

Minutes Monthly Meeting of the Council on Monday 2nd February 2015 in the Council Chamber at 7.00pm

Present: Mayor DB Halse, Deputy Mayor FD John, ES Evans, DJH George MC Gray, MGD James, JG Lloyd, BT Price, K Rose, CT Taylor, S Williams with CH Gray (Clerk) and PL Evans (Responsible Finance Officer).

Also present was County Councillor DB Lloyd.

478 Apologies for Absence: DJO Chant (holiday).

479 Declarations of Interest: Members were requested to identify any declarations of personal or prejudicial interests that they might have in relation to items on the agenda.

479.1 Cllr James declared a personal interest in relation to Item 480.

479.2 Cllr Taylor declared a personal interest in relation to Item 480.

479.3 Cllr Evans declared a prejudicial interest in relation to Item 492 and left the Council Chamber for while the item was discussed.

Matters Arising

480 YSGOL DEWI SANT The motion to "*Reduce the age range at Ysgol Dewi Sant from 11-19 to 11-16... Post 16 provision to be provided in a new integrated sixth form centre as part of a formal collaboration between the County Council and Pembrokeshire College, subject to formal governance arrangements being agreed.*" and passed at an Extraordinary Council meeting of Pembrokeshire County Council on 29th January was discussed by members with the Chair inviting County Councillor David Lloyd to partake.

480.1 Cllr Lloyd reported that he was delighted at the size of the public protest at County Hall on Thursday likening it to the miners strike and praising the young mums for helping to change the outcome of the council meeting. Cllr Lloyd also praised Cllrs Price and Rose for their part in the demonstration.

480.2 Cllr Lloyd informed members that he was aware that the disbanded Friends of Ysgol Dewi Sant group was to be re-established and that a public meeting was to be held in the Rugby club at 6.30pm on Thursday 5th February.

480.3 Cllr Lloyd reported that more cynical county councillors felt that the decision to reduce the age range rather than close the school was a trick and that the WAG would eventually judge the school unsustainable and close it completely, but that he felt that 'wise heads must prevail' and he hoped that the City Councillors would use their influence to encourage support for a merger to create a 3-19 VA school which would be 'bomb proof'.

480.4 Cllr Lloyd reported that many of YDS's former pupil had offered to help with the campaign to save the school and that he had received a letter from Canon Bryan Witt, Diocesan Director of Education in support of re-designating YDS as a VA school.

480.5 Cllr Price informed members that the primary purpose of the meeting on Thursday was to discuss the retention of 6th Form provision.

480.6 Cllr Taylor apologised to the City Council for being absent from the country while the meeting took place at County Hall and suggested that the City Council consider meeting with representatives of the Diocese to discuss the 'way forward'. It was RESOLVED to invite the Bishop, the Dean, Canon Witt and Canon Davies to meet with the City Council at the second meeting of the month.

480.7 Cllr Gray asked how the City Council could encourage the church to become more involved.

480.8 Cllr Lloyd replied that the Diocese would need to make a formal approach for a change in school status.

480.9 Cllr Evans asked whether an 11-16 school would be eligible for 21st century funding.

480.10 Cllr Lloyd replied that the school could only qualify if they and Bro Dewi were to transform from two schools to one.

480.11 Cllr James stated that in Ceredigion there were 3 schools that employed the same headteacher.

480.12 Cllr Rose reported that she had attended a workshop on the single management of multiple social media accounts held by Angus Findlay. A small group had formed to manage a Save YDS Twitter, Facebook and Tumblr accounts with a shared e-mail address of saveyds@gmail.com with a view to promote a positive profile of the school. It was RESOLVED to forward the e-mails of support that the Clerk had received to the relevant co-coordinator following Thursday's meeting in the Rugby Club.

480.13 The Mayor thanked The County Councillor for his contribution and Cllr Lloyd then left the meeting.

481 CHRISTMAS STREET LIGHTS

- 481.1 Martin Avil e-mail of 30th January 2015 was received. It was RESOLVED to order 8 replacement sets of icicles to decorate the front of the City Hall at a cost of £60 each. It was further RESOLVED to request an sample image of the proposed Nadolig Llawen display.
- 481.2 Proposed pole in New Street - the Clerk reported that she was currently awaiting confirmation from Highway Authority that a pole could be installed.

482 CITY HALL

- 482.1 Planning permission - Wes Spees e-mail of 30th January 2015 advising of conditions attached to planning consent was received. It was RESOLVED to ask Mr Spees to obtain a quote for an archaeological excavation of the site.
- 482.2 Appointment of CDM co-ordinator - Alun Griffiths of Total CMD Solutions Ltd and Tanya Smith of JCT respective e-mails of 30th January 2015 were considered. It was RESOLVED to make an initial approach to Total CDM Solutions.

483 ST JUSTINIANS

- 483.1 Howard Richings e-mail of 26th January 2015 advising that provisional acceptance of proposal to purchase the original boathouse has been agreed was received.

484 1st RESPONDER UNIT Les Owen e-mail of 18th January 2015 was received.

485 NEWGALE The Clerk reported that no further information had been received to date. It was RESOLVED to defer the item for discussion pending a reply form the Highway Authority addressing the Council's concerns regarding both the future of the A487 and the current diversion route implemented when the A487 is closed to traffic.

486 ST DAVIDS LIBRARY The Clerk reported that a Service Level Agreement was awaited from Pembrokeshire County Council.

487 ST DAVIDS DAY CENTRE Cllr James & Cllr Halse reported that following a recent meeting with the Red Cross organisation, the Day Centre group were awaiting written confirmation that the Red Cross centre was going to close. At the meeting it was suggested that the building was subject to a restrictive covenant imposed by the Diocese and that it may be that the centre could close but not be sold. It was RESOLVED to wait for further information.

Accounts

488 The Responsible Finance Officer reported that the Internal Audit for December 2014 had been completed successfully.

489 Accounts for January 2015.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE JANUARY 2015							
Balance as at			£				
		Current A/c	251332.55				
INCOME	Car Park						
	City Hall		522.63				
	Cafe						
	Miscellaneous						
	Market stalls		90.00				
	Total		612.63				
	LGA 1972 Sec137 for2014/15 is £10821			LGA 1972 Sec 214 Cemetery			
	Last month's donations			Total donated 2014/2015			
	2014/15	total	1825				1400
	Balance available		8996				
PAYMENTS			£				
	Admin		1575.25	Salaries:Clerk & RFO			
			1494.94	HMRC (NIC & IT)			
			225.84	Internet			
			199.20	Sage -Annual Licence			
			35.00	Information Commissioner			
	Whitesands		715.36	Car Park tickets			
	Playground						
	Hall & House		108.01	Caretaker's salary			
				Br Gas			
			736.66	Swalec			
			18.42	D/D Boiler service			
			152.77	Cleaning products			
	Mayor's Expenses						
	St Justinians			Toilet hire / cleaning			
	Miscellaneous		1174.00	W A Spees re building works			
			505.70	Xmas expenses (inc tree)			
			952.00	PCC (Council tax-3props)			
			171.82	Dwr Cymru -(2props)			
			3999.60	LITE re Xmas lighting			
	Total		12064.57				
Minutes 2014 / 2015			80				

It was RESOLVED to approve the accounts for the month and grant permission to pay.

490 Section 137 Expenditure - please see WAG letter of 5th January 2015 advising of increase to £7.36 per elector was received.

491 Teenage Cancer Trust letter of 21st January 2015 requesting a donation. It was RESOLVED to donate £100.

492 Pembrokeshire YFC letter of 6th January 2015 requesting a donation. It was RESOLVED to donate £100 to Brawdy & Hayscastle YFC branch and to grant free use of the City Hall to the Pembrokeshire YFC branch.

Correspondence

493 Laurence Harding, PCC letter of 13th January 2015 advising of closure of outstation register offices, together with Susan Sanders e-mail of 28th January 2015 advising of extended response time was received.

494 Nicky Middleton-Jones, National Trust advising of controlled burning at Waun Fawr was received.

495 Joe Sutherland e-mail of 20th January 2015 offering apologies for 19th January meeting and request to meet with City Council on an alternative date. It was RESOLVED to invite Mr Sutherland to submit a presentation to the Council on 23rd March 2015.

496 Shalom House e-mail of 27th January 2015 premises for charity shop. It was RESOLVED to inform the charity that the City Council were not aware of any suitable premises.

497 Sian Davies, PCNPA e-mail of 27th January 2015 copy of reply to Fiona Hill e-mail of 23rd January 2015 objecting to installation of BT Broadband cabinet in Mitre Lane was received and RESOLVED to be acknowledged.

Reports from Members representing the Council:-

497.1 St Davids Carnival Association. Cllr Rose reported that a meeting was to take place imminently.

497.2 St Davids Christmas Tree Association. Cllr Price reported that a meeting was to take place imminently.

497.3 St Davids Day Celebration Group. Cllr Halse reported that a meeting was to take place on Thursday 5th February.

497.4 St Davids Day Centre for the Elderly. Nothing to report further to Item 487.

497.5 St Davids Eco City Group. Nothing to report.

497.6 St Davids Peninsula Tourist Association. Cllr Evans reported that the Association met on 14th January but that she was unable to attend the meeting. Further excavation work was due to take place at St Patricks Chapel. A Wales Coast app for businesses was to be implemented. The next meeting was due to take place on 11th March 2015.

497.7 Porthclais Harbour Authority. Cllr John reported that at a meeting was held on 29th January 2015 where it was resolved to fundraise for the RNLI.

497.8 St Davids - Matsieng Lesotho Link. Cllr Taylor provided members with the following report: The group held a very successful coffee morning and bring and buy sale on Saturday 10th January. The event was kindly opened by the Mayor Cllr David Halse, and the group is very appreciative of his support. We are also very grateful to all those who contributed in numerous ways to the event, and to those, including several councillors, who supported us on the day. We were also delighted to welcome Dolen Cymru's newly appointed education Officer Sharon Flint, who had held meetings the previous day both with Ysgol Dewi Sant and Ysgol Bro Dewi. She was able to report to us that she had been very encouraged by the outcomes of both these meetings, and that she is now very confident of being able to assist the creation of new links between both schools and Matsieng. She will herself shortly be going out to Matsieng to conduct a series of literacy classes in the local schools, and will be able to keep them informed about the developments at this end. The outcome of our coffee morning was financially very successful, with £240 being raised, and this means that we will be able to complete this year's programme of support for orphans of Aids at Moshoeshoe II High School. Following Sharon's return to the UK, and the receipt of any reports that she will bring to us, we will probably be in a better position to assess as to where to concentrate our fund raising activities in the future. Our next event will be the first in the cathedral's series of Lent lunches on 20th February. The group is very grateful to the dean, The Very Revd Jonathan Lean, for allowing us to participate. All councillors and guests will of course be very welcome to join us at the lunch.

- 497.9 Youth Drop In. Cllr Rose informed members that she hoped to attend one of the sessions soon.
- 497.10 Ysgol Bro Dewi Governor. Cllr Halse reported that lots of work was being done in the school following publication of the Estyn report in the Western Telegraph.
- 497.11 Planed Community Forum. Cllr Halse reported that the Forum were focusing on less issues. A meeting was due to take place on 17th February to discuss the proposed Memory Cafe. The orchard project was making progress. The Good Neighbour co-ordinator had not been replaced. The Forum felt that there was a need for a museum in St Davids and a need to archive local history. The Forum was concerned about the future of the A487 at Newgale, Planed were to hold a coffee morning to raise money for the RNLI.
- 497.12 Porthstinan Boat Owners Association. Nothing to report.
- 497.13 Porthmawr Surf Life Saving Club. Cllr Gray reported that a meeting was due to be held in the RAFA Club in March. Cllr Price reported that the Nippers were currently training in Fishguard Leisure Centre.

Any other business:

- 498 Cllr Halse informed members that he had received a letter form Jenn Jones, Manager at Oriel Y Parc thanking him for meeting with her recently.
- 499 Cllr Gray informed members that following the recent pantomime held in the City Hall he was concerned about the efficiency and 'user friendliness' of the lighting system. It was RESOLVED to include the item for discussion on the next agenda.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.40pm

Signed
Chair

Date

Minutes of the Second Monthly Meeting of the Council on Monday 16th February 2015 in the Council Chamber at 7.00pm

Present: Mayor DB Halse, Deputy Mayor FD John, ES Evans, DJH George MC Gray, MGD James, JG Lloyd, BT Price, CT Taylor, S Williams with CH Gray (Clerk) and PL Evans (Responsible Finance Officer).

500 Apologies for Absence: DJO Chant (holiday). K Rose (work).

501 Declarations of Interest: Members were requested to identify any declarations of personal or prejudicial interests that they might have in relation to items on the agenda.

- 501.1 Cllr James declared a personal interest in relation to Item 503.
- 501.2 Cllr Price declared a personal interest in relation to Item 503.
- 501.3 Cllr Taylor declared a personal interest in relation to Item 503.

502 Confirmation of Minutes for:-

- 502.1 The Council Monthly Meeting on Monday 5th January 2015 were RESOLVED to be approved.
- 502.2 The Second Meeting of the Month on Monday 19th January 2015 were RESOLVED to be approved.
- 502.3 The Special Meeting of the City Council on Monday 26th January 2015 were RESOLVED to be approved.

Matters Arising

503 YSGOL DEWI SANT

- 503.1 CONSULTATION PROSESS The Clerk advised members of the following information: Formal consultation will follow in due course, and will be for a minimum of 6 weeks with a list of statutory consultees (City Council included again). A Consultation Document will be published which will be on the specific proposal decided by the County Council. No formal objections can be made at this stage, as it is consultation. After this period of statutory consultation, a Consultation Report will be prepared to the County Council which will outline the views of consultees. At this point, the Director could recommend to Council that a Statutory Notice (SN) is published on the proposal. If a SN is published, a one month statutory objection period will follow; this is the time to submit any formal objections to the proposal. It is anticipated that the document will be published on 9th March 2015 and that the process will run to 1st May 2015.
- 503.2 STATUTORY CONSULTEES To date the following information has been received from the following statutory consultees:
 - 503.2.1 Diocesan Board of Education - Rt Revd W Evans, Bishop of St Davids e-mail of 5th February 2015 advising that a date for meeting with the City Council is to be confirmed imminently, was received.
 - 503.2.2 Ysgol Bro Dewi - the copy letter to parents from Mrs Sam Vaughan, Headteacher dated 6th February 2015 advising that the Governing Body will meet with parents to discuss the proposal once the document becomes available was received.
 - 503.2.3 Ysgol Dewi Sant - the Clerk confirmed that no correspondence had been received from either the Governing Body or Headteacher to date. Cllr Halse advised the Council that he was aware that Mr Haynes intended to invite him (as Mayor) to meet at YDS soon. Cllr Evans stated that both Tasker Millward and Sir Thomas Picton secondary schools were engaged in a 'very vocal' campaign to save their 6th Forms. Cllr Halse stated that it was vital that the community was made aware of Ysgol Dewi Sant's views regarding the 6th Form. Cllr Price expressed frustration that 6th Form students from YDS presently had to travel to Haverfordwest to study for certain subjects but that pupils from other schools did not travel to St Davids for other subjects such as music, for example. Cllr Halse stated that the Council had a responsibility to gather as much information as possible and suggested that a public meeting be held in the City Hall prior to completion of the Statutory Consultation Document. It was RESOLVED to hold a public meeting, Chaired by the Mayor at an appropriate time in the near future.

504 CITY HALL

- 504.1 Members were joined by Mr Rob Marsh to discuss the technical requirements for the City Hall Mr Marsh stated that in his opinion the present lighting and sound system was both outdated and difficult to operate, and advised that the City Council could install a system that would be far easier to use and provide better effects for approximately £5000. It was RESOLVED that Mr Marsh would provide the council with a package of options for a new rig that could be added to in the future when necessary, in the region of £5000.
- 504.2 Wes Spees e-mail of 9th January 2015 together with attached letter from Archaeology Wales advising of their prices was received. It was RESOLVED to obtain a comparative schedule of cost from Dyfed Archaeology. It was further RESOLVED to include within the overall schedule of works, a separate quote for a glass door to the Memorial Hall of a similar design to the doors proposed to be installed at the library and Siop y Bobl.

505 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

- 505.1 The Clerk confirmed that new sets of icicles for the City Hall had been ordered.
- 505.2 New LED displays at New Street and High Street. Martin Avil e-mail of 10th February 2015 was received. It was RESOLVED to obtain a quote for a range of options in including the words Merry Christmas and St Davids.
- 505.3 Alternative display arrangement for south end of New Street. The Clerk confirmed that an application to erect a temporary pole has been submitted to the Highway Authority.

506 NEWGALE Emyr Williams e-mail of 4th February 2015 advising that a public meeting is to be held on Wednesday 18th February in Solva Memorial Hall was received. It was RESOLVED that Cllrs, Evans, Gray, Halse, John and Taylor would attend the meeting on behalf of the City Council. Apologies were received from Cllrs James, Price and Williams.

507 MEMORIAL PLAYING FIELD - Rocking horse. Paul Williams e-mail of 9th February 2015 detailing repair costs was RESOLVED to be approved and permission was granted to instruct Mr Williams to undertake the repairs.

508 ST DAVIDS DAY

- 508.1 Cawl Competition - it was RESOLVED to donate any proceeds to the Under 5s Playgroup.
- 508.2 Dragon parade - Wendy Stratton e-mail of 6th February 2015 requesting volunteer marshals was received. It was RESOLVED that Cllrs Evans, George, Gray and Taylor would volunteer as marshalls.
- 508.3 Council dinner - Councillors were asked to complete and return their menu choices as soon as possible. It was RESOLVED to invite the Headteachers from both St Davids schools to join the Council as guests at the dinner.
- 508.4 Cymanfa Ganu - it was RESOLVED to order Welsh cakes and bara brith from CKs Supermarket. It was further RESOLVED that available Councillors would meet in the City Hall at 11am on Sunday to make the necessary preparations.

509 1st RESPONDER UNIT Members were advised that a meeting is to be held on Monday 9th March 2015 and it was anticipated that a final decision would be made in due course.

510 PEMBROEKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL Public Engagement meeting on 4th February 2015 Cllr James provided the City Council with a full report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes.

511 RED CROSS CENTRE Cllr Halse informed members that initial enquires had confirmed that the freehold property was subject to a restrictive covenant. It was RESOLVED to await further information.

Accounts

512 The Responsible Finance Officer reported that that he had successfully negotiated a new contract for the supply of gas and electricity for next 2 years which was an improvement of the current arrangement.

513 The Responsible Finance Officer reported that that he had successfully negotiated a 50% reduction of the sum payable to the Performing Rights Society.

514 DONATIONS REQUESTS

514.1 Porthmawr Surf Life Saving Club letter of 1st February 2015. It was RESOLVED to donate £1000.

Correspondence

515 Bruno Peek e-mail of 4th February Battle's Over tribute 11th November 2018 was received and RESOLVED to be approved in principle.

516 Gill Lewis e-mail of 8th February 2015 Eco City Group meeting date was received.

517 Josh Phillips e-mail of 11th February 2015 responding to Cllr Evans' query relating to Cllr Phillips' letter to Pembrokeshire County Council regarding Ysgol Dewi Sant and, published in the Western Telegraph, was received. It was RESOLVED to request a copy of the original letter.

518 Cllr Evans e-mail of 11th February 2015 Consultation document - Reforming local government was received.

519 Allan Hare e-mail of 12th February 2015 New Off Street Parking Order was received.

520 Jude Parr e-mail of 13th February 2015 advising of dates for upcoming PACT meetings was received.

521 Cllr Taylor e-mail of 13th February 2015 St Davids Matsieng Link was received.

522 Cllr Evans e-mail of 12th February 2015 Dates of upcoming Council meetings was received. It was RESOLVED that the City Council would meet on the following dates: Monday 9th March, Monday 23rd March, Monday 13th April, Monday 27th April, Monday 11th May, Monday 1st June, Monday 15th June, Monday 6th July and Monday 20th July.

Planning

523 C6/15 Works to sycamore - 30% Crown reduction at Penrhiw Hotel. It was RESOLVED to support the application.

Any other business

524 Cllr Halse informed members that good progress had been made clearing redundant items from the balcony. Cllr George requested permission to dispose of the Council's broken electrical equipment. It was RESOLVED to approve the request.

525 Cllr Taylor informed members that the drains in The Pebbles were once again hazardous. Cllr George and Lloyd reported that there was an additional trip hazard between the National Trust Shop and G Davies & Sons in the High Street. It was RESOLVED to inform Pembrokeshire County Council.

526 Cllr Gray informed members that he had been approached by Mrs Carole Lloyd with a request to polish the WWI plaques in the Memorial Hall. It was RESOLVED to include the item for discussion on the next agenda.

527 Cllr Evans informed members that in response to the County Council's decision to cancel Fish Week, Milford Haven Port Authority were to hold a Fish Fair.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.00pm

Signed

Date

Chair

Minutes of the Special Meeting of the City Council on Friday 27th February 2015 at the Council Chamber at 11.30am.

Present: Mayor DB Halse, Deputy Mayor FD John, ES Evans, DJH George, MC Gray, MGD James, K Rose, CT Taylor S Williams with CH Gray (Clerk). Rt Revd W Evans, Canon B Witt.

Apologies for Absence: DJO Chant (holiday), DJH George (eisteddfod), JG Lloyd (illness), BT Price (prior engagement).

522 Declarations of Interest: Members were requested to identify any declarations of personal or prejudicial interests that they might have in relation to items on the agenda.

522.1 Cllr James declared a personal interest in relation to Item 206 (Community Governor).

522.2 Cllr Taylor declared a personal interest in relation to Item 206.

Matters arising

523 REVIEW OF SECONDARY EDUCATION IN THE ST DAVIDS AREA Following Pembrokeshire County Council's decision to support the Director for Children & Schools recommendation to "*Reduce the age range at Ysgol Dewi Sant from 11-19 to 11-16... Post 16 provision to be provided in a new integrated sixth form centre as part of a formal collaboration between the County Council and Pembrokeshire College, subject to formal governance arrangements being agreed.*" the City Council met with the Right Reverend Wyn Evans, Bishop of St Davids and Canon Bryan Witt, Diocesan Director of Education to discuss the proposal.

523.1 The Mayor welcomed the Bishop and Canon Witt to the meeting and asked if they could clarify the nature of the Church's interest and support amid the recent speculation surrounding the future of Ysgol Dewi Sant.

523.2 Canon Witt explained that he first became party to discussions relating to Ysgol Dewi Sant in 2013 when he was approached by the Chair of Governors to explore the possibility of Ysgol Dewi Sant becoming a Voluntary Aided secondary school. Following the initial approach Canon Witt visited YDS and was very impressed, particularly with the school's provision of Religious Education courses. He then went on to meet with Kate Evan-Hughes, the then Head of Education at Pembrokeshire County Council together with the school's Governing Body to put forward a proposal for YDS to become an 11-19 VA secondary school with extended catchment area. This option was subsequently amended by the LEA to a 3-19 merger with Ysgol Bro Dewi and included in the preliminary consultation document published in March 2014.

523.3 Canon Witt expressed his concern that there seemed little desire for a VA secondary school option within the LEA and confirmed that in order to merge with Ysgol Bro Dewi, Ysgol Dewi Sant would first need to change its legal status from a community school to a voluntary aided school.

523.4 The Bishop stated that the most vulnerable option for the school was to change to a 11-16 community school and that he felt this would likely lead to the school's ultimate closure in the future.

523.5 Cllr Evans asked whether the LEA had the power to refuse to support the church's proposal to change the status from community school to VA secondary school?

523.6 Canon Witt explained that previously the church could submit a bid to change a school's status to VA and the LEA were invited to support the proposal. Now however, the LEA has the legal power to propose that a school's status be changed to VA and the church are invited to support the bid.

523.7 Cllr Taylor asked whether the Diocese could clarify the recent speculation that a merger with Ysgol Bro Dewi was the best option for the secondary school, given that it would first need to become a VA in its own right?

- 523.8 Canon Witt explained that the legal requirement for YDS to become a VA was a relatively small piece in the jigsaw, albeit a necessary one and that a legal document changing the school's status would suffice.
- 523.9 The Bishop explained that 'through schools' seemed to be an option preferred by the Welsh Government at present and that a 3-19 VA option may well be looked on more favourably than a 11-19 VA secondary school.
- 523.10 Cllr James (community governor at Ysgol Dewi Sant) reported that the headteacher's first priority was the education of the school children, in particular that they could be taught in the St Davids area. Cllr James confirmed that the Governors at YDS were very keen to retain the 6th Form but that the cost of providing A levels was very expensive. Other secondary schools in the area including Fishguard and Sir Thomas Picton want to retain their post 16 provision. Cllr James stated that she hoped that the Diocese could "come in".
- 523.11 The Bishop confirmed that the Diocese was determined to support the future of Ysgol Dewi Sant.
- 523.12 Cllr James stated that she was pleased that at recent public meetings there was a strong presence of parents from all primary schools linked to Ysgol Dewi Sant, not just Ysgol Bro Dewi which she found encouraging.
- 523.13 Cllr John stated that the future of Ysgol Dewi Sant affected the whole community not just the schools.
- 523.14 Cllr Halse asked the Bishop and Canon Witt whether the City Council would need to wait for the Statutory Consultation document to be published in order to learn if the primary school was mentioned in any of the options.
- 523.15 Cllr Evans informed members that the options as contained in the Director's report were all that were included on the County Council's website advertising public meetings and that the consultation process was set to run from 23rd March to 1st May 2015.
- 523.16 The Bishop sought clarification of the views of Ysgol Dewi Sant's Governing Body, in particular their support for a change of status to a VA school.
- 523.17 Cllr James confirmed that as far as she was aware none of the Governors were opposed to YDS becoming a VA school, but that the Governing Body had not passed a formal resolution stating that they wanted to become a VA school.
- 523.18 The Bishop confirmed that in order for a change of status to be included in the statutory consultation document, a Minute recording the Governing Body's formal resolution was essential. The Bishop was very concerned that no extraordinary meeting of the Governors had yet been called to discuss the proposal.
- 523.19 Cllr Halse stated that he was aware of some concern within the community at this stage regarding the potential closure of the Ysgol Bro Dewi site if a 3-19 merger was to take place. Cllr Gray stated that he too was concerned at the thought of losing a relatively new school.
- 523.20 The Bishop stated that he felt a 3-16 school might not obtain support from other primary schools where as an 11-19 secondary school would. If YDS stated that they wanted to change status and the change was to take place, a VA school would more likely have the autonomy to keep the 6th Form.
- 523.21 Canon Witt stated that the County Council's preference appeared to be for some form of 'super school' and that in order to guarantee the future of YDS a proposal would need to be put forward containing an option that is sustainable in the long term. Canon Witt reminded the Councillors that a VA secondary school option was supported by the RC Diocese of Menevia and that including catholic primary schools as feeders would widen the catchment area of pupils. Canon Witt confirmed that in VA schools 51% of the governors have to be nominated by the Diocese.
- 523.22 Cllr Evans asked whether the LEA would have a duty to provide transport to Ysgol Dewi Sant if it was the only faith secondary school in the county?
- 523.23 Canon Witt confirmed that as the rules stand, the LEA were obliged to provide transport, however recent regulations are set to change the obligation to a discretionary power.

- 523.24 The Bishop informed members that the RC Diocese of Menevia was presently involved in a High Court case deciding this matter and that reserved judgement was expected sometime after Easter, though either party could choose to exercise their right to appeal. If the RRC Diocese was successful, in theory the whole county could become the catchment area of a VA secondary school.
- 523.25 Cllr Evans asked whether Ysgol Dewi Sant would lose the opportunity to obtain 21st century funding if it became an 11-19 VA secondary school.
- 523.26 The Bishop confirmed that as a VA Secondary school, Ysgol Dewi Sant would qualify as 'transitional' within the criteria for funding.
- 523.27 Cllr Halse asked the Bishop and Canon Witt what their advice would be to Ysgol Bro Dewi especially if YDS Governors wanted to push for a 3-19 VA school and Bro Dewi did not?
- 523.28 Canon Witt stated that the key issue was sustainability and that the option most likely to be accepted by the Welsh Government was a 3-19 VA school. While the church's real preference would be an 11-19 VA secondary school, a 3-19 VA school on two sites might be more realistic.
- 523.29 Cllr Evans stated that she felt that the County Councillors had been deliberately kept in the dark about the possible VA option and that it would be useful if they (the County Councillors) were to be given the facts.
- 523.30 The Clerk reminded members that in the recent letter sent on behalf of the City Council to County Councillors, surprise and disappointment was expressed at the Director's failure to include the VA options as proposed by the City Council in the preliminary consultation.
- 523.31 The Clerk asked the Bishop and Canon Witt whether they could perhaps meet with the Governing Body of Ysgol Dewi Sant to discuss the potential change of the school's status?
- 523.32 Canon Witt replied that the Diocese could only respond to a formal consultation and that Ysgol Dewi Sant would need to want the church to be involved, they (the Diocese) could not be seen to interfere with the administration of a community school.
- 523.33 The Bishop reiterated that it was for the Governors of Ysgol Dewi Sant to instigate a change of status. The Diocese had no right to take it upon themselves to do so.
- 523.34 Cllr Halse stated that his interpretation of public feeling was that there was some degree of support for Ysgol Dewi Sant to remain a community school if the age range was to change to 11-16, but that there seemed to be a sense of 'added value' for a change of status to VA if the age range was to remain as 11-19.
- 523.35 Cllr Taylor asked Canon Witt and the Bishop where they felt the City Council should go from here?
- 523.36 The Bishop replied that supporting an 11-19 VA option first, with a view to supporting a 3-19 through school at some time in the future, would probably be the best way of ensuring continued education provision.
- 523.37 Canon Witt confirmed that the Diocese was aware that a steering group had been established. Canon Witt stated that retaining 'sustainable education within the peninsula' was vital.
- 523.38 Cllr James stated she was pleased to report that Ysgol Dewi Sant's finances were satisfactory.

The Mayor thanked the City Councillors, the Bishop and Canon Witt for attending and there being no further business the meeting closed at 12.30pm

Signed

Date

Chair