

**Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Council on Monday 19th August 2024 in the Council Chamber at 7.00pm.**

**Present:** Mayor Cllr BS Sehmi, Cllr W Chant (left meeting 8.30pm), Cllr ES Evans, Cllr DJ Griffiths, Cllr FD John, Cllr B Lloyd, Cllr BT Price, & Cllr RJ Thornton, with S Mann (Clerk).

**45 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: None.
- b. Absent without apology: Cllr R Price.

**46 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.

**47 Confirmation of Minutes for:**

- a. Monthly Meeting of the Council on Monday 1st July 2024 were RESOLVED to be approved.

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

- a. **St Davids Surgery.** A community member expressed concerns about the Health Board's decision to close the St Davids Surgery. They informed the meeting that the Health Board has not provided adequate responses to specific concerns. A public meeting will be held on Thursday 22nd August at 7.30pm in Ty Pererin, St Davids, with aims to secure the backing of the local community before formally requesting the City Council to endorse their appeal in challenging the Health Board's decision to close the surgery.
- b. **Pembrokeshire County Council: Council Tax Premium Consultation 2024.** Community members expressed concerns about the ineffectiveness of second home

taxes in preventing community decline. They highlighted the disproportionate impact of second homes on their community and the need for more equitable policies. Additionally, they advocated for a review of the Enhancing Pembrokeshire Fund to ensure it is effectively supporting local communities, especially as amenities face closure.

#### **49 Matters Arising**

- a. **St Davids Surgery.** Hywel Dda University Health Board announced on July 25, 2024, that St Davids Surgery will close on October 31, 2024. The decision follows the resignation of the surgery's sole GP, Dr. Stephen Riley, in April 2024 due to difficulties in recruiting partners. Approximately 2,500 of the surgery's 2,728 patients will be transferred to the health board-managed Solva surgery. A further 161 patients will transfer to Fishguard, with smaller numbers going to practices in Haverfordwest. The health board has estimated that establishing a new surgery in St Davids would incur an additional £267,000 annually on top of the existing £586,000 cost of providing GP services.
  - i. Following public representations about the closure of St Davids Surgery, the meeting RESOLVED to support a motion proposed by Cllr W Chant for SDCC to oversee the appeals process with maximum community involvement in challenging the surgery closure.
  - ii. Motion to appeal against the decision of the HDUHB and to approve the Clerk's draft St Davids City Council letter to the First Minister for Wales was RESOLVED to be approved. The letter will be finalised by the Clerk with additional points suggested by members.
- b. **St Davids Waste & Recycling Centre.** Pembrokeshire County Council is seeking the views from the City and Community Councils, to explore any options to prevent the loss of the facility for the St Davids peninsula. The proposal to close the WRC is due to

be reviewed by the Policy and Pre-Decision Overview and Scrutiny Committee in September prior to a decision by Cabinet in the Autumn. St Davids City Council is requested to submit any comments or additional options to Pembrokeshire County Council by the 27th August to be incorporated into this work. The meeting RESOLVED to instruct the Clerk to prepare a submission to PCC outlining the following points:

- i. **Environmental Impact:** Closing the WRC contradicts environmental goals, increases carbon emissions, and will likely lead to more fly-tipping.
  - ii. **Data Reliability:** Data on waste tonnage and booking system usage is inconsistent and unreliable, hindering effective decision-making.
  - iii. **Service Impacts:** The WRC is vital for emergency services and the community, and its closure will negatively affect both.
  - iv. **Financial Implications:** Anticipated savings from closure are minimal compared to overall financial challenges. Exploring alternative cost-saving measures is crucial.
  - v. **Alternative Options:** A thorough evaluation of options like reduced hours, increased fees, or shared services is needed to find the best solution.
  - vi. **Funding and Community:** Second home taxes could fund the WRC, and the wider community will suffer from increased travel and costs if the facility closes.
- c. **Pembrokeshire County Council: Council Tax Premium Consultation 2024.** Consideration of PCC's consultation on Council Tax premiums for second and long-term empty homes and the potential impact of these changes on the St Davids area & SDCC response to be submitted by 27th August. Members reviewed the consultation's considerations and favoured higher council tax premiums for second homes and long-term empty properties. They supported discretionary exemptions for businesses renting second homes for significant periods. The meeting advocated for

stronger measures to address the impact of second homes on local communities and

RESOLVED to direct the Clerk to submit the agreed response from SDCC.

**50 Planning**

- a. **NP/24/0397/LBA** Restoration of existing domestic outbuilding to full residential use (market housing). 10 - 11, Cross Square, St Davids, SA62 6SE. 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.
  
- b. **NP/24/0396/FUL** Restoration of existing domestic outbuilding to full residential use (market housing). 10 -11, Cross Square, St Davids, SA62 6SE. 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.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.40pm

Signed .....

Date .....

Chair