

**(PUBLIC) Minutes of Pembrey and Burry Port Town Council**

**Chairs Committee Meeting**

**10am Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

**Dydd Mercher 24<sup>ain</sup> Mawrth 2021**

**This meeting was held via video conference under the Local Authorities (Coronavirus) (Meetings) (Wales) 2020**

**Present: Cllrs Michael Theodoulou (Chair), Peter Freeman, Robert John, Karen Morris, David Owens and Moira Thomas (in substitution for Cllr Linda Edwards)**

**Officers: Paul Mann (Cemetery and Facilities Superintendent), Huw Thomas (Clerk/RFO), Kevin Williams (Projects Manager)**

**Minute taker: Ed Davies (Administrative Assistant)**

Started 10.00am end 10.33am

**1. To receive apologies for absence.**

Cllr Linda Edwards had sent her apologies and Cllr Moira Thomas was her substitute. Members noted that Cllr Moira Thomas was the current Chair of the Planning sub-committee.

**2. To receive members' declarations of interest in respect of the business to be transacted.**

None were made.

**3. To consider correspondence regarding planning application from a local resident.**

Members noted the correspondence which sought clarification from the Town Council as to why it had changed its stance between the 1<sup>st</sup> application and the 1<sup>st</sup> revision from "no objection" to "recommend refusal".

The Clerk/RFO highlighted that the applicant was preparing his case for the upcoming appeal to the refusal of permission made by the County Council and had discovered this discrepancy. The letter highlighted that subsequent alterations to the planning application included making road access improvements. Additionally, members were asked to note that there had been a change in the way the planning decisions were approved by the Council in between the 2 events in question. Initially the Council had approved en bloc the recommendations of the Planning sub-committee, which was changed to a vote and a decision for each application heard. Relevant extracts from the meetings in question had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting. It was noted that during the second meeting, the recommendation from the sub-committee had been to submit no objection however a counter proposal was put forward to recommend refusal based on "concerns at the nature of the development and that it was a retrospective application".

Members discussed the situation at length. It was felt that as the sub-committee had already made its recommendations, the decision of the Town Council prevented it being referred to them for

consideration of the response. Additionally, as it was an emergency matter, it fell to the Chairs Committee to decide on the course of action.

Members discussed the material changes to the application that would allow them to consider changing the Council’s position. Members could not recall the details of the “nature of the development” that had been of concern to them, but believed it was tied to the raising of the height of the building, uncertainty over its final intended use and over the access by road. It was believed that the prime reason for the change of position had been due to a precedent by the Council to not approve retrospective planning applications.

Members discussed whether or not this was an appropriate default position in recognition of the fact that their objections were still noted by the County Council regardless of if the application was retrospective.

Cllr Michael Theodoulou **PROPOSED**, seconded by Cllr Moira Thomas that a letter be sent to the applicant in question stating that the Council had taken the position of recommending refusal on the basis of it being a retrospective application and at the nature of the development. In light of the alterations made to the application, it was happy to change its recommendation to “no objection” in line with the original recommendation of the Planning sub-committee. **RESOLVED**.

Cllr Karen Morris stated her abstention from the above vote.

Members asked for the Clerk/RFO to ensure a copy of the letter was sent to the planning department to inform them of the change of position.

Meeting ended 10.33am