At a Meeting of Pembroke Dock Town Council held at the Pater Hall, Pembroke Dock on Thursday 4th January 2007.

PRESENT:

Councillor S. Perkins, Mayor Councillors D. Esmond, Mrs. C. Fortune, Mrs. P.E. George, P.G. Gwyther, K. Higgs D.L. Jones, Mrs. V.M.J. Roach, R.G. Watts, P. Weatherall.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Ian Jones, Town Clerk

119. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs. P.E.M. Folland, E. Hissey Mrs. J. Rees, and the Committee Clerk, Sue Lowen.

120. DISCUSSION WITH MR. NICK AINGER, MP, CONCERNING HOME OFFICE FUNDING FOR PCSOs

Mr Nick Ainger addressed members of the Council concerning the deployment of PCSOs within Dyfed Powys and in particular Pembroke and Pembroke Dock. He confirmed that there would be 4 PCSOs for Pembroke Dock and 3 for Pembroke with effect from April 2007. Originally he had been told that there were 9 PCSOs for our area but this had been reduced because the Police Authority had expressed concerns about the future funding of such officers. This had resulted in the 34 additional posts which would have come to Dyfed Powys being redeployed elsewhere in England and Wales. He explained that he had had a meeting with the Police Authority on the 6^{th} December which was followed by a meeting with Tony McNulty, Minister of State at the Home Office with Responsibility for Policing, to try and resolve the question of long term funding of PCSOs. The Police Authority were concerned that the PCSOs would not be properly funded on a long term basis and they wanted a specific breakdown of the costs involved. Mr Ainger explained that after the first year of a 100% funding for PCSOs the grant aid reduced to 75% in year two and 50% in year three. The apparent shortfall was then picked up in the main police grant which came from the Home Office and it was this grant which the Police Authority wanted broken down to show specifically the funding for PCSOs in year two and subsequent years.

Tony McNulty accepted that the Police Authority were being cautious with their budget controls and he agreed to report back to them about whether the grant aid could be subdivided so that they had an assurance that the PCSOs were being properly funded. The Chief Constable of Dyfed Powys has made it clear that he prefers to recruit police officers and not PCSOs. Mr. Ainger stated that in the past 8-9 years, 177 additional police officers had been recruited in Dyfed Powys. Mr. Ainger explained that legislation provided that individuals businesses and Town and Community Councils can team up to sponsor PCSOs, and it was this sponsorship which the letter from the Divisional Commander had highlighted.

Mr Ainger reminded members that current funding for police officers within the town may only provide a 'Mondeo' standard of service and it was up to Town and Community Councils and businesses to provide extra funding if a 'Rolls Royce' service was required. He personally believed that the use of PCSOs had shown real improvement in reducing low level crime and it was his hope that the arrival of PCSOs in Pembroke Dock would produce improvements.

Mr Ainger then answered questions from Town Councillors relating to the issues he had explained.

He was unable to comment upon a number of these questions as they were operational matters, e.g. it was stated that sometimes there were only 3 officers on duty at Pembroke Dock on a weekend. Similarly, comments that Police Officers on foot are a rarity in Pembroke Dock. There were concerns that the current CCTV cameras within Pembroke Dock were not working or not properly monitored. A recent survey on the Bush and Park estate resulted in the presence of police officers in that area being top of their agenda. Mr Ainger stated that as far as the Police Authority were concerned they were no longer in dispute with the Home Office concerning the costs which were involved in preparing for the proposed merger of police forces within Wales which had subsequently been abandoned.

121. QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION WITH MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Mr Doug King brought to the Council's attention the illegal parking of motor vehicles in and around the Town Centre and the lack of any action by both the County Council and the police to address this issue. Town Councillors pointed out that the enforcement of traffic regulations currently fell to traffic wardens and the police, although there was a move afoot to transfer it to the County Council with effect from April, but this date was yet to be confirmed. It was explained that the Town Council had received a report from the Town Clerk, the Traffic Warden and the then Mayor, Councillor Ron Watts some 18 months ago highlighting that the currrent yellow lines and signs to enforce parking restrictions were badly maintained and consequently could not be properly enforced. The Town Clerk had written and sent e-mails to John Price pointing out that since August 2005 there had been no attempt to rectify the signage/roadmarkings which had been highlighted as a result of that survey. There was a short debate as to the way forward given that County Councillors had also taken up the issue but there had still not been a remedy. It was agreed that a letter to the Cabinet Member responsible for transportation should be sent, expressing the Town Council's concerns about the failure to deal with the issues which had been raised 18 months ago. Inspector Gareth Thomas stated that as far as the police were concerned, road traffic matters and the enforcement of parking restrictions were a low priority and that his resources were put towards major crime issues. A suggestion from a Town Councillor that there should be a zero tolerance day within Pembroke Dock with regard to traffic infringements was not accepted as a realistic solution by the police.

The mayor thanked Doug King for bringing this issue to the Town Council's attention.

122. DISCUSSION WITH ACTING INSPECTOR GARETH THOMAS REGARDING CRIME AND DISORDER IN PEMBROKE DOCK

Inspector Thomas referred Members to his letter which had concerned the last Town Council meeting regarding antisocial behaviour near to or within Memorial Park. He stated that prior to Christmas, Officers had been engaged on an exercise to confiscate alcohol from youngsters (i.e. those under 18) within Pembroke Dock and to return youngsters who were suffering from the effects of alcohol to their parents. This exercise took place on Fridays and Saturdays. He hoped that PCSOs would have completed their training by the end of May and would then be linking in to youth clubs etc within Pembroke Dock. He saw the role of PCSOs as dealing with 'quality of life' issues and generally speaking they would not work after 10 o'clock at night time. He pointed out that the majority of incidents at or around the park took place before 10 o'clock in the evening. He explained that PCSOs have no arrest powers; they were limited to ordinary citizens' powers concerning arrest. He stated that PC John Morris would be the Officer in charge of the PCSOs within Pembroke Dock as the Neighbourhood Officer. The Neighbourhood Police Sergeant would be PC Thomas. He hoped that the Town Council would have a say in what PCSOs and the Neighbourhood Police Officers should target. He explained that the antisocial behaviour and drink problems with youngsters are not unique to Pembroke Dock and that he hoped these would be tackled with the arrival of PCSOs.

He invited members to pose questions which he then answered. In response to a enquiry from Councillor D. Esmond, he accepted that there was a problem with regard to youngsters travelling on trains from Pembroke Dock to Penally to go to the night club there. Some of these youngsters, fuelled with alcohol, were abusive to other train users and railway staff and this had resulted in police officers from the British Transport Police travelling on the trains. He accepted that this was not a real solution to the problem. A councillor also brought to his attention youngsters who returned home at 2 o'clock in the morning "steaming drunk". Again, this had to be tackled using current resources. In reply to an enquiry concerning drugs and substance abuse, he explained that the Dyfed Powys force stance on the issue remained as before, that is, people in possession of class C drugs or trafficking class C drugs would be arrested and charged.

He accepted there was a problem with alcohol being purchased by those under age from off licence premises. The police had worked with trading standards carrying out mystery shopping using youngsters who were under age. This had proved to be very effective in reducing the sale to those under age.

Inspector Gareth Thomas was thanked for his contribution to the debate and the Town Council look forward to working with the police in reducing antisocial behaviour in the town.

123. MINUTES

PROPOSED by Councillor Mrs. V.M.J. Roach SECONDED by Councillor Mrs. C. Fortune

RESOLVED -

That the Minutes of the last meeting of the Town Council held on 14th December 2006 be adopted as circulated. subject to the following amendments:

- (a) Minute 112(220) the final sentence of this minute should have in addition the words "It was noted that a garage had already been constructed on this site"
- **(b) Minute 117(c)** The community team consisted of a Sergeant, a Constable and a PCSO.

124. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

(a) Minute 113(227) – Absence of Councillor Mrs. P. Folland

The Town Clerk reported that Councillor Mrs. P. Folland had submitted medical evidence to support her absence from Town Council meetings

(b) Minute 115 – Update on the arrangements for the Christmas Event on 16th December 2006

Councillor Mrs. P. George updated Members about the Christmas activities but expressed disappointment with the numbers who attended . She explained that the Tourism Sub Committee would meet shortly to discuss a new format in respect of Christmas seasonal activities. The Town Clerk reported that there had been vandalism to the Tree and Christmas Lights in Lower Meyrick Street and Christmas items had been stolen from the Pumphouse Building. The costs of the items taken were less than £250 and therefore no insurance claim could be made. The damage to the Christmas Tree had resulted in the tree and lights being dismantled earlier than would normally have taken place. This year, sweets and satsumas given to the children by Father Christmas on the 16th December, were not provided by the Chamber of Trade as in previous years, but by the Town Council.

125. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

231. Visit and tour of National Assembly for Wales Chamber.

Members were reminded of the invitation received from Ms Christine Gwyther AM to visit the Assembly Chamber in 2007, and were requested to give suitable dates/times in order for the Town Clerk to make the necessary arrangements.

Members suggested that a suitable date would be February 22nd and the Town Clerk was asked to write to Ms Gwyther to see if this date was convenient. The following members indicated that they would like to attend: The Mayor, Councillor S Perkins, Councillors P. Weatherall, D. Esmond, Mrs. C. Fortune, P. Gwyther, R. Watts, and the Town Clerk, I. Jones. It was agreed that the group should arrive in Cardiff Bay at 1100hrs.

232. Town Award Scheme.

The Town Clerk advised that this had been introduced in January 2005 and it had been decided that it would be held biannually. He asked members to let him know if they wished nominations to be invited for 2007.

The previous format was as follows:-

- (a) Nominations are limited to Pembroke Dock residents. A nomination form would need to be completed by the person recommending such an award.
- (b) There are two categories of awards:-
 - (i) Award of Merit
 - (ii) Certificate of Commendation
- (c) Nominations received would be considered by an Awards Committee consisting of all Members of the Town Council.
- (d) The number of awards made in any one year would be at the discretion of the Awards Committee.
- (e) The awards would be made at an awards ceremony.

The Town Clerk suggested that a Press Release should be issued within the next 14 days with a closing date for nominees of 15th February 2007.

It was,

PROPOSED By Councillor D. Esmond SECONDED By Councillor R Watts

RESOLVED -

That a Town Awards scheme should be held this year with a press release being issued to the local press and local radio stations and a letter to groups inviting nominations.

233. New Traffic Order – Residents Parking Dimond Street (East).

The Town Clerk had received a letter from Mr John Price, Traffic Manager of Pembrokeshire County Council concerning the above matter (Appendix A). He advised that in coming to a decision the Town Council might wish to take into account that the proposed residents' only parking area was close to a limited waiting area and could be confusing for visitors and secondly it was close to the main street in the town as well as the current Doctor's surgery, thereby reducing the area available for shoppers etc to park for short periods.

Members' opinions were requested.

PROPOSED by Councillor D. Esmond SECONDED by Councillor Mrs. C. Fortune

RESOLVED-

That in view of the close proximity to the Town Centre, residents parking should only operate from 1730-0900hrs and that there be limited parking for an hour at other times during Monday-Saturday.

234. Application for a new Premises Licence, Ferry Inn, Pembroke Ferry, Pembroke Dock.

Councillor D. Esmond declared his interest in this matter and took no part in the discussion.

The Town Clerk had received notification from the County Council that an application had been made in respect of the above premises in respect of the following activities:-

Live Music, Recorded Music, Making music

Mondays to Thursdays 1900 to 2300hrs Fridays and Saturdays 1900 to 0000hrs Sundays 1900 to 2300hrs

Supply of alcohol

Mondays to Thursdays 1100 to 2300hrs Friday and Saturdays 1100 to 0000hrs Sundays 1100 to 2300hrs

Seasonal variations in respect of New Years Eve to allow alcohol to be sold until 0100hrs on 1 January.

Members had no observations to make on the applications. The hours and the entertainment provided were acceptable.

235. Planning Applications

The following application had been withdrawn:

06/0941/PA 75 Queen Street, Pembroke Dock – Change of use of ground floor into hot food takeaway

06/1079/PA Mrs. Fay Munn 32 Prospect Place,

134 Grange Road Pembroke Dock -

Dorridge Conversion of dwelling to two

Solihull flats in retrospect.

West Midlands B93 8OY.

PROPOSED by Councillor Mrs. C. Fortune SECONDED by Councillor Mrs. V.M.J. Roach

RESOLVED -

The Town Council were concerned that this was a retrospective application and wished that if planning permission was granted there was a condition for off street parking for residents of the flats in Milton Terrace (rear of the property) to be provided. It is accepted that this is shown on the plans but the Council believe it should be part of the formal granting of permission for conversion.

06/1092/PA Mr. T.A. Jarvis

Allende Pembroke Ferry Pembroke Dock SA72 6UD Allende, Pembroke Ferry, Pembroke Dock -

Erection of one dwelling

PROPOSED by Councillor D. Esmond SECONDED by Councillor K. Higgs

RESOLVED –

The Town Council believe that this is an unsuitable site on which to build a property due to its elongated nature. Any property built would have access problems given the small piece of land the property was to be built upon. The Town Council would therefore not support this application.

06/1100/PA Barclays Bank plc

One Churchill Place Canary Wharf, London E14 5HP Barclays Bank 1 Dimond Street Pembroke Dock -

Installation of a new Barclays ATM to provide customers with 24 hour access to Barclays Service.

PROPOSED by Councillor D. Esmond SECONDED by Councillor Mrs. C. Fortune

RESOLVED –

That the Town Council have no objection to this application

06/1101/LB Green & Bolwell,

Beech Cottage, Ty Coch Close, Llantarnam, NP44 7AX 28, Commercial Row, Pembroke Dock.

Removal of shop fittings which are to be donated to the local authority.

PROPOSED by Councillor D. Esmond SECONDED by Councillor D. Jones

RESOLVED –

That the Town Council required clarification as to where the shop fittings would be placed. There was a feeling that the items should be kept within the town as it was part of the heritage. 06/1102 Barclays Bank PLC 1, Churchill Place, Canary Wharf,

Barclays Bank, 1, Dimond Street, Pembroke Dock. ATM Integrated lightbox and illuminated top panel

PROPOSED by Councillor D. Esmond SECONDED by Councillor Mrs. C. Fortune

RESOLVED -

That the Town Council have no objection to this application.

126. SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK

236. Application for New Premises Licence at Bush Tavern, 65, Bush Street, Pembroke Dock.

The Town Clerk had received notification the previous day that a Premises Licence application had been made in respect of the above premises. He regretted that despite telephone calls and e-mails to the County Council, he had been unable to obtain further details of the application such that he had now made a formal complaint to the County Council about the standard of service they had offered in this case.

237. One Voice Wales Pembrokeshire Area Committee.

The Town Clerk had received notification that the next meeting of the above Committee would be held at the Village Hall, Penally on Thursday 11th January 2007 starting at 7.00pm when there would be an address given by a representative of the Welsh Language Board. In addition there would be other matters of general interest discussed. The Town Council had been invited to send an observer to the meeting if desired.

There were no members of the Town Council who wished to attend this meeting.

238. Pembrokeshire Association of Local Councils.

The Town Clerk had received notification from the Secretary of the Association that there were three vacancies on its Executive Committee. If the Town Council wished to nominate another member in addition to Councillor Ron Watts then the name would be forwarded to the Association. In the event of too many nominations then the Executive Committee would determine who would be appointed. He had also been advised that the subscription for 2007/8 will be £150.

No Members were interested in putting their names forward as members of the PALC committee

The letter also wished to bring to Town and Community Councils' attention the fact that some questions perhaps to be considered as a result of the current review of Town and Community Councils were:-

- (a) Are there too many Community Councils?
- (a) Are they too small to be viable?
- **(b)** Should consideration be given to merging some councils?
- (c) If so what may happen to your historical identity?
- (d) Should there be a greater emphasis on joint working between neighbouring councils?
- (e) Should the number of Councillors in the Community are be reduced / increased?
- **(f)** How do Councils engender an interest in becoming a Community / Town Councillor?
- (g) Should all Councillors be formally elected and not be appointed "unopposed"?

This information was provided for members to note.

239 - Planning Decisions.

The following planning decisions had been received:-

05/1545/PA Erection of one dwelling – Plot rear of 25, Prospect Place, Pembroke Dock – **Approved.**

The Town Clerk advised Members of some of the conditions which had been imposed in this case e.g.

- (a) off street parking space shall be completed and available for use before any building works associated with the development are commenced
- (b) Proposed rear dormer windows are to be omitted and replaced by Velux roof windows and the western gable window serving the lounge is to be omitted and the area blocked and rendered. This is to preserve the privacy of adjacent gardens.

05/1621/PA 3 Residential units to be occupied in association with the residential home, sun lounge, toilet block and storeroom – Apley Lodge, Apley Terrace, Pembroke Dock – **Approved**

06/0667/PA Change of use to taxi operating centre and garage to taxi office – Garage at Fern Villa, Owen Street, Pennar, Pembroke Dock – **Approved.**

The Town Clerk advised Members of some of the conditions which had been imposed in this case e.g.

- (a) The use permitted shall cease and the site revert to residential use by 1 January 2008 unless application is made and permission granted for its continuation. This is in order for the Local Planning Authority to monitor any adverse impacts on the amenities of people living nearby.
- (b) The sole means of access to the car park shall be as the approved plan.
- (c) There shall be no external alteration to the garage / office without the written consent of the Local Planning Authority.

- (d) Any access gates shall be hinged and stopped to open only away from the highway. This is in order to reduce the likelihood of obstruction and danger to road users whilst right of entry is secured or gates are being opened or closed.
- (e) Adequate facilities for parking shall be made available at all times within the cartilage of the site to the satisfaction of the Local Planning Authority. These works are to be completed before the development is brought into use.
- (f) The premises shall be used as an office and for taxi parking only. No vehicle repairs or servicing shall take place at the site.
- (g) There shall be no taxi movements to or from the site between the hours of 11.00pm and 7.00am. This is in order to preserve the amenities of the area.

06/0726/PA Amended house types to Plots 7 & 8 and garage positions to Plots 6, 7, 11, 12 and 13 – Ridge View Close, Ferry Road, Pennar, Pembroke Dock. – **Approved.**

06/0785/PA Change of use from office to 2 No self contained flats – 45, Law Street, Pembroke Dock. – **Approved.**

127. REPORT OF THE FINANCIAL OFFICER

24. Payment of Accounts

The following accounts were submitted for approval of payment:

117	SWALEC – Electricity – Albion Square Lamp	£21.51
118	B. Sutton – Fairtrade Provisions	£75.30
119	Pembrokeshire Youth Offending Team – Donation	£250.00

PROPOSED by Councillor D. Esmond SECONDED by Councillor Mrs. V.M.J. Roach

RESOLVED –

That Account Nos. 117-119 be approved for payment.

128. REPORT FROM TOWN CLERK TO ACCOMPANY ESTIMATES FOR 2007/8 YEAR

The Town Clerk and Finance Officer had prepared a provisional budget for the financial year ending 31 March 2008 for consideration by members. If the budget was accepted then for an average property a householder would be paying just below 87p per week towards local amenities, supporting local organisations / voluntary groups etc.

In preparing the estimates the Town Clerk advised that they had tried to anticipate likely increases in expenditure such as the Memorial Park, renovations at the Pater Hall. There was also a need to take into account the increase in the Town Council insurance cover which now included the Pump House Building, the Fingerposts and the various items of service history (Challenger Tank and Sunderland Propeller) which the Town Council are responsible for and are located adjacent to the Western Way Car Park. The

Town Clerk had also increased the estimate in respect of the twinning arrangements between the town and Pembroke Malta given the number of events happening in 2007/8 year. He advised members that Pembroke Town Council had similarly increased their provision for the forthcoming year in respect of this budget head. He had also made modest increases to the Mayor and Deputy Mayor's allowances. In increasing the Official Entertainment budget he was anticipating that the closure of the RN presence in the Dockyard would be commemorated in some way and he was aware that some events were already being planned regarding this. With regard to Town Decoration and Improvements there were increases shown to cover items such as continued renewal of the Christmas lights and Town Centre / Memorial Park upgrading.

In the area of Promotion of Tourism the budget had been increased to accommodate additional expenditure for a Christmas Festival as well as once again giving some financial assistance to the Summer Festival Committee.

He appreciated that the anticipated budget would mean that the precept would have to increase over 2006/7 by £9.18, however, he believed that that if the Town Council wished to make a difference to the facilities and attractions provided in the town etc then this was a sum which was needed to do the job effectively. There was not sufficient in the reserves to take money on a regular basis to reduce the precept as had been done this year in relation to the donation towards the renovations in the Pater Hall.

He advised that the Town Council would also need to bear in mind that when working with others in partnership they should come to the table with some money otherwise they would not be taken seriously.

There was a full and frank discussion by members of the proposed budget for 2007/8 year. Concerns were expressed by Councillor D. Jones about the donation of £30,000 towards Pater Hall in respect of improvements. He also questioned whether the Trust was obtaining value for money on the services it provided and the staff it employed. He also raised the point as to whether it was reasonable for the Town Council to make a contribution towards CCTV cameras in the town, and commented that if the Town Council had waited to purchase the fingerposts they would have received a 100% grant for the work and not 50% from THI as was the case. He expressed concerns as to whether the hike in the precept to cover the additional expenditure was reasonable The Town Clerk then went through each item on the budget statement and pointed out that the days when the Town Council came to the table with no money at all were long gone. It was the Town Council's responsibility to provide support, equipment and facilities to the residents of Pembroke Dock and this could not be done on a shoestring. The Town Clerk stated that in the 2006/7 financial year, Pembroke Town Council had requested a precept of £112,540, Tenby had requested £134,487, Milford Haven had requested £139,783 and Haverfordwest had request £161,068. All these were above the figure of £108,870 requested by Pembroke Dock. Councillor P. Gwyther stated that the increased precept really came down to the extra £30,000 which was the Town Council's donations towards the Pater Hall Community Trust and the work which was required on the Hall. For the 2006/7 year the £30,000 had come from reserves and the commitment was only for a period of three years, therefore the increased precept to cover this sum would only be required for a further two years, that is 2007/2008 and 2008/2009.

The Town Clerk also gave members details of monies being held in the following accounts:

Current Account £14,216.05 Deposit Account £52,255.62

Pater Hall Account £36,571.40

He reminded members that, in his view, the Town Council should in any one year have reserves of no more than one third of the precept it is seeking in that year. The figures he had quoted were the position as at 31st December 2006 and included the final precept contribution for 2006/2007 year. The sums therefore in the account at the end of March 2007 would be nearer the £34,000 mark.

After further discussion it was agreed to trim the budget as follows:

6. SECTION 137

a) Donations - the estimate would be £5000 and not £6000

7. MISCELLANEOUS

c) CCTV Cameras contribution to running costs – this would be reduced from £4000 to £3500

The precept required would be adjusted accordingly.

129. PERIODIC ELECTORAL REVIEW

The Town Council noted the contents of the Periodic Electoral Review but at this stage did not wish to make any observations.

130. REPORTS FROM TOWN COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES SERVING ON OUTSIDE BODIES

There were no reports to receive from Town Council Representatives serving on outside bodies.

131. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) Councillor Mrs P George brought to members attention the death of a former Councillor, Mike Owen from Prospect Place in Pembroke Dock, and she requested a letter of condolence be sent to his widow. It was agreed the Town Clerk should send such a letter.
- (b) There was a general discussion on the arrangements which had been made by County Council for the collection of domestic and business rubbish in Pembroke Dock over the Christmas period especially concerning those living in Central Ward The Town Clerk stated that on the previous day he had to remove bags of waste which were 8ft high from the entrance to the Town Council offices. He believed that these bags had been placed there by disgruntled residents from within the town who believed that the Town Council were responsible for collection of the waste. It was agreed that a letter of complaint be sent to the County Council requesting that in future a period of 14 days between collections was an unacceptable length of time especially at Christmas when there was more waste to be disposed of.

- (c) Members were advised that a residents parking scheme was likely to be introduced in respect of Lower Gwyther Street. The Town Clerk replied that he had yet to receive such a notification.
- (d) Councillor Mrs. V. Roach commented that retrospective planning applications appeared to be on the increase, and that there was no penality imposed i.e. fine, when such applications were made

It was suggested that in order to improve the planning process and to ensure that procedures were correctly followed, a fine system should be introduced. The Town Clerk was asked to write to the County Council suggesting that such a scheme be implemented.

The meeting ended at 2105hrs

Mayor	