

Minutes of the Second Monthly Meeting of the Council on Monday 17th February 2025 in the Council Chamber at 7.00pm

Present: Mayor Cllr BS Sehmi, Deputy Mayor Cllr DJ Griffiths, Cllr W Chant, Cllr S Foster, Cllr MC Gray, Cllr FD John, Cllr B Lloyd, Cllr S Minas (attended remotely 7.45pm due to technical issues), Cllr R Price, & Cllr RJ Thornton, with S Mann (Clerk), & JS Foster (Deputy Clerk).

185 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 BT Price, & Cllr ES Evans.

186 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.

- a. Declarations made: None.

187 Confirmation of Minutes were RESOLVED to be approved:

- a. Monthly Meeting of the Council on Monday 3rd February 2025

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

- a. Two members of the public made representations regarding Item 192 (Oriol Y Parc Masterplan Consultation 14th January 2025):

- 1 A Community Member presented concerns about Oriol y Parc's shift from being the Pembrokeshire landscape gallery to becoming a national park discovery centre:

- Absence of Graham Sutherland paintings for several years
- No national museum organised fine art exhibitions since 2018
- Need for year-round visitors to support local economy

- Importance of maintaining world-class art exhibitions to attract international visitors

2 A Community Member presented historical background on the gallery:

- Concerns raised about potential alterations to the building's architectural integrity
- Building noted as one of Wales' most important modern structures

189 Member/Officer Relations Protocol and Code of Conduct Training

RESOLVED:

To adopt the Model Protocol on Member/Officer Relations to ensure effective working relationships between Councillors and Officers, characterised by mutual trust, respect, and professional conduct. The Protocol outlines:

- a. Distinct roles and responsibilities of Councillors and Officers
- b. Clear expectations for both parties
- c. Guidelines for maintaining professional boundaries
- d. Commitment to working partnerships and appropriate conduct

FURTHER RESOLVED:

To accept the Code of Conduct Training to be delivered by the PCC Monitoring Officer on Monday 17th March at City Hall, with full attendance recommended for all Councillors and Council Staff.

190 Boundary Review

The meeting received an update regarding the proposed transfer of Llandruidion hamlet (24 electors) from St Davids City Council to Solva Community Council.

The Council noted that:

- a. Cllr MC Gray reported feedback from affected residents indicating strong opposition to the proposed boundary change and their concerns regarding lack of prior consultation.

- b. Affected residents have submitted objections directly to the Welsh Government.
- c. Enquiries have been received by the Clerk's office from residents seeking clarification on the origins of this proposal.
- d. While the Clerk's office has received acknowledgment of correspondence, the Welsh Government will provide a comprehensive response following the submission deadline.
- e. If approved, the proposed change would reduce City Council membership from 12 to 11 from May 2027.

Background Context:

- f. The City Council had attended all boundary review meetings where this change was not discussed.
- g. Evidence supporting Pembrokeshire County Council's recommendation has been requested from both PCC and the Local Government Democracy Team (Welsh Government Policy Division).
- h. No prior consultation was undertaken with St Davids City Council regarding this proposed change.
- i. The correspondence from residents and acknowledgment from Welsh Government were noted for the record.

191 Newsletter

To consider Solva Community Council's request for approval in principle of estimations for all-colour newsletter format, following SDCC's existing commitment to explore expansion - further to item 176 & To consider whether SDCC can provide approval in principle for variable print costs, noting that any formal implementation decision remains subject to receipt of complete financial information as requested since December 2024.

RESOLVED:

That consideration of the Newsletter be deferred pending receipt of additional information.

192 Oriel Y Parc Masterplan Consultation 14th January 2025

The City Council recently received a presentation on the Oriel Y Parc Masterplan from the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority. Councillors have been provided with the presentation slides for review and feedback. The Authority has confirmed these slides should not be shared with the public at this stage as they represent a working document subject to ongoing revisions based on internal feedback, member input, and city councillor comments. A dedicated focus group session for younger audiences is being planned, with Cllrs B Lloyd and ES Evans assisting with youth engagement.

- a. The Council considered the Oriel Y Parc Masterplan Consultation Update, specifically addressing the public representations made at the start of the meeting.

The Council noted that:

- 1 The January Masterplan consultation specifically focused on proposed internal and external developments to enhance the facility's quality, including retention of the climate-controlled gallery space suitable for future quality exhibitions.
- 2 While the Masterplan consultation sought feedback on facility development proposals rather than exhibition content, both community feedback and Council views emphasized the importance of reinstating high-quality fine art exhibitions.

- b. RESOLVED:

That the Clerk be instructed to prepare the City Council's formal response to the January 2025 Masterplan consultation:

- 1 Acknowledging the positive proposals for facility development while retaining the climate-controlled gallery space.

- 2 Noting that while exhibition content falls outside the scope of the current Masterplan consultation, both the community and Council share aspirations for the return of quality fine art exhibitions.

193 St David's Day Civic Reception Hosting International Delegation - Friday 21st February 2025

The meeting RESOLVED to approve the following arrangements for the St Davids Civic Reception welcoming the distinguished delegation from Matsieng, Kingdom of Lesotho:

- a. APPROVED the catering services of *Farmers Food At Home*, at £10 per head for buffet service.
- b. APPROVED the installation of ceremonial decorations, including traditional Welsh daffodils for table arrangements.
- c. APPROVED the installation of the Welsh national flag on the ceremonial stage.
- d. FURTHER RESOLVED to approve the purchase of the St David's Social History - Book New Publication as the official welcome gift for the Lesotho Matsieng Link representatives, befitting this significant international occasion.

194 St Davids-Matsieng, Lesotho Link: A Proposed Fun Run on Saturday 15th March 2025

Lesotho Fun Run Road Closure Proposal - awaiting final response from PCC regarding feasibility of required road closures. Initial feedback indicates challenging timeline due to standard 8-week notice period for road closures. No confirmation received from PCC, Clerk instructed to send another reminder.

195 Caretaker House Pre-Application Planning Submission

To consider the Caretaker House Committee's recommendation to submit a pre-application planning advice request for the redevelopment of the vacant Caretaker House.

Consideration:

- a. Initial free one-hour planning consultation available
- b. City Council exempt from pre-application fees for non-commercial development

- c. If commercial elements are included, fees would apply ranging from £300 for minor developments to £5,250 for major developments

Recommendation: That Council authorises either:

- d. The Clerk to arrange the initial free planning consultation; or
- e. The Clerk to proceed with the full pre-application submission

The meeting RESOLVED to instruct the Clerk to arrange the initial free one-hour planning consultation.

196 Confirming New Mayor and Deputy Mayor & Civic Events for 2025-26

To confirm the Mayor Elect, and Deputy Mayor Elect, to commence their terms of office from the Annual Meeting of St Davids City Council on 12th May 2025, and to set the following Civic dates for the Mayoral year 2025-26:

- a. Cllr DJ Griffiths confirmed as Mayor-Elect.
- b. Dates of forthcoming events for review at Annual Meeting 12th May 2025:
 - 1 Mayoral Civic Service: (previous dates include September Mayoral Cathedral Service and Dinner Reception).
 - 2 Other key Civic Events: (previous dates include December Civic Reception, March St Davids Day Dinner).

197 Whitesands Trading

To consider correspondence from community members regarding Whitesands Ice Cream Concession tender terms, requesting expanded trading permissions and expressing interest in wider community involvement. *See below*

198 Whitesands Commercial Storage Requirements

To consider correspondence requesting differentiation between commercial trading permits and equipment storage arrangements for educational providers. *See below*

199 Whitesands Car Park - Operational Request

Current tariff of £40 for coaches has requested SDCC clarification regarding school visits.

Ticket staff need practical guidance to distinguish between:

- a. Educational school trips
- b. Commercial operators

Decision requested for immediate operational implementation. *See below*

200 Whitesands Beach Trading Concessions

To consider streamlining beach trading to two concessions enhance safety management and prevent service duplication:

- a. Combined surf and equipment hire (including wetsuits). *See below*
- b. Dedicated surf school for lessons. *See below*

201 Whitesands Car Park Off-Seasonal Parking Rate

To consider implementation of reduced parking fees at Whitesands Car Park during March and October to encourage off-season visitor access and support local tourism during quieter months. *See below*

The meeting considered the request for clarification regarding the differentiation between educational vehicles and commercial vehicles at Whitesands car park. The following points were noted:

The City Council's 6th January decision to implement a £40 per day tariff for Commercial Minibuses, and other Commercial Vehicles was established in response to concerns from former Commercial Pass Holders. These pass holders, who had previously paid for season-long overnight parking of storage vehicles (with no trading permitted), had expressed dissatisfaction that occasional daily commercial vehicles were only being charged the standard £6 per day parking rate.

It was further noted that the former Commercial Pass system was discontinued to accommodate new Trading Tender Opportunities, which operate on a drive-on-drive-off basis

with no overnight parking permitted. This change was necessary as the former Commercial Pass would conflict with planning permission requirements for permanent structures, which would constitute a Change of Use from parking to trading.

The City Council acknowledged feedback received from local businesses regarding the tender opportunities. However, it was noted that as the tender process is currently active with a submission deadline of March 3rd, 2025, no modifications can be made to the published tender terms and conditions during this period to ensure compliance with procurement regulations and maintain the integrity of the tender process. Furthermore, in consideration of its obligations to the existing Whitesands Cafe Tenant, the City Council will maintain the ice cream-only requirement for the Ice Cream Concession tender opportunity.

RESOLVED:

- a. That the Ice Cream Concession tender opportunity shall remain restricted to ice cream sales only, in consideration of the existing Whitesands Cafe Tenant.
- b. That regarding the request for differentiation between commercial trading permits and equipment storage arrangements for educational providers, no changes can be made to the current arrangements until after March 3rd, 2025, when the status of the advertised tender opportunities is established. This decision reflects the fundamental conflict between overnight storage requirements and the new drive-on-drive-off trading model, which was implemented to comply with planning permission requirements that prohibit permanent structures that would constitute a Change of Use from parking to trading.
- c. That Educational Minibuses/Vehicles will be incorporated into the established £20 fee category for standard Minibuses, while maintaining the £40 per day rate for Coaches and Commercial Vehicles for the 2025 season. This resolution provides clear differentiation between educational and commercial use of the facility.

- d. That no changes can be made to the current tender terms and conditions while the tender process remains active, in accordance with procurement regulations.
- e. That the consideration of implementing reduced off-season parking fees for March and October be deferred to the March 3rd meeting, pending review of the financial figures for these months.

202 Planning

- a. The City Council considered the proposal was deemed unlikely to have a detrimental visual or environmental impact on the surrounding area. RESOLVED to support the application:

- 1 NP/25/0008/FUL Single storey rear extension (shower room, lounge), following demolition of existing conservatory. Trehennydd, 41, High Street, St Davids, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA62 6SB

Any Other Business

- Cllr FD John reported Solar Panels installation initiative.
- Cllr BS Sehmi requested confirmation of contract renewal dates for website/technical support.
- Clerk enquired about members' preferences for printed meeting agendas, with most members confirming they require physical copies.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8:35pm

Signed

Date

Chair