

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Council on Monday 3rd March 2025 in the Council Chamber at 7.00pm

Present: Deputy Mayor Cllr DJ Griffiths, Cllr ES Evans, Cllr MC Gray, Cllr FD John, Cllr S Minas, Cllr R Price, & Cllr RJ Thornton, with S Mann (Clerk), & JS Foster (Deputy Clerk).

203 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: Cllrs W Chant, S Foster, B Lloyd, BT Price, & BS Sehmi.

204 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.

Declarations made:

- a. Cllr DJ Griffiths declared a prejudicial interest in Item 208.
- b. Cllr R Price declared a pecuniary interest in Item 208.
- c. Cllr RJ Thornton declared a personal interest in item 275.

205 Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Council on Monday 17th February 2025 were RESOLVED to be approved.

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

207 Whitesands Trading

- a. Whitesands Ice Cream Concession Tender 2025-27
 - i. Following review of the tender applications received.
 - ii. RESOLVED: To accept Ms Robyn Cumine's tender for £30,000 for the period 2025-2027.
- b. Whitesands Equipment Hire Concessions 2025

The Council reviewed tender applications for Surf Equipment Hire, Water Sports Equipment Hire, and Deck Chair Hire concessions as submission deadline dated 3rd March 2025.

- i. **RESOLVED:** To inform tenderers that the City Council will not be proceeding with the equipment hire concessions, while maintaining exploration of future planning permissions, etc. This decision was based on the assessment that the proposed tender amounts represented insufficient value for money compared to the established Commercial Pass system, and would create additional administrative burden and enforcement requirements.
- ii. **FURTHER RESOLVED:** To reinstate the established Commercial Pass for overnight storage at the same price as in previous years at £1,000 for the season.
- c. **Whitesands Reduced Off-Season Parking Fees**

Discussion regarding potential reduction in car parking fees during March and October, with financial figures for these months available for review.

RESOLVED: To maintain full pricing schedule with no reduction for off-season months.

208 St Justinians Boat Operations - Urgent Access and Parking Issues

Cllr DJ Griffiths reported on a recent meeting regarding structural work at the PBA. Discussion included pontoon hire over Easter and the likelihood that the local slipway would remain closed for the whole of the 2025 season.

The Council discussed the dual crisis affecting boat trip operations at St Justinians:

- a. The RNLI has removed access to the former lifeboat station and slipway due to urgent safety concerns following storm damage
- b. PCNPA has informed boat operators they cannot continue using agricultural land for seasonal parking without formal planning permission

Cllr Minas recommended Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) availability to the RNLI as a charity.

RESOLVED:

- 1 To form a working group comprising the Chair, Cllr Chant, Cllr Foster, Cllr Gray, Cllr Minas, and RFO (not present)
- 2 To instruct the Clerk to coordinate the working group meeting urgently and liaise with the RNLI boat owners and Council
- 3 The PBA Chair to be invited into the working group
- 4 Cllr Minas to liaise with PBA Chair via Cllr R Price regarding the slipway to pontoon
- 5 The RFO (not present) to liaise with PBA regarding portaloos requirements for the Easter season holiday
- 6 Cllr Gray to speak with Henry Tufnall MP
- 7 Cllr Gray to speak with Iolo Williams as a PR opportunity to raise the profile

209 Meeting Management Improvements

The Council considered recommendations from the Staffing Committee regarding meeting management practices.

RESOLVED:

- a. That all Councillors, including the County Councillor, shall submit lengthy detailed reports to the Clerk's office for formal inclusion in the meeting agenda when substantial updates are required for first meetings of the month
- b. That brief verbal updates will continue to suffice for routine matters
- c. That these practices be implemented with immediate effect to ensure Council meetings focus on their primary purpose of making important Council decisions

210 Democracy and Boundary Commission Cymru - Electoral Review Programme 2025

The Council discussed the Boundary Commission Cymru consultation on the draft Policy and Practice document.

Members expressed concerns about the proposed reduction in councillors for St Davids Ward without any public consultation. It was noted that recent housing developments in St Davids would impact the electorate, and the tenfold population increase during summer months places significant demands on council services.

The Council emphasised that St Davids City Council manages a substantial level of business disproportionate to its permanent population size.

RESOLVED: To submit a formal objection to the proposed reduction in councillors for St Davids Ward. The Clerk to prepare a letter outlining concerns for submission to the Boundary Commission Cymru by 24th March 2025, with a copy to One Voice Wales by 14th March 2025.

211 Internal Auditor Vacancy

Governance and Accountability for Local Councils in Wales – Practitioners Guide: published by One Voice Wales and the Society of Local Council Clerks - proper governance arrangements.

RESOLVED: To appoint Ms Angela Atherton as new internal auditor at £300 per year, with the Clerk and RFO to provide a contract agreement based on One Voice Wales guidance, noting this is a self-employed position.

212 Accounts

RESOLVED: To approve the accounts.

- a. Internal Audit for January 2025.
- b. Financial Statements for February 2025.

213 Correspondence

- a. Email received on 10 /11 February 2025 from Pembrokeshire Surf School/Pembrokeshire Surf Club - Information regarding two surf competitions at Whitesands Beach: Welsh Interclubs "Wilkinson Sword" (March 22-23, 2025) and annual kids' competition (October 4-5, 2025). No formal approval or parking arrangements requested. Resolved: The Clerk to request specific details regarding parking requirements for the events.
- b. Email received on 13 February 2025 from Wildwater Sauna requesting consideration of siting their sauna at Whitesands for a month. The company previously operated at Whitesands in early 2024 with the City Council's permission. It should be noted that the location agreed in 2024 (where the ice cream concession is situated) will not be available from April 1st through 31st October 2025. RESOLVED: The Clerk to establish past agreement costings and deferred decision to next meeting.
- c. Email received on 16 February 2025 from a resident expressing concerns about the opening of a second fish and chip shop in St Davids and questioning the planning approval process. The Clerk responded explaining that the premises at 34-36 High Street received planning permission in 2013 (NP/13/0363) for A3 use, meaning no new planning application was required for the current business. The 2024 application (NP/24/0351/S73) was only to vary opening hours. The Clerk also clarified that planning law does not allow refusal of applications based on commercial competition.
- d. Letter of thanks received on 25 February 2025 from the Chairman of the Lesotho Group expressing appreciation for the Civic Reception and acknowledging the tour provided to the Lesotho High Commission representatives. The Council noted and acknowledged the letter with appreciation.

214 County Councillors Report

Not received.

RESOLVED: Clerk to request the report to be forwarded in writing to be included at future meetings.

215 Reports from Committees

- 1 Caretaker House Committee: A report was provided regarding pre-application requests, library services, and an estimate for the costings (estimated at least £1.5 million). Precept concerns and maintenance concerns were expressed with the current plan – further to Finance Committee Meeting of 25th February. Cllr S Minas proposed to coordinate both committees on authority and advised that a Local Authority grant of £20,000 to dwellings is available. Cllr Minas suggested revisiting the dwelling option, noting that similar recommendations had been presented at a previous Caretaker House Committee meeting earlier in 2025, when the Committee had opted to pursue the Council's current development plan instead.
- 2 City Hall Committee: Nothing to report.
- 3 Community Engagement Committee: Nothing to report. Cllr Evans reported in addition that Cllr B Lloyd and Cllr ES Evans had visited a YPD open day.
- 4 Finance Committee: As with the Caretaker House Committee.
- 5 General Purposes Committee: Recent discussions regarding once per year meetings.
- 6 Grants Development Committee: Nothing to report.
- 7 Market Committee: Nothing to report.
- 8 Scout Hut Committee: Nothing to report.
- 9 Staffing Committee: Looking ahead at staff appraisals for the new financial year.

216 Reports from Members representing the Council

- a. Coffee and Chat: Not reported.
- b. EcoDewi / Bee Friendly: Not reported.
- c. One Voice Wales: Not reported. Not reported.
- d. Pembrokeshire Peninsular Stakeholder Group: Not reported.

- e. Police Surgery: Monthly surgeries are proceeding.
- f. Porthclais Harbour Authority: Meeting next Wednesday.
- g. Porthstinian Boat Owners Association: Recent AGM as per Item 209 on the agenda.
- h. Porthmawr Surf Life Saving Club: Nothing to report.
- i. St Davids Befrienders: Progressing.
- j. St Davids Christmas Tree Association: Nothing to report.
- k. St Davids Day Celebrations Group: St Davids Day events were a huge success. It was requested that the Clerk thank everyone involved. Suggestion to explore potential for local businesses to consider organising a community Cawl Crawl as an alternative to the City Council Cawl Competition for 2026.
- l. St Davids Day Centre for the Elderly: Fish and chips event held this day (3rd March 2025).
- m. St Davids Festivals: Tir a Mor events being confirmed with venues throughout St Davids. Iolo Williams guest speaking on Biodiversity.
- n. St Davids Matsieng Lesotho Link: Royal visit at Cathedral on Wednesday 5th/Thursday 6th.
- o. St Davids Peninsula Tourist and Traders Association: Recent meeting concerned with Lifeboat.
- p. St Davids RFC: NAAS visiting on 15th March.
- q. Youth Drop In: Nothing to report.
- r. Ysgol Penrhyn Dewi Governor: Nothing to report.

217 Planning

RESOLVED: To approve all planning applications:

- a. **NP/25/0054/S73** Variation of condition No. 2 of NP/22/0269/FUL - Amended plans & removal of condition No's 3 & 4 - WSI & lighting scheme. 5, Bella Vista, The Pebbles, St Davids, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA62 6RD

- b. **NP/25/0094/TCA** Conservation Area Tree Works Application. Land at rear - 3 x Sycamores overhanging resident gardens at 11 Maes Dyfed. Grove Hotel, High Street, St Davids, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA62 6SB
- c. **NP/25/0102/FUL** New canopy to cover entrance Location: Dewi Campus, St Davids, Pembrokeshire, SA62 6QH
- d. **NP/25/0099/FUL** Replacement doors and windows to St Davids Food and Wine. St Davids Food & Wine, High Street, St Davids, Pembrokeshire, SA62 6SB

Any Other Business

- Cllr ES Evans queried whether the NAAS visit was clashing with the Cymanfa Ganu, rescheduled/postponed from bad weather, on the 15th March weekend. Councillors to serve tea and Welsh cakes at the Cymanfa Ganu.
- Cllr MC Gray requested an update regarding Oriol y Parc's response to the master plan presentation and also queried why Turner paintings had not been applied for by Oriol y Parc in the past.
- Cllr S Minas queried whether the Nun Street Section 106 monies were now available. Clerk confirmed the money had been reported as not available by PCC/PCNPA in Autumn 2024.
- Cllr FD John informed that the Bryn Road public toilets' disabled toilets now had a new door installed with automatic locks.
- Cllr FD John requested information on whether the Brynteg play area equipment was being replaced by PCC, who owned the park. Cllr Minas suggested there may be grants available for this.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8:50pm

Signed

Date

Chair