

At a Meeting of Pembroke Dock
Town Council held at the Pater
Hall, Pembroke Dock on
Thursday 25th October 2007

PRESENT:

Councillor P. Weatherall, Mayor.
Councillors Mrs P Folland,
Mrs P E George, P.G Gwyther,
E.F Hissey, T. McMahon,
S. Perkins, Mrs V.J.M Roach,
and R Watts.

IN ATTENDANCE:-

Ian Jones, Town Clerk

92. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs C Fortune and D. L. Jones.

93. TO CONSIDER THE DOCUMENT "RELATIONSHIP BUILDING AND CHARTERS FOR UNITARY AUTHORITIES AND COMMUNITY AND TOWN COUNCILS.

The Mayor stated that he had read the report which contained many useful ideas for improving relationships between the County Council and Town and Community Councils. In particular, given the problems which we have with the County Council in dealing with routine correspondence in a reasonable period of time, he believed the idea of having a dedicated Community Liaison Officer as shown in Case Study 6 of the report would be an improvement on what already exists. The Town Clerk stated that this idea was working very effectively in the Isle of Wight where the County Council there were strengthening the links with Community and Town Councils. This was something which could be taken forward locally and he had already spoken to County Councillor Peter Stock who is the Cabinet Member for Communities to see if it had merit within Pembrokeshire. Councillor Sue Perkins stated that it was important that the role of the individual sections of the County Council in dealing with a reply was not overlooked. The Town Clerk stated that as he saw the matter it would be for the Liaison Officer to chase up responses and to ensure that such responses addressed the concerns raised. This would save Town and Community Council Clerks time. Councillors agreed that on the question of delegated functions it was important that we did not have double taxation for the services offered. Co-operation and partnership with the County Council was the way forward with Town and Community Councils enhancing what was on offer. Developing a Community Strategy could not be done in isolation from the County Council.

Members agreed that they would let the Town Clerk have their views on this document by 16th November 2007 so that the Mayor and Deputy Mayor and the Town Clerk would put together a composite response by the closing date of 3 December 2007.

94. TO CONSIDER THE DOCUMENT “LOCAL VISION – PREPARING COMMUNITY STRATEGIES”.

Comment was made that the document was long winded and somewhat complex. Note was made of comment at para 1.16 which referred to a Community Strategy could not realistically cover every issue that may be relevant to a local community, instead it should focus on collaboration between partners and what could give added value over a longer term. Note was made of the Community and Town Council section of the report which referred to community strategies being prepared jointly between the County Council and the Local Service Board. The role of the Board was discussed as to whether the members would be paid. If they were members of the County Council or Health Board then they already received an allowance / salary for their work but in the case of Town Community Councils there was no payment being made. Councillor Sue Perkins stated that these Boards were in an embryonic stage and it had yet to be decided who would serve on them.

Members agreed that they would let the Town Clerk have their views on this document by 16th November 2007 so that the Mayor and Deputy Mayor and the Town Clerk would put together a composite response by the closing date of 23 November 2007.

95. TO CONSIDER THE DOCUMENT CONCERNING A PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT FRAMEWORK AND PERFORMANCE INDICATORS FOR FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITIES.

It was agreed that some form of national performance measurement system was required so that each authority could be assessed on similar statistical data. Concern was again expressed at the fact that the Haverfordwest Fire Station was likely to have a change in its manning system which may result in a longer response time to evening emergency calls (effective response rates). This debate was ongoing. The Town Clerk pointed out that there was little point in collecting data which was then not used so it was important that what was being requested was suitable for assessing service needs. Anything collected would be used to determine any changes necessary etc.

Members agreed that they would let the Town Clerk have their views on this document by 16th November 2007 so that the Mayor and Deputy Mayor and the Town Clerk would put together a composite response by the closing date of 20 December 2007.

96. REVIEW OF BUDGET AGAINST PROFILE.

The Town Clerk introduced this subject and members were able to study a copy of the budget against profile for the period to 30 September 2007. He explained why some budget heads were overspent and why others were underspent. Overall he was of the opinion that we would keep within budget this year.

97. PRELIMINARY CONSIDERATION OF BUDGET FOR 2008/9 YEAR.

The Town Clerk gave a power point presentation on Town Council Finance. Copies of the presentation are attached to these minutes. The Town Clerk stated that for Nil Budgeting purposes it was necessary to ask the question: - Is this a service we wish to provide and what is a realistic cost to provide it? If there were additional services to be provided again what would be the cost?

Members agreed to consider what items should be included in the forthcoming budget and to report these back to the Town Council meeting to be held on 13th December 2007. This would then enable the Town Clerk and Finance Officer to prepare it in time for the Budget Meeting on 17th January 2008, although there may be a need to have a separate meeting for this if the County Council wished to have the information earlier or if members wanted to have a full debate on the issues.

The meeting ended at 2005hrs.

Mayor