

**Minutes of the Second Monthly Meeting of the Council on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February 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 BT Price, Cllr RJ Thornton, Cllr N Walsh, & Cllr S Williams, with S Mann (Clerk).

**190 Apologies for Absence:** Cllr B Lloyd, Cllr R Price (Leave), J Foster (Deputy Clerk), & W Mann (RFO).

**191 Declarations of Interest:** Members were requested to declare both **pecuniary interests** (financial interests) and **non-pecuniary interests** (personal or other interests) that could influence their decision-making in relation to items on the agenda. This declaration ensures that other councillors and the public are aware of potential conflicts.

Cllr ES Evans declared a pecuniary interest in item 198.3.

Cllr BT Price declared a personal interest in item 198.3.

**192 Confirmation of Minutes for:**

192.1 Monthly Meeting of the Council on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2024 were RESOLVED to be approved.

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

**194 Matters Arising**

194.1 Visit from North Pembrokeshire Trade and Tourism. The Fishguard Bay Welcome project has experienced significant growth and now accommodates twenty-nine cruise ships. Last season, 14,000 passengers visited, and the project is setting trends in creating exceptional welcome experiences. FBW expressed their intention to seek financial assistance from stakeholders in return for endorsing the stakeholders as part of their travel guidance to passengers exploring North Pembrokeshire. FBW invited councillors to come and experience the positive atmosphere first-hand. The meeting expressed enthusiastic gratitude to the guests for their presentation.

194.2 Bryn Road Toilets Asset Transfer. Details received from PCC as requested by SDCC for its further consideration ahead of deciding on the potential asset transfer of the public toilets including Covenant Options; Electrical Certificate; Asbestos Report; Annual Inspection; & Site Meeting Availability. The meeting RESOLVED to pursue the option to transfer the building without any covenant. The meeting directed the clerk to arrange a site visit with PCC on 5<sup>th</sup> March. The purpose of this visit is to assist with identifying the current condition of the facility in order that PCC can undertake the required remedial issues before SDCC can make a final decision regarding the transfer. Additionally, the meeting directed the Clerk to obtain a detailed breakdown of the potential cleaning contract & guidance from SDCC's insurer to ensure legal compliance, based on the information that has been verified.

194.3 Library Services. Guidance received from PCC following acceptance of the proposal for future collaboration with regard to the City Hall premises redevelopment aims to incorporate a prospective enhanced library facility. The meeting RESOLVED in principle to proceed with PCC Library Services' assistance in applying for capital funding to enhance the St David's library. However, this is subject to SDCC providing the necessary 10% matching funds, & all details such as timings, budget, plans, location within the building, and layout being mutually agreed upon.

194.4 Pembrokeshire County Council Budget Setting. PCC's Leader Cllr David Simpson open statement to all residents and businesses in Pembrokeshire warning of the unprecedented financial situation faced by the Local Authority. County Councillor BT Price shared with the meeting PCC's cost-saving strategy, which focuses on minimising the effects on public services and core duties. However, some changes may affect public service delivery, including the upcoming closure of the Waste and Recycling Centre in St Davids. The meeting expressed concern about the resulting decrease in services for residents and businesses, who will have to seek alternative Waste and Recycling Centres. The meeting agreed that further details were needed to determine a justification for closing the facility in light of the reduced opening hours already in place and the impact on the percentage statistics of the facilities use by local residents. Cllrs BT Price & RJ Thornton agreed to share relevant extracts of PCC consultation regarding the facility's closure with the Clerk's office to disseminate this information to the community.

194.5 Committee Meeting Reports. The meeting RESOLVED to instruct the Clerk to incorporate all Committees into the Full Council's first Monthly Meeting agenda item with each Committee Chair delivering a concise report.

### **195 Council Property**

195.1 Caretaker House. Quotations for the necessary repair work to the roof of the former Caretaker's House had been anticipated by the time of the meeting. However, due to the urgent need to prevent further damage to the building, the meeting RESOLVED to authorise an amount for the remedial works, not exceeding £150 & instructed the Clerk to promptly arrange for the repair.

195.2 Cross Square Market. Report from the Market Committee. Due to the unavailability of the current Market Manager for most of the 2024 season, the Market Committee urgently convened a meeting on Monday, February 12th. It RESOLVED to promptly advertise the position of Market Manager to oversee the weekly market, scheduled to begin on March 1st.

195.3 Skate Park. Quotation received for the necessary repairs to the Solar Lights. The meeting RESOLVED to refer the quotation to the Grants Committee for evaluation, with the intention of pursuing a grant if deemed suitable.

195.4 Whitesands Commercial Trading. Trader Response to Increase in Commercial Charges and Repositioning of Commercial Trailers at Whitesands Carpark 2024. The meeting noted the trader's feedback regarding the City Council's proposed Commercial Trading Carparking Layout for the 2024 season and acknowledged their choice not to participate in trading during the upcoming season.

195.5 Whitesands RNLI Lifeguards. Proposal to temporarily place the storage container with life-saving equipment in the car park. This arrangement would allow the Surf Lifesaving Club to address concerns related to the impact on life-saving services, which arose due to the PCNPA's request for planning application to continue to site the container at its current location. The meeting RESOLVED to allow the placement of the life-saving equipment storage container within the carpark and to assign one bus parking bay, contingent upon the 28-day planning permission rule.

195.6 Whitesands Café. Council to consider property exterior maintenance, including weatherproof paint. The meeting RESOLVED to direct the Clerk to seek quotations for repairing and plastering the front and beach-facing side of the premises.

### **196 St Davids Day**

196.1 St Davids Day Dinner.

196.1.1 The Bishop of St Davids Cathedral. Confirmation of their presence at the dinner. Council to consider whether a gift should be extended to the Bishop. The meeting RESOLVED to grant a card and City Council shield, contingent upon the availability of the shield in stock.

196.1.2 Reservation at the Cross Hotel. The meeting noted that subsequent to booking the Cross Hotel for the St Davids Day Dinner, the Clerk's office received information that the menu's *price per head* had been revised from £35 to £37. The meeting acknowledged that this change was largely beyond the hotel's control and instructed the Clerk to re-affirm the booking, as previously RESOLVED during the meeting on Monday, February 5th.

196.2 Cawl Competition. The meeting RESOLVED that the funds raised from the upcoming Cawl Competition would be equally distributed between the Parent & Toddler Group and the Day Centre for the Elderly.

### **197 Donations**

197.1 Sponsorship for Young International Athlete Living in St Davids. *See below*

197.2 Support for Welsh Surfing Federation Athletes Living in St Davids to Compete in ISA World Junior Surfing Championships in El Salvador 3<sup>rd</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> May 2024. *See below*

*Section 137 prohibits direct payments or donations to individuals. This measure ensures transparency, prevents misuse, and directs resources toward community projects. Community Councils, in general, focus on communal initiatives rather than individual donations.*

The meeting acknowledged the guidance given by the Clerk. It was RESOLVED to assist the athletes who requested complimentary access to the City Hall as a venue for a fundraising event, in order to support their needs, provided they are willing to organise such events independently.

### **198 Correspondence**

198.1 Letter dated 30<sup>th</sup> January from Paul Sartori Annual Fundraising Campaign 2024. Members casted their votes on a proposal to donate £100 and a counterproposal of £200. The final decision was that the meeting RESOLVED to contribute the amount of £100 to the organisation.

198.2 Email dated 1<sup>st</sup> February from St Davids Penknife Club regarding New Year's Day Charity Swim at Whitesands. The meeting acknowledged the correspondence that included a detailed explanation of the fundraising event – *further to item 171.1.*

198.3 Email date 6<sup>th</sup> February from Mayor, Cllr ES Evans regarding Retail Changes in St Davids. The meeting agreed that the increases in business rates will have an impact upon businesses in St Davids but that the City Council has very limited influence in this regard.

198.4 Email dated 13<sup>th</sup> February from Activity Wales regarding the Triathlon Event, 9<sup>th</sup> June 2024. The meeting RESOLVED to direct the clerk to enquire with the RFC to confirm that the funds raised will be allocated to the floodlight fundraising appeal – *further to item 171.3.*

### **Planning**

**199** NP/23/0603/FUL Removal of a conservatory and erection of single storey extension in its place and the addition of two rooflights to the rear of existing property. 8 St Nons Close, St Davids, SA626RL. The City Council considered that the proposal was deemed unlikely to have a detrimental visual or environmental impact on the surrounding area. It was RESOLVED to support the application.

**200** NP/23/0633/FUL Application to extend and renovate three detached properties (Ty Gwyn, Craig Yr Haul & Foxhole) with associated new landscaping to create parking. Ancillary buildings renovated. Tygwyn, St Davids, SA626PS. The City Council considered that the proposal was deemed unlikely to have a detrimental visual or environmental impact on the surrounding area. It was RESOLVED to support the application.

**201** NP/24/0073/TCA Removal of 2 x Elm Trees. The Bunker, Yewdale Cottage, 8 Quickwell, St Davids, SA626PD. The meeting concurred with the case officer's assessment and acknowledged their assertion that additional details are required to justify the Elm tree's removal. Consequently, the meeting RESOLVED not to support the application.

**202** NP/24/0075/FUL 5 Replacement PVC casement style, double glazed windows to front elevation, to replace existing decayed and leaking timber, casement, single glazed windows. 61 Goat Street, St Davids, SA626RQ. The City Council considered that the proposal was deemed unlikely to have a detrimental visual or environmental impact on the surrounding area. It was RESOLVED to support the application.

**203** 23/0663/PA Amendment to the design and access/parking of planning consent 22/0696/PA (Conversion of Detached Garage / Store with Alterations to Create Second Holiday Unit (The Studio)) Site Address: THE FOLD, Cwmwdig Farm, BEREA, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA62 6DN. The City Council considered that the proposal was deemed unlikely to have a detrimental visual or environmental impact on the surrounding area. It was RESOLVED to support the application.

#### **204 Casual Vacancy**

Update on Selection of New Councillor. The Clerk provided the meeting with an update with regard to the applications received from candidates interested in filling the casual vacancy of a City Councillor through the Co-Option process. Subsequently, the meeting RESOLVED that the Clerk extend an invitation to each candidate for an interview for the role. The interviews to take place during an Extraordinary Meeting of the Council scheduled for Monday, 26th February.

#### **Any Other Business**

##### **Items for information only:**

- Cllr FD John enquired about the status of the planned installation of the Disabled Access Ramp at the rear of the City Hall premises. The Clerk confirmed that the construction was set to begin Wednesday 20th February.
- Cllr FD John emphasised the need to commence painting the street signage, ideally completing it before the summer season.
- Cllr ES Evans requested that the Clerk arrange a Finance Committee Meeting on Wednesday 6th March at 2pm.

##### **Items for the next agenda:**

- Cllr BT Price: Bowling Equipment occupying *Chair Store*.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.00pm

Signed .....

Date .....

Chair