

Pembrey and Burry Port Town Council

Ordinary Meeting

Wednesday 16th June 2021

Dydd Mercher 16^{eg} Mehefin 2021

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

**Present: Councillor Michael Theodoulou (Mayor)
Councillors Peter Freeman, Les George, Robert John, John Hedley Jones, Lisa Mitchell, Karen Morris (arr. 7.09pm), David Owens, Andrew Phillips, Hugh Shepardson, Moira Thomas, Karen Trimble, Bob Walpole and Mary Wenman**

In attendance: Huw Thomas (Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer), Shân Loudon (Deputy Clerk), Louise Robinson (Community Development Officer) Kevin Williams (Projects Manager), Paul Mann (Cemetery and Facilities Superintendent) and Ed Davies (Admin Assistant)

Apologies: Cllr Linda Edwards

Absent: Cllr Stephen James

Via videoconference 7.00pm – 8.00pm

21. To receive apologies for absence.

Apologies had been received from Cllr Linda Edwards.

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

None were made.

23. To receive applications for the office of Town councillor and to Co-opt a candidate to fill the existing vacancies.

The Clerk/RFO updated members that following the withdrawal of one of the applicants there were three remaining for the two vacancies. There was one vacancy in each ward and candidates had indicated they were happy to stand in either ward.

Following receipt of advice from One Voice Wales the Clerk/RFO stated that members would be asked to vote on each ward individually. They were instructed to give only a positive vote in favour of one candidate per ward. The running order would be chosen by blindly drawing candidate names from a hat.

It was noted that a successful candidate needed to secure over 50% of the votes of those present to succeed.

Pembrey ward

Liz Evans – 3 votes

Jonathan Williams – 0 votes

Cllr Karen Morris arrived 7.09pm and was eligible to vote.

Sharon Thomas – 10 votes

Sharon Thomas was therefore appointed to the vacant seat for Pembrey Ward.

The Clerk/RFO informed members that she would not be able to speak or vote in the remainder of the meeting as she had not signed her declaration of acceptance.

Burry Port ward

Liz Evans – 2 votes

Jonathan Williams – 1 vote

As no candidate had achieved over 50% of the vote the vacancy was not filled.

24. To confirm the minutes of the Annual Meeting held on Wednesday 19th May 2021.

Members noted a correction requested by a member.

Cllr Peter Freeman **PROPOSED**, seconded by Cllr Moira Thomas that the minutes were an accurate record of the meeting. **RESOLVED**.

Cllrs Robert John and Lisa Mitchell indicated their abstention from the above vote.

25. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 19th May 2021 and the Special meetings held on Wednesday 26th May and Monday 7th June 2021.

Cllr Moira Thomas **PROPOSED**, seconded by Cllr Mary Wenman that the minutes of the 19th May were an accurate record of the meeting. **RESOLVED**.

Cllrs Robert John and Lisa Mitchell stated their abstention from the above vote.

Cllr David Owens **PROPOSED** seconded by Cllr John Hedley Jones that the minutes of the special meeting of the 26th May were an accurate record of the meeting. **RESOLVED**.

Cllrs Moira Thomas, Hugh Shepardson, Bob Walpole and Mary Wenman stated their abstention from the above vote.

Cllr John Hedley Jones **PROPOSED**, seconded by Cllr Mary Wenman that the minutes of the special meeting of the 7th June were an accurate record of the meeting. **RESOLVED**.

Cllrs Lisa Mitchell, Andrew Phillips and Bob Walpole stated their abstention from the above vote.

26. To consider the budget monitoring report.

The Clerk/RFO stated that as reported at each of the Committee meetings, due to a software issue that prevented him reporting on two financial years concurrently he had been unable to provide a report in advance of this meeting.

From the data he had been able to access he reported that at present the Council was 2% over its target spending for this time of year. He advised that the figure was influenced by spending against grant funds and that the insurance bill was paid at the start of the year in one lump sum. He expected to have regular reports for members at their next committee meetings.

27. To consider the following planning applications, see attached list.

The following applications were discussed by the Committee who made the following recommendations:

| <u>Application No.</u> | <u>Date</u> | <u>Site Address</u> | <u>Description of Application</u> |
|---|-------------|---|--|
| PL/01928 | 20/05/2021 | Land part of former Goodig Hotel, Pwll Road, Burry Port, SA16 0TA | Discharge of Condition 6, 7, 8, 9 and 15 on S/36993 (On site highway works and off site surface water betterment scheme) |
| The committee discussed the application and whilst it noted that the on-site highway works had been signed off by County, it was unaware whether the off-site surface water betterment scheme had been fully discharged. The committee felt that although these conditions were put in place over two years ago, carrying out a betterment scheme in another area of the County does not benefit the immediate area. Some Councillors noted that, a few years ago, Welsh Water spent a considerable amount of money installing one of their “Rainscape” schemes in the area and felt that all surface water from this site should have been directed so as to link up with this system. | | | |
| PL/01779 | 20/05/2021 | Sidan Stables, Factory Road, Pembrey, Llanelli, SA16 0DZ | Full planning permission. Private Menage |
| Members raised no objections to the application. | | | |
| PL/01911 | 17/05/2021 | Craig House, Ocean View, Burry Port, SA16 0DW | Householder planning permission. Alterations of existing attic room incorporating new front and rear dormers. |
| Members raised no objections to the application. | | | |
| PL/01973 | 25/05/2021 | 44 Station Road, Burry Port, SA16 0LP | Non-Material Amendment to PL/01376. Decision Made. |
| As the application was for a Non-Material Amendment, the committee made no comment. | | | |
| PL/01962 | 27/05/2021 | 4 St Illtyd Rise, Pembrey, Burry Port, SA16 0YY | Full planning permission. Demolition of Existing Bungalow and Construction of Two Semi-Detached Dwelling houses |
| Members raised no objections to the application. | | | |

PL/01928 – members noted that there was no option to recommend refusal for the discharge of condition.

Cllr Bob Walpole **PROPOSED**, seconded by Cllr Les George to inform the planning authority of the Council's unhappiness at their acquiescence to the discharge of condition in an area outside of Burry Port, highlighting the issues raised by the Planning Committee. **RESOLVED**.

PL/01779 – Cllr John Hedley Jones **PROPOSED**, seconded by Cllr Bob Walpole that no objection be raised to this application. **RESOLVED**.

PL/01911 – Cllr Robert John **PROPOSED**, seconded by Cllr David Owens that no objection be raised to this application. **RESOLVED**.

PL/01973 – Cllr John Hedley Jones **PROPOSED**, seconded by Cllr Bob Walpole that no comment be made to this application. **RESOLVED**.

PL/01962 – Cllr John Hedley Jones **PROPOSED**, seconded by Cllr Karen Morris that no objection be raised to this application. **RESOLVED**.

Cllr David Owens was advised that he did not need to declare an interest in the decision on the above application.

28. To receive the County Councillor's report.

Cllr Hugh Shepardson reported the following:

- Regarding reports of rats in Waun Sidan, members noted that pest control had investigated the area and had only found remedial action necessary in 2 areas and that residents were safe but that there was no rat problem.
- In Pinged enforcement actions were in place regarding an unauthorised kennel and land development without permission.
- Pembrey Country Park recorded over 20,000 visitors over the Easter weekend.
- Building contractors would be on site to begin work for the new Pembrey School in the next week.

Members discussed littering along the coastal path in the area between the two harbours.

Cllr Mary Wenman **PROPOSED**, seconded by Cllr Les George for the Clerk/RFO to contact Neil Thomas to ask if something could be done to clear the litter. **RESOLVED**.

Action: Clerk

Members noted that no report had been submitted by the County Councillors for Burry Port ward.

Members discussed concerns at roadside parking on the access roads to the east and west harbour following the installation of the new pay and display machines. Members **AGREED** to put the issue on the agenda for the next Regeneration and Community Engagement Committee Meeting.

ACTION: Deputy Town Clerk

Members discussed the replaced pipework along the A484.

29. To receive the Mayor's report.

The Mayor reported that he had attended the unveiling of the new heritage board outside Copperworks.

30. To receive reports by elected members as Council Representatives on outside bodies.

Members noted the written report distributed with the agenda. There were no other reports.

31. Consideration of draft statutory guidance for local authorities in Wales on future meetings.

Members noted that the Council was awaiting a better interpretation before an action was required.

Members requested that the Finance, Governance and Personnel Committee put on their agenda the matter of moving to a paperless office. **RESOLVED.**

ACTION: Deputy Town Clerk

32. Consideration of membership of the Facilities and Assets Committee and Regeneration and Community Engagement Committee.

Cllr David Owens **PROPOSED**, seconded by Cllr John Hedley Jones that the additional member recommendations be approved. **RESOLVED.**

ACTION: Admin Assistant

33. Consideration of the approval of the 2020/21 Annual return.

Members noted that the internal auditor had given his report on the Annual return and signed off on it. The Clerk/RFO clarified some details to members regarding variances.

Members noted the actions taken in the year to create more earmarked reserves and the impact that had on general reserves. It was noted that no decision to use the general reserves during the year had been taken without giving due consideration and following of procedure at the appropriate level.

Cllr David Owens **PROPOSED**, seconded by Cllr Andrew Phillips to approve the Annual Return for 2020/21. **RESOLVED.**

ACTION: Clerk/RFO

34. Consideration of correspondence from the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales.

Members noted that the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales wished the Council to record that they had not been provided with the member remuneration schedule for 2019/20 but acknowledged that it was on the Council website.

Cllr Moira Thomas **PROPOSED**, seconded by Cllr Lisa Mitchell that the correspondence be noted. **RESOLVED.**

35. To note the following minutes for information:

| Date | Meeting |
|---------------------------|---|
| 5 th May 2021 | Facilities and Assets Committee |
| 4 th May 2021 | Finance, Governance and Personnel Committee |
| 11 th May 2021 | Finance, Governance and Personnel |
| 12 th May 2021 | Regeneration and Community Engagement Committee (DRAFT) |
| 27 th May 2021 | Finance, Governance and Personnel Committee |
| 27 th May 2021 | Regeneration and Community Engagement Committee (DRAFT) |
| 28 th May 2021 | Major Projects Working Group |

Members noted the minutes.

Cllr Robert John **PROPOSED**, seconded by Cllr Bob Walpole that the meeting should proceed 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.

36. Update on staffing matters

Cllr Michael Theodoulou read a statement.

It was **PROPOSED** by Cllr David Owens, seconded by Cllr Robert John that the statement be accepted. **RESOLVED.**