

Pembrey and Burry Port Town Council

Ordinary Meeting

Wednesday 17th November 2021

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

Present: Councillor Michael Theodoulou (Mayor)

Councillors Linda Edwards, Peter Freeman, Les George, Stephen James, John Hedley Jones, Lisa Mitchell, Karen Morris, Andrew Phillips, Hugh Shepardson, Moira Thomas, Sharon 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 Robert Jones

Absent: Cllr David Owens

Via videoconference 7.00pm – 8.25pm

74. To receive apologies for absence.

Apologies had been received from Cllr Robert John.

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

None were made.

76. To confirm the minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on Wednesday 20th October 2021.

Cllr Karen Morris **PROPOSED**, seconded by Cllr Linda Edwards that the minutes of the meeting of 20th October were an accurate record. **RESOLVED**.

Cllrs Les George and Stephen James abstained from voting as they had not been present at the meeting.

77. To consider the budget monitoring report.

Members had received copies of the high-level summary report in advance of the meeting. The Clerk/RFO gave the following highlights:

Facilities & Assets Committee – currently stood at 55% of its budget, which was a small overspend. This was due to a lower income than budgeted for which he did not see being

recovered before the end of the year. Additionally, there had been increased spending to purchase a van and to provide toilets at the harbour.

Finance, Governance & Personnel – currently stood at 56% of its budget. This was in part due to the annual insurance premium being paid at the start of the year, but IT costs were higher to service the remote working and meetings. This overspend would broadly even out by the end of the year.

Regeneration & Community Engagement – currently stood at 48.5% of the budget. Income and expenditure from Community events broadly offset, and Community support spend was matched by income from the Community Resilience fund. Some cost categories had zero spend as yet and so may provide opportunities for virement if needed later in the year.

The Council total stood at 50.69% of its budget which is marginally over target. The Clerk/RFO warned that in previous years the Council had tended to collect costs towards the end of the year and so they would need to be careful over the coming months.

78. To receive the County Councillor’s report.

Cllr Hugh Shepardson gave the following report for Pembrey Ward:

- The date for the appeal hearing against the Garreg Lwyd development had been set for the 7th December. He would share further details with members as he became aware of them. Members noted that they would be able to attend as observers at the hearing.
- Pembrey Canal – following lengthy discussions between different departments a 5 year rolling programme to deal with the drainage issues which are causing flooding whilst reducing potential disruption to the protected species present there. This would start in 2022.

Members raised concerns about the amount of work done in relation to removing asbestos and dangerous iron work on Burry Port beach. Members discussed their concerns; the actions that had been agreed previously and the efficacy of some of the measures introduced.

Cllr Lisa Mitchell arrived at 7.10pm.

Cllr Karen Morris **PROPOSED**, seconded by Cllr Les George that a letter be sent to the County Council stating the concerns raised by members and requesting a meeting on the subject with appropriate officers. **RESOLVED.**

ACTION: Clerk/RFO

The Clerk/RFO read aloud a report from County Cllr John James for the Burry Port ward which had been received earlier in the day. A summary follows:

- 1) There would be a consultation on the County Council’s Public Spaces Protections Order, which was being extended. Town and Community Councils would be included as key stakeholders.
- 2) Work continues on lobbying to prohibit dogs from sporting and school fields in the County.
- 3) Has requested that all County Council owned flats in new St be given to those eligible and over 55’s.

- 4) Following anti-social behaviour in New St and Woodbrook Tce, the police had agreed to include the areas in their patrol plan.
- 5) Would be writing to the Chief Constable of Dyfed Powys Police with concerns on the 101 system of reporting criminal incidents, as it was taking too long.

Cllr Les George **PROPOSED**, seconded by Cllr Stephen James that the Town Council should write to the police in support of the action outlined above. **RESOLVED.**

ACTION: Clerk/RFO

Cllr Karen Trimble abstained from the above vote.

79. To receive the Mayor’s report.

Members noted that during the previous month the Mayor had attended the Council’s events. He wished it recorded that the Youth Theatre performances were a credit to the Town Council and all of those who had worked on it, including the Children, the volunteers and the CDO and staff.

Members were reminded about the Local Heroes dinner taking place on 19th November.

Members noted that the Deputy Mayor had attended the opening of the Food Forward Project on Station Rd on 9th November. She praised the work of the volunteers and the benefit the community was experiencing from the project.

Cllr Michael Theodoulou declared an interest.

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

Members noted a report from One Voice Wales that it was advertising to appoint new staff to support Town and Community Councils on a range of issues. They had also been working to tackle the defibrillator crisis in Wales, through advising and guiding them on how to be community administrators and wardens for them. A grant/award scheme was being set up to help fund the provision of additional units.

A meeting of the Partnership Council with OVW was due to take place next week.

81. To consider the Town Council’s response to the One Voice Wales Survey in relation to hybrid meetings.

Members noted that the survey was seeking data rather than opinion.

Cllr Stephen James **PROPOSED**, seconded by Cllr Hugh Shepardson that the Clerk/RFO be approved to submit a contribution on behalf of the Council. **RESOLVED.**

ACTION: Clerk/RFO

82. Confirmation of the appointment of the internal auditor (recommendation from Finance, Governance and Personnel Committee 09/11/21).

Members noted the recommendation from Finance, Governance & Personnel.

Cllr Linda Edwards **PROPOSED**, seconded by Cllr Karen Morris that the Council accept the recommendation and reappoint Charles & Co as the internal auditor. **RESOLVED**.

ACTION: Clerk/RFO

83. To note the following minutes for information:

Date	Meeting
6 th Oct 2021	Facilities & Assets Committee
12 th Oct 2021	Finance, Governance & Personnel Committee
12 th Oct 2021	Planning Committee
13 th Oct 2021	Regeneration and Community Engagement Committee DRAFT
19 th Oct 2021	Special Finance, Governance & Personnel Committee
26 th Oct 2021	Strategy Committee DRAFT

Noted

Cllr Karen Morris **PROPOSED**, seconded by Cllr Stephen James for the meeting to 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.

At 7.40pm all members of the public and staff, bar the Clerk/RFO and Deputy Town Clerk left the meeting.

84. Update on staffing matters.

A staffing matter was discussed.

Meeting ended 8.10pm