

Minutes of the Second Monthly Meeting of the Council on Monday 17th June 2024 in the Council Chamber at 7.00pm.

Present: Mayor Cllr BS Sehmi, Deputy Mayor Cllr DJ Griffiths, Cllr W Chant, Cllr ES Evans, Cllr JT Jeremy, Cllr FD John, Cllr B Lloyd, Cllr BT Price (attended the meeting remotely, but unable to participate due to technical difficulties), Cllr R Price & Cllr RJ Thornton, with S Mann (Clerk).

27 Apologies for Absence. Members were requested to directly inform the Clerk of any absences, in order to formally register their apologies and keep an accurate record of attendance.

- a. Apologies received for approval: Cllr S Williams.
- b. Absent without apology: None.

28 Declarations of Interest: Members were requested to declare both pecuniary interests (financial interests) and non-pecuniary interests (personal or prejudicial 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. None declared.

29 Public Representations from members of the public in attendance about any business to be discussed: *See item 4a.*

30 Matters Arising

- a. **DARC Project.** Visit from a representative of PARC - (Pembrokeshire Against the Radar Campaign) which formed originally in 1990 to stop a military radar array from being built on the old St Davids Airfield - in opposition to plans that are in place for a new radar at the former RAF Brawdy, as part of the tri-nation DARC project. These radars, taller than four London buses, will monitor deep space and help the UK guard against space warfare. The first site in Australia is set to be operational by 2026, with the UK site at Cawdor Barracks expected to be ready by 2030. The final decision hinges on an environmental assessment and a planning application to the local council. Despite opposition from locals and campaigners concerned about health risks and tourism impact, the MoD maintains that the radar will enhance space safety and create 100 long-term jobs. The PARC

representative expressed concerns about the proposed installation of 20-meter-tall radar dishes. These concerns include:

- 1 Economic Impact: The radar station could negatively affect tourism in the area.
- 2 Health Risks: High radiation levels from the installation may pose health risks, including an increased incidence of cancer for nearby residential communities.
- 3 Environmental Impact: There are worries about radioactive substances leaking and contaminating local rivers.

In response, the meeting RESOLVED to support PARC and directed the Clerk to obtain additional information from the Ministry of Defence (MOD) regarding relevant scientific research referred to during the presentation.

- b. **St Davids Recycling Centre.** The City Council is actively addressing the potential closure of the St Davids Recycling Centre and has requested a detailed analysis of the centre's operational costs, opening hours, and user numbers to help find the best solutions to keep it open, balancing financial limits, environmental impact, and community needs is crucial in decision-making, involving all stakeholders. The meeting determined that the booking slots at the recycling centre are not accurately reflected in the data. Currently, reserving a slot at the recycling centre poses challenges for elderly residents due to the requirement for online access. Observations were highlighted with regard to Fishguard Recycling Centre and St Davids Recycling Centre alternating their opening hours. The meeting RESOLVED to direct the Clerk to obtain data specifically for Fishguard Recycling Centre to address issues with the current booking system. Additionally, it was RESOLVED to share relevant information on SDCC Facebook page and in the newsletter to raise community awareness.
- c. **Bryn Road Toilets Asset Transfer & Whitesands Public Toilets.** Update from PCC concerning the asset transfer at Bryn Road, as well as the future plans for the public toilets at Whitesands. Initially, the decision was not to proceed with an asset transfer for

Whitesands due to ongoing major redevelopment at the site. Grant conditions prohibited closing the facility if the transfer failed. However, there was always an intention to revisit this decision, despite the car park not being within PCC ownership and creating a funding deficit. This situation stood out as an anomaly compared to the overall direction agreed upon by PCC regarding toilets, and the Cabinet was initially uncomfortable with this choice. Work on Bryn Road continues, but due to the election and summer recess, the Cabinet report will be postponed until September. Repairs, including re-roofing the flat roof, are planned during this period. The update was acknowledged by the meeting.

- d. **St David's Surgery.** Cllr John Jeremy, a Pembrokeshire Peninsular Stakeholder Group member, and member of the newly established Working Group tasked with researching into the problems at hand and implementing the identified remedies, submitted a suggested letter on behalf of the City Council. The letter outlines the city council's standpoint to support the Save The St Davids Surgery Campaign, and needs to be issued by 5pm on Wednesday, the 19th. After this deadline, the Health Board may alter their recommendation. The meeting RESOLVED to approve the proposal, and the Clerk was instructed to submit the letter as presented, on behalf of the City Council.

31 Property

- a. **City Hall.** Quotation received for remedial work on the wall facing the west of the property. It was RESOLVED to approve the quotation received from Mr Idwal Phillips at a cost of £65, and request precautions appropriate to St Davids' Bee Friendly City Status.
- b. **Memorial Playing Field.** Update on the required remedial work. An anticipated update was not received in time for the meeting, so the item was deferred to the next meeting. In addition, Cllr FD John reported that the bus shelter had recently experienced anti-social behaviour and suggested relevant signage as a deterrent and asked the Clerk to seek advice from SDCC insurance provider.

- c. **Waunfawr Playing Field.** Replacement Solar Panel quotation received from Dragon Breath Solar. The insurance claim has been settled for the sum of £3895 which represents the quoted figure excluding VAT which is £4145 (settlement figure excludes £250 excess). The meeting acknowledged the progress and it was RESOLVED to proceed accordingly.

32 Correspondence

- a. Email dated 29th May from Cllr R Price concerning the PCNPA Consultation on Camping and Caravan Site Developments. PCNPA proposes implementing an Article 4 direction within the park to prohibit pop-up style campsites from operating under the 28-day rule. This measure could also impact landowners who use fields for temporary purposes, such as parking. There will be a September consultation, and a full response will be reviewed at a later meeting. It was RESOLVED to instruct the Clerk to request more information from the PCNPA.
- b. Email dated 2nd June from Wild Water Sauna proposing to place the mobile sauna at Whitesands carpark as it had previously done earlier this year. The meeting RESOLVED to approve the proposal in principle. However, this approval is subject SDCC's planning application for change of use in the carpark, as it impacts SDCC's ability with regard to the 28-day rule.
- c. Letter dated 3rd June from St Davids Carnival with regard to the 2024 event. The meeting RESOLVED to contribute a £500 donation in support of the costs for organising the community event.
- d. Email dated 4th June from the Skate Jam event organiser. The meeting RESOLVED to approve the proposed September event at St Davids Skate Park.
- e. Email dated 4th June from a local tradesperson concerning trade waste and tourism in St Davids. The meeting acknowledged the concerns raised and members agreed that the situation will need to be monitored throughout the busy summer tourist season.

- f. Email dated 10th June from Cllr R Price requesting the City Council's support for local athletes representing Team GB at the Olympics 2024. The meeting RESOLVED to instruct the Clerk to purchase two four-foot banners, one for each of the Olympic representatives.

33 Planning

- a. **NP/24/0310/FUL** Side Extension (single storey) 2nd floor rear extension. 12 Catherine Street, St Davids, SA62 6RJ. 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.

Any Other Business

Items for information only:

- Cllr FD John raised concerns about overgrowth into the pavement and obstructing the highway on Bryn Road / Bryn Teg as well as a water leak in Bryn Teg – PCC needs to be informed.
- Cllr FD John also highlighted the extreme overgrowth surrounding the entrance sign on Fishguard Road. The Clerk confirmed that maintenance has been arranged.
- Cllr B Lloyd expressed concern about parking layout for commercial traders at Whitesands carpark. The ice cream barrier has not been put up yet for the 2024 season. The Clerk confirmed that no reports to this effect had been received from the ticket attendant.
- Cllr ES Evans reported a pothole on Fishguard Road that needs to be reported to the PCC Highways Department.
- Cllr R Price expressed concerns about a local tradesperson's bike display currently occupying the bike rack outside the City Hall. The Clerk confirmed that the bike owner had been requested to remove the bike for other cyclists to use the rack, but no response has been received.

- Members requested the Caretaker House Committee meeting to be scheduled for Tuesday 21st June at 1:00pm.

Items for the Next Agenda: None.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.25pm.

Signed

Date

Chair