

At a Special Meeting of Pembroke
Dock Town Council held at the
Pater Hall, Pembroke Dock on
Thursday 10th January 2008

PRESENT:

Councillor P. Weatherall, Mayor
Councillor Mrs. P. Folland,
P. Gwyther, T. McMahon, S. Perkins,
Mrs. V. Roach, R. Watts

IN ATTENDANCE:

Ian Jones, Town Clerk

132. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor D. Esmond, Mrs. C. Fortune, Mrs. P. George, K. Higgs and D. Jones

133. PRECEPT FOR 2008/2009

The Town Clerk presented the Estimates for 2008/2009 together with his report. It was agreed that the Town Clerk's hours be increased to 30 with effect from 1st April 2008. This would include attendance at meetings.

The amendments were made to the Estimates as follows:

Item 5(h) – Town Centre/Memorial Park Upgrading

The estimate was reduced to £4,000 from the £5,000 suggested.

Item 5(i) – Repairs/Renovations to Tank etc.

The Town Clerk's ideas concerning the spreading of the cost of repairs over two financial years, 2007/2008 and 2008/2009, were discussed. There was a feeling that a sum of £9000 being spent on the project could not be justified. As stated in the previous Town Council minutes, Members were of the opinion that a partner should be found to help with the work. Accordingly the estimate for 2008/09 was reduced to £3000. This would include the cost of fencing off the tank in the interim.

The remaining items included under Estimates were accepted. With regard to the Summer Festival, consultations will now take place with the Summer Festival

Committee to see what event could be held to coincide with Seafair Haven. The estimate of £6000 included an amount towards both Seafair Haven and the Round Britain Powerboat Race.

With regard to the Fireworks Championships, it was agreed that an increase to £3000 was justified given the increase in the number of people attending the event in September 2007.

The total sum required after these adjustments came to £190,400.

Taking into account the income likely to be received in the year, a precept was required of £158,490.

It was

PROPOSED by Councillor P Gwyther
SECONDED by Councillor Mrs. P. Folland

RESOLVED –
That the Revised Estimates prepared by the Town Clerk be accepted.

134. TOWN COUNCIL MEETING 17TH JANUARY 2008

The Town Clerk explained that he would be unable to Clerk the meeting on the 17th January as he was in Litchfield that day for a meeting. He asked if it was possible to postpone the meeting to the 24th January. This was agreed.

135. RECEPTION GIVEN BY THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR MALTA

An invitation had been received for a member of the Town Council to attend a reception on the 16th January 2008 in Cardiff Bay, to introduce the new Honorary Consul for Wales. Neither the Mayor or Deputy Mayor were able to attend and the Town Clerk asked if any other member wished to take their place. No member present was able to accept the invitation and the Town Clerk indicated that as he was on his way to Litchfield that day he would attend if no-one else was available. It was suggested that Councillor D. Esmond, who was not present, be approached to see if he was available, and failing him the Town Clerk would cover.

136. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Because the Town Council meeting scheduled for the following week had been postponed to the 24th January, the Mayor asked Members if there were any issues that they wanted to raise.

(a) Martello Quays Development

Councillor S. Perkins advised members that the Martello Quays planning application had been approved on Tuesday 8th January. There was a Section 106 agreement which provided money for roads, social housing, and education. It was suggested that the Town Clerk write to the County Council to enquire how the figures which formed part of the Section 106 agreement had been arrived at because none of the suggestions put forward by the Town Council in the three letters sent about this application had been taken on board by the County Council. Councillor S. Perkins indicated that the planning application only covered the outline work, i.e. building of the barrage. There was therefore some leeway on the housing, so the Town Council should have an opportunity at a later date to comment on the height of buildings etc. It had been proposed at the Planning Committee that there be a site visit, however this was lost. There was no discussion whatsoever about the three letters which were submitted by the Town Council although they were included in the papers sent to members.

Councillor P. Gwyther stated that the information on the Martello Quay Development which appeared in the Western Telegraph gave only one side of the argument. In his view the proposal for a cinema and a retail hall were still speculative and this had not been made clear in the Western Telegraph article.

(b) Summer Festival Committee

Councillor S. Perkins advised members that the Summer Festival Committee would be meeting the following day to start putting together their proposals for this year's Festival. The Maritime Heritage Trust had proposed an event to take place during Seafair Haven. and this would be discussed at tomorrow's meeting. Grants were available from the Milford Haven Port Authority towards such events. However there appeared to be a need to provide accommodation for visitors. At this stage it was not certain who should make the application, i.e. the Summer Festival Committee or the Town Council, but it was agreed that there needed to be close liaison to ensure that an application was made by either party by 31st January which was the closing date.

(c) Traffic Problems – Bierspool Retail Park

Councillor Mrs. Roach expressed her concerns about the volume of traffic leaving Tescos in Bierspool just before Christmas . It was quite clear that the traffic lights were not coping with the volume of traffic. She had concerns about the amount of traffic which

would follow as a result of the Martello Quays Project commencing. She accepted that Tesco's had apologised for the traffic problems via the Western Telegraph, but there was a need to deal with traffic entering and leaving the Bierspool Retail Park especially with the advent of three more stores opening. The Town Clerk was asked to write to the County Council again about the matter to see what progress had been made since he last made contact.

(d) Fire damaged building – corner of Dimond Street and Laws Street

Councillor R. Watts raised the matter of Health and Safety with regards to the fire damaged building at the corner of Dimond Street and Laws Street. He reported that slates and other items from the damaged building had fallen down during the windy weather outside the caged area. The problem concerning increased use of Gwyther Street during the closure of Laws Street was also raised. That day, Welsh Water had commenced some excavation work in Gwyther Street which caused problems for vehicles using that street. In addition, water had been cut off for a period of time without notification to residents. When the water was subsequently reconnected it was of a poor condition, i.e. dirty. There was a feeling that the work could have been delayed until Laws Street had been reopened and, in addition, residents should have been properly informed. The Town Clerk was asked to write to Welsh Water to find out why this work had taken place without notification.

(e) Cleaning of Pavements

The Mayor asked the Town Clerk if he would make contact with the County Council concerning the large amount of mud and leaves on the pavement in the area between the Memorial Park and the Blue School (near to entrance leading to the Bowling Club). The drains in this area were not coping with the water which followed heavy rainfall. He also asked that the County Council be advised about the amount of leaves on the pavement and in the gutter of Argyle Street and asked if it was possible that this could be cleaned up.

The meeting closed at 2000hrs.