Narberth Town Council

Extraordinary Meeting of Narberth Town Council

Meeting Reference: EOM 260421
Date: Tuesday 21st April 2026
Time: 19:00hrs
Location: Narberth Community Library, 3 Town Moor Mews, Narberth, SA67 7DF

Present

Cllr. Charlie Meredydd (Mayor)
Cllr. E. Rogers (Deputy Mayor – Chair for Item)
Cllr. T. Williams-Mason
Cllr. H. Cole
Cllr. N. Makepeace
Cllr. K. Jones
Cllr. C. Barnes
Cllr. K. Monroe *(arrived late)*

Apologies for Absence

Cllr. D. Rigby
Cllr. M. Kelly
Cllr. C. Sturman

Officer in Attendance

Kris O'Kane – Town Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer

In Attendance (Public Gallery)

Members of the public were present, including individuals associated with the Narberth & District Community & Sports Association (NDCSA), including trustees and committee representatives.

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1. Opening of Meeting

The Mayor, Cllr. Charlie Meredydd, opened the meeting and welcomed attendees.

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2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from:

- Cllr. Denise Rigby
- Cllr. Melanie Kelly
- Cllr. Clare Sturman

3. Declarations of Interest

The Mayor, Cllr. Charlie Meredydd, declared a prejudicial interest in the matter.

In doing so, reference was made to guidance issued by the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales regarding member participation, including an indication that such guidance may permit a member to be present during discussion.

Notwithstanding this, the Mayor confirmed that, in order to avoid any potential perception of confusion or conflict, he would not participate in the discussion or decision-making on the item.

The Mayor vacated the Chair, which was assumed by the Deputy Mayor.

In addition, Cllr. G. Meredydd, speaking from the public gallery, indicated that she would be providing apologies for the meeting in her capacity as a Member.

No further declarations of interest were made.

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4. Public Participation

4.1 Representation – W. Silverstone (NDCSA)

It was noted that individuals present in the public gallery included persons associated with the Narberth & District Community & Sports Association (NDCSA), including trustees.

Mr Silverstone made a representation to Council which included:

- Allegations regarding the Clerk's conduct and impartiality
- Challenge to the wording of previous minutes and agenda items
- Assertion that financial information provided by NDCSA had been misrepresented
- Objection to the handling of conflicts of interest
- Submission of financial documents (bank statements) during the meeting

A **Point of Order** was raised by the Clerk clarifying that no allegation of fraud had been made.

4.2 Member Clarifications

Cllr. Tomos Williams-Mason clarified his position regarding Bloomfield membership and confirmed advice had been sought from the Monitoring Officer.

4.3 Public Question

A question was raised by a member of the public (Mr. Evans) regarding:

- The rationale for a loan request
- The level and usability of NDCSA reserves

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5. Financial Request – Bloomfield (NDCSA)

5.1 Officer Advice

The Clerk confirmed that:

- External professional advice had been obtained (including SLCC)
- The advice concluded that **the Council should not proceed with the grant or loan** at this time
- The Council must act within legal and governance constraints

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5.2 Member Debate

Members discussed:

- The importance of voluntary organisations to the town
- The need to act within governance and audit requirements
- Reputational and legal risks of proceeding contrary to advice

A proposal was suggested for future consideration of multi-year grant frameworks.

5.3 Resolution

Proposed: Cllr. H. Cole
Seconded: Cllr. T. Williams-Mason

RESOLVED:
That the Council **accept the professional advice provided** and **decline to award the grant or loan at this time**.

Vote:

- For: 3
- Against: 1
- Abstentions: 3

Outcome: Motion carried.

The Clerk advised that a formal Officer Statement would be issued following the meeting, in his capacity as Proper Officer, to clarify matters raised during public participation and to ensure that the public record accurately reflects the governance framework within which the Council operates.

5.4 Follow-Up Action

It was agreed that:

- An item be brought to a future meeting to explore **lawful mechanisms to support Bloomfield/NDCSA**

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6. Meeting Conduct & Closure

- Concerns were raised regarding conduct and tone during the meeting
- The Clerk raised concerns regarding workload, governance risk, and public allegations
- The Deputy Mayor emphasised the need for respectful conduct

The meeting was brought to a close following completion of business.