

**Minutes of the Annual Community Meeting of the City Council on Monday 12th May 2015
at 6.00pm in the Memorial Hall.**

Present: Mayor D Halse, Deputy Mayor FD John, DJO Chant, ES Evans, DJH George MC Gray, MGD James, JG Lloyd, BT Price, CT Taylor, S Williams with JE Foster and CH Gray (Clerks) and PL Evans (Responsible Finance Officer).

Also present was Revd Canon D Davies, Mrs Dianne Turner and Dr George Middleton.

1 Apologies for Absence: K Rose, County Councilor DB Lloyd.

2 Confirmation of Minutes:

Minutes of the Annual Community Meeting of Monday 12th May 2014 were RESOLVED to be approved.

3 Matters arising from those Minutes

- 3.1 Traffic exiting Quickwell Hill car park. The Clerk reported that the Mr Marc Owen, Street Care and Parking Services Manager at Pembrokeshire County Council had confirmed that a site visit would be conducted imminently with a view to addressing the community's concerns.
- 3.2 Cyclists travelling illegally against the one way system. The Clerk confirmed that the matter had been reported to the Police and that the PCSOs had assured her that they would deal appropriately with any incidents that they witness.

4 Financial Officer's Report

The Responsible Finance Officer submitted a report detailing the income and expenditure for the years ending 31st March 2014 and 31st March 2015 together with a copy of the City Council's account balance sheet at 31st March 2015 - copies of which are attached to these minutes.

5 Clerk's Report

Mister Mayor, Councillors, Ladies & Gentleman I present to you a very brief summary of the Council activities over the past year, details of which can of course be found in the comprehensive minutes published on our website.

- Once again, I am pleased to say that St Davids has financed itself without the need to precept however, as a result of the County Council's cut backs there have been a number of facilities that would have ceased to operate as we are used to without the intervention of the city council. For example, the libraries' opening hours would have been reduced had the City Council not entered into an SLA with Pembs CC and similarly the City Council has had to undertake the responsibility for paying for the Quickwell Hill toilets to prevent them from being closed. We are fortunate in that we maintain a good working relationship with the County Council and I am pleased that we have managed to reach sensible compromises and am also hopeful that we can continue to do so when we will no doubt have future funding/service problems to remedy.
- As in 2014, the issue of education provision has dominated many Council agendas and as was the case over the last 12 months, the City Council has worked diligently to remain fully informed of all the implications of the information made available as part of statutory process. The Council remains a strong advocate for the interests of all school children in St Davids, both at primary and secondary level, and has worked tirelessly to ensure that they will continue to receive the all advantages that an education in that this city has to offer.
- One of the key themes that seems to be apply to many issues concerning St Davids is the notion sustainability. The lack of affordable housing plays a key part in the future sustainability of this area and although the Council has met with the representatives of PHA, PCNPA and PCC to try and address the problem, sadly this is not one to which we can apply a quick fix solution.
- Another local issue of concern was the first responder scheme which has now been undertaken by St Davids Fire Station, with the City Council playing a significant part in facilitating the handover from the ambulance to fire service.

- Last year, I stated that the Council has initiated a working group to look at the future of the slip way at St Justinians once the proposed new lifeboat station had had the go ahead. The Council has continued to liaise with the RNLI, and the Porthstinian Boat Owners Association, however, we are still awaiting some key information regarding the original boat house before it is possible to determine the level of real progress that can be claimed to have been made here.
- As always the Council remains committed to providing good facilities for the younger residents of St Davids and as well as maintaining the ever popular playing field in New Street, it has provided additional equipment for the youth club such as a pool table, basket ball hoop and resolved to waive all costs associated with using the city hall which has freed up a significant portion of the clubs limited budget.
- St Davids has proudly hosted many events this year, including the Queen's baton relay and has also paid a respectful commemoration to the anniversary of WWI and more recently to the 70th anniversary of VE day. Representatives of St Davids visited Lesotho last year and it is wonderful that the Council is involved with a large number of local events not just at Christmas and on St Davids Day but throughout the year as thus ensuring a good level of cultural events and diversity.
- No doubt this community will have more challenges to face in the forthcoming future, but I am confident that a Council that genuinely cares about the lives of the people it represents as much as the City Council does, can alongside this community, weather any storm.

6 Mayor's Report

- The Mayor stated that the work of the City Council is rather like an iceberg with lots more going on beneath the surface. Cllr Halse paid tribute to Peter Lavin, John and Jacqui Phillips, Paul Evans and Heidi Gray for the work that they do on behalf of the Council and extended his best wishes to Jessica Foster. The Mayor thanked all of his fellow City Councilors for all that they for and on behalf of the Community.
- Cllr Halse reported that the past twelve months had been incredibly busy with the issue of the future of education in St Davids tending to dominate. The issue was a fine example of the community working together and Cllr Halse thanked County Councilor Davids Lloyd for the effort and hard work that he had put into achieving a positive outcome.
- Cllr Halse stated that it had been a pleasure to be Mayor, his only sadness being that Stephanie hadn't been well enough to join him as much as they would have liked. That said he had tried to attend as many local events as possible, including 6 golden wedding anniversaries but despite being unable to attend a garden party at Buckingham Palace, they were honored to have been asked. Finally, Cllr Halse paid tribute to his chaplain, Canon Dorrien Davies and thanked him for the enormous support that he had provided to both he and Stephanie during his year in office.

7 Questions / matters arising from Electors

- 7.1 Dr Middleton suggested that white lines be painted outside the police station to define the extent of the highway boundary in order to prevent vehicles from obstructing the 'pavement'. It was RESOLVED to include this item with the site visit due to take place with Mr Marc Owen.
- 7.2 Mrs Turner suggested that the One Way signs at the High Street's junction with New Street be improved to prevent possible vehicle collisions. It was RESOLVED to include this item with the site visit due to take place with Mr Marc Owen.
- 7.3 Canon Davies offered apologies from the Dean of St Davids and congratulated the Council on the work that they had done within the community and especially for the help that they had offered to the Cathedral. Canon Davies said that it had been a pleasure to be Cllr Halse's chaplain and was looking forward to being Cllr John's.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 6.45pm

Signed
Chair

Date