

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Council on Monday 6th October 2008 in the Council Chamber 7.00pm.

Present: DJO Chant Mayor, SJ Halse Deputy-Mayor, JW Braby, AS Cox, DJH George, JG Lloyd, BT Price, CT Taylor, RJ Thornton, S Williams with PL Evans (Responsible Finance Officer) and DC Menday (Clerk).

The Mayor welcomed Lyn Hambidge, Pembrokeshire County Council's Head of Housing Commissioning, to the meeting who outlined the operation of the housing service particularly on local housing allocation:-

- The County's housing stock had reduced substantially with 12 vacancies advertised each week at a time of increasing levels of homelessness.
- The Housing Register had 4694 live applications at the end of September 2008 and at 12 placements per week there are a lot of disappointed people with 75% of them having some form of medium or high priority.
- The basis for allocation using the gold, silver and bronze categories to give priority was outlined noting that a proportion is included for local need but also emphasising that under the policy local connection is only a peripheral matter in relation to the overall criteria.
- There is not enough affordable/ social housing to go around especially in St Davids. The current bid to Welsh Assembly Government for social housing was for £12million however experience suggested that an award of only 25-50% was likely.
- Planning policies were being used to try to encourage release of land.

Responses to some questions included:-

- High numbers of people from outside St.Davids and Pembrokeshire, especially those who make trouble, seem to get housed in St.Davids. These situations arise from the use of legal process including the right to exchange that does not exclude challenging people. There is no right of appeal specific to housing policy.
- Local elected members are there to provide strategic direction but are now excluded in law from the allocation process. This followed general criticism from the Ombudsman over suspect allocations.
- Lack of housing for young people and families and the effect of forcing families to move away, especially those born and bred in the area was acknowledged; the problem being a lack of land availability and the relatively high prices in St Davids. There are around 90-95 applicants currently in St Davids with little housing available. It was felt these numbers should be used to change policy and to prioritise the provision of starter homes and use covenants to ensure they do not become holiday homes.

342 Apologies for Absence: AM Foster (Work commitment), MC Gray (Holiday commitment).

343 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.

344 Confirmation of Minutes for:-

- 344.1 The Council Monthly Meeting on Monday 1 September 2008 were RESOLVED to be accepted and approved.
- 344.2 The 'In Committee' Council Monthly Meeting on Monday 1 September 2008 were RESOLVED to be accepted and approved.
- 344.3 The Second Meeting of the Month on Monday 15 September 2008 were RESOLVED to be accepted and approved.

Matters arising from the Minutes:

345 Whitesands Car Park – design amendments for the entrance were awaited from the Traffic Manager of Pembrokeshire County Council following a recent site visit.

346 14th Signal Regiment (Electronic Warfare) Homecoming Parade – Arrangements for the parade and reception on Wednesday 8 October were finalised.

347 Christmas Pantomime - it was RESOLVED to defer the pantomime until 2009 when available dates at Ysgol Dewi Sant Hall was to be planned.

348 North Pembrokeshire Transport Forum email of 16 September 2008 – it was RESOLVED to apply for membership of the Forum and to accept the cost of £12pa.

349 Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority Meetings:-

- 349.1 Community Council Seminar 18 October 2008 in the Merlin Theatre, Pembrokeshire College – it was RESOLVED that the 2 representatives would be Councillors J George and R Thornton.
- 349.2 Community Engagement Briefing on 9 October 2008 in St Davids - Papers were available for Councillors S Halse and J George who were to represent the Council.

350 Eco City Group:-

- 350.1 Allotment Group - G Lewis', Secretary of St Davids Allotment Group, email of 25 September 2008 requesting consideration of the grassed areas of Pen y Garn and Bryn Teg as possible sites for allotments/community gardens. It was RESOLVED to:-
 - 350.1.1 Write to Pembrokeshire County Council to ask if any of these areas could be considered for use as allotment gardens.
 - 350.1.2 Write to Gill Lewis to provide an update on the Council's position.
- 350.2 Eco City Group Representation - As Councillor J Braby was standing down as the Council's representative on the group it was RESOLVED that Councillor B Price would be the new representative.

351 Staffing.

- 351.1 The general position was outlined over the possible provision of support staff with a view to a longer term role. In agreeing the principle of providing clerical assistance, it was agreed that more information be provided particularly regarding hours to be worked and cost. It was felt that these discussions be undertaken by the full council noting that the Staff Review Committee had not met this year.

352 RESOLVED: That under section 100 (A) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information

- 352.1 City Hall Phase 2 Development.
- 352.2 Dolen Cymru.
- 352.3 Community Assets
- 352.4 Caretaker.

353 Play Area and Bus Shelter - Contract update.

- 353.1 Roof design – Clerk noted that roof material could be either a grouted slate, 'slate look alike' sheet or reinforced concrete beams. After extended discussion it was RESOLVED that the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Clerk discuss technical aspects and costs with the contractor and they were given authority to decide on the choice of roof material.
- 353.2 Mel Davies letter of 6 October 2008 – The approval of an interim payment of £10,000 for the contract was RESOLVED to be granted and the purchase of railings from Messrs Trident requiring an advance payment of £6000 was also approved.

County Councillor's Report

- 354** Councillor George commented on plans for some refurbishment work and was asked to investigate what was happening with reductions in street lighting in the area following changes in Pembrokeshire County Council's budget.

Correspondence

- 355** Llywela Harris letter of 6 September 2008 - Digital TV Signal in St Davids was RESOLVED to reply noting that there was no change since the provision of previous details.
- 356** Pembrokeshire County Council letter of 2 September 2008 – Section 54 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981; Dyfed County Council (St Davids); Definitive Map Reclassification Order 1991 – was RESOLVED to be received.
- 357** Pembrokeshire County Council and Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority letter received 25 September 2008: Rights of Way Improvement Plan for Pembrokeshire – was RESOLVED to be received.
- 358** Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Letter of 17 September 2008 – Guide to Domestic Renewable Energy Systems – was RESOLVED to be received.
- 359** JJ Morris letter of 19 September 2008 Insurance Valuations for the City Hall and Whitesands Beach Café – was RESOLVED to be accepted and that the amended insurance cover for the City Hall to be adjusted to the new value of £900,000 and the Beach café to £325,000.
- 360** Pembrokeshire Association of Local Councils: AGM on Saturday 25 October 2008 – was RESOLVED to be received with Cllr C Taylor due to attend.

361 Welsh Assembly Government information on the Clean Neighbourhood and Environment Act received 3 October was noted with the matter to be considered at the next meeting.

362 Brochures, Courses and Newsletters – the following items were RESOLVED to be received:-

- 362.1 Postwatch Wales Summer 2008 issue.
- 362.2 Tall Ships Adventures 2008/9.
- 362.3 PAVS One day event for Voluntary and Community Groups Tuesday 14 October 2008 in Letterston 10am-4pm.
- 362.4 'The Voice' British Cleaning Council Autumn 08.

363 Reports from Members representing Council on Local Groups and Events:-

- 363.1 Bws y Bobol – The Bws had arrived in St.Davids and the launch of the service was on Thursday 9 October 2008 at Oriol y Parc at 2pm. A list of drivers and driver training costs information was to be provided
- 363.2 St Davids Christmas Tree Association - Coffee Morning on Saturday 11 October with Mayor to attend.
- 363.3 Christmas market for selling of food to be investigated further and support was offered.
- 363.4 St. Davids Peninsula Association for the Care of the Elderly and Disabled – was awaiting use of the new bus.
- 363.5 St Davids Peninsula Tourist Association – AGM on 3 December in the National Park Visitor Centre.

364 Donations under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972.

- 364.1 Letters of thanks were RESOLVED to be received from:-
 - 364.1.1 Pembrokeshire Special Needs Gymnastics Club letter of 10 September 2008.
 - 364.1.2 Sian Richardson email of 1 October 2008 for Tall Ships sponsorship of H Richardson.
- 364.2 Donation Requests:-
 - 364.2.1 British Red Cross letter of 9 September 2008, it was RESOLVED to donate £50.
 - 364.2.2 Urdd Gobaith Cymru letter was RESOLVED to be received.
 - 364.2.3 HOPE Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre letter of 17 September 2008 it was RESOLVED to donate £50.
 - 364.2.4 Oxygen Therapy Centre Cardigan Ltd letter of 23 September 2008, was RESOLVED to be received.

Clerk's Business:

365 Clerk reported that the Tourist Information Panel /Signs and St Davids Benches painting tender were both in progress.

366 Pembrokeshire Town Clerk's Meeting.

- 366.1 Clerk reported that an initial meeting of Pembrokeshire's 9 Town Council Clerks had been held and had provided a useful exchange of shared interests. Particular matters noted were concerns over the quality of some communications with Pembrokeshire County Council, little support for One Voice Wales and anomalies in approach to implementing the Code of Conduct and Charters between the County Council and the Community.

367 Whitesands Waste Recycling Facility – Following from a recent site visit by Jane Davidson AM, Minister for Sustainability and Housing. A letter outlining the situation regarding the lack of recycling at Whitesands had been sent in response to her request.

Planning:

Previous application

368 NP/08/355 Pembrokeshire Coast National Park letter of 16 September 2008 – St Davids City Council's application for a weekly traditional market, was noted

Current Applications

369 NP/08/436 Alterations and extension to existing agricultural building at Porthclais Farm – it was RESOLVED not to support this as it is out of scale and proportion to the landscape.

370 NP/08/440 Extension at 8 Maes-yr-Hedydd – it was RESOLVED to offer COUNCIL SUPPORT.

371 NP/08/457 Rebuilding Garage and outbuildings at Parc y Rhos, Pencarnan – it was RESOLVED to offer COUNCIL SUPPORT. BT Price declared a personal interest.

372 Accounts:

- 372.1 Internal Audit for July and August 2008 had been successfully undertaken and were RESOLVED to be approved.

372.2 Accounts for September 2008.

Balances: (26/09/08)	Current Account	£50,737	Premier Account	£63,686.
Arnold Boorman		80.97		
Adele Pearson		15.00		
BT		47.17		
Viking Direct		52.60		
Peter Lavin		449.10		
Clerk's expenses September		22.32		
Amazon.co.uk	BT phone 1	57.80		
Amazon.co.uk	BT phone 2	57.80		
Jewson Ltd		488.80		
Nisbets		65.75		
Peter Lavin		562.95		
PCNPA	Benches	2655.50		
Post Office Ltd		27.00		
Mr Flag.com		108.68		
Peter Lavin		492.75		
Gracie Framing Ltd		226.42		
D C Menday		1275.45		
P L Evans		214.75		
Total Heating Solutions Ltd		393.63		
JJ Morris valuation		293.75		
Mel Davies		800.00		
J Phillips		407.36		
P Lavin		407.70		
HMRC		1567.04		
HMCE		11,409.39		
P Lavin		243.00		

PERIOD	INCOME	EXPENDITURE	BALANCE
1.4.08 – 26.09.08	£	£	£
TOTAL	151290	93949	+57341
Car Park	107443	41970	+65473
City Hall	12390	8876	+3514
Admin		18003	-18003

Donations from 01/04/2008

Tall Ships	300.00
All Pembs Cruse	50.00
Crossroads	50.00
Army Benevolent Fund	250.00
Urdd Gobaith Cymru Sir Benfro	25.00
Shelter Cymru	50.00
948 Squadron ATC	25.00
Celtic Coaster	1000.00
Pembs Special Needs Gym Club	50.00

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

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.05pm

Signed

Date.....

Minutes of the 'In Committee' Business of the Monthly Meeting of Council on Monday 6th October 2008 in the Council Chamber 7.00pm.

Present: DJO Chant Mayor, SJ Halse Deputy-Mayor, JW Braby, AS Cox, DJH George, JG Lloyd, BT Price, CT Taylor, RJ Thornton, S Williams with PL Evans (Responsible Finance Officer) and DC Menday (Clerk).

373 Apologies for Absence: AM Foster (Family Commitment), MC Gray (Holiday commitment).

BUSINESS

374 City Hall Phase 2 Development.

375 Dolen Cymru.

376 Community Assets.

377 Caretaker.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.05pm

Signed

Date.....

Minutes of the Second Meeting of the Month on Monday 20 October 2008 in the Council Chamber at 7.00pm.

Present: DJO Chant Mayor, SJ Halse Deputy-Mayor, JW Braby, AS Cox, AM Foster, DJH George, MC Gray, JG Lloyd, BT Price, CT Taylor, S Williams with PL Evans (Responsible Finance Officer) and DC Menday (Clerk).

The Mayor welcomed Mr Ifor Jones, Director of Planning and Conservation for Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority (NPA) and Mr Ray Kirk Planning Officer for the Authority and a discussion was held on planning matters in St.Davids, some of which arose from the reaction to the representations made by the City Council to the Preferred Strategy Consultation document. Key points of discussion noted were:-

Local Development Plan (LDP)

Mr Jones outlined the timetable for presenting the LDP as the consultation involved a new approach by the Welsh Assembly Government. A key difference this time was in having the consultation on the Preferred Strategy, after this is complete there will be consultation on the Deposit Plan that is due next spring, when formal support and rejections are made. The representations will be considered by an inspector, including a public meeting and the Inspector's conclusions and findings will be binding; unlike the previous situation when the recommendations were then considered by the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority and Pembrokeshire County Council.

I Jones felt that in general the differences in view outlined between St Davids City Council and Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority were not great.

D Chant - Porthclais and St Justinians both exist as harbours not just one as in the plan.

I Jones - One harbour was not omitted, it was that it was not entirely related to the policy under consultation.

S Halse - Communication improvements reported at the recent Community Engagement Panel covered the NPA's agenda only and the appointed consultant did not accept views outside the 4 points the Authority wished to discuss. It was very frustrating for the local councils represented, how does each community get its views across?

I Jones - Suggested that a letter be sent to cover the key issues while noting the Panels are not the sole interface on the Plan.

C Taylor - There was frustration when the officer's response to the representations submitted was 'No Change'. This was an inadequate response to the proposer who should receive a more reasoned reply.

I Jones - This was noted but he had a small team dealing with thousands of points of view.

S Halse - The remark in the representations from the City Council that there was more interest in a community of seals than the local community emphasised the need for the community to be considered more fully with concern over the response that the NPA's view took precedence over the local view.

I Jones - The remark had been taken by some at the NPA as being partly flippant and he reiterated the nature of the overall brief noting that the economic needs of the community are now included.

Sustainability and Energy

M Gray - There was real concern over the NPA's view that solar panels are unsightly - his family are trying to act with responsibility and to provide for the future and in the property concerned the NPA will only allow single glazed windows but these are not allowed under Building Regulations that say they must have double glazing. While the situation with Listed Buildings was noted, there was almost a slanging match between the NPA and Building Control regarding these opposing yet formal views. It caused residents who are looking to act responsibly to suffer as they are not able to save energy or respond to national government energy efficiency aspirations.

I Jones - The NPA aims to follow Welsh Assembly Government guidance

R Kirk - In principle the NPA is not against double glazing but needs to carefully consider the visual impact with the context being important. Policy 62 is used for such matters.

C Taylor - Many sites have allowed velux windows in listed buildings, yet solar panels are not allowed and this is a further lack of consistency in approach.

M Gray - Cast iron guttering was required for properties in the Conservation Area in Goat Street while some plastic guttering was accepted on the Cathedral – these inconsistencies need addressing.

R Kirk – There was no blanket ban on renewable technologies.

I Jones – A booklet entitled ‘em powering yourself’ was provided for members and copies are available for the public. It was a guide to renewable technologies prepared by the West Wales Eco Centre.

St Justinians The need for vehicular access was outlined by the Mayor contrasting the approach with the increase in vehicle traffic anticipated as a result of Oriel y Parc and its extended car park.

I Jones Oriel y Parc does encourage visitors mostly in cars to come to St.Davids. Once visitors arrive, the intention is to keep people out of cars during their stay using the Grove as strategic centre especially for buses.

D Chant asked *I Jones* to look at the parking situation at St Justinians again.

C Taylor - NPA view was politically unacceptable as it was not responding to the needs of the situation.

I Jones - Accepted that there was a need for toilets and *R Kirk* was working on a design but he did not like the current car park site.

M Gray - Was very concerned that there was no compromise following the situation some years ago when double yellow lines were provided on the road, subject to the provision of parking. Subsequently parking was removed on account of a change in view by the then landowner and the consequences have had an adverse effect on local business's and the community.

After discussing the current planning application for the market on the Cross Square, Mr Jones and Mr Kirk were thanked for their contributions and they left the meeting at 8.25pm.

378 Apologies for Absence: R J Thornton.

379 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.

Matters arising from the 6 October Monthly Meeting:

380 Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority:-

380.1 Letter of 6 August 2008 Local Development Plan: Preferred Strategy and Sustainability Appraisal – matters relating to the Report on Representations had been discussed with Mr Jones as above.

380.2 Report on Meetings:-

380.2.1 Community Engagement on the Future of the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park – Councillor Halse had presented points arising with Mr Jones.

380.2.2 Community Council Seminar Saturday 18 October – Councillor J George outlined the event noting concern at the very high costs for utilities and maintenance now included with new housing developments and that planning applications are now primarily all electronic.

381 Christmas:-

381.1 Civic Reception – Friday 12 December 08 - Catering this year was RESOLVED to be mulled wine, mince pies, sandwiches and sausage rolls only, with quotations to be obtained from local caterers. Invitations were to be made for 2 representatives of local groups as in the past.

381.2 Lighting Switch On - Saturday 6 December 08 - a discussion on arrangements noted the ongoing need for more volunteers for both the switch on of the lighting and the celebration itself.

381.3 Christmas Tree Protection – it was RESOLVED to investigate the cost of metal barriers as an alternative to the highway plastic safety barriers previously used.

381.4 Market – discussions on what is to be provided were ongoing.

381.5 Pembrokeshire County Council letter of 29 September 2008 received 13 October 2008 – was RESOLVED to be accepted and the provision of the indemnity agreed, following agreement from insurers.

382 Homecoming Parade - 14th Signals Regiment (Electronic Warfare).

The occasion had been very successful and a letter of thanks from Lt Col T Carmichael, the Commanding Officer was noted together with other messages of thanks.

383 Staffing

A full review was deferred to the second meeting in January to address broader plans for the Council in the future and to assess the associated staffing needs.

384 Lesotho:-

384.1 Royal visit of HM King Letsie III on 14 November 2008 - provisional arrangements were discussed.

384.2 St Davids Matsieng Link Group:-

384.2.1 Following a successful public meeting the basis for a new group had been established with Cllr Taylor as Chair with the next meeting on Tuesday 11 November.

384.2.2 Fees for the hire of the Memorial Hall for group meetings – it was RESOLVED that fees for the Hall will be waived.

385 Bus Shelter and Play Area Contract.

Clerk reported that the stone work was virtually complete and that the fencing is due in 2-3 weeks. This will be fitted and the new access completed at the same time. It was RESOLVED to paint the fascia boards in Buckingham Green and that the metal finish of the fencing is to be galvanised rather than powder coated at an extra £780 pounds.

386 Clean Neighbourhood and Environment Act – New powers for Town and Community Councils - the matter was deferred to the January meeting when the future of the council and staffing is considered.**Correspondence**

387 Councillor John and Nan George; card of thanks for golden wedding bouquet was RESOLVED to be received.

388 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. G Cross email of 9 October 2008.

389 Pembrokeshire County Council email 15 October 2008 - Rest Centre Training on 2 December all day in Fishguard Leisure Centre - It was RESOLVED that the Clerk should attend.

390 Annual Artswave Concerts in the Cathedral 25 October - it was RESOLVED to provide the Hall for a pre concert reception for no charge and to grant a donation of £25 (Sec 137 Local Government Act 1972).

391 Item on Display- Park Post, Autumn 2008

Clerk's Business

392 Remembrance Sunday 9.11.08 – It was RESOLVED to donate £50 to the Royal British Legion £50 (Sec 137 Local Government Act 1972).

393 Street names: –

393.1 New signs were RESOLVED to be provided by Leander Architectural Ltd using the existing 'St Davids' design and ex vat prices of £214.63 for Noddfa Dewi and £228.81 for a bi-lingual Anchor Drive sign were accepted with delivery at £30.60. D Chant declared a personal interest in relation to Anchor Drive.

393.2 A direction sign to the cathedral specifically for pedestrians and located at the Tower Hill Lane / Goat Street junction was accepted and a quotation of £68 for a cut vinyl on aluminium design was RESOLVED to be accepted.

394 Code of Conduct – Records.

Under the new code of conduct regime it was RESOLVED to record personal and prejudicial interests as declared during the meeting in the Register of Interests as in the previous working arrangement. This means that notification forms do not have to be completed. The annual declaration of interest will still have to be completed and reviewed annually.

Any Other Business:

395 Dedication of the new inshore lifeboat will be on Sunday 23 November 2008 on the Cross Square - it was RESOLVED to permit use of the Square for the Dedication.

396 PALC – Councillor C Taylor reported on a recent meeting of PALC. A new website was nearing completion and the group was proposing varying degrees of approval for access to the site. C Taylor felt that as a public body access to the site should not be limited and advised the City Council that he had abstained from voting.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.10pm

Signed
Chair

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397 Apologies for Absence: RJ Thornton.

398 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.

Correspondence

399 G Cross email of 9 October 2008

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.10pm

Signed
Chair

Date.....