

**Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Council on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2024 in the Memorial Hall at 7.00pm.**

**Present:** Mayor Cllr ES Evans, Deputy Mayor Cllr BS Sehmi, Cllr JT Jeremy, Cllr FD John, Cllr B Lloyd, Cllr BT Price, Cllr RJ Thornton, Cllr N Walsh, & Cllr S Williams, with S Mann (Clerk), JE Foster (Deputy Clerk) & W Mann (RFO).

**177 Apologies for Absence:** Cllr R Price (Leave), Cllr DJ Griffiths.

**178 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.

Cllr N Walsh declared a prejudicial interest in item 182.1 and left the meeting while the item was being discussed.

Cllr BT Price declared a personal interest in item 184.6 and left the meeting while the item was being discussed.

Cllr BT Price declared a prejudicial interest in item 189.9.

**179 Confirmation of Minutes for:**

179.1 Second Monthly Meeting of the Council on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2024 were RESOLVED to be approved subject to amendment: *168.1 Welsh Government annual funding of £150,000.*

**180 Public Representations from members of the public in attendance about any business to be discussed:** None.

**181 Matters Arising**

181.1 Visit from Câr-Y-Môr. Community Owned Business, run by 14 employees and over 300 members, dedicated to launching the regenerative seaweed and shellfish marine farming industry in Wales, which will bring benefits to the coastal community. Câr-Y-Môr is at a very early stage of the planning process for a proposed marine farm and is seeking feedback from the council on site selection, monitoring variables, and the general opinion on this potential development in St Brides Bay. Câr-Y-Môr aims to create more year-round jobs in the community and to scale the production of seaweed and shellfish sustainably in Wales. To ensure that the development takes place in the most sustainable and transparent manner possible, Câr-Y-Môr has consulted with local scientific data gathered over the last five years. Câr-Y-Môr actively engages with schools and various groups, inviting them to visit Porthllisky farm, where the operation is currently based, offering complimentary seaweed workshops. An open invitation to visit the farm was also extended to all present at the meeting. The meeting expressed appreciation to Câr-Y-Môr for their presentation and conveyed best wishes for their future endeavours.

181.2 EcoDewi. 1) Confirmation received from EcoDewi thanking the City Council for its response to its proposal to transform and manage the land around the St Davids City sign on the Fishguard Road. EcoDewi explained that the City Council's alternative proposal of offering EcoDewi maintenance of the grass verge for a trial period until end of June 2024 in conjunction with maintenance of the box at the entrance-sign delegated to Cllr FD John is incompatible with EcoDewi's approach to managing land for the benefit of the environment. The meeting noted that because of this Eco Dewi will also not be involved with the management of any of the land around the sign or by the road at this stage.

2) Guidance for planting the Memorial Garden and raised beds at Cross Square including a suggested policy for containers and flower beds in the vicinity of Cross Square. The council directed the Clerk to express its appreciation to EcoDewi for generously sharing these valuable guidelines. The council will consider the observations contained within the proposal moving forward with the existing collaboration between SDCC, PCC, and the Menevia WI.

181.3 Memorial Plaque – St Davids Airfield. PCNPA provided an update regarding SDCC's request for further information on the alleged breach of planning control and the potential impact of the memorial's location on the historic airfield. The update included input from PCNPA's community archaeologist and Dyfed Archaeological Trust. The meeting acknowledged that Councillor BT Price had been in communication with the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority (PCNPA) regarding a site visit to determine the feasibility of relocation.

## **182 Council Property**

182.1 Cross Square Market. St Davids Distillery submitted a request to the council to allow them to apply for a license to sell unopened alcohol at this season's market. The meeting RESOLVED to approve the request.

182.2 Market Committee. Given the recent surge in demand for Market Allocations and the request for policy review, the meeting RESOLVED to establish a Market Committee, comprising the following Councillors: Cllrs ES Evans, FD John, B Lloyd, BT Price & BS Sehmi.

182.3 City Hall. Given the recent surge in energy costs and the subsequent need to review hiring rates the meeting RESOLVED to establish a Hall Committee, comprising the following Councillors: Cllrs B Lloyd, BT Price, BS Sehmi, RJ Thornton & N Walsh. (The committee to note that the VAT treatment of hall bookings is changing from April).

182.4 Cross Square. The council to consider a review of remedial work suggested by Cllr BS Sehmi for the replacement of a manhole cover. It was RESOLVED that the Clerk obtain quotations for the work.

182.5 Caretaker's House Roof. Quotations for required remedial work had been anticipated to have been received by the time of the meeting. The meeting RESOLVED that the Clerk provide a progress report at the next meeting.

182.6 Whitesands Commercial Trading. The council noted a request to reconsider its amended parking plan. It was RESOLVED that the Clerk reply explaining that the amended plan is in response to health & safety concerns raised in previous years. The amended plan is designed to relocate all traders to a single area to avoid obstructions particularly during the busy school holidays. The success of the plan will be monitored and reviewed at the end of the season.

182.7 Whitesands Beach Toy Library. Council consideration for the possibility of setting up a Beach Toy Library at Whitesands – deferred from 22<sup>nd</sup> January meeting. The 22<sup>nd</sup> January meeting acknowledged that the proposal might have an adverse effect on the current trading and environmental habitat of the beach and directed the Clerk to refer the proposal to the Whitesands Café, Porthmawr Life Saving Club & EcoDewi and postpone the decision on the matter until the next meeting, when the relevant responses could be reviewed. Subsequently both the Café and EcoDewi have shared their previous plans for a similar initiative with the council. It was RESOLVED that the council offer to support them with this.

182.8 Whitesands. Wild Water Sauna confirmed the details requested by SDCC resulting from its meeting September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023. The details include the dates for siting the sauna at Whitesands from February 21<sup>st</sup> for 28 days – and a request for it to remain in its designated space throughout the 28-day duration; Wild Water Sauna will take responsibility for obtaining any planning permissions and operating within the 28-day rule. The meeting RESOLVED to allow placement in the vacant Ice-Cream Concession area and that a charge of £200 be agreed beforehand.

### **183 Traffic Matters**

183.1 Public Transport. Pembrokeshire County Council's proposed changes to the 403 Celtic Cruiser service for 2024, which will take effect from March 2024. PCC welcomes comments about the proposed changes until 16<sup>th</sup> February. The meeting expressed concern that the 2024 timetable would negatively impact St Davids. Specifically, that it fails to fully reflect the needs of the tourist season and also that the reduced service will have detrimental impact for visitors to the Cathedral - the primary attraction in St Davids.

### **184 Correspondence**

184.1 Letter dated 17<sup>th</sup> January from community member proposing that the City Council considers installing a memorial plaque at the Cross Square in memory of the late Dr. Middleton. The meeting RESOLVED to approve the proposal in principle and that the Clerk should explore this and

proposals for alternative sites and that any such proposals should be subject to the agreement of Dr. Middleton's family.

184.2 Email dated 22<sup>nd</sup> January from a visitor to St Davids requesting the Mayor to make a happy 85th birthday announcement during their visit on St David's Day. The Mayor was pleased to be able to accept this request and instructed the Clerk to arrange the meeting to coincide with Tea & Cake at City Hall on St David's Day.

184.3 Email dated 22<sup>nd</sup> January from Erw Dewi/Dewi's Acre – St Davids Community Garden project proposing to attend one of the City Council meetings and provide an update on its progress. The meeting RESOLVED to instruct the Clerk to extend an invitation to a meeting in either March or April. The meeting agreed that a visit to the Community Garden to observe its progress first-hand would be very helpful.

184.4 Email dated 24<sup>th</sup> January from community member offering the City Council assistance with the archival storage of the St Davids Tithe Map, which is currently held in the Council Chambers. The meeting RESOLVED to instruct the Clerk to contact the Pembrokeshire Records Office and pursue options for the long-term preservation and accessibility of this historical document.

184.5 Email dated 30<sup>th</sup> January from Porthmawr Lifesaving Club informing the City Council that following a complaint made about the shipping container's close proximity to the archaeological site at Whitesands beach they have been advised by PCNPA that planning permission will be required for it to continue at its current location. The 20ft shipping container has been located at the "overspill carpark" since 2022 to hold the Rescue Water Craft involved in preventative launching to inform people about the dangers of Ramsey Sound. The meeting expressed concern regarding the impact its removal might have on the life-saving services for Whitesands. The Clerk was requested to provide regular updates on the situation and to convey the council's wholehearted support to the Club for its continuing lifeguarding services at Whitesands.

184.6 Email dated 30<sup>th</sup> January from Cllr BT Price requesting that the council considers providing the Drop-In Centre venue free of charge for Parent and Toddler Group. The meeting RESOLVED that the venue will remain available at the current Community Rate of £5 per hour & The newly established City Hall Committee will reassess this fee during its upcoming meeting.

#### **185 Pembrokeshire Peninsula Stake Holder Group**

185.1 Report by Cllr JT Jeremy of meeting 16<sup>th</sup> January 2024; the report explained that the group's aims are to raise awareness and secure answers to the community's concerns regarding the future of a Health and Wellbeing Hub and GP services on St Davids peninsula. It was RESOLVED that Cllr JT Jeremy be approved as SDCC representative.

#### **186 St Davids Day Events 2024**

- 186.1 Window competition – Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February
- 186.2 Cymanfa Ganu – Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> February
- 186.2.1 Refreshments including tea, welshcakes and barabrith afterwards are provided by City Council. Cllrs BT Price, JT Jeremy, FD John & RJ Thornton volunteered to host the event.
- 186.3 St Davids Day Market – Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March
- 186.4 Dinner – Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March
- 186.4.1 Venue. The meeting RESOLVED to approve the quotation received from The Cross Hotel at a cost of £35 per head.
- 186.4.2 Invitations. Deputy Clerk confirmed the list would be circulated the next day.
- 186.4.3 Presents for visiting guests. It was RESOLVED that Cllr BT Price liaise with the Deputy Clerk and arrange gifts.
- 186.4.4 Flowers for guests. It was RESOLVED not to purchase flowers for the 2024 event.
- 186.4.5 Payment for guests. It was RESOLVED that the council will pay for all guests.
- 186.4.6 Guest speaker. The Mayor confirmed that a guest speaker had been arranged.
- 186.4.7 Suggestion from Councillor Evans to purchase reusable table cloths. The requirement was not applicable at Cross Hotel venue.
- 186.5 Cawl Competition – Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March. Cllrs JT Jeremy, BT Price, BS Sehmi & RJ Thornton volunteered to host the event.
- 186.5.1 Donations to be confirmed. It was RESOLVED that this item be deferred to the next meeting.

**187 Accounts**

- 187.1 Wine entry on December Financial Report £100 list.
- 187.2 Amended £100 list for the December 2023 Financial Statement.
- 187.3 Internal Audit for December 2023 was reported to have been completed successfully.
- 187.4 Financial Statements for January 2024. The accounts for January 2024 were presented to the meeting and it was RESOLVED that these statements are approved.



Financial Report			January-24																					
<b>Balance @ Bank on</b>	<b>29-Jan-24</b>			<b>£120,085.38</b>																				
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="3" style="text-align: left;">LGA 1972 SEC 137 23/24 £12738</th> <th colspan="2" style="text-align: left;">LGA 1972 Sec 214 Cemetery Maintenance</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Last month's donations</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">£100.00</td> <td>Total donated 23/24</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£1,000.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2023 / 2024</td> <td>Total</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£1,000.00</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Balance available</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">£11,738.00</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>					LGA 1972 SEC 137 23/24 £12738			LGA 1972 Sec 214 Cemetery Maintenance		Last month's donations		£100.00	Total donated 23/24	£1,000.00	2023 / 2024	Total	£1,000.00			Balance available		£11,738.00		
LGA 1972 SEC 137 23/24 £12738			LGA 1972 Sec 214 Cemetery Maintenance																					
Last month's donations		£100.00	Total donated 23/24	£1,000.00																				
2023 / 2024	Total	£1,000.00																						
Balance available		£11,738.00																						
<b>Income</b>																								
City Hall				£50																				
Whitesands <i>(Includes Café Rent (£2100))</i>				£2,539																				
Market				£187																				
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>£2,776</b>																				
<b>Expenditure</b>																								
				<b>£100+ Items</b>																				
City Hall (ex Hall Manager Salary)		£4,614		£4,280																				
Whitesands		£1,743		£1,686																				
Office & Administration		£1,776		£1,409																				
Admin Staff Costs (Inc Hall Manager)		£12,259		£12,259																				
Street Furniture		£0		£0																				
Play Area		£0		£0																				
Events		£168		£143																				
Finance		£108		£0																				
Market		£0		£0																				
St Justinians		£0		£0																				
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>£20,668</b>		<b>£19,777</b>																				
<b>Addendum of Items of £100 plus Value is Attached</b>																								





**188 County Councillors Report:** County Councillor Bethan Price informed the meeting of the ongoing intention of PCC to review the provision of the recycling facilities in St Davids. The imminent closure is a cause for concern; despite enquiries made by the Clerk no update has been received from PCC. The meeting agreed that the community needs to be informed regarding the imminent closure and it agreed that information should be disseminated through the council's social media. In addition, Councillor Price informed the meeting of correspondence received from PCC regarding parking issues faced by residents of The Pebbles. Remedial action is being reviewed to prohibit parking adjacent to residential buildings during the day, while allowing parking in the evenings and during the winter months.

Councillor Price also provided an update that the date of the scheduled meeting for residents of Nun Street to discuss traffic matters is still pending confirmation from PCC.

Councillor Price confirmed that her upcoming surgery is scheduled for February 23<sup>rd</sup> 2024.

**189 Reports from Members representing the Council:**

- 189.1 Bws y Bobol: Active with Day Centre.
- 189.2 Coffee and Chat: Nothing to report.
- 189.3 EcoDewi / Bee Friendly: Meeting tbc.
- 189.4 Grants Development Committee: Meeting tbc - Deputy Clerk to circulate date.
- 189.5 One Voice Wales: Nothing to report.
- 189.6 Oriel Y Parc: Nothing to report.
- 189.7 Police Surgery: Very busy – Cllr PT Price involved in “walk-around” St Davids end of Surgery.
- 189.8 Porthclais Harbour Authority: AGM February 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- 189.9 Porthstinian Boat Owners Association: Letters of concern regarding Celtic Coaster timetable 2024.  
RFO reported on meeting with boat owners regarding SDCC request for increase payment ahead of 2024 season.
- 189.10 Porthmawr Surf Life Saving Club: Meeting tbc.
- 189.11 St Davids Befrienders: Meeting tbc.
- 189.12 St Davids Celebrations Group: Recent meeting to confirm schedule of events. Details of decorating City Hall to follow.
- 189.13 St Davids Christmas Tree Association: Meeting tbc.
- 189.14 St Davids Day Centre for the Elderly: Very busy practicing for Eisteddfod.
- 189.15 St Davids Festivals: Tir & Mor / Land & Sea, 22<sup>nd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> March.  
Festival of Seaweed 16<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> May.

- 189.16 St Davids Matsieng Lesotho Link: Recent Fundraiser raised £682 in aid of student exchange.
- 189.17 St Davids Peninsula Tourist and Traders Association: Meeting tbc.
- 189.18 St Davids RFC: Recent meeting regarding road closure during Tour of Pembrokeshire event 2024.
- 189.19 Youth Drop In: Very active.
- 189.20 Ysgol Penrhyn Dewi Governor: Recent CWBR Youth meeting – details to follow.

**AOB**

**Items for information only:**

- Cllr S Williams: Requirement for Finance Committee Meeting ahead of full audit 2024.
- The Clerk informed the meeting that confirmation was still awaited after the Notice of Casual Vacancy had expired on February 2nd. The Returning Officer at Pembrokeshire County Council was yet to determine whether an election would occur.
- Cllr RJ Thornton: Reading from St Davids Parish Council Meeting 1924 Minutes including reading room upgraded to Library & new hall to be named City Hall.

**Items for the next agenda:**

- Cllr JT Jeremy: Committee Meeting Reports.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.50pm

Signed .....

Date .....

Chair