# MINUTES OF A MEETING OF FULL COUNCIL held on 23 November 2023 at 6pm in the Old Wool Market and via video conference

Present Cllr J Owens Chairman / Mayor

Cllr M Lewis Vice Chairman / Deputy Mayor

Cllr J Brady
Cllr J Hackett
Cllr K Jones
Cllr H Lewis
Cllr P Lewis
Cllr T Moses
Cllr S Pearce
Cllr B Simister
Cllr R Thomas

Cllr R Thomas Turner

Vanessa Lewis Camacho Town Clerk

**Observers** Members of the public

2447 A Minute's silence took place in memory of the late Tricia Thomas Perry, Sword Bearer to the Town Council, who passed away on 25 October 2023.

#### 2448 Appointment of New Member of Council

Having signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office, Randell Thomas-Turner was welcomed as a Member of Council by the Mayor and those present. Cllr. Thomas-Turner's appointment to Committees and Outside Bodies would be considered under Agenda Items 9 and 10 (2456 and 2457 below).

# 2449 Apologies

Apologies for absence were noted from Cllrs A Brooker and C Black.

# 2450 Declarations of Interest from Members

Agenda Item	Member	Interest	Nature of interest
2458 Outside Bodies Appointments and Updates	Cllr. T Moses	Personal	Works on the Community Wellbeing and Resilience (CWBR) Project

#### 2451 Questions from Members of the Public

There were no questions from the public.

#### 2452 Minutes of previous meetings

- a) Full Council meeting held on 19 October 2023
  Minutes were accepted as a true record.
- b) Updates on the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 19 October 2023 2444 - Present Position of the Meeting with The Funding Officer for the Old Wool Market Project. The Town Clerk had met with the Funding Officer who had briefed her on the current status of the Project. It was important for Council to be aligned with its vision for Old Wool Market before a public consultation could take place in the New Year.

# 2439 – Community Garden

The Mayor noted that Vicki Moller had requested a contract between her organisation and the Town Council to formalise her taking on the management of the Garden. There had been some concern as to whether the Landlord would permit a sub-let but on review of the Lease, however a clause suggested that this would not be unreasonably withheld by the Landlord.

[Cllr S Pearce joined the meeting remotely at 6.06 p.m.]

2440 & 2441 – New Road Speed Scheme and Council's Reaction to the loss of Beds at Withybush Hospital – the two letters drafted by Cllr. R Thomas had been issued, and were pending a response.

**2443 – Accounts** - Town Clerk had arranged to meet Micky Phillips, Accountant, on 28 November 2023 who, of the firms contacted by Cllr P Lewis, had expressed interest in assisting with the Council's review of the accounts through to 30 September 2023, following the change of administration. The current administration was looking at an alternative accounting software also currently being used by other local Councils.

Resolved

Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 19 October 2023 were accepted as a true record

# 2453 Mayor's correspondence and updates

Mayor noted the funerals of former Cllr. Brian Griffiths and Tricia Thomas Perry, Sword Bearer, which had been well attended by members of Council.

Mayor had attended the Mayor Making event for the new Newport Major, Cllr. Tim Thomas.

Mayor had attended an interview with Pure West Radio ahead of the Christmas Lights Switch on on Saturday, when the joint winners of the Christmas Card Competition (both students of Ysgol Caer Elen) were invited to switch on the lights with the Mayor. The winning card entries were being framed to present to the students on the night before the Christmas card designs are sent to press.

Mayor presented a shield to be used for Best Year 13 Student – a Mayor's award to made annually over a ten-year period for community involvement at Haverfordwest High School. The first award was due to be presented by the Mayor on 19 December 2023.

Mayor had also attended the Ordination Service of Anthony Batterton, an American national, at The Haverfordwest Tabernacle Church.

Cllr P Lewis had written to the Mayor suggesting that the December Full Council and Committee meetings be amalgamated into the one meeting, due to Councillor absence. He also raised concern over last year's Civic Carol Service not being a success and the potential for this to be the case again this year while also putting additional pressure on the new administration to deliver this. He noted the date of the carol service had changed from 18 December to 15 December, which the Mayor confirmed was down to the availability of St Mary's Church, as 18 December had not been booked. The Mayor disagreed with the suggestion to cancel the carol service noting that arrangements were already being put in place but she was happy to put this to the rest of Council. Cllrs. Randell, M Lewis and T Moses expressed interest in continuing with the arrangements for the carol service.

On a show of hands, eight Cllrs voted to proceed with the arrangements to hold the carol service and two Cllrs voted against this decision.

Resolved: To proceed with arrangements to hold the Civic Carol Service

at St. Mary's Church on Friday 15 December 2023. The Major to announce it at the Christmas Lights Switch On on Saturday, 25 November and the Carol Service poster will be made available

to all Councillors to share on social media.

Resolved: Meetings of the MES and PPF Committees will be held on the

same evening on Tuesday 5 December, starting with MES Committee at 6.00 p.m. followed by the PPF Committee at 7.00

p.m.

# 2454 Planning Applications

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Ref No: 23/0685/PA	Proposal: Conversion of a garage to an annexe with extension			
Ward	Site Address: 60 Haven Park Drive, Haverfordwest SA61 1DW			
Resolved	To Support the application			
Ref No: 23/0521/LB	Proposal: Listed Building Consent for replacement of the rear elevation windows to the property, the installation of a kitchenette on the third floor, provision of an external cast iron downpipe on the rear elevation and installation of wall mounted electric radiators.			
Ward	Site Address: R K Lucas Estate Agents, 9 Victoria Place, Havefordwest SA61 2JX			
Resolved	To Support the application			
Ref No: 23/0588/PA	Proposal: Secure storage compound with containers to house telecoms infrastructure equipment			
Ward	Site Address: T-mobile Site, Hawthorn Rise, Haverfordwest SA61 2AY			
Resolved	To Support the application			
Ref No: 23/0302/LB	Proposal: Changes to internal finishes and removal of a section of existing bar. Changes to existing window to form fire escape window.			
Ward	Site Address: Old Three Crowns, 47 High Street, Haverfordwest, SA61 2BN			
Notification of Planning Decision	Conditionally approved on 26 October 2023			
Ref No: 23/0034/LB	Proposal: Replacement of existing boiler, flue and radiators.			
Ward	Site Address: 22 Church Street, Haverfordwest, SA61 2EA			
Notification of Planning Decision	Conditionally Approved on 26 October 2023			
Ref No: 23/0130/PA	Proposal: Variation of Condition 1 (Approved Plans – Plot 11) of planning permission 18/0094/PA. Approval of reserved matters (scale, appearance, layout and landscaping) to outline planning permission reference 15/0250/PA (residential development)			
Ward	Site Address: 11, Land off Slade Lane, Haverfordwest, SA61 2HA			
Notification of Planning Decision	Conditionally Approved on 30 October 2023			
Ref No: 23/0356/PA	Proposal: Conversion of existing commercial building to 6 Residential Flats and café (A3 use) at ground floor.			
Ward	Site Address: Pink Cat Shop, 24 High Street, Haverfordwest, SA61 2DA			

Notification of Planning	Conditionally approved on 7 November 2023
Decision	

Ref No: 23/0600/TF	Proposal: Tree Felling
Ward	Site Address: Cheriton, Park Corner Road, Haverfordwest, SA61 2XA
Notification of Planning Decision	Conditionally approved 13 November 2023

Ref No: 23/06	23/PA		Proposal: Buildings to be demolished
Ward			Site Address: 62-70 Dew Street, Haverfordwest, SA61 1NR
Notification Decision	of	Planning	Conditionally Approved on 13 November 2023

Ref No: 23/0522/PA	Proposal: Change of use and alterations to shopfront of 6-7 Castle Square, Haverfordwest SA61 2AB from vacant retail (A1 use class) to betting shop (Sui Generis use class)		
Ward	Site Address: 6-7 Castle Square, Haverfordwest, SA61 2AB		
Notification of Planning Decision	Refused on 16 November 2023		

Going forward, the Town Clerk to provide a link for Councillors to access the County Council's planning portal, along with the guidance previously made available to Councillors to assist when considering planning applications.

# 2455 Committee Minutes

The following minutes were submitted:

# a) Minutes of a meeting of the Management, Estates and Strategy (MES) Committee held on Tuesday 7 November 2023 at 6pm in the Old Wool Market and via video conference

Present Cllr B Simister MES Committee Chairman

Cllr J Owens Chairman of Council / Mayor - Ex-officio

Cllr S Pearce MES Committee Vice-Chairman

Cllr C Black Cllr P Lewis

Vanessa Lewis Camacho Town Clerk

**Apologies** Cllr A Griffiths

Cllr T Moses

**Observers** Cllr H Lewis

Cllr M Lewis Cllr R Thomas

Members of the public

Cllr B Simister welcomed everyone to the meeting.

# **Declarations of interest from Members**

Agenda Item	Member	Interest	Nature of interest
No declarations made			

# Updates on the minutes of the last meeting

Noted that the updates to the minutes of the last quorate meeting held on 6 June were reviewed at the Full Council meeting held on 22 June 2023.

#### 2023-2024 Action Plans

**Cemeteries:** A budget has been set aside for the repair works to the boundary wall and railings at Lower Prendergast cemetery and boundary wall at St Martin's Cemetery. Surveys have been undertaken but the work remains outstanding. Noted that a tender exercise would be required for these works. Cllr P Lewis raised his concern over Prendergast cemetery and noted that he was arranging to visit the cemeteries with Cllr B Simister to assess the current situation in order to accelerate a plan of action.

Resolved: Cllrs P Lewis and B Simister to visit cemeteries and report back to Council

**Christmas Lights sub-committee**: The sub-committee had not met formally but it was noted that the Christmas lights are being put up in the town by the contractor immediately following Remembrance Day, in readiness for the "lights switch on" event on Saturday 25 November in conjunction with Riverside Shopping. Cllr J Owens noted that this was the fifth year of the five-year contract with the contractor, which would need to be re-tendered in 2024.

**Community Garden:** Cllr T Moses had sent his apologies for the meeting. Cllr P Lewis requested that a report be brought to the next MES meeting. Cllr J Owens noted that a meeting with a representative from the funding organisation is being held at the Community Garden on 7 November and that the Clerk's office is working with Cllr T Moses to update the project's finances in preparation for the second draw down of funding. Cllr B Simister noted that he will follow up for an update after the 7 November meeting meanwhile.

Resolved:	Cllr T Moses to be asked to provide a full report on the Community Garden
	project to the MES meeting on 5 December

Priory Saltings: Cllr P Lewis raised concerns about the safety of the Saltings, in particular, under the bridge where the ground is frequently wet and where there is a set of approx. 17 steps with no handrailing. He recommended that the area is fenced off while a health and safety review is undertaken and, if appropriate, costings to instal hand railings are established. It was thought that Pembrokeshire County Council (PCC), from whom the Saltings is leased, had previously indicated that permission would not be given to instal hand railings. Cllrs P Lewis and B Simister will visit the Saltings with the groundsman when visiting the cemeteries. The Clerk agreed to look at the lease arrangements and to report back to the Committee. Cllr J Owens noted that the boardwalk had also been set fire to by vandals and was currently "boggie" due to the ash residue. This was also considered to be a potential hazard. Cllr P Lewis proposed that Council explore the possibility of returning ownership of the Saltings to PCC and to block it off in the meantime. This was seconded by Cllr B Simister. The Committee voted unanimously on this decision.

Resolved:	The Clerk to look at the Saltings Lease and report back to Council. Cllrs P Lewis and B Simister to conduct visit to the Saltings meanwhile.
Recommendation:	Council to explore returning ownership of the Saltings to PCC and to arrange for it to be blocked off.

**Sports Pavilion:** Noted that Prendergast Villa and the Swimming Pool Trust regularly use the Pavilion.

Haverfordwest Town Council Image projection: Cllr P Lewis suggested that more could be done to project the Council's image in a positive way. One example would be the branding of the Council's van. Cllr. R Thomas noted that the van should also display red/yellow chevrons. Other examples included changing the current logo from red to blue and seeking quotations for bunting for Spring 2024. Agreed that a Task and Finish Group is established to look at these and other branding ideas and to bring this work back to the Full Council in due course. Cllr M Lewis proposed that Cllr P Lewis lead the work of this group, which was seconded. It was agreed that the group comprise of Cllrs P Lewis, R Thomas and J Hackett.

Recommendation:	A Branding Task and Finish Group is set up comprising of Cllrs P Lewis,
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	R Thomas and J Hackett.

**Youth involvement:** Correspondence had been received from the Pembrokeshire Youth Team at PCC. It was agreed that consideration is given to this by the Personnel, Policy and Finance (PPF) Committee at its December meeting.

Recommendation:	PPF Co	mmittee	to	consider	PCC	correspondence	regarding
	Pembroke	eshire You	ıth T	eam involve	ement a	t its meeting on 7	December.
	Clerk to a	dd to PPF	Dece	ember agen	da.	_	

**Haverfordwest Civic Society:** A request had been received for Council to review the blue town plaques. It was agreed that more information should be sought from the Civic Society to understand what it is they are looking to achieve and for this to be brought back to the Personnel, Policy and Finance (PPF) Committee at its December meeting.

Recommendation:	Clerk to follow up request with Civic Society and to add item to PPF 7
	December agenda for PPF Committee consideration.

#### Items for next agenda

- 1) Cemetries repair work plan
- 2) Community Garden Report
- 3) Saltings lease / plan

With no further business to consider, the meeting was at 6.32pm.

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b) Minutes of the hybrid meeting of the Personnel, Policy and Finance (PPF) Committee held on Thursday 9 November 2023 at 6pm in the Old Wool Market

Present Cllr H Lewis PPF Committee Chairman

Cllr J Brady Cllr K Jones Cllr M Lewis

Cllr J Owens Chairman of Council / Mayor - Ex-officio

Cllr R Thomas

Vanessa Lewis Camacho Town Clerk

**Apologies** Cllr A Brooker

Cllr J Hackett

**Observer** Cllr P Lewis

Members of the public

#### **Declarations of interest from Members**

Agenda Item	Member	Interest	Nature of interest
None			

#### Update of the previous meeting

- 1) Accounts to 31 August 2023 were accepted at Full Council.
- 2) Bully and Harassment Policy was adopted at Full Council.
- 3) Standing Orders NALC revised version May 2023 Cllr P Lewis noted two areas which the established Task and Finish Group were still reviewing and agreed that an update paper would come to the December PPF meeting.
- 4) The grant awarded to Paul Sartori Foundation Ltd was approved at Full Council.

#### Accounts to 30 September 2023

In the absence of a breakdown behind the items within the financial statement Cllr R Thomas raised a number of queries on the financial statements (some to aid his understanding as a returning Councillor) which the new Clerk agreed to take away (in detail) and respond separately to Cllr Thomas and Council members, as appropriate. It was noted that the new Clerk (nor the other interim staff) did not yet have access to the existing accounting software and therefore could not currently support the information behind the financial statement entries printed off by the former Clerk for the period in question. An initial view is that there are better financial software packages available which can provide better reporting to Council, including a breakdown, and that this is being given priority, alongside taking control of the bank account (online banking) to be able to pay third parties and meet the Council's payroll obligations.

Recommendation	Accounts to 30 September 2023 were accepted subject to the
	queries raised by CIIr R Thomas.

# The Sheriff's Weekend - September 2024

Cllr H Lewis noted that it was the Council's turn to host this two-night event next year, which is attended by each town/City Sheriff (approximately 17, plus partners), during the last weekend in September. While attendees fund their own travel/hotel accommodations, Cllr M Lewis noted that the Council would be responsible for laying on a formal dinner, and lunch, and provide token gifts (latter to the Sheriff's only). An amount had been included in the budget to cover the event however Cllr M Lewis proposed that this is increased by £4,500 to £7,000, which was seconded by Cllr K Jones to cover expenditure.

Recommendation	The budget set aside for the Sheriff's event to be hosted by the
	Council in September 2024 be increased to £7,000.

# **Financial Support - Lifepoint Church Pembrokeshire**

The application requested a donation of £500 towards providing food hampers for struggling families and to host a Christmas fun event for them which will include a nativity parade, songs and carols, activities and food, run by the leaders and volunteers from Lifepoint Church and other local churches. It was agreed to donate the sum of £500 under the Local Government Act 2000 Section 2.

Recommendation	The Lifepoint Church Pembrokeshire be awarded a grant of
	£500.

#### Items for next agenda (brought forward on agenda for staffing to be last item):

- 1) Standing Orders review update
- 2) Sheriff weekend 2024 preparation
- 3) Haverfordwest Civic Society blue plaques (referred from MES Committee)
- 4) Youth involvement (Pembrokeshire Youth Team) (referred from MES Committee)
- 5) Preparation for 2024-25 Budget

Members of the public left at 6.35pm.

# **Staffing Matters**

All voted in favour of exercising the PUBLIC BODIES ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960.

#### Resolved

That as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting

Council members welcomed the new Clerk, who had been appointed as the Deputy Town Clerk prior to applying for the Town Clerk vacancy when it was advertised, and discussed the current transition arrangements which were felt to be working well. Cllr J Owens asked Council members for their patience and support while the new Clerk and her interim support establish and embed the new administration.

# The meeting closed at 6.44 pm

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- a) All voted to accept the minutes of the Management, Estates and Strategy Committee meeting.
- b) All voted to accept the minutes and recommendations of the Personnel, Policy and Finance Committee meeting.

Resolved The minutes and recommendations of the

Management, Estates and Strategy Committee meeting held on 7 November 2023 were accepted

Resolved The minutes and recommendations of the

Personnel, Policy and Finance Committee meeting held on 9 November 2023 were accepted

#### 2456 Brief updates on MES and PPF – 7 and 9 November Meeting minutes

#### **MES**

- Cllrs P Lewis, R Thomas and B Simister had visited the cemeteries. Railings at the lower Prendergast cemetery are rusty and have been temporarily repaired. The wall which overlooks the main road leading up to the Retail Park at Withybush was two thirds completed at the time and it is proposed that the original survey is checked to establish if anything further needs to be done, as it is not considered a hazard to the public and any residual funds could be used for repairs elsewhere.
- The Community Garden contact is being made with the landlord to seek a sub-let to Vicki Moller's organisation.
- Priory Saltings Cllr P Lewis had looked back over prior Council meeting minutes at decisions in relation to taking on this lease, a copy of which is being located. The state of the Boardwalk following arson damage was noted. A decision had already been taken by MES Committee to fence off the entire Saltings, not just the boardwalk and steps (which Council does not deem fit for use). The importance being on keeping the public safe. Council agreed to revisit the lease with a view to making a decision as to its future interest in the Priory Saltings.
- Sports Pavilion Swimming Pool Trust are looking to hold future meetings at the Old Wool Market.
- Town Council's image projection the Branding Task and Finish Group is to look at branding of the van so the public know its HTC out and about. Costings will be sought and brought to Council in due course.
- Haverfordwest Civic Society plaques more information is being sought from the Society and to justify the cost of replacement of plaques.

# PPF

- Accounts access to online banking by the current administration is still pending due to delay by the Bank. Short period where no access to accounting software but income accounts and expenditure is being tracked ready to make payments.
- Sheriff's weekend further discussion on £7,000 increase to budget to host this event in Haverfordwest in 2024. Arrangements will be starting early in the New Year.

# 2457 Terms of Reference for Committees, Sub-committees and Task and Finish Groups

Council voted unanimously in favour of Cllr R Thomas-Turner being appointed to the MES Committee, to provide a more even balance to the membership of that Committee, and also to the Branding Task and Finish Group, recently been establishment to deal with a backlog of outstanding issues.

Resolved:

That Cllr R Thomas-Turner is appointed to the MES Committee and the Branding Task & Finish Group (latter membership comprising Cllrs P Lewis, R Thomas and J Hackett which will be added to the update to the Terms of Reference Schedule).

# 2458 Outside Bodies – a) Appointments and b)Updates

Outside Body	a) Appointments	b) Updates
Bridge Meadow Trust (BMT)	All Councillors	No update
Cleddau Reaches Project (PCC)	Representing HTC: The Mayor, Cllr T Moses Representing BMT: Cllr T Moses Vacancy	No meetings held for more than six months. Town Clerk to check status with PCC
CWPP and all other youth projects	Town Clerk attends Cllr K Jones	No undata Objective to
CWBR and all other youth projects	(Proposed Change: Replace with Cllr R Thomas-Turner)	Pembrokeshire noted
Flagship Heritage Initiative (PCC)	Clir A Brooker Clir K Jones Vacancy Town Clerk attends (Proposed Change: Clir R Thomas-Turner to fill vacancy)	No update
Haverfordwest Business Circle	Cllr S Pearce	Cllr P Lewis attended recent meeting where PCC gave update on the Bridge over the Cleddau and the Castle initiative
Haverfordwest Swimming Pool Trust	Cllr B Simister	Meeting held on 20 November 2023. Some monetary grants were made
Haverfordwest Racecourse (Public Park) Trust	Cllr B Simister Cllr P Lewis Cllr R Thomas (but in his capacity as a Trustee)	
Haverfordwest Skatepark Association	Clir T Moses	No meetings held. Correspondence received at HTC offices collected
One Voice Wales Pembrokeshire Area Committee	Cllr J Owens (1 <sup>st</sup> Rep) Cllr T Moses (2 <sup>nd</sup> Rep – no voting right except when 1 <sup>st</sup> Rep not in attendance)	meeting invitation. Town Clerk to check
Pembrokeshire County Council Working Better Together Seminars	All Councillors and Town Clerk	Cllr T Moses noted requires better attendance
Portfield Recreation Committee (PRC)	The Mayor Cllr Bob Simister Cllr A Brooker Cllr R Thomas Cllr P Lewis	Cllr P Lewis noted no meeting held. PRC need to be notified of latest Cllr. Appointments.Town Clerk to follow up
School Governors: Prendergast Community Primary	Mrs Jenny Morgans – Council agreed on 16 December 2020 for	Town Clerk to check status (for the records)

	appointment to remain	
	until end of term of office	
Sir John Perrot Trust	The Major	Meeting held the
	Cllr M Lewis	previous week.
	Cllr S Pearce	Cllr P Lewis proposed
	Cllr B Simister	that a HTC Cllr (Cllr R
	Mrs J Morgans	Thomas) should replace
	(Proposed Change:	Mrs J Morgans as
	Replace J Morgans	Council representative.
	with Cllr R Thomas)	Cllr M Lewis seconded
	,	proposal.
Haverfordwest Town Museum	No HTC representation	Pop up museum plans.
	(noted by Cllr R Thomas	Cllr T Evans noted HTC
	as Trustee of Museum)	representation ended
		when lease was
		surrendered (March
		2023).
Town Team (The Mayor and two other Cllrs)	The Mayor	Town Clerk to check
(PCC)	Cllr T Moses	status with Sinead
	Vacancy	Henahan (PCC)
Transition Haverfordwest (PCC)	Cllr S Pearce	No meetings held. Town
	Cllr B Simister	Clerk to check with PCC.
Haverfordwest Twinning Association	Cllr H Lewis	Background: 12 lay
	Cllr M Lewis	members and 6
	Cllr J Owens	Councillors. Link passed
	Cllr K Jones	to PPF Committee where
William Vawer Trust	Vacancy The Major	funding is allocated.  Meeting held the
villiani vawei must	Cllr M Lewis	previous week.
	Clir S Pearce	Cllr P Lewis proposed
	Cllr B Simister	that a HTC Cllr (Cllr R
	Mrs J Morgans	Thomas) replace Mrs J
	(Proposed Change:	Morgans as Council
	Replace J Morgans	representative. Cllr M
	with Cllr R Thomas)	Lewis seconded
		proposal.
Youth Forum	Cllr K Jones	Same as CWBR
	(Proposed Change:	
	Replace with Cllr R	
	Thomas Turner)	

Resolved:

Cllr R. Thomas-Turner be appointed to CWBR Youth Project, Flagship Heritage Initiative, and Youth Forum (Council decision was by unanimous voting in each case).

Resolved:

To thank Mrs J Morgans for her services on behalf of HTC to the Sir John Perrot Trust and William Vawer Trust and to advise that Council now wishes to have full Council representation on both Trusts and for Cllr R Thomas to replace Mrs J Morgans. Council voted 6 in favour, 5 against this decision.

[Cllr K Jones left the meeting at 7.52 p.m.]

# 2459 Community Garden Sign and Funding

The Mayor raised concern over the Community Garden sign produced by Cllr. A Brooker and the payment of £700 made by the former administration directly to Cllr Brooker for this. Members of

the public had commented to the Mayor on the poor quality of the sign and consequently they would be surprised at how much it had cost. Cllr T Moses noted the typical cost of materials (2 sheets of marine plywood) and the hourly rates of community artists to create the sign, but acknowledged that the logo needs fixing. There had also been some preparation before the Community Garden event (4-5 hours community members painting before the day) and he felt it was reasonable use of the money. He noted that the payment to Cllr Brooker had been made in March before the grant funding window had closed. The Mayor noted that an approximately £200 had been also made available for refreshments which had not been not agreed. The Mayor put the matter to Council for decision.

Cllr M Lewis proposed that Cllr A Brooker be asked for the money to be returned to Council, which was seconded by Cllr. R Thomas-Turner. Cllr P Lewis added that the process followed in this case was not correct and should have involved a tender exercise. It therefore appears to have been more convenient to pay this money to a member of Council to produce the sign and consequently the money should be returned.

The Mayor proposed an amendment to Cllr M Lewis' original proposal to deduct the cost of plywood and painting materials, ie 'out of pocket' expenses, before asking Cllr A Brooker to return the rest of the money to Council, which was seconded by Cllr M Lewis.

Resolved:

Cllr A Brooker to be asked to return the money received for producing the Community Garden sign to Council in the amount of £700, less the cost of materials and other out of pocket expenses.

#### 2460 Donation to Pure West Radio in support of the 2023 Santa Sleigh Run

The Mayor noted that Council had been asked by Pure West Radio to support the Santa Sleigh Run in the town again this year for an amount between £500 and £1,000, which included additional costs, including sweets, which were provided in a separate break down. Cllr R Thomas-Turner proposed a payment of £750, which was seconded by Cllr P Lewis. Council voted unanimously on the decision.

Resolved:

Council to support the Santa Sleigh Run in the sum of £750.

#### 2461 Old Wool Market – Acquisition of blue meeting chairs from Garth Community Group

Council has been approached by the Garth Community Group, which had recently disbanded, to purchase the 20 blue meeting chairs currently on loan and being used at the Old Wool Market for meetings. A donation of between £20-25 per chair had been suggested by the Town Clerk (£450-£500 total) as the cost to replace them would be greater. It was noted that Garth Community Group intended to pay the proceeds of its bank account on closure to Fenton School. Cllr P Lewis proposed a payment of £500 for the chairs, which was seconded. Council voted unanimously on this decision.

Resolved:

Council to offer a payment to Garth Community Group of £500 for the purchase of the 20 meeting chairs currently in use at Old Wool Market.

#### 2462 Accounts update

All voted in favour of approving the accounts for payment in November 2023 of £44,962.64 (inclusive of VAT) which when added to the payments to Lifepoint Church, Pure West Radio (Santa Sleigh Run) and the Garth Community Group approved at this meeting, increased this amount to £46,712.64, including VAT.

Resolved:

November 2023 payments totalling £46,712.64 including VAT were approved for payment.

# 2463 Staffing Matters

All voted in favour of exercising the PUBLIC BODIES ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960.

Resolved:

That as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting

[Members of the public left the meeting at 8.13 p.m.]

The Mayor noted that Cllr. A Griffiths had automatically ceased to be a Councillor of the Garth Ward on 18 November 2023 due to his non-attendance at any meetings of Full Council of its Committees for a period of six months, without seeking prior permission of Council. This created a vacancy which would be advertised in due course.

During a broader discussion on groundskeeping arrangements, Council recognised the willingness of one of the Council's groundsmen who had gone above and beyond his normal duties and contractual hours to maintain the upkeep of all areas during sickness absence of the other Groundsmen. The Mayor agreed to relay the Council's appreciation to the individual concerned.

The Mayor raised concern that despite a former decision by Council that all ceremonial robes, chains, hats, gloves, frills, swords, and maces are to be kept securely at the Old Wool Market, this was not being adhered to by the Sheriff, Cllr A Brooker. There was also reason to believe that the Sheriff's robes and possibly his chain had been damaged on an occasion outside of performing his formal civic duty. It was proposed by the Mayor, and subsequently seconded by Cllr R Thomas-Turner, that in the event that the Mayor or Sheriff of the day caused damage to their robes or chains, or other ceremonial regalia which is the property of the Council, that they would be expected to replace them. Cllr R Thomas noted from experience that it is possible for accidents to occur at no fault of the individual and that this needed to be taken into account under any stipulation as regards damage. Cllr H Lewis also noted a request to the former administration to look into more appropriate storage/display arrangements for senior official robes, etc.

Cllr J Hackett proposed an amendment to the Mayor's original proposal so that the cost of replacing any damaged robes or chains or other ceremonial regalia which is the property of the Council caused through an act of neglect (which would include making a conscious decision not to comply with the Council's requirement for these items to be kept at the Council's offices (currently the Old Wool Market)) would be the responsibility of the individual. This amendment was seconded by Cllr M Lewis. Council voted all in favour of the amended proposal, with the exception of one abstention.

Resolved:

The requirement to keep ceremonial robes, chains and other regalia at the Council's offices to not only safeguard them but so that they are available for inspection is reinforced.

Resolved:

That the cost of replacing any damaged robes or chains or other ceremonial regalia which is the property of the Council caused through an act of neglect (which would include making a conscious decision not to comply with the Council's requirement to keep these items them at the Council's offices (currently Old Wool Market) will be the responsibility of the individual concerned.

2464 Cllr R Thomas-Turner requested to raise as an 'AOB' item that consideration be given by Council to a motion to consider the Wales Against Racism 2030 agenda in Haverfordwest. He noted that Wales would be the first country to enact and abolish racism and that cities such as Cardiff, Swansea and Carmarthen being nearest to the West were looking at this. Being a County town, he felt that Council should have a conversation and put motion forward next month to take this forward.

# 2465 Items for next agenda

Haverfordwest Castle Project (request by Cllr A Brooker)

With no further business to cor	nsider, the meeting ended at 8.35pm.	
Chairman of Council / Mayor		Signed
Proper Officer / Town Clerk		Signed
Date		

Haverfordwest Council Vision (request by Cllr T Moses for the New Year)