

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

**Minutes of the Special Chairs meeting**

**10am Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2020**

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

**Present: Cllrs Michael Theodoulou (Chair), Linda Edwards, Peter Freeman, Robert John, Karen Morris, David Owens**

**In attendance: Huw Thomas (Clerk/RFO), Shân Loudon (Deputy Clerk), Paul Mann (Cemetery and Facilities Superintendent)**

**Non-members present: Cllr Moira Thomas**

**10am – 11.00am**

**1. To receive apologies for absence**

All members were present.

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

None were made.

**3. To consider the incident causing the closure of the Bowls Club**

Members noted a recent public statement made on social media from the President of the Bowls Club and County Councillor, Cllr John James, in relation to the incident that caused the closure of the Bowls Club.

Members were asked to discuss firstly whether or not a response should be made, and if so what its contents should be.

Members were agreed that there were a number of inaccurate and incorrect statements made in Cllr John James' comment, and that if they were to make a statement it should focus on correcting those responses alone.

It was noted that Cllr John James' comment was in response to a signed statement made by a group of 7 Town Councillors, not by the Town Council itself. It was felt that whatever response was made by the Town Council it needed to be a united one from all members.

The Clerk advised that the Town Council itself had not made any comments on this matter and that members should be cautious before entering into what may become an online argument, where the veracity of ones comments was not equal to the volume of support it received.

Members were unanimously **AGREED** that a statement should be made on this matter.

**ACTION: Clerk**

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In an effort to ensure that the statement was a united one from the whole council, it would be circulated to all members prior to being sent out.

Members discussed a draft which had been prepared in advance of the meeting and made a number of suggestions for changes, to ensure the tone of the whole document was formal and professional and that it did not veer into anything that could be taken as a personal attack.

In relation to the possible breach of licencing laws, members were informed by the Clerk that it was now a matter for the police and County Council to investigate and that those were ongoing. He also advised that for the facility to be reopened it required the completion of an “intentions of use” statement to be sent to the County Council. A draft was being prepared and would be sent to the Compliance Officer.

Members discussed in detail the response and on what elements needed inclusion, noting that it was possible to include the reasons given by the County Council for its closure. It was noted that any suggestion that the club had acted appropriately was contradicted by the imposition of the closure notice by the County. Members noted the guidance from the parent affiliated body Bowls Cymru in July in relation to Covid 19 regulations.

It was noted that Cllr John James had also commented on the cancelled Historical Society presentation. The Clerk confirmed that it had been cancelled following a meeting between himself and a senior County Council Officer who had advised that the evening be cancelled, although there was no compulsion. The Clerk had then ordered for the presentation be cancelled.

Members noted that although they were approving a united Council response, this did not prevent them making their own personal comments and responses if they so wished.

Members discussed how best to advise the other Council facility users on the regulations. As it was a dynamic and developing situation with changing guidelines, it would be best to direct them to the Welsh Government website for up to date information, and to remain in contact with the Clerk.

Members discussed where the response should be made and **AGREED** for it to be put on social media, the website and noticeboards.

**ACTION: Deputy Town Clerk**

#### 4. Any other urgent business at the discretion of the Chair

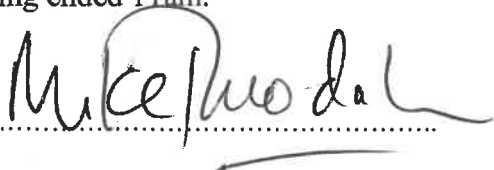
Cllr David Owens **PROPOSED**, seconded by Cllr Karen Morris, for the meeting to move to in camera. **RESOLVED**

*In camera* - That under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and representatives of the press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

Members discussed a received letter which members were advised to read in advance of the next scheduled meeting of this committee, to allow a full discussion.

Meeting ended 11am.

Chair  
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