

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the City Council on Monday 18th May 2021 at 7.00pm in the City Hall

Present: Mayor BS Sehmi, Deputy Mayor FD John, MJ Chant, ES Evans, DJH George, DJ Griffiths, DB Halse, JG Lloyd, BT Price, RT Thornton, AC York, with CH Gray (Clerk) JE Foster (Deputy Clerk) and PL Evans (Responsible Finance Officer).

- 1. Apologies for Absence:** There were none.
- 2. 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.
- 3. Confirmation of Minutes** of the Meeting of 13th May 2019 were RESOLVED to be approved.
- 4. Matters arising** from those minutes. There were none.
- 5. Elections:** -
 - 5.1. Mayor. It was RESOLVED to appoint Cllr Alan York as the Mayor as Mayor of St Davids.
 - 5.2. Deputy Mayor. It was RESOLVED to appoint Cllr Alan York as Deputy Mayor of St Davids.
- 6. Appointments:-** the following appointments were RESOLVED to be approved.
 - 6.1. Appointment of Mayoress or Consort: Mrs Pauline York.
 - 6.2. Mayor's Chaplain: Mrs Val Buick
 - 6.3. Flagmaster: Former M Gray
 - 6.4. Deputy Flagmaster: S Robinson / R Thornton
 - 6.5. Press Officer: Clerk and Deputy Clerk
 - 6.6. Internal Auditor: Mrs K Brown
- 7. Election to Committees:**
 - 7.1. Staff Committee:
 - 7.1.1. Staff Performance Review: undertaken by full Council.
 - 7.1.2. Staff Annual Appraisal - Chaired by the Mayor: Cllr York, Deputy Mayor John, Cllr Halse, Cllr John and Cllr Price, Cllr Williams.
 - 7.2. City Council led Groups:
 - 7.2.1. St Davids Day Celebration Group – Chaired by the Mayor: Cllr York, Cllr George, Cllr Price.
 - 7.3. Youth Drop In Centre Committee – Cllr Price, Cllr John, Cllr Thornton, Cllr Sehmi.
 - 7.4. City newsletter – editorial arrangement. Mr Christopher Taylor as editorial assistant - £200 per issue of St David City News.
- 8. Council Representatives to other Bodies**
 - 8.1. St Davids Christmas Tree Association – Cllr Price, Cllr Williams, Cllr Thornton, Cllr George, Cllr Griffiths Cllr Evans.
 - 8.2. Dr Jones's Charity – Cllr George, Cllr Williams, Cllr Lloyd.
 - 8.3. Porthclais Harbour Authority – Cllr John.
 - 8.4. Porthmawr Surf Life Saving Club – Cllr York, Cllr Griffiths, Cllr Chant.
 - 8.5. Porthstinian Boat Owners Association – Cllr John, Cllr Griffiths, Cllr Chant.
 - 8.6. St Davids Peninsula Tourist Association – Cllr Evans and Cllr Thornton.
 - 8.7. The Dawrog Management Committee – Cllr Evans and Cllr Williams.
 - 8.8. Ysgol Penrhyn Dewi Governor – Cllr Halse and Cllr Thornton.

- 8.9. St Davids - Matsieng Lesotho Twinning Group – Cllr Thornton, Cllr York and Cllr Price.
- 8.10. Oriol Y Parc Stakeholder Group – Cllr Williams and Cllr Sehmi.
- 8.11. St Davids Day Centre – Cllr George, Cllr Williams and Cllr Price.
- 8.12. St Davids Community Forum – Cllr Sehmi.
- 8.13. Bws Y Bobl Committee – Cllr George, Cllr Price and Cllr York.
- 8.14. St Davids Music Festival – Cllr John and Cllr Chant.
- 8.15. Rediscovering Ancient Connections – Cllr Chant, Cllr Thornton and Cllr Evans.
- 8.16. One Voice Wales – Cllr Thornton and Cllr Chant.
- 8.17. Eco Dewi / Bee Friendly Group – Cllr Chant, Thornton and Cllr York.
- 8.18. Naas Twinning – Cllr Chant and Cllr Price.
- 8.19. St Davids RFC – Cllr Chant, Cllr Sehmi, Cllr Price.

9. Finance:

- 9.1. Report by the Responsible Finance Officer:

RFO'S Report for year ended 31/03/21

In my report for 2019/20, I stated that it had been a year of consolidation.

With everything that was placed in our paths in the financial year under review here, you could hardly say that. It was a year which we would all like to forget, everyone with their own particular and personal reasons.

At the Annual Meeting in May 2020 we all thought that the lockdown then in place was going to be of short duration, and that there would have been no real impact on the services this Council provides, and that we would be back to 'normal' before the summer holiday visitors arrived – how wrong we were!

You will recall that during the year as there were changes to the pandemic rules, and as circumstances dictated, I updated my reports and budgetary forecasts to you, so all the major items and concerns will have been covered there.

The Council was able to operate the Car Park for the second half of July together with the months of August, September and October. This was hugely beneficial to us as the returns in the circumstances, were better than expected at £129k. The City Hall, of course has been closed to bookings since March 2020.

Bearing in mind the circumstances, we were able to hold down expenses. There were no Christmas expenses, no Library contribution, no St Justinian toilet provision, no playground maintenance and no Newsletter publications, and our S137 donations were down by £6050.

On the staffing front, the Council were able to take advantage of the Government's 'furlough' scheme, bearing in mind that the office had to be closed in any case. In the financial year under review we claimed £28066 from this fund which was a huge help all round.

With the lessening of restrictions currently under review it is to be hoped that soon the office will be able to return to full and normal operating hours. The cash reserves of the Council started off the year at £36153, having been depleted in the previous year due to the capital expenditure undertaken then. We end this financial year with a balance of £39312, and with the hope of a good tourist season to come, should allow a strong buffer to be built up for future projects. If any member of the Council would like more detailed information from the accounts, prepared to the thirty first of March 2021, I am happy to arrange for that. In the meantime I commend the accounts to you and confirm that all the information requested for inclusion in the External Audit has been prepared and is ready to be sent off for analysis, after acceptance by the Council.

This is my final Report and I thank you for the opportunity to serve you as a Council for the past eighteen years. I wish my successor every good wish in what is an interesting but sometimes taxing job, but nevertheless rewarding in being able to serve this community.

P L Evans.
30/04/2021

- 9.2. The above Annual report by the Responsible Finance Officer was received and RESOLVED to be approved.
- 9.3. The accounts for the year ending 31st March 2021 were received and RESOLVED to be approved.
- 9.4. Appointment of Council Signatories for Bank Account – it was RESOLVED to appoint J George, J Lloyd and D Halse.

10. Mayor’s Business:

- 10.1. Civic Service & Reception – Owing to the Covid-19 outbreak, it was RESOLVED to temporarily defer the Mayor's Civic Service and Reception until restriction permitted.

11. Council Constitution, Procedure and Governance

- 11.1. Standing Orders – It was RESOLVED to retain the current Orders.
- 11.2. Financial Regulations – It was RESOLVED to retain the current Regulations.

12. Constituents matters

- 12.1. Mr John Jeremy of Nun Street, raised concerns about the implications of diverting vehicular traffic as a result of implementing a permanent one way system in the High Street. The Clerk advised Mr Jeremy that there were no formal proposals to implement a permanent diversion and that the Highway Authority had confirmed that a full traffic consultation would take place prior to the next tourist season.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.30pm

Signed
Chair

Date