

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Council on Monday 3rd December 2007 in the Council Chamber at 7.00pm.

Present: MGD James as Mayor in the Chair, DJO Chant Deputy-Mayor, JW Braby, DJH George, SJ Halse, JG Lloyd, BT Price, C T Taylor, RJ Thornton, S Williams with PL Evans (Responsible Finance Officer) and DC Munday (Clerk).

Members of the Public: Lis Cousens, Gill Lewis, Deirdre Connell, Maggie Hemming, Andy Dixon, Henry Beaumont, Melanie Maloney, Clare Perkins, Ceri Price and Marilyn Guest.

The mayor welcomed the members of the public attending and introductions were made.

439 Apologies for Absence: AM Foster (community commitment), FJ Godkin (Indisposed) and MC Gray (work commitment).

440 Declarations of Interest:

Members and Officers were reminded to make any declarations of personal and/or prejudicial interest that they might have in relation to items on this agenda.

G James, J George, R Thornton and the Clerk declared their interest as governors of Ysgol Dewi Sant in relation to item 442, with the chair noting that advice from Pembrokeshire County Council indicated that there was no pecuniary interest.

441 Confirmation of Minutes for:

- 441.1 Council Monthly Meeting on Monday 5th November 2007- it was RESOLVED to accept and approve the minutes.
- 441.2 'In Committee' Minutes of the Council Monthly Meeting on Monday 5th November - it was RESOLVED to accept and approve the minutes.
- 441.3 Second Meeting of the Month including the Whitesands Car Park Review on Monday 19th November 2007- it was RESOLVED to accept and approve the minutes.

Matters arising from the Minutes:**442 SPORTS and LEISURE FACILITIES at Ysgol Dewi Sant.**

Members of the community who had made representations to the Council, particularly regarding the potential closure of the swimming pool had been invited to the meeting to discuss this item.

The Mayor began with an outline of the status quo with the feasibility scheme of Pembrokeshire County Council, that included the provision of a Sports Hall and fitness suite on the site of the present swimming pool, having been verbally presented to the City Council by the Director of Finance and Leisure of Pembrokeshire County Council.

The current position was that no further information had been forthcoming following enquiries by the City Council into the details and costs that are determining both the closure of the pool and the funding of the scheme. While enquiries had been made to both the Director of Finance and the Cabinet Member of Pembrokeshire County Council for Leisure no further information was available.

Financially, it was understood that the new sports hall, costing around £1 million, would be funded by the removal of the annual net expenditure of £100,000 in running the pool. Pembrokeshire County Council was not planning to fund the estimated £3 million for a new pool.

G Lewis - Asked for comparative figures for a modern pool compared with those of an old pool as energy saving and other design improvements could mean that net expenditure would be far less than the £100,000 quoted.

A joint scheme would provide an added attraction as attendance at a sports hall together with a new pool would be greater than for single facility.

D Connell - Noted that 400 – 500 people used the pool each week as well as 130 private lessons. Where are they going to swim given this area is surrounded by sea? There was a risk that a whole generation of children would lose out and also spend an excessive amount of time, as well as create further environmental impact through the additional travel to swim elsewhere.

Other points raised were:-

1. The need for facilities to assist health, fitness and well is a current issue.
2. Demolition costs of the existing building would cost as much as a rebuild.
3. Employment for local children who work as lifeguards was important.
4. Club use eg Porthmawr SLSC, WI and Care in the Community.

5. Fishguard Swimming Club members were coming to St.Davids.
6. 217 people have signed a petition expressing interest in retaining the pool and a meeting of interested parties was due later in the week to find a way forward.

M Hemming

1. Supported the previous comments and added that detailed comparative figures for other sites were needed.
2. The pool is a community facility, especially for young and old, is valued at a time when health and fitness is so important.
3. She noted that there was a link with the school.

A Dixon

1. Quoted sample figures for the provision of a pool from suppliers of £160-170,000 as typical figures for a pool of similar size and it was expected that operating losses would be less. Need a full survey.
2. Need to have a full user profile as it was probably the most highly used community resource in St.Davids.
3. Costs – he had enquired about costs of figures in region of £700-800,000 for new pool in similarly sensitive area. Costs of using the existing ‘hole’ were seen as a mixed blessing and there was a need for a sustainable approach that could incorporate features such as woodchip fuel boiler and solar panels.
4. Could not see any conflict between the pool and the school.
5. Land was possibly available for a larger scheme of pool and sport shall from local landowners.

G Lewis - If Pembrokeshire County Council is renting the land for the site the position is not clear.

A Dixon - A recent issue of ‘Park Life’, the newsletter of Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority, is emphasising ‘Live locally, Play locally’ and this would indicate that the Authority will support such a pool development.

H Beaumont - Present pool meets all the community needs and is entirely appropriate for St.Davids; it also provides one of the few facilities for visitors in the area especially the 8-12 year age group.

M Maloney

1. Is the pool at the end of its life?
2. Ysgol Dewi Sant is desperately in need of facilities, so this investment is understood but not with the loss of a good facility. We need a new modern pool for the foreseeable future and Pembrokeshire County Council should include for a pool in its leisure budget.

D Chant commented that no funds were available apart from the deficit finance suggested.

M Maloney - Proposed that we need to have a guarantee that the Pembrokeshire County Council 2009/10 budget would include an amount set aside for a new pool and sports hall, noting that St Davids should not be without a pool for the 2 years.

Mayor summarised the situation asking what is the way forward noting the proposal from Mrs Maloney?

C Price - Supported the proposal but said if it was built on a different site we should keep the pool while a new facility is being built.

Mayor commented that Mark Lewis of Pembrokeshire County Council originally said they would not use private land for such a development.

M Guest -There is no ecological sense for people to travel to swim.

C Taylor – land use should be by the community instead of Pembrokeshire County Council.

D Chant – Felt that Pembrokeshire County Council would love to have a community group or the City Council to run the pool.

J Braby – Is there any funding given the overall situation regarding sports particularly in regard to the impact of the London Olympics? He uses the Fishguard pool and fitness suite and the facilities are well used. There is a great need for such facilities in St.Davids apart from a pool. He could not see, despite the great enthusiasm how the sort of money required could be raised for both capital and revenue expenditure.

D Chant - Need to obtain the repair and running costs of the pool.

Mayor summarised the situation asking what is the way forward noting the proposal from Mrs Maloney?

M Maloney - As funding a pool from the 2008 budget was not practical; she proposed that we ask Pembrokeshire County Council for a guarantee to set aside funds from the 2009/2010 budgets for a pool on an additional site together with a sports facility at the school and that they would guarantee the continued operation of the present pool in the interim period.

D Connell - Questioned the validity of a guarantee from Pembrokeshire County Council.

G Lewis - The proposal was very attractive but may not work. It would assist if any new work would provide an inclusive building that might have a new doctor's surgery and other services.

H Beaumont – The pool must be kept open in the interim.

D Chant noted that this could effect the funding.

C Taylor - Felt the group of residents very active doing more than St. Davids City Council and this was strongly refuted by Mayor and Deputy Mayor

C Taylor emphasised that the 2 elements of the pool and school are unrelated items and should be kept that way.

S Halse – Felt there was a need to clarify the facts, given the large variation in costs between Pembrokeshire County Council and the other figures just quoted. Also the community should endeavour not to be divided on the matter.

J George – Lack of sports centre has been mentioned in the last 4 school inspections and he noted that nothing can be done until a consultation period is undertaken.

D Chant – there is an election coming in 2008 that may affect this matter.

Mayor noted the very positive discussions and it was felt that the way forward was to:-

442.1 Invite the Cabinet Member for Leisure to attend a meeting to discuss the position.

442.2 It was RESOLVED not to take the formal proposal from Mrs Maloney forward but to advise Pembrokeshire County Council of the content and sentiment of the meeting.

A Dixon – suggested that companies could be approached with a view to providing independent costs.

C Taylor - Is the new community group established?

D Connell - Confirmed that this would be on the agenda at the first group meeting planned for later in the week.

C Perkins – How is this affecting the school?

Very happy to meet at next City Council meeting on 7 January 2008

Members of the public left the meeting.

J Lloyd – Suggested that contact be made with Mr G Perkins of PMR Ltd regarding the provision of environmentally friendly boiler as being fitted in the Bloomfield Centre in Narberth.

J Braby – Research on funding possibilities was necessary.

Responsible Financial Officer – noted the potential costs of a survey and while this was not agreed permission to assess the building was necessary to compare with the figures of Pembrokeshire County Council.

443 PROJECTS and WORKS:

443.1 Internal appearance improvements for the Memorial Hall – prices for the work were being obtained.

443.2 Play Area Phase 2 - New access ramp and bus shelter design information was awaited from the surveyor.

443.3 Floral Display – no response following enquiry for feedback from residents had been received.

- 443.4 Storage – the Lloyds TSB store had been cleaned thoroughly out by members and would provide better storage than
- 443.5 Christmas Tree Association had asked if it could store signs in the Hall and this was agreed.

444 CHRISTMAS:

- 444.1 Community Award 2007.
RESOLVED: That under section 100 (A) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information.
- The Community Award was then discussed prior to announcement on Saturday 15 December 2007.
- The meeting then came out of ‘Committee’
- 444.2 Christmas Events: –
- 444.2.1 Street Lighting:-
- 444.2.1.1 Switch On – Mayor emphasised work of Council in providing the successful new lighting with the need for more volunteers to assist being noted.
- 444.2.1.2 Donations towards the new lighting were gratefully received from:-
- 444.2.1.2.1 Gwyn Davies & Sons on 26.11.07 - donation of £50.
- 444.2.1.2.2 Mr and Mrs D Chant of The Waterings on 27.11.07 - donation of £50.
- 444.3 Senior Citizen’s Lunch – plans were finalised.
- 444.4 Civic Buffet – plans were finalised.
- 444.5 Christmas Lighting Competition – it was confirmed that the Mayor of Haverfordwest Cllr Thomas would be judging in St Davids on Monday 10 December.

OTHER MATTERS ARISING:**445 Whitesands:**

- 445.1 Beach Café Tenancy.
- 445.1.1 Assignment of Tenancy – Clerk reported that Bissmire Fudge & Co were completing the legal work required and they had also advised that permission regarding the sale of alcoholic drinks with meals only could be covered by a letter from the Council.

Email of thanks of 28 November 2007 had been received from Mr and Mrs Lunt for the offer of match funding for improvements to the property. While building control approval was being obtained it meant the work was now anticipated to begin in February 2008 and the total cost was confirmed as £3920 with the Council providing 50% as its contribution.

- 445.1.2 Site Meeting with Mr and Mrs Lunt was agreed to be arranged for January 2008.

- 445.2 Whitesands ‘Multi User Link’ Path – Clerk noted that Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority has advised that consultants were due to report on this scheme around February 2008.

446 Deputy Mayor’s Chain – design samples were awaited.

447 St Davids Community Bus: Next St Davids Community Bus Group Meeting is on Tuesday 11 December at 7pm.

448 Fair Trade City Status – Clerk reported that an application was now being assessed by the Fairtrade Foundation.

449 Pembrokeshire Housing letter of 22 November 2007 was RESOLVED to be received.

450 Signage to the Cathedral in St.Davids – information from Pembrokeshire County Council was awaited.

451 Lesotho – it was RESOLVED to enquire about progress with the twinning link.

452 St Davids Day – enquiry for assistance with costs of decoration of the Hall from Cyd Tyddewi was noted.

- 453** St Davids Allotment Group – Clerk reported that the group was discussing various prospects in their search for appropriate land with the next meeting of the group on Wednesday 7 December 2007.
- 454** Tall Ships Adventures – Sponsorship of a voyage for a young person awaited a response from Ysgol Dewi Sant.
- 455** Carbon Footprint of St Davids – report of meeting of Mayor and Clerk with Andy Middleton on 13 November 2007 was presented. An update and presentation by Andy Middleton on this general situation and the concerns identified relating to the impact of the relatively high level of transport required for residents of St Davids and the possibility of considering Transition Town status was agreed to be undertaken at the second meeting on 21 January 2008.

456 County Councillor’s Report.

Pavements were currently being repaired with concern over the work in Maes y Dre and High Street. A general observation was that slabs being laid in the High Street and other locations did not match the existing path and this was to be questioned.

Correspondence

- 457** Pembrokeshire County Council letter of 5 November 2007 – Footways and parking was discussed and it was RESOLVED to:-
- 457.1 Accept the addition of a new path as outlined at the New Street and High Street junction.
 - 457.2 Any alterations to encourage coach parking were not accepted. C Taylor declared a personal interest as a trader. This matter was to be retained within the ongoing Traffic Management Review.
- 458** PALC - Letter of 7 November 2007 regarding Welsh Language Schemes – was RESOLVED to be received.
- 459** Pembrokeshire County Council letter received 19 November 2007 – Regional Waste Plan 1st Review Consultation 15 October – 24 December, was RESOLVED to be received. Information on www.ourwastechallenge.org and www.walesregionalwasteplans.gov.uk.
- 460** Margaret Wildman letter of 1 November 2007 – St Non’s Bro Cerwyn Centre, Withybush Hospital, Haverfordwest – it was RESOLVED to donate £50 under Section 137 Local Government Act 1972.
- 461** Pembrokeshire Community Safety Partnership letter received 21 November 2007. Crime and Disorder in Pembrokeshire – it was RESOLVED that members should determine their priorities and complete the forms received and return them to the Partnership.
- 462** Pembrokeshire County Council letter of 14 November 2007 - Local Development Plan and the related matters below were RESOLVED to be received:-
- 462.1 Candidate Sites.
 - 462.2 Delivery Agreement.
 - 462.3 A copy of LDP News.
- 463** Ignaz email of 16 November 2007 was noted with no response being received to a request for full contact details.
- 464** Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Authority - Risk Reduction Plan 2008-09 letter of 9 November 2007 with a copy of the Risk Reduction Action Plan was RESOLVED to be received.
- 465** Adjudication Panel for Wales Annual Report 2006 – 2007 was RESOLVED to be received.
- 466** Pembrokeshire County Council letter of 26 November 2007 - Monitoring Officer - was RESOLVED to be received.
- 467** People 1st – letter of 5 November 2007 – Smarter Spending Wales was RESOLVED to be received.
- 468** Pembrokeshire County Council / Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority; letter of 29 November 2007 South Wales Regional Aggregates Working Party – Draft Regional Technical Statement (RTS) for Minerals – consultation information was RESOLVED to be received.
- 469** Festival Arts UK Ltd letter of 29 November 2007 – the request for use of the City Hall in the peak summer weeks was not able to be accommodated given the established bookings.
- 470** North Pembrokeshire Transport Forum – News Briefing was RESOLVED to be received.

471 Pembrokeshire County Council letter of 29 November – Changes to Christmas Refuse Collections – details were RESOLVED to be received.

472 DONATIONS under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972.

Letters of thanks were RESOLVED to be received from:-

- 472.1 Macmillan Cancer Support letter of 12 November 2007 for donation of £103.
- 472.2 Caerfarchell Chapel letter of 12 November 2007 for donation of £100.
- 472.3 Tretio Chapel letter of 12 November 2007 for donation of £100.

Donation requests:-

- 472.4 Dyfed Powys Police, Bobby Van Scheme letter received 22 November 2007 it was RESOLVED to donate £25.
- 472.5 Urdd Gobaith Cymru letter of 14 November 2007 - it was RESOLVED to donate £25.
- 472.6 Samaritans letter of 19 November 2007, together with an appeal for volunteers - it was RESOLVED to donate £100.

Clerk's Business:

473 Newsletter – the recent issue of the newsletter was agreed to have been worthwhile with the Clerk noting that an email distribution list was being established to eventually assist reduce distribution costs.

474 Website update - it was agreed that the Clerk should research the ways of updating the website using a database approach for easier management

475 Future Staffing -it was RESOLVED to defer the matter to a future meeting.

476 Neighbourhood Police Team Forums – The new Police Community Support Officer had advised that Forum meetings would now be held on 2nd Wednesday of each month in the Memorial Hall.

477 Display of Wreaths in the Memorial Gardens, Cross Square – a request from the Royal British Legion for additional wooden rails to appropriately display the wreaths in the garden was RESOLVED to be accepted and rails were to be provided.

478 Traffic Management Review – Mayor noted that the recent meeting lacked clarity and an appropriate response regarding the draft minutes was agreed to be made.

Planning:

479 NP/07/609 Solar water heating collectors for Upper Treleddyn - it was RESOLVED to offer COUNCIL SUPPORT.

480 NP/07/615 Extension and alterations to St Justinian - it was RESOLVED to offer COUNCIL SUPPORT noting that although this was in an environmentally sensitive location the changes were acceptable. J George declared a personal interest.

481 NP/07/630 Conversion of outbuilding to holiday let - Barn at Carn Nwchwn - it was RESOLVED to offer COUNCIL SUPPORT.

482 NP/07/645 2 dwellings at 60 Nun Street - - it was RESOLVED to offer COUNCIL SUPPORT commenting that adequate parking space should be provided.

483 Accounts:

483.1 Internal Audit for October 2007 had been successfully completed and was RESOLVED to be accepted.

483.2 Accounts for November. Balances: (25/11/07) Current Account £57,108 Premier Account £47,677

PERIOD	INCOME	EXPENDITURE	BALANCE for
1.4.07 - 25.11.07		£	PERIOD £
TOTAL	187,789	155,890	31,899
Car Park	132,202	26,923	105,279
City Hall	11,452	12,747	-1,295
Admin		25,194	-25,194

Post Office Ltd	48.00
Old Cross Hotel	19.70
Cllr Glenys James (Xmas Cards)	16.00
Glyn Edwards Ltd	22.30
B S Davies (Internal Auditor)	80.00
Viking Direct	43.01
Butherway Electrical Ltd	158.79
Pembs Online Ltd	300.00
Bernie Stevens	141.00
Porthmawr SLSC	271.66
LITE	1061.03
BT	313.08
D C Munday	1675.82
P L Evans	272.11
Martin Fitzgerald	35.00
Phoenix Press	478.00
Clerk's November expenses	35.31
BT	313.08
BT	132.81
Nash Brothers	5554.82
Des Owen	30.00
J Phillips	169.97

483.3 Donations from 01/04/2007:

Dyfed Powys Police Auth	250.00
Withybush 87.7FM	50.00
Celtic Coaster	1000.00
Shelter Cymru	50.00
Urdd Gobaith Cymru	25.00
Saints Junior Rugby	300.00
Artswave	100.00
British Red Cross	100.00
Royal British Legion	50.00
Macmillan Cancer Support	103.00
St Davids Cathedral Cemetery	400.00
Tretio Chapel	100.00
Caerfarchell Chapel	100.00
Berea Chapel	100.00

483.4 Permission to pay the accounts was RESOLVED to be granted.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 21.15.

Signed
Chairperson

Date.....

‘In Committee’ Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Council on Monday 3rd December 2007 in the Council Chamber at 7.00pm.

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484 Apologies for Absence: AM Foster (community commitment), FJ Godkin (Indisposed) and MC Gray (work commitment).

485 COMMUNITY AWARD 2007

There being no further business the meeting closed at 21.15.

Signed
Chairperson

Date.....