

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Council on Monday 6th June 2022 in the Memorial Hall at 7.00pm.

Present: Mayor RJ Thornton, Deputy Mayor ES Evans, D Griffiths, J Jeremy, FD John, B Lloyd, C Plant, BT Price, R Price, BS Sehmi, N Walsh, S Williams, with S Mann (Clerk) and W Mann (Responsible Finance Officer).

Before the meeting commenced a presentation of a bouquet of flowers and a Vincent Davies Gift Voucher was presented by the Mayor Cllr Richard Thornton to Mr & Mrs Phillips in acknowledgment for their long service to the council and to the community.

42 Apologies for Absence: Revd Canon Leigh Richardson, Sub Dean and Precentor, St. Davids Cathedral.**43 Declarations of Interest:** None.**44 Confirmation of Minutes for:**

- 44.1 The Council Monthly Meeting on Monday 9th May 2022 – agreed.

45 Matters Arising

- 45.1 Speed Warning Signs; Regarding resident's concerns Council agreed that it should meet with Mr Phil Legget to discuss removal and alternatives. Clerk to arrange.
- 45.2 Concerns raised by Mr Russ Evans and Ms Ann Evans noted by the Council.
- 45.3 Councillors' OneVoiceWales Training Modules. Councillors to liaise with Clerk.
- 45.4 Email dated 29th April from Ms Katy Fox. Noted.
- 45.5 See Cllr Bethan Price's email regarding street naming. Noted.
- 45.6 See Temporary Road Closure Consultation – Ffos Y Mynach. Noted.
- 45.7 Summer Newsletter – Clerk to discuss way forward with Chris Taylor and Deputy Clerk.
- 45.8 Letter of thanks to John and Glenys James; the meeting was pleased that the Clerk corresponded in Welsh.
- 45.9 Eco Dewi/Bee Friendly - Cllrs Thornton and Cllr Evans confirmed that Bee badges have been presented to all pupils at YPD St Nons Campus.

46 Report from Mr Alan York and regarding the possible asset transfer of the Scout Hut to St Davids City Council - this follows on from Item 422 of the 7th March 2022 meeting regarding the asset transfer of the St Davids Scout Hut– that the adoption and progress will continue subject to the decisions undertaken by the new council following the 5th May election. Mr York's presentation explained that the process consisted of a number of stages of which the pre-application stage (the subject of this report) is merely a *(non-prejudicial) statement of interest. Mr York explained to the meeting that detailed business plans and budgets – including independent surveys etc - would be issues that will arise at the second and later stages when the affordability of the transfer can be discussed in depth. The meeting RESOLVED that in principal it wished to support this pre-application stage but that any further decisions would depend heavily upon cost and affordability. It was also RESOLVED that Mr York should continue to represent the council's interest in the matter and that all stages of the application and all communications with all parties should be through and via the clerk's office.

47 COUNCIL PROPERTY

- 47.1 No Dogs signs – it was agreed that the signs should be stored at the Whitesands Carpark Ticket Office.
- 47.2 Provisional dates for any planned civic events were agreed and will be included into the Bookings Calendar.
- 47.3 Pump track:
 - 47.3.1 Postponement of works until August 2022 – the meeting noted this.
 - 47.3.2 The meeting noted that the postponement will have no material impact on the grant application. Clerk to arrange site meeting with contractor and Councillors.
 - 47.3.3 Pump Track Grant Application the meeting noted that St Davids City Council contribution to the project will be £10851.00 and it was RESOLVED that the Clerk will sign and return the agreement to proceed.
 - 47.3.4 Email from EcoDewi dated 19th May – Clerk to reply outlining budget constraints and Covid restrictions on consultations and its commitment to the contract scheduled to start after August 2022.
 - 47.3.5 The meeting noted the concern from EcoDewi regarding the possible removal of mature hedgerows and the Clerk’s advice to Gill Lewis that any “cutback” will be to facilitate the Pump Track construction only.
- 47.4 Re-paint of the lines at Whitesands Car Park; Quote for £800 (excluding materials) accepted and it was RESOLVED that Clerk should liaise with the contractors to commence – but only after the issue under 2.5 below has been resolved.
- 47.5 Painting of Whitesands Café metal-work – it was RESOLVED to obtain quotes.
- 47.6 Removal of sand accumulation in Whitesands Car Park – it was RESOLVED to liaise with Ian Meopham of PCNPA for advice and then arrange for immediate removal – a budget limit of £1000 was agreed.
- 47.7 Whitesands Ice Cream concession location. Concern regarding health and safety of pedestrians and traffic negotiating the narrow corner. Clerk to pursue whether there is any scope to alleviate concerns.
- 47.8 Replacement of Deputy Clerk’s Desktop Computer Monitor and Keyboard – it was RESOLVED that this should be done as soon as possible.
- 47.9 Discount on Hall rent for St Davids Day Centre weekly meetings. The meeting agreed that there was little scope for this.
- 47.10 Request for temporary street signs: “Please keep to the pavement”. Clerk to pursue with PCC
- 47.11 Request for temporary signage at Cross Square: “Please keep dogs off the grass”. Clerk to pursue.
- 47.12 During the agenda items above a general conversation took place with regard to ongoing traffic management issues and it was RESOLVED that Cllr Bethan Price should contact Mr Stephen Benger of PCC to arrange an urgent meeting with the Council.

48 Staff Issues

- 48.1.1 The meeting noted that the new Hall Manager commenced employment on 16th May.
- 48.1.2 The Staffing Committee to discuss this week to finalise Hall Manager’s contract.
- 48.1.3 The presentation of retirement gift to Mr & Mrs Phillips took place prior to the meeting.

49 CORRESPONDENCE

- 49.1 email regarding an “Open Gardens” weekend on 25th and 26th June - noted.
- 49.2 email request regarding Solva Cinema to advertise in the Summer Newsletter - agreed.
- 49.3 email regarding hedgerow planting on St Davids Airfield - agreed.
- 49.4 email from Hwb Natur noted.

50 Reports from Members representing the Council: -

- 50.1 St Davids Christmas Tree Association. Nothing to report.
- 50.2 St Davids Day Centre for the Elderly. Three new members.
- 50.3 St Davids Peninsula Tourist and Traders Association. Big success at Jubilee sandcastle competition.
- 50.4 Porthclais Harbour Authority. Planned fundraiser for Ukraine 28th August.
- 50.5 St Davids - Matsieng Lesotho Link. Nothing to report.
- 50.6 Youth Drop In. Nothing to report.
- 50.7 Ysgol Penrhyn Dewi Governor. Nothing to report.
- 50.8 Porthstinian Boat Owners Association. Members have paid.
- 50.9 Porthmawr Surf Life Saving Club. Nothing to report.
- 50.10 Bws Y Bobl. Used for Jubilee tea party.
- 50.11 Re-discovering Ancient Connections. Planned Cwtch festival 28th October.
- 50.12 Coffee and Chat. Nothing to report.
- 50.13 St Davids Befrienders. Nothing to report.
- 50.14 One Voice Wales. Nothing to report.
- 50.15 Eco Dewi/Bee Friendly. Nothing to report.
- 50.16 Grants Funding Committee. Nothing to report.

Accounts

- 51** The Responsible Finance Officer reported that the Internal Audit for April 2022 had been completed successfully.
- 52** The accounts for May 2022 were presented by the Responsible Finance Officer and it was RESOLVED to be approved with permission to pay.
The report regarding Anticipated Capital Costs was received with interest and it was RESOLVED that the issues highlighted should be taken into account going forward.

CYNGOR DINAS TYDDEWI

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

ST DAVIDS CITY COUNCIL

May-22

Current Account Balance at 30/05/2022 £134,641.21

RECEIPTS

City Hall	£597
Whitesands	£31,033
Street Furniture	£0
Office & Administration	£200
Admin staff Costs	£0
Play Area	£0
Events and Market	£920
St Justinians	£0
Finance	£0
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>£32,750</u>

LGA 1972 Sec 137 - £12738			
Last month's donations			£0.00
2022 / 2023	Total		£1,000.00
Balance available			£11,738.00

LGA 1972 Sec 214 Cemetery Maintenance	
Total donated 22/23	£0.00

PAYMENTS

SIGNIFICANT DETAILS

City Hall	£1,934	£493 Council Tax (Hall & House) £549 Utilities & Heat and Light £410 Supplies & Equipment Testing
Whitesands	£4,202	£2,933 Commissions £762 Council Tax £320 Maintenance & Repairs
Street Furniture	£47	
Office & Administration	£1,654	£960 Misc inc Total Tech subscription £537 Printing, Newsletter, Phone & Internet
Admin staff Costs	£4,496	£4,352 Salaries - inc pensions - NI & PAYE
Play Area	£2,524	£1,200 WaunFawr Landscaping £1,324 Play Area Swings Repairs
Events and Market	£1,372	£660 Market Stalls - setting up etc £594 Jubilee Flag, Bunting, BeeBadges, Cllr Badges
St Justinians	£263	£263 Toilet Hire & Cleaning
Finance	£1,688	(HMRC - VAT Payment)
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>£18,179</u>	

ANTICIPATION OF SIGNIFICANT CAPITAL COSTS

As the council's RFO I am duty bound to offer financial advice and cautionary observations as and when I think it might be helpful or appropriate.

As we move forward into the 2022 season, I would like to draw the council's attention to the fact that it will begin to incur significant future capital expenditure relating to the "caretaker's house". I understand that the house will need major renovation and repair and so whatever the council decides regarding its future the house there is going to be a significant and material cost.

Different ideas have been mooted regarding its future; for example, the council could decide to leave it empty or to use it as rented accommodation. The council could decide to develop it as a community centre and / or convert it for use as the clerk's office with appropriate access for visiting members of the public during opening hours.

All these options – or a combination of them - are feasible and they will need to be discussed. Crucially, whatever the council decides it will involve significant capital expenditure. There is no alternative; even doing nothing will mean that the house will deteriorate and incur cost.

The council needs to be aware of the scale of the cost of the caretaker's house before engaging in spending on other "non-essential" significant capital costs. Other projects that might compete with "grant availability" and drain the council's resources to a critical level should be treated with a degree of circumspection.

The scout hut adoption is an example of one of those capital costs. It is vital that the council is fully aware of all the risks and all of the possible cost of pursuing the adoption of the scout hut before committing to it further. Importantly the council should not be persuaded (without exploring all of the precautionary issues), by the idea that the adoption of the scout hut is necessarily going to be a cost-neutral transaction requiring nothing more than a budget that covers the nominal cost of heat and light.

For example, at this stage, no independent professional structural survey has been undertaken – no business plan has been presented. No deep analysis of the possible and probable future costs of maintaining the building and meeting the requirements of – for example - health and safety and equality of access etc have been explored.

If projects not already commissioned use council funds and grant monies that should have been available for the caretaker's house it would be reckless and could place the council in a serious financial predicament.

W Mann

RFO

31st May 2022

Planning: Details of these can be found on the PC NPA website.

53 NP/22/0230/RES Land to the East of Glasfryn Road – RESERVED MATTERS. Arising from last meeting Clerk has approached PCNPA to request an extension of the time. To date no extension given.

CYNGOR DINAS TYDDEWI

ST DAVIDS CITY COUNCIL

Clarification with regard to the term “affordability” and what local covenants are on the buildings provided by email from agent. Meeting noted this.

- 54** NP/22/0282/FUL Penrhiw, St Davids, SA62 6PG – addition of rooflights. It was RESOLVED to support this application.
- 55** NP/22/0158/TCA Merrivale Car Park, St Davids - Conservation Area – Felling of Ash and Sycamore trees. It was RESOLVED to support this application.
- 56** NP/22/0270/TCA Middle Cottage, Caerfarchell, SA62 6XG – Pollard Ash Tree. It was RESOLVED to support this application.
- 57** NP/22/0156/FUL Whitehall 67 Goat Street, SA62 6RQ – Detached single storey double garage and store area. It was RESOLVED to support this application.

AOB

- 58** Councillors raised a number of issues of concern and where appropriate these are to be included as substantive items on the July agenda.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.45 pm

Signed

Date