Germany over the summer, and that Neyland Community School would be visiting Sanguinet with approx. 5 of their pupils. Neyland Community School has asked if NTC could donate funds to enable them to purchase merchandise for their trip which promotes Neyland Community School and Neyland town. Members discussed this further, and it was agreed for Cllr Phelan to advise the school to complete an application form for the Community Enhancement Grant and the committee would be happy to look at it.

4375 – TO DISCUSS AND RESOLVE ON WHO SHALL UNDERTAKE THE CLERK'S 6 MONTH APPRAISAL AND TO CONFIRM A DATE AND TIME OF WHEN THE APPRAISAL SHALL TAKE PLACE

As the Clerk would not be present for this discussion, she had asked the Chair at the beginning of the meeting to defer this item to the end of the meeting so that she could leave the meeting. The Clerk advised she had asked Cllr A Phelan to be responsible for the recording device and return this to her at his earliest convenience, who had agreed. The Clerk advised she would complete the minutes using the recording of the meeting.

Cllr Harry addressed the Chair and raised his continued concerns at the ill-treatment of the Clerk by Councillors. In particular, Cllr Harry felt it would be inappropriate for Cllr Rothero to complete the Clerk's appraisal as the Clerk had raised concerns to all members regarding inappropriate behaviour she had received from Cllrs Rothero, S Thomas and Devauden. Cllr Rothero refuted Cllr Harry's concerns. Cllr Rothero asked Cllr's A Phelan and Richards if they would be available to undertake the Clerk's appraisal, along with himself, at the request of the Clerk. Both Cllr's A Phelan and Richards confirmed they were available, and the appraisal was confirmed to go ahead on Monday 19th February at 6.00pm. the Chair then closed the meeting.

4376 - INVITATION TO BUCKINGHAM PALACE GARDEN PARTY

Cllr S Thomas advised Members that he had seen an email from One Voice Wales asking CTC's to nominate a member to attend Buckingham Palace Garden Party. Cllr Thomas further advised that, due to the current ongoing difficulties within the Council, he does not feel it appropriate to nominate a member to attend at this time. There was a brief discussion where Cllr Thomas was asked if we were able to nominate someone outside of NTC. Cllr Thomas was unsure, and the Clerk was asked to check this. Members suggested that if we were able to nominate someone outside of NTC, that we should nominate County Cllr Simon Hancock.

Proposal: If allowed, to nominate C. Cllr Simon Hancock to attend the Buckingham Palace Garden Party

Proposed: Cllr S Thomas

Seconded: Cllr A Phelan

9 in favour, 2 against

RESOLVED: TO NOMINATE C. CLLR SIMON HANCOCK, IF APPLICABLE

4377 – OUTSTANDING MATTERS

- 1. Kensington Road Speed Issues** – The Clerk advised she had still not had a response from the traffic team at PCC. The Clerk advised she had written a stern email, as there has been no response since the initial contact dated 23.10.2023. PCC had advised they would respond by the end of this week.
- 2. Speed Limit on A477** – The Clerk advised that she had no update from PCC regarding this matter. Cllr S Thomas asked if Cllr Paul Miller had been spoken to on the issue, the Clerk advised she had not spoken to him personally and had had no update yet from PCC advising they had further contacted Cllr Paul Miller. Cllr S Thomas asked the Clerk if she would contact Cllr Miller directly to asked if his stance had changed after the recent fatality on the A477.
- 3. HHVC School Transport** – The Clerk advised that Cllr A Phelan had written a letter of complaint in his capacity as a Cllr and that this had been sent to PCC, with C.Cllr's and our MP's cc'd in.
- 4. Hywel Dda NHS Dental Provision** – The Clerk advised she had not yet had a response to the second letter sent to Hywel Dda.
- 5. 20mph Red Road Markings** – The Clerk advised that her email had been acknowledged by PCC, who had advised this request would be looked into and a response would be given shortly.
- 6. Cuts to the 349 Bus Service** – The Clerk advised she had not yet received a response from First Cymru regarding our concerns.

7. **Fixing the Town Clock** – The Clerk advised that Cllr Hay had delivered the Clock to the Men’s Shed, who have agreed to amend the clock. The Clerk was asked to further contact the Men’s Shed regarding their offer of Defibrillator Training.

4378 – PAYMENTS FOR APPROVAL AND A FINANCIAL UPDATE

Members had been presented with the following update of the accounts:

Current Account:	£59,023.76
Mayor’s Fund:	£290.34
Earmarked Reserves:	£19,000.00
General Reserves:	£9,085.79

Total in Accounts: £87,399.89

The list of expenditure for January 2024 totaled £5,547.14 Net, £5,727.47 Gross. There was no income during January 2024.

Members were presented with a list of payments for approval totaling £5,537.70 Net, £5,659.88 Gross.

Proposal: To accept and confirm the listed payments for authorisation

Proposed: Cllr M Harry

Seconded: Cllr A Thomas

All in favour

4379 – CLERK’S REPORT

Community Enhancement Meeting

Further grant applications had been received; a meeting will need to be scheduled.

Planning Committee Meeting

Further applications had been received; a meeting will need to be scheduled.

Landline/Internet Update

The Clerk had further liaised with Patrick at The Hub who had told her that they would be going ahead with changing the internet provider with OGI. Patrick advised he would keep the Clerk updated with further installation updates and pricing.

Play Park Gate Hinge Replacement

The Clerk advised that the parts had been ordered and were currently on a 4-6 week turnaround time.

Speed Sign Quotes & CCTV Quotes

The Clerk advised she had circulated speed sign pricing and, further to two site visits 2 x CCTV quoting. She advised members that as she was unsure if the quotes would have been returned to her on time, she had not added the items to this agenda, but would now add both items for discussion on the next agenda.

Banking Issue

The Clerk advised that she had logged onto the internet banking for NTC and had noticed that the Mayor’s Fund account was not showing. She told Members that she had called Barclay’s to query this, who had advised that a letter had been sent in July 2023 advising that due to inactivity on the account, if there was no further activity within six months, the account would be classed as dormant and closed. The Clerk was unaware of this as this took place before she took position as Clerk. Under further advice from Barclays, a ‘Lost Account’ claim had been submitted, but it was advised that this could potentially take up to six months to reclaim the funds.

4380 – MAYOR’S UPDATE

Cllr Rothero advised members that he had recently donated £2,500 worth of tools and equipment to the Men’s Shed. In return and to show their appreciation, the Men’s shed stated that they would help out NTC in as many ways as possible, with things such as benches etc. He advised these had not yet been delivered to the \men’s Shed, but would be shortly.

4381 – DEPUTY MAYOR’S UPDATE

Cllr S Thomas advised that due to the popularity of the Santa Fun Run, he had been approached and asked to organise a Springtime run. He asked Members if anyone was willing to volunteer to help organise this run. Cllrs Rothero and Devauden offered to volunteer and support Cllr Thomas with the organisation of this.

4382 – EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AT THE DICRETION OF THE MAYOR

Cllr Devauden advised members that he had sent an email to the Clerk asking for hard copies of all emails after advice from his optician.

4383 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was set for Monday 4th March, 7.00pm

Signed:..... (The Chair)

Signed:..... (Town Clerk/Proper Officer)

Date:.....