

**Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Council on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2008 in the Council Chamber at 7.00pm.**

**Present:** MGD James as Mayor in the Chair, DJO Chant Deputy-Mayor, JW Braby, DJH George, MC Gray, SJ Halse, JG Lloyd, BT Price, C T Taylor, RJ Thornton with PL Evans (Responsible Finance Officer) and DC Menday (Clerk).

**607 Apologies for Absence:** AM Foster ( Family commitment), FJ Godkin (Indisposed), S Williams ( work commitment)

**608 Declarations of Interest:**

Members and Officers were reminded to make any declarations of personal and/or prejudicial interest that they might have in relation to items on this agenda.

G James, J George, R Thornton and the Clerk declared an interest as a governor of Ysgol Dewi Sant in relation to item 610. J George declared interest as a member of Pembrokeshire County Council and Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority.

**609 Confirmation of Minutes for:**

- 609.1 Council Monthly Meeting on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2008 – after an amendment was presented and accepted they were RESOLVED to be approved.
- 609.2 ‘In Committee’ Minutes of the Council Monthly Meeting on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2008 – were RESOLVED to be accepted and approved.
- 609.3 Second Meeting of the Month on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2008 – were RESOLVED to be accepted and approved.

**Matters arising from the Minutes:**

**610 SPORTS and LEISURE FACILITIES.** No further information had been received.

**611 PROJECTS and WORKS:**

- 611.1 Memorial Playing Fields.  
Tenders for new access ramp and bus shelter - RESOLVED: That under section 100 (A) of the Local Government Act 1972, that this item of business be considered at the end of the meeting when the public and press be excluded from the meeting on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information.
- 611.2 Whitesands Car Park – Quotations for Re-surfacing work – consideration was deferred until the next meeting as the Clerk was awaiting further details.
- 611.3 City Hall Development – Discussion Paper deferred from the previous meeting was RESOLVED to be considered at a special meeting on Monday 10 March at 7.30pm.

**OTHER MATTERS ARISING:****612 St Davids Day Activities Review:**

The weekend events had been successful with the following points being noted:-

- 612.1 Best Cawl in St Davids Competition – future community involvement was necessary to continue the event.

Winners:-

First Old Cross Hotel  
Second Farmers Arms  
Third Lawtons at No 16

- 612.2 St Davids Day Floral Trail Competition - congratulations were offered to Stephanie Halse and Debbie O’Brien for their organisation of a well supported activity with St Davids being very well decorated. The results were as follows:-

St Davids Day Flower Trail Winners

Residential Category:

First Place: Eluned and Islwyn Phillips 3 Bryn Teg  
Second Place: Janice Williams 18 Nun Street  
Third Place: Nan George 54 Heol Dewi

Highly Commended were:-

Dorothy Rees 60 New Street  
Peter Gregory 6 Pen y Garn  
Aloma Foster 3 Heol Dewi

## Business Category:

First Place: Pembrokeshire Machinery Ring

Second Place: Belmont House

Third Place: Mathias Hardware

## Highly Commended were:-

Jones's

The Bench

Ystwyth Stores

- 612.3 Goodwill Message – successful with excellent efforts by the children of both schools being taken all the way to Cardiff.
- 612.4 Market on the Cross Square had worked well with the new stalls. The next market was planned for 1 May 2008.
- 612.5 Thanks were offered to the Clerk for co-ordination the various activities, and a need for more volunteers who are allocated to specific activities being required next year.
- 612.6 The Council dinner in the Old Cross Hotel, with attendance of HRH Prince Seeiso as High Commissioner for Lesotho, the Deputy Mayor of Naas Councillor Seamus Moore and Town Clerk Maura McIvor had been enjoyed with the innovation of a musical item by 3 Cathedral Choristers being much appreciated.
- 612.7 Thanks were offered to the Mayor for her hard work over what was a very busy weekend.
- 612.8 Lesotho Link - Clerk reported that Prince Seeiso had been in contact since his visit on St.Davids Day and progress with various activities including scholarships for children and various initiatives for tourism was in progress. It was agreed to assess what is appropriate as far as providing support from the Council is concerned as well as encouraging a broader community response.

**613** Fair Trade City Status – little progress with the application was reported by the Clerk.

**614** Precept – following a brief discussion it was RESOLVED to continue as in the past and not use a precept.

**615** Tidal Turbines in Ramsey Sound: Scoping Opinion Consultation - Above ground power supply poles – awaits Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority reply on whether there is a need for permission. Further clarification

**616** RESOLVED: That under section 100 (A) of the Local Government Act 1972, that this item of business be considered at the end of the meeting when the public and press be excluded from the meeting on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information.

City Hall Flat and Caretaker – Bissmire Fudge & Co letter of 18 February 2008.

**617** CK's Parking and Road Safety – Discussion with the Police and Pembrokeshire County Council were noted as ongoing.

**618 County Councillor's Report.** Items both presented and currently being followed up by Councillor J George were:-

- 618.1 Pavements – awaiting a response regarding the removal of paving slabs and replacement with concrete and the associated deterioration of appearance.
- 618.2 30mph speed warning sign by Ysgol Dewi Sant - this had now been removed after an extended period. This was of concern as it had been effective and it was agreed to ask for re-instatement of the sign.
- 618.3 Under age drinking club and nuisance behaviour in New Street was noted.
- 618.4 Allocation of local housing relating to a property in Pen y Garn – this matter was raised previously and expressed concerns regarding a need for priority for local people:-
- 618.4.1 The priority for housing allocation to assist local people was RESOLVED to be re-presented to the Welsh Assembly Government.
- 618.4.2 Allocation for families who have bought council houses was noted as unacceptable.
- 618.5 Use of speed camera that was part funded by the City Council – it was RESOLVED to ask the police for details of its use in St.Davids.
- 618.6 Resurfacing of Heol Dewi was RESOLVED to be requested again given the repeated delays in starting the work.

**Correspondence**

- 619** Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority letter 24 January 2008 Consultation on the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Management Plan, Local Development Plan and associated Appraisal that closes on 7 April 2008 was RESOLVED to be considered at a meeting on Monday 10 March at 7.30pm.
- 620** Welsh Assembly Government letter of 7 February 2008 Local Government Member Code of Conduct Section 183: Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 it was RESOLVED to accept the revised information and the Clerk circulated new declarations for signature and return.
- 621** Kidney Wales Foundation – Invitation to join the Kidney Wales Foundation Walk for Life Sunday 30 March 2008 it was RESOLVED to donate £50.
- 622** British Humanist Association email of 15 February 2008 – Face to Face Briefing was RESOLVED to be received.
- 623** The Church in Wales, St Davids Diocese letter of 13 February 2008 - Catalyst 2008 was RESOLVED to be received.
- 624** Membership of One Voice Wales 2008/9 was RESOLVED to be received.
- 625** PALC letter received on 1 March 2008 - Membership renewal for 2008/9 for the fee of £150 was RESOLVED to be approved.
- 626** Christina Williams ICYE-UK letter received 18 February 2008 regarding financial support was RESOLVED to be received.  
 626.1 The principle of creating a small fund of say around £250 for consideration of an annual distribution for such opportunities in the future was to be considered and the powers associated with such a prospect were to be assessed by the Responsible Finance Officer.
- 627** Mr and Mrs Arter letter of thanks for 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary bouquet was RESOLVED to be received.
- 628** Ambulance Service request for free hire of the Memorial Hall for First Responders Training – was RESOLVED to be accepted.
- 629** Festival Arts email of 1 March seeking a venue for the long standing summer concerts (40<sup>th</sup> Season) was discussed and the Clerk was to liaise with the group over any possibilities.
- 630** Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority letter of 29 February 2008 giving the new name of Oriel y Parc for the Gallery was RESOLVED to be received.
- 631** Christmas Street Lighting damage it was noted that no further action was being contemplated by the police.
- 632** Roger Casey Associates – letter of 20 February 2008 with structural assessment report was RESOLVED to be received with no action required regarding the structure. It was noted that the mechanism at the top of the flag pole was not ideal but would be reconsidered in the future.
- 633** DONATIONS under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972.
- 633.1 Letters of thanks:-
- 633.1.1 Pembrokeshire Counselling Service letter of 23 February 2008 for donation of £50.
- 633.1.2 Tall Ships Adventures – emails of thanks from Tom Thurstan on 7 February 2008 and Hallam Richardson on 9 February 2008, and a letter of thanks from Stephen Becket of 12 February 2008.
- 633.2 Donation requests:
- 633.2.1 Withybush 87.7FM – Hospital Radio donation request of 14 February 2008 – it was RESOLVED to donate £50.
- 633.2.2 Llangollen International Festival donation request received 15 February 2008 was RESOLVED to be received.
- 633.2.3 Shalom Fundraising Committee donation request of 18 February 2008 - it was RESOLVED to donate £100. Responsible Financial Officer noted his interest as treasurer.
- 633.2.3.1 It was also noted that the Mayor was holding a coffee morning in aid of Shalom and it was RESOLVED to provide the hall for no charge.

**Clerk's Business:**

**634 RESOLVED:** That under section 100 (A) of the Local Government Act 1972, that this item of business be considered at the end of the meeting when the public and press be excluded from the meeting on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information.

Future Plans for the City Council.

**635** Newsletter – Clerk reported on the lack of feedback regarding community matters, there were however numerous supportive responses received and thanks were offered to the Clerk for providing the newsletter.

**Planning:**

**636** NP/07/674 Retention of garden shed and polytunnel at Cartref, Rhodiad-y-Brenin – it was **RESOLVED** to offer **COUNCIL SUPPORT**.

**637** NP/08/047 Listed Building application - Overhaul windows, repair cracks to render & decorate, replace rainwater goods, overhaul stained glass panels to front door and overlight at 47 Nun Street – it was **RESOLVED** to offer **COUNCIL SUPPORT**.

**638** NP/08/083 Use existing external bar between hours of 10am and 11pm from 15 March – 30 September at the Farmer's Arms, Goat Street – it was **RESOLVED NOT** to offer **COUNCIL SUPPORT** on the grounds of noise being reported in the area. M Gray declared a personal interest and did not take part in discussion or vote thereon.

**639** NP/08/091 Alterations to 2 Royal Crescent, 45 Nun Street – it was **RESOLVED** to offer **COUNCIL SUPPORT**.

**640** NP/08/094 (Listed Building) Lime roughcast to rear, north and south gables, replace guttering with cast iron at Upper Treginnis Farm– it was **RESOLVED** to offer **COUNCIL SUPPORT**.

**641** NP/08/097 Listed Building application - Alterations to 2 Royal Crescent, 45 Nun Street – it was **RESOLVED** to offer **COUNCIL SUPPORT**.

**642** NP/07/484 Higney, Rhodiad-y-Brenin application for a Certificate of Lawfulness previously supported by the Council  
642.1 J Nickalls letter of 29 February 2008 was read and it was **RESOLVED** to be acknowledged and the letter forwarded to Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority.

**643 Accounts:**

643.1 Internal Audit for January 2008 had been undertaken and was **RESOLVED** to be accepted and approved.

643.2 Accounts for February.

Balances: (23/02/08)      Current Account £29,874.      Premier Account £48,059.

Butherway Ltd	349.45
Stephen Beckett	300.00
Viking Direct	82.87
Swalec (Xmas lights)	65.69
Pembs CC (Trade waste)	74.59
Bookers Ltd	53.05
Cartlett Home & Garden (trolley)	62.00
B T	175.56
Market Makers (stalls)	10222.50
B T	326.80
D C Menday (28/02)	1271.72
P L Evans (28/02)	214.75
CK's St Davids Day supplies	220.68
P Lavin	353.10
J Phillips	85.60
Old Cross Hotel	1170.60
Cathedral Festival Choir Fund	100.00
Viking	168.00

Chairs	1014.03
Phoenix press	703.00
Frances Northall	40.00
Glasfryn Engraving	180.00

PERIOD 1.4.07 - 23.02.08	INCOME	EXPENDITURE £	BALANCE for PERIOD £
TOTAL	200023	202576	-2553
Car Park	132203	35196	97007
City Hall	13837	18528	-4691
Admin		32860	-32860

Donations from 01/04/2007

Dyfed Powys Police Auth	250.00
Withybush 87.7FM	50.00
Celtic Coaster	1000.00
Shelter Cymru	50.00
Urdd Gobaith Cymru	25.00
Saints Junior Rugby	300.00
Artswave	100.00
British Red Cross	100.00
Royal British Legion	50.00
Macmillan Cancer Support	103.00
St Davids Cathedral Cemetery	400.00
Tretio Chapel	100.00
Caerfarchell Chapel	100.00
Berea Chapel	100.00
St Nons Bro Cerwyn Centre	50.00
Bobby Van Scheme	25.00
Urdd Gobaith Cymru	25.00
Samaritans	100.00
CAB	100.00
St Davids Cathedral Festival	750.00
Pembs Counselling Service	50.00

643.3 Permission to pay the accounts was RESOLVED to be granted.

**Mayor's Business**

**644** Buses in St.Davids - several concerns were raised regarding inappropriate behaviour relating to local buses and their drivers and these were to be followed up with the operator.

**645** Waun Fawr – it was noted that the use of the pitch would be for training purposes for rugby only while information relating to the Football Club's future needs were awaited.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.00pm

Signed .....

Chair

Date.....

**‘In Committee’ Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Council on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2008 in the Council Chamber at 7.00pm.**

**Present:** MGD James as Mayor in the Chair, DJO Chant Deputy-Mayor, JW Braby, DJH George, MC Gray, SJ Halse, JG Lloyd, BT Price, CT Taylor, RJ Thornton with PL Evans (Responsible Finance Officer) and DC Menday (Clerk).

**646 Apologies for Absence:** AM Foster (Family commitment), FJ Godkin (Indisposed) and S Williams (Work commitment).

**Business:**

**647** Memorial Playing Fields – Access Ramp and Bus Shelter.

**648** City Hall Flat and Caretaker

**649** Future Planning

**650** House Allocation

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.00pm

Signed .....  
Chair

Date.....

Minutes of the Second Meeting of the Month on Monday 10 March 2008 in the Council Chamber at 7.30pm.

Present: MGD James as Mayor in the Chair, DJO Chant Deputy-Mayor, JW Braby, AM Foster, DJH George, MC Gray, SJ Halse, JG Lloyd, CT Taylor, RJ Thornton, S Williams and DC Menday (Clerk).

652 Apologies for Absence: F Godkin (indisposed), BT Price and PL Evans.

653 Declarations of Interest:

Members and Officers were reminded to make any declarations of personal and/or prejudicial interest that they might have in relation to items on this agenda.

D Chant and M Gray declared in relation items within the Local Development Plan.

Matters arising from the 3 March Monthly Meeting:

654 WHITESANDS CAR PARK

RESOLVED By virtue of The Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public are excluded from discussions on the following items on the basis that disclosure thereof would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

Tenders for applying tarmac to the western half of the car park.

The meeting then came out of 'Committee'.

655 WHITESANDS BEACH CAFÉ ROOF

Clerk noted that the 'Rheinzink' cladding on the western side of the building had lifted in the recent storm and wind was now getting underneath about half of the roof. While the extent of repairs are clarified following a site visit by the original contractor, Carreg Construction Ltd the response from the specialist roofing contractor, Messrs J E Gibbings was awaited. It was agreed to notify the insurers of the situation while information was awaited from Rheinzink.

656 CITY HALL DEVELOPMENT

Clerk's Discussion Paper of 31 January 2008 was considered and it was generally agreed to proceed with ideas to develop the hall and it was RESOLVED to investigate various aspects of a new design namely:-

- 656.1 To request surveyor Mr M Davies to look at design.
- 656.2 To seek suppliers to provide information on temporary toilet facilities.
- 656.3 To look at a new design for use of the balcony, including re-assessing structural design and the retention of storage.
- 656.4 To consider new designs of lift to access the balcony and upper floor.
- 656.5 To further assess use of the City Hall Flat.
- 656.6 Consider the community needs eg elderly services.
- 656.7 It was RESOLVED to meet with Andrew Phillips of Carreg Construction Ltd with a view to feasibility study.

657 CONSULTATION ON PEMBROKESHIRE COAST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY DEVELOPMENT PLANS:-

- 657.1 Local Development Plan (end date 2021) and National Park Authority Management Plan 2008 -2012 and Appraisal were discussed at length and responses were noted and agreed to be submitted.
- 657.2 A full response to the Consultation Questionnaire *Have we got it right?* was then discussed and agreed to be submitted.

Clerk's Business:

658 HSBC Cross Square – Information received indicating a reduction in summer opening hours to be as winter – it was RESOLVED to write to HSBC noting disappointment at the planned reduction and to request that full opening hours be continued.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.30pm

Signed .....  
Chair

Date.....

**‘In Committee’ Minutes of the Second Meeting of the Month on Monday 10 March 2008 in the Council Chamber at 7.30pm.**

**Present:** MGD James as Mayor in the Chair, DJO Chant Deputy-Mayor, JW Braby, AM Foster, DJH George, MC Gray, SJ Halse, JG Lloyd, CT Taylor, RJ Thornton, S Williams and DC Menday (Clerk).

**659 Apologies for Absence:** F Godkin (indisposed), BT Price and PL Evans.

**660 Declarations of Interest:**

Members and Officers were reminded to make any declarations of personal and/or prejudicial interest that they might have in relation to items on this agenda.

**Matters arising from the 3 March Monthly Meeting:**

**661** Whitesands Car Park – Tenders for applying tarmac to the western half of the car park. Details of tenders were discussed and are noted as:-

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.30pm

Signed .....  
Chair

Date.....



**Third Meeting of the Month on Monday 17 March 2008 in the Council Chamber at 7.00pm.**

**Present:** MGD James as Mayor in the Chair, DJO Chant Deputy-Mayor, JW Braby, DJH George, CT Taylor, S Williams and DC Munday (Clerk).

Andy Middleton - Ecosapiens Sustainability Solutions  
Gill Lewis Secretary of St.Davids Eco City Group

**662 Apologies for Absence:** F Godkin, SJ Halse, JG Lloyd, RJ Thornton and PL Evans.

**663 ST DAVIDS ECO CITY UPDATE**

The Mayor welcomed Andy Middleton and Gill Lewis to the meeting.

**General Environmental Position of St Davids**

Andy Middleton was invited to provide an update on the whole Eco City Initiative and key points of his view were noted as:-

- 663.1 Substantial changes have occurred in the 10 years since there were initial discussions with the Council and the state of play is such that it can be difficult to have a sense of what is happening?
- 663.2 Nationally the UK Government target to reduce carbon dioxide emissions is 60% by 2050, others vary in their targets eg some US based figures suggest a need for 90% reduction by 2020. There was some consensus that a 2 degree temperature rise will create major changes.
- 663.3 St Davids was reported in the recent WWF assessment to have a relatively high carbon footprint given the road transport needs linked to its relatively isolated location. Given the trends in place the community could ask what could happen, as is the case with many communities elsewhere?
- 663.4 Other influences noted include :-
  - 663.4.1 The Peak Oil concept when the production of oil cannot meet demand. For some this had now arrived but information was varied in its accuracy and the link with the pricing of oil and the various impacts on price of oil both within the ground and the cost of extraction had substantial effects.
  - 663.4.2 Business as usual is no longer an option as energy and climate changes will affect many areas of life, the example of fertilizers, that are 70% oil derived, being typical.
  - 663.4.3 A very high proportion of food comes to St Davids by road.
- 663.5 Key Prospect – Transition Town Movement
  - 663.5.1 Around 300 UK towns have or are in the process of getting approved transition Town status. The opportunity given by looking at this approach is to imagine a community as being self sustaining with a re-localised economy working with local food production to retain supply and energy provision so providing local independence and community security from both energy and food perspectives.
- 663.6 Looking back there have been numerous major changes since the original discussions held 10 years ago.

**Eco City Group Work**

Gill Lewis then outlined the work of the Eco City Group and other efforts already underway in St Davids that cover many of the requirements of becoming a Transition Town:-.

- 663.7 Whitesands toilets – installation of solar energy panels and rain water harvesting.
- 663.8 Bio diesel supply point is continuing.
- 663.9 Domestic insulation and energy efficiency assessments have been encouraged.
- 663.10 Carbon footprint trail – includes work in schools as a part of the raising of awareness.
- 663.11 Plastic recycling by volunteers now based at the Civic Amenity Centre was successful. This is part of the huge potential to reduce waste going to landfill.
- 663.12 Cotton bags to reduce plastic waste were available but the removal of plastic bags from use had not been initiated in St.Davids.
- 663.13 Allotment Group had been created with a need for land required. This could assist extend the provision of locally grown food through horticulture, as well as agriculture and will increase local jobs.

- 663.14 Active recycling - small workshops to repair rather than dispose of items could be created. Continuity of skills – traditional repairing skills are being lost and efforts to re-establish them should be considered.
- 663.15 Efforts were in hand to obtain INTERREG funding for an officer to visit within the locality and advise on energy and related matters.
- 663.16 Cardiff MSc architecture students are currently investigating possibilities for improvement of various buildings.
- 663.17 What does the City Council want to do?
- 663.17.1 Success of Christmas Street lighting, what about energy improvements to the ordinary street lighting?
- 663.17.2 Sea bed turbines connection with E-ON, what additional benefits could be obtained from this scheme?
- 663.17.3 Can we envision what St.Davids would be like when we save 60% of the carbon dioxide output from St Davids – where will this leave St.Davids and where does leadership come from for the next step, is this a role for St. Davids City Council or the community or National Government? It was felt that we can not wait for national government.

Information on Transition Towns and video links will be provided by Andy Middleton.

Having had a successful reduction in Christmas street lighting energy can this expand into all street lighting; given the prospects of the tidal energy project in Ramsey Sound are there additional benefits from this scheme for the locality.

#### Questions and Discussion:

In a wide ranging discussion the following points were noted:-

- 663.18 Scale of problems such as air travel is so big that the impact of any local effort can seem negligible. There is a need for rail development rather than roads. How can you go backwards with society?
- 663.19 The potential for St.Davids to influence is considerable on account of both the number of visitors and particularly from the visiting Cardiff based politicians so the local impact is far greater than from a similar size 'village' community that has less national significance.
- 663.20 Influences – will tourism drop off because of the cost of fuel or will it increase as it is cheaper than flying elsewhere? Hopefully we will have green tourism in St.Davids to survive as a sustainable tourist destination while not making the A40 a dual carriageway.
- 663.21 There was support for a more detailed evaluation as to where we go as a community.
- 663.22 Recycling - Grey bags are for 100% recycling of plastics. Orange bags may be coming in July but will only take plastic bottles, a comment being made that they are not needed now.
- 663.23 PLANED are to produce a fridge magnet with recycling information for everyone in the community
- 663.24 Eco City AGM is on Wednesday 2 April 2008 and everyone was welcome.
- 663.25 Now plastic recycling has been a success need to look at the next project eg food?
- 663.26 Spatial Plan for Wales contains nothing about Peak Oil and the thinking about sustainability is limited.
- 663.27 The City Council and its community depends on the Whitesands car park being full with visitors traveling to St.Davids, this is a potential clash of interest.
- 663.28 In 10 years there is likely to be nothing like the same number of cars coming to St.Davids. Rather than look at concerns of the detail of what will happen, why not set up groups to look at the broader aspects of future change?
- 663.29 Start on the small matters and let them grow.
- 663.30 Fairtrade - how can encouraging Fairtrade be rationalised with carbon footprint reduction? – It was noted that the key Fairtrade products are only available from tropical sources.
- 663.31 Grow local biomass fuels and look at how set aside land could be utilised more effectively.

663.32 Set aspirations at another meeting eg become the city with the highest levels of recycling?

663.33 As there are limited resources by way of books in schools on the subject under discussion would the Council consider contributing in some way such as a library contribution?

663.34 Next target – eg Self sufficiency project under the City Council supported by Eco City. Possibly host a community supper on the topic.

663.35 Community aspirations to be addressed as well as the more ‘technical’ improvements.

**664 Allotment – Land for Auction.**

Further to the previous community request in accordance with Section 23 of the Allotments Act 1908 for the provision of allotments. Information on an auction sale for small plots of land that could be suitable was considered and it was agreed to call an additional meeting to discuss the matter on Tuesday 25 March 2008 at 6pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.25pm

Signed .....  
Chair

Date.....

**‘In Committee’ Minutes of the Fourth Meeting of the Month of the Council on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2008 in the Council Chamber at 6.00pm.**

**Present:** MGD James as Mayor in the Chair, DJO Chant Deputy-Mayor, JW Braby, AM Foster, DJH George, SJ Halse, JG Lloyd, CT Taylor, S Williams and DC Menday (Clerk).

**651 Apologies for Absence:** FJ Godkin, MC Gray and PL Evans.

**652 RESOLVED:** That under section 100 (A) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information.

**653 Provision of Allotments and an Auction Sale of Agricultural Land.**

A request from the St Davids Allotment Group (email of 12 March 2008) for the Council to consider purchase of land for use as allotment gardens at an auction on Friday 28 March 2008 had been received and this additional meeting had been duly agreed by the Mayor to discuss the request.

Particulars of the auction sale had been circulated with the notice of the meeting and there was a potential interest for the Council in Lot 3, an almost 1 acre field accessed from the Rhodiad-y-Brenin Road almost opposite St Davids RFC.

Councillor S Williams reported on her discussion with the estate agents JJ Morris and it was indicated that substantial offers for the 3 lots well in excess of local agricultural land values had already been received and rejected by the vendor.

In considering whether to purchase the land in principle the following points were noted:-

- Lot 3 that is adjacent to the road could be organised into allotment gardens and it would require improved access and a water supply.
- It was unclear exactly how many allotment gardens could be accommodated but it was felt to be a very reasonable number given the shape of the field available.
- The indicated value of the land in the details was high being £5-10,000 per acre, yet there was a real potential benefit for the community particularly with the current trend to grow produce locally that fitted in well with the St Davids Eco City aspirations.
- The feeling from members associated with agriculture was that the price would probably exceed the guidelines given the local interest and figures of £12 – 15,000 per acre were possible whereas agricultural land would more normally be around £4000 per acre.
- While the initial enthusiasm of the Allotment Group was encouraging, it was unclear as to what level of commitment would be forthcoming.
- It was felt that longer term land price trends would continue to increase locally despite current economic constraints.
- Likely rentals for allotments were traditionally very low, even so it was felt that a longer term return on the investment was possible and the prospects for capital value growth were very reasonable.
- The provision of garden sheds was questioned given Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority planning constraints but it was understood that sheds without a floor may be able to be used.

RESOLVED ..

There being no further business the meeting closed at 6.35pm

Signed .....  
Chair

Date.....