

Pembrey and Burry Port Town Council

Ordinary Meeting

Wednesday 15th September 2021

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

Present: Councillor Linda Edwards, Peter Freeman, John Hedley Jones, Karen Morris, Andrew Phillips, Hugh Shepardson, Sharon Thomas, Karen Trimble 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: Cllrs Les George, Robert John, David Owens, Michael Theodoulou, Moira Thomas and Bob Walpole

Absent: Cllrs Stephen James and Lisa Mitchell

Via videoconference 7.00pm – 7.30pm

Members noted that in the absence of the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor would be acting Chair for the meeting.

50. To receive apologies for absence.

Apologies had been received from Cllrs Les George, Robert John, David Owens, Michael Theodoulou, Moira Thomas and Bob Walpole.

The Clerk/RFO read aloud a letter from Cllr David Owens as per its instruction. The letter contained his resignation as Chair and as a member of the Finance, Governance and Personnel Committee and detailed his concerns and reason for his resignation.

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

Agenda item	Councillor	Interest
58	Peter Freeman	Personal – is a member of Plaid Cymru and a signatory on the letter.
58	Karen Trimble	Personal – is a member of Plaid Cymru and a signatory on the letter.

52. To confirm the minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on Wednesday 21st July 2021.

Cllr Linda Edwards **PROPOSED**, seconded by Cllr Hugh Shepardson that the minutes of the 21st July were an accurate record of the meeting. **RESOLVED**.

53. To consider the budget monitoring report.

The Clerk/RFO guided members through the high level report and it was noted that the following Committee budgets stood as follows:

Facilities and Assets – 33.8% which was equivalent of £1,800 over target budget. This was primarily due to loss of income compared to the target set. Expenditure was also up, primarily due to the Places for Nature project, however that expenditure was offset by the grant.

Finance, Governance and Personnel – 40.79% which was nearly £10,000 over target budget, however this was caused by a number of annual payments which would not be repeated in the same year.

Regeneration and Community Engagement – 34% the community support expenditure on Meals on Wheels was broadly offset by the income generated from the same scheme. However a large item in the Christmas lights services had pushed them marginally over target budget.

This left the total Council budget at 32% of its target budget.

54. To receive the County Councillor’s report.

Cllr Hugh Shepardson gave the following report from the Pembrey Ward:

There had been delays to the building of the new Pembrey School caused by a rise in materials costs and a disagreement on how they would be met. This had been resolved and contractors were expected to start work soon.

A large amount of work had been generated in relation to a planning application in the Pinged area and reports of intimidation.

Members heard that Carmarthenshire was reporting the highest number of case numbers of Covid-19 with over 2000 per day at present. The advice remained for those who had not yet accepted their doses of the vaccine to do so as soon as possible.

The Clerk/RFO read out a report from the Councillors for Burry Port Ward:

They had submitted a request that the New Street council accommodation be designated as being for over 55 year olds.

The orders related to dogs were going to be reviewed and stakeholders including Town and Community Councils would be part of an early engagement process during this review. Their request would be to call for a total ban on dogs in schools and on playing fields. If agreed this would go out to consultation.

55. To receive the Mayor’s report.

In the absence of the Mayor the Deputy Mayor reported that she had taken his place on the 6th of September to mark the lighting up of the Memorial Institute for Women Against State Pension Inequality. The event had been well attended and she thanked the public, staff and members who had turned out in support.

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

There were no reports.

57. Consideration of the commencement of the digital project.

Members noted the request to return any of the equipment they had received in loan from the digital project which they were not using for council meetings. The Council was bound by the terms of the grant to provide a certain number of tablets or devices for the project, and replacements may need to be purchased.

Members discussed their requirements if the office were to move towards a paperless office and if were to move to a hybrid meeting set up. It was noted that no decision had been taken by the Council on either issue as yet.

58. Consideration of communication received regarding flags.

Members noted the letter and its request and discussed the matter.

Cllr Hugh Shepardson **PROPOSED**, seconded by Cllr Mary Wenman that the Council should purchase and additional Welsh flag to fly on the empty flag pole in the Memorial Gardens.

In the ensuing vote 8 members voted in favour with 0 against and 1 abstention. **RESOLVED.**
ACTION: CFS

59. To note the following minutes for information:

Date	Meeting
5 July 2021	Police Liaison Committee DRAFT
7 July 2021	Facilities and Assets Committee
13 July 2021	Finance, Governance and Personnel Committee DRAFT
14 July 2021	Regeneration and Community Engagement Committee
20 July 2021	Planning Committee DRAFT
26 July 2021	Major Projects Sub Committee
28 July 2021	Major Projects Sub Committee DRAFT
28 July 2021	Facilities and Assets Committee
30 July 2021	Regeneration and Community Engagement Committee Special
10 August 2021	Planning Committee Special DRAFT
13 August 2021	Finance, Governance and Personnel Committee Special DRAFT

Cllr Mary Wenman **PROPOSED**, seconded by Cllr Linda Edwards to note the above minutes. **RESOLVED.**

Cllr Mary Wenman **PROPOSED**, seconded by Cllr Linda Edwards 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.

60. To confirm the confidential minute of the Extraordinary meeting held on Wednesday 21st July 2021.

Cllr Hugh Shepardson **PROPOSED**, seconded by Cllr Linda Edwards that the in camera minutes of the 21st July were an accurate record of the meeting. **RESOLVED**.

61. To consider a staffing matter.

Members noted an update from the Clerk/RFO on a staffing matter.

Meeting ended 7.30pm

DRAFT