

Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Council on Thursday 31st August 2023 in the Memorial Hall at 7.00pm

Present: Mayor Cllr ES Evans, Deputy Mayor Cllr BS Sehmi, Cllr DJ Griffiths, Cllr JT Jeremy, Cllr FD John, Cllr B Lloyd, Cllr BT Price, Cllr RJ Thornton, Cllr S Williams, S Mann (Clerk) & JE Foster (Deputy Clerk).

61. Apologies for Absence: Cllr C Plant (Leave), Cllr N Walsh, & W Mann (RFO).

62. Declarations of Interest: Members were requested to identify any declarations of personal or prejudicial interests that they might have in relation to items on the agenda and none were declared.

63. Council Commitments in terms of Spend & Forecasted Commitments going forward.

RFO was asked to make a midterm financial report for the council to review the current financial situation.

A mid-term budget review for the financial year to March 2024 and report was provided by the RFO to assist deliberations; the budget review indicated that expenditure by March 2024 is likely to exceed income by £22k.

The report explained that the overspend was as a consequence of costs relating to the Caretaker's House development and increased utilities costs and Non-Domestic Rates revaluations. The report also drew attention to the significant decrease in visitor numbers at Whitesands in 2023 indicating that the car park income is likely to be less than was originally anticipated for this year and possibly in future years.

The meeting concluded that it has no idea what the cost of the Caretaker House development might be and agreed that it is too valuable an asset to leave empty and for it to fall further into disrepair. It was agreed that the development should be the priority commitment.

The meeting also agreed that following a decision regarding the adoption of the Bryn Road Toilets from April 2024 and this cost it would assist in determining how much could be spent on the Caretaker House redevelopment.

64. Taking on Potential New Projects in the Future.

The RFO report also included some revisions to the Scout Hut (Asset Transfer) Business Plan (Primary & Secondary) provided to members in July. These revisions included more recent figures provided by Pembrokeshire Scouts and by Mr York. The overall conclusion of the Business Plan is largely unchanged in that the cost of the asset transfer will be significant year by year.

The meeting agreed that caution is needed amidst the uncertain economic climate currently impacting on energy costs and also that precepting was not an option because of the income generated from Whitesands.

The meeting requested that the RFO seek to ascertain the cost of funding the development and any possible renewable energy funding; these findings to be presented to Council.

The meeting also requested that a Whitesands Review be prepared with detailed breakdown of costs to be presented to Council at its second monthly meeting on September 18th.

The meeting **RESOLVED** to hold Caretaker House Committee Meeting on 25th September. Clerk to recirculate the Minutes of the Caretaker House Committee Meeting of March 20th which recorded the ideas put forward from councillors in readiness for the initial engagement meetings with architects that took place earlier this year. The architects' proposals following these meetings are included for council consideration at its next meeting Monday 4th September.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.45pm

Signed

Date

Chair