

**Minutes of the Second Monthly Meeting of the Council on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2024 in the Council Chamber at 7.00pm.**

**Present:** Mayor Cllr ES Evans, Deputy Mayor Cllr BS Sehmi, Cllr W Chant, Cllr DJ Griffiths, Cllr JT Jeremy, Cllr FD John, Cllr B Lloyd, Cllr RJ Thornton, with S Mann (Clerk), & JE Foster (Deputy Clerk).

**243 Apologies for Absence:** Cllr BT Price & Cllr S Williams.

**244 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 were declared.

**245 Confirmation of Minutes for:**

245.1 Monthly Meeting of the Council on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2024 were RESOLVED to be approved.

**246 Public Representations from members of the public in attendance about any business to be discussed:**

- The meeting was joined by St Davids Airfield Memorial Plaque Designer, Mr Malcolm Gray.  
*See item 247.3.*

**247 Matters Arising**

247.1 Visit from Solva Care. Registered Charity with a primary aim to maintain and improve the health and wellbeing of their community. They help residents stay in their homes, run a volunteer service, organise social events, and offer additional support for caregivers. Solva Care has been instrumental in a decrease in hospital appointments from Solva residents, as confirmed by the Health Board. Solva Care, which has been reliant on Lottery Funding that has now ended due to the Lottery's inability to fund core services, will continue to seek additional grants. The Lottery requires evidence of a collaborative approach, and this visit provides that evidence. Solva Care suggested the formation of a working group composed of 2-3 City Councillors, 2-3 from Solva, and 2-3 from Llanrhian, to create a 3 Wards Peninsula working group. They proposed that in the future, the combined 3 Wards could submit a joint application. Solva Care presented the City Council with its Annual Report dated 1st April 2022 for review. The City Council thanked Solva Care for their visit. The meeting RESOLVED to participate in the proposed 3 Wards Working Group, which will include Cllrs B Lloyd, JT Jeremy, and RJ Thornton as City Council representatives.

247.2 Scout Hut. Report from the Scout Hut Committee requesting the City Council to delay its final decision on the Community Asset Transfer until an Extraordinary Meeting of the Council can be held on Tuesday, 7th May, originally scheduled for Monday, 22nd April. The scheduling of this meeting was influenced by the availability of the Mayor, Cllr ES Evans, and the Community

Management Group. Therefore, the date of the meeting will be confirmed in consultation with the Community Management Group to ensure the participation of all relevant parties. Furthermore, the meeting RESOLVED to instruct the Clerk to establish confirmation of the Community Asset Transfer options in light of the recent news that the PCC CAT Policy is under review. This review is expected to introduce certain limitations that could change the current situation.

247.3 St Davids Airfield Memorial. An update has been received from PCNPA, confirming that additional discussions have taken place with the PCNPA community archaeologist, site warden, and Dyfed Archaeological Trust regarding the proposed relocation of the memorial, as suggested by the Plaque Designer with the assistance of SDCC. This update involves a PCNPA proposed new location for the Memorial and the details required for the submission of the SDCC Planning Application. Mr. Malcolm Gray, the designer of the St Davids Airfield Memorial, discussed the situation and suggested organising a site visit to the airfield involving City Councillors and Solva Community Councillors. The Clerk confirmed that the Archaeological Reports initially requested and mentioned in PCNPA's prior communication were still awaited. The meeting RESOLVED to defer the item until these reports were available, enabling the City Council to conduct a review.

#### **248 Community Engagement**

248.1 Newsletter Statement. Cllr B Lloyd has proposed a plan for the City Council to maintain regular communication with the community. This would be achieved through a monthly statement published in the Newsletter and shared on various Social Media platforms. It was RESOLVED to move forward with the proposal. In addition, Cllr B Lloyd expressed interest in completing a PAVS Grant application representing the City Council, with the submission deadline fast approaching on 29th April. The meeting RESOLVED to instruct Cllr Lloyd to finalise the application in collaboration with the Clerk, specifically for the engagement related to City Council assets.

#### **249 D-Day Anniversary**

249.1 Light a Lamp Event commemorating the D-Day Anniversary & Correspondence received from the 14th Signals Regiment in Brawdy, requesting confirmation of locations desiring the presence of Regimental Service Personnel. It was RESOLVED to instruct the Clerk to obtain confirmation that the City Council can participate in the event utilising its own beacon, currently maintained by the Flag Master. It was also RESOLVED to direct the Clerk to enquire with the St Davids Cathedral to coordinate a service at the Cross Square event as appropriate, on the 6<sup>th</sup> June 2024.

#### **250 Council Property**

250.1 Cross Square. Correspondence received providing an update on the proposed memorial at Cross Square Memorial Garden, dedicated to the memory of Dr Henry Hicks. The meeting

reviewed the correspondence with reference to the City Council's position, which was determined at its meeting on 18th March. This position was in response to a similar request to erect a memorial at the cross square. The decision at that meeting was that the RNLI Surf Life Saving Club would continue to be the most suitable place for plaques in memory of individuals associated with the RNLI. The meeting resolved to direct the Clerk to communicate this information and to advise the correspondent to contact the RNLI for a response with regard to a potential RNLI Station memorial.

250.2 Multi Location Meetings & Training. Review of Council decision made at the October 2nd 2023 meeting, where it was resolved to strictly comply with the legal requirement (ensuring that members can both listen and communicate) for holding hybrid meetings. This decision was made with the intention of cost-saving by restricting expenditure on equipment for hybrid meetings. This reassessment of the possibility of investing in the additional equipment is crucial to accommodate the Council's preference for face-to-face training and the challenges related to not having this facility. The meeting RESOLVED to defer the item until after the Annual Meeting in May 2024.

250.3 Memorial Bench. Correspondence received proposing to provide and install a memorial bench at a location situated between St Justinian and Point St John. The meeting RESOLVED to direct the Clerk to refer the enquiry to the owner of the selected site for the bench, PCNPA.

250.4 Whitesands Café. Estimate received recommending the implementation of remedial work and the addition of protective installations for the support posts of the café. The meeting agreed that there was no necessity for the proposed protective installations. The estimate provided for the remedial flashing was approved, and it was RESOLVED that the Clerk should secure a quote before confirming the start of the works.

250.5 Whitesands Season Pass. A Commercial Pass Holder has made a request for the City Council to consider offering a discounted scheme to support its opening season efforts. The meeting considered the request and agreed that the current arrangement was adequate. It was RESOLVED not to offer a discounted arrangement.

250.6 Whitesands Walking for Wellbeing Event. Shine Charity is seeking support for an upcoming event at Whitesands. This event aims to promote access to the outdoors for the community, especially those with physical and learning needs. They are requesting that the council provide a representative or Mayor to open the event. The event organiser is requesting a similar provision for a 2024 event, as the City Council has previously approved free car parking for an event at Whitesands. The meeting RESOLVED to approve the request and instructed the Clerk to obtain confirmation from the event organiser with regard to the number of free parking spaces required

for the event. It was agreed that this information would be useful to assist future reference for similar events.

### **251 Council Business**

251.1 Mayoral Expenses. Review of Mayoral expenses related to the term in office, including travel costs for Mayoral events. The meeting acknowledged the recent transition made by the City Council of precepting the community and the obligatory and discretionary councillor allowance payments already in place. The Mayor's role entails more duties than a typical councillor, leading to extra costs that exceed the usual councillor allowances. The Mayor frequently serves as the council's representative at formal gatherings and occasions, sometimes outside of Pembrokeshire. These occasions might necessitate additional expenditures for travel and lodging, along with other charges and admission fees. In light of this, the meeting agreed to acknowledge that the Mayor's role might necessitate extra expense claims, and it was RESOLVED to consider each claim individually as they are submitted. For the sake of transparency, the Mayor, Cllr ES Evans, announced that she will be submitting a claim to cover the cost of a one-night stay when she attends the Buckingham Palace Garden Party in May 2024, and her train travel to this event.

251.2 Mayor Elect. Nominations for the upcoming Mayoral Election during the Annual Meeting on 13th May 2024. The Deputy Mayor, Cllr BS Sehmi, was nominated to be the next Mayor of St Davids City Council. The nomination was approved unanimously. Cllr BS Sehmi graciously accepted the nomination.

### **252 Correspondence**

252.1 Email dated 8th April received from Tir a Mor, Land and Sea Festival thanking the City Council for its support of the 2024 event was noted by the meeting.

252.2 Email dated 12th April received from St Davids Cathedral requesting confirmation of the dates for the upcoming SDCC events scheduled to take place in St Davids over the next year. This is to ensure that all necessary preparations are made in advance, guaranteeing a seamless coordination of events across St Davids. The meeting RESOLVED that the 2024 Christmas Lights Switch On event is scheduled for Saturday, November 30th. Additionally, it was RESOLVED that the Deputy Clerk liaise with the St Davids Day Celebration Group to confirm the dates for the 2025 events.

252.3 Email dated 17th April received from Ysgol Penrhyn Dewi extending an invitation to the Mayor and City Council members to officially unveil a Springboard Project. This project involves the creation of a Mosaic that represents the essence of the school. The unveiling, scheduled for Friday, the 19th of April at Non-Campus, was noted by Councillors as a successful event.

**Any Other Business**

**Items for information only:**

- The Clerk informed the meeting that the BBC had requested to arrange an interview with a City Councillor. This request was in response to the Health Board’s recent disclosure that the General Practitioner at St David’s Surgery has decided to end their General Medical Services contract, the services will cease after October 31, 2024. The meeting agreed that Cllr BT Price, in her capacity as County Councillor, should be approached for the interview.
- Cllr FD John: Menevia WI is in anticipation of receiving plants from the Bug Farm for the Bee Friendly planting project at Cross Square. The Clerk agreed to promptly request an update from the Bug Farm regarding this.

**Items for the next agenda:**

- Cllr ES Evans: Bryn Road Toilets Update.
- Cllr ES Evans: New Year’s Eve Street Party Update.
- Cllr ES Evans: Waunfawr Playing Field Proposed Footpath update. Cllr BS Sehmi agreed to forward plans. Cllr B Lloyd proposed a site visit in response to concerns raised by St Davids RFC.
- Cllr FD John: Bryn Teg Playing Field Goal Post Update.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.55pm

Signed .....

Date .....

Chair