

Pembrey and Burry Port Town Council

Ordinary Meeting

Wednesday 16th September 2020

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

Present: Councillor Lisa Mitchell (Mayor)

Councillors Linda Edwards, Peter Freeman, Les George, Robert John, John Hedley Jones, Karen Morris, David Owens, Andrew Philips, Hugh Shepardson, Michael Theodoulou, Moira Thomas, Bob Walpole and Mary Wenman

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

Absent: Councillors Rachel Evans and Stephen James

Via videoconference 11.00am – 2.10pm

62. To receive apologies for absence.

Apologies had been received from Cllrs Richard Adler and Karen Trimble.

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

None were declared.

64. Discussion with Police and Crime Commissioner Dafydd Llywelyn, Superintendent Ifan Charles and PS Gemma Rees

The Mayor welcomed the guests to the meeting.

Members first heard an update from PS Gemma Davies on recent police activity. There had been a large amount of work on anti-social behaviour in the area, particularly in relation to a larger gathering of over 200 young people. The local police teams had worked with the British Transport Police to disperse the crowds once the dispersal order had been issued. A number of other crimes had been reported in the wake of that dispersal with some minor property damage. It was reported that individuals had been identified but not the particular offender. The police were remaining vigilant to any further gatherings being organised, using social media and information gathered from the public to disrupt the activity.

There were other ASB reported around the Chandler's yard area and Bro Dawel as well as on the roads. The police were working with local residents to identify the sources and tackle the problems, with a focus on finding a longer-term solution, and working to protect vulnerable people.

The police were working with the Town Council and the County Council on breaches of Covid legislation in the area and were also working with the licencing authority to tackle issues raised around that topic.

Members asked questions about the location of the gatherings, with the preventative police actions highlighted, including increased patrols, and requesting landowners undertake remedial works to dissuade further activity. Police were working with younger people to gather intelligence via social media, which was how many of these events were being coordinated. The nature of the large gatherings was also queried, and the police believed that people were meeting for the sake of meeting, with no connection having been identified to the sale of drugs.

Members asked Superintendent Ifan Charles for information relating to the police station in Burry Port. He confirmed that there were no plans for the function of the station to change in the future, that the opening hours had changed to allow them greater flexibility to provide 24 hour coverage for the area and that the building was fully staffed at weekends. He gave additional detail on how the police coverage for the area had been realigned, and what that meant for numbers of police for the area.

The Police Commissioner Dafydd Llywelyn commented that although there was an understandable focus being given to policing in the community during the meeting, he reminded members that it was only one layer of policing that Dyfed-Powys Police covered. He highlighted that their work on other threats to the community such as online threats and safeguarding issues which were not as visible also needed resourcing well to support and complement the other areas of policing. Following a request, he agreed to share with the Council the statistical information on the redistribution of staff, to allow councillors to help the police in explaining those changes to residents.

PS Gemma Davies reminded members that she hosted a monthly meeting for local residents, currently online, at which their feedback could help realign the resources to meet needs.

Members heard about a new scheme called Meet the Street, which allowed the police to meet residents to share information with each other.

Members discussed the resultant issues when a large group was given a dispersal order, and the damage to property that had been reported following the incident previously mentioned. PS Gemma Davies stated that in those instances it was practically impossible to monitor all of the groups as they disperse in different directions, which highlighted the importance of preventative measures.

In relation to how such large numbers were able to reach Burry Port via public transport it was noted that on trains there were no ticket inspectors due to Covid restrictions, which made intervention that much more difficult.

Members discussed a number of potential methods of communication and suggested that the drop off boxes for anonymous information could be used. PS Gemma Davies stated that they would consider that option once she had more information on them.

Members heard of a new grant fund which would be arriving in November, to be spent on tackling community safety issues with decisions on what to spend the money being made via an online poll.

Before leaving Dafydd Llywelyn reminded members of some of the challenges Dyfed Police would be facing in the coming years, but that safeguarding communities like Pembrey and Burry Port would remain their priority.

The Mayor thanked the guests for their attendance and for their continuing work.

Dafydd Llywelyn, Ifan Charles and Gemma Davies left the meeting at 12.00 noon

65. To confirm the minutes of the meetings held on Wednesday 29th July 2020 and Monday 3rd August 2020

Members had received copies of the minutes of 29th July in advance of the meeting and no corrections had been requested. Members **RESOLVED** that they were an accurate record of the meeting.

Members noted that some decisions taken at that meeting had since been overturned due to changes in Covid guidance and restrictions.

Members had received copies of the minutes of 3rd August in advance of the meeting and no corrections had been requested. Members **RESOLVED** that they were an accurate record of the meeting.

66. To consider the budget monitoring report

The Clerk/RFO guided members through the report, with certain items having been highlighted in the document including:

- Maintenance
- Parks and Open Spaces – solicitor fees
- Pembrey football pitch - funded by S106
- Annual insurance bill so total will not increase further this year.

67. To receive an update from any Standing Committee Chair as appropriate

The Chair of the Facilities and Assets Committee updated members that in relation to the Council's facilities, the priority was to ensure compliance with the law and guidance on Covid 19.

The Clerk reported on the Council's actions and response following the recent special meeting of the Town Council on 11th September. This was in relation to a possible breach of Covid legislation in the Bowls Facility by the Bowls Club, and possible breach of licencing laws also. A meeting with Club Officers had been arranged at which the incident was discussed, including a request for details of the precautions the Club should have had in place to comply with Covid regulations. The Clerk and those of the Chairs Committee who were present were not satisfied that the responses were sufficient given the seriousness of the situation. He added that the Council's decision to close the Bowls Facility and the rest of the Council's facilities was vindicated as on the evening of the 11th the County Council issued its own closure notice. He added that Council staff were cooperating fully with the County Council on their investigation and with the police on theirs, and would continue to do so.

Members discussed the need for a recovery plan for the facility and the club going forward. It was believed that a clear differentiation was needed between the organisation of the club and the facility to help community understanding of the situation.

Members discussed the need for ongoing maintenance of the facility and a discussion of whether the facility was closed to all use or otherwise. It was noted that a member of staff would need to be on site to monitor any activity to ensure compliance with legislation.

Members discussed making a further public notice on the matter, noting that two had been made already.

The CFS advised members on the works required to maintain the green as a playing surface over the winter with some works needed soon to ensure its survival.

Cllr Robert John **PROPOSED**, seconded by Cllr Karen Morris that the Bowls Facility should remain closed until the two current investigations were complete, and for the Council to renegotiate its arrangement with the Bowls Club. **RESOLVED**

ACTION: Clerk

Cllr Michael Theodoulou **PROPOSED**, seconded by Cllr David Owens that the Council accept the recommendation of its officers in relation to long term hirer's of facilities. **RESOLVED**

68. To consider the following planning applications

The following planning applications had been discussed by the Planning sub-committee, who gave the following recommendations:

<u>Application No.</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Site Address</u>	<u>Description of Application</u>
PL/00014	07/09/2020	Former Grillo Site and surrounding area, Burry Port	Non-material amendments to S/30601 to vary Condition 2 to introduce a phasing plan for the development. Variation to the wording of conditions 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11, 12, 13, 16 & 19 to read "Prior to the commencement of development on each respective phase". Removal of condition no.23 which is repeated on other permissions relating to the wider development of the Burry Port Regeneration Sites. Variation to the wording of condition 24 as to specifically relate to "Prior to the commencement of development on Phase 2"
The Planning sub-committee raised no objections and recommend APPROVAL of the application			
PL/00033	01/09/2020	Land to the rear of 9 New Street, Burry Port, SA16 0RT	To erect a garage to house a car and storage facilities and enable DIY projects for personal use
The Planning sub-committee raised concerns about the loss of off-street parking for No's 9 & 11 New St. It was also felt that the garage was of a size, and oriented in such a way that it may become			

a commercial business in future. The planning sub-committee therefore recommend REFUSAL of the application.

Members **RESOLVED** unanimously to accept the recommendations of the planning sub-committee.

69. **To receive the County Councillor’s report**

Cllr Hugh Shepardson reported on his recent work.

The Clerk read aloud a letter from County Councillor John James which had been submitted in lieu of a report, indicating that neither he nor County Councillor Amanda Fox were compelled to report to the Town Council, and were disinclined to do so following public statements from the Town Council on 14th August.

Members noted the report, commenting that information had been submitted by the County Councillors for Burry Port to the Town Council on a regular basis.

70. **To receive the Mayor’s report.**

The Mayor informed members that following the cancellation of the grand opening of the new Pembrey AFC pitch, there were no other events to note.

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

Members heard that One Voice Wales were continuing their discussions with the Welsh Government and other bodies, on ways to facilitate better democracy while meetings could not be held in person. It was likely that forthcoming legislation would compel Town and Community Councils to adopt suitable digital solutions to open meetings to the public. This would mean adopting a means of live streaming the meeting.

Cllr Michael Theodoulou **PROPOSED**, seconded by Cllr Robert John, that the Clerk seek quotes for a suitable IT package to facilitate that, with a preference for the most affordable solution. Members **RESOLVED** unanimously in favour.

ACTION: Clerk/RFO

Members heard a report from the Friends of Burry Port Harbour.

Cllr Les George declared an interest as a member of the group.

The group had discussed the ongoing deterioration of the harbour and the distress this was causing local residents, visitors and harbour users. The group believed there was a need for a further public meeting to address these issues. Members discussed who would need to be present to represent the interested parties. The Clerk advised members that there was a meeting arranged with representatives of the County Council for the 29th September to find solutions to a number of issues around the harbour, and that it was not possible at present due to Covid restrictions to host any public meeting. Members then discussed whether or not a Teams meeting could be arranged with the Marine Group.

Cllr Robert John **PROPOSED** seconded by Cllr Les George for a Teams meeting to be arranged with the Marine Group, and for the relevant concerns to be raised with the County Council at the forthcoming meeting. Members **RESOLVED** unanimously in favour.

ACTION: Deputy Town Clerk

72. Consideration of holding future Town Council meetings via video conferencing and the scheduling of future meetings

Cllr Michael Theodoulou **PROPOSED**, seconded by Cllr Peter Freeman that Council meetings would continue to be held via video conferencing. Members **RESOLVED** unanimously in favour.

ACTION: Deputy Town Clerk

Members discussed the scheduling of meetings, with a particular focus for the time of day they should take place. It was noted that at present day time meetings restricted the attendance of those who also worked.

Cllr Michael Theodoulou **PROPOSED**, seconded by Cllr David Owens that on the recommendation of the Chairs Committee, Town Council Ordinary meetings should be held at 7pm. Members **RESOLVED** unanimously in favour.

Cllr Michael Theodoulou left the meeting at 1.55pm

73. Update on community support

Cllr Moira Thomas **PROPOSED**, seconded by Cllr Robert John for the Council to accept the recommendation of the Regeneration and Community Engagement Committee for Teddy Tywyn to be adopted as the official mascot of the Town Council. **RESOLVED**

ACTION: CDO

74. Consideration of participation in a Foodshare Scheme

Cllr Peter Freeman declared an interest due to his links with CBSA.

The CDO informed members of the details of the scheme. A request had been sent from CBSA asking for the Council to support its participation in the Foodshare scheme. The scheme had been outlined to the Regeneration and Community Engagement Committee which recommended the Council participated and supported the organisation in its funding application. Whether or not the Council endorsed the scheme, it would be made available to residents. It was noted that 8 other Town and Community Councils in the area had already agreed to participate.

Cllr Lisa Mitchell **PROPOSED**, seconded by Cllr Bob Walpole that the recommendation be accepted. Barring those with declared interests, members **RESOLVED** unanimously in favour.

ACTION: CDO

75. To note the following minutes for information:

Date	Meeting
21 st July 2020	Chairs Committee
8 th September 2020	Chairs Committee
22 nd July 2020	Facilities and Assets Committee

13 th August 2020	Facilities and Assets Committee
19 th August 2020	Regeneration and Community Engagement Committee
27 th July 2020	Finance, Governance and Personnel Committee

The minutes were noted.

***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.**

Cllr Moira Thomas **PROPOSED**, seconded by Cllrs Robert John for the meeting to move in camera. **RESOLVED**

76a) To confirm the confidential minutes of the meetings held on Wednesday 29th July 2020 and Monday 3rd August 2020

Cllr Robert John **PROPOSED**, seconded by Cllr Linda Edwards that the minutes of the 29th July be approved as an accurate record of the meeting. **RESOLVED**

Cllr Moira Thomas **PROPOSED**, seconded by Cllr Bob Walpole that the minutes of the 3rd August be approved as an accurate record of the meeting. **RESOLVED**

Ed Davies left the meeting at 2pm

b) Update on staffing matters

A staffing matter was discussed.

c) Consideration of the transfer of land held in trust

This item was discussed.

d) To note the following confidential minutes for information:

Date	Meeting
21 st July 2020	Chairs Committee
22 nd July 2020	Facilities and Assets Committee
13 th August 2020	Facilities and Assets Committee
19 th August 2020	Regeneration and Community Engagement Committee
27 th July 2020	Finance, Governance and Personnel Committee