

At a Meeting of Pembroke Dock Town Council held at the Pater Hall, Pembroke Dock on Thursday 2nd November 2017

PRESENT: [INSERT NAMES OF COUNCILLORS IN ATTENDANCE STARTING WITH MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR AND THEN ALL OTHER COUNCILLORS IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER

IN ATTENDANCE:

Sarah Scourfield – Town Clerk
Amanda Dillaway – Deputy Town Clerk
Amanda Hart – Administrative Support Officer

71 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Peter Kraus
Councillor G Anderson on Leave of Absence

72 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor M Colgan - Pater Hall Trust
Councillor P George – Pater Hall Trust
Councillor P Gwyther – Pater Hall Trust
Councillor J Phillips – Pater Hall Trust
Councillor D Burrell – Personal interest via relationship to Pater Hall Trustee
Councillor J George – Personal interest via relationship to Pater Hall Trustee

73 QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION WITH MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Mr John Lloyd stated the disrespect shown by a councillor wearing a hat during the prayers and meeting. Councillor J Beynon stated that being an atheist he did not believe that he was being disrespectful and would not apologise for his dress code.

Mr Lloyd addressed the meeting and stated that he had a number of questions. Firstly Mr Lloyd stated that he wanted to point out that the minutes of the 5th October 2017 meeting had incorrectly quoted him. Specifically Page 47, Paragraph 3 last sentence. Mr Lloyd stated that he did not make this comment.

Mr Lloyd wished to ask if the Code of Conduct training had taken place that had been mentioned within the minutes of 7th September 2017 as he had concerns that further bullying might take place. Secondly Mr Lloyd wished to ask if the Town Council would be making public the names of those councillors who had allegedly carried out the bullying.

The Mayor, Councillor J McNaughton and the Town Clerk stated that the training had taken place and those councillors who had attended made a show of hands – which was most of those members present.

On the subject of the identification of the councillors alleged of bullying, Councillor McNaughton stated that it would not be prudent at this time to give any names due to the internal investigation that is continuing.

74 TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER THE MINUTES OF THE 5TH OCTOBER 2017

It was

PROPOSED by Councillor B Hall
SECONDED by Councillor G Goff
RESOLVED - That the Minutes of 5th October 2017 are adopted as a true record with the addition of the comment made by Mr John Lloyd in Item 73 above.

TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER THE MINUTES OF 19TH OCTOBER 2017

It was

PROPOSED by Councillor B Hall
SECONDED by Councillor J Beynon
RESOLVED - That the Minutes of 19th October 2017 are adopted as a true record.

75 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 5th OCTOBER 2017

Item 57.51 – Traffic Management Aldi/Ferry Lane Junctions

The Town Clerk stated that she had received a response from PCC in which it was stated that the works hopefully would start before Christmas on the installation of Traffic Lights. Councillor B Hall stated that this had been muted for a number of years and that the Trunk Road Agency who managed that area of road, had a outstanding scheme of resurfacing the A477 from Kilgetty into Pembroke Dock and the junction in question would form part of this. Councillor Hall stated he doubted the work would commence before the end of the year. Easier to complete would be a pot of paint and the implementation of a “No Right Turn”.

Item 60 – Councillor G Manning Proposals on Office Location

The Town Clerk asked for Members’ feedback following the recent visit to the potential office space in Dimond Street.

Councillor G Manning stated that a number of Councillors had attended the appointment to view the shop (formerly Megan’s) in Dimond Street. The property seemed the ideal opportunity for the Town Council to move back into the town and Councillor Manning proposed that the Town Council relocate to the property in Dimond Street. Councillor B Hall seconded the proposal by Councillor Manning.

It was commented whether a proper debate should take place prior to any vote on Councillor Manning’s proposal. Councillor T Wilcox stated that he had concerns over the property being “For Sale” and that any move to Dimond Street might be too short term. Councillor B Hall stated that the property had been for sale for over two years and that the offer made by the owner to accommodate the Town Council on a month by month contract would still be better than the current out of town location which was inaccessible to some residents.

Councillor S O’Connor questioned if it would be better to continue with the Matters Arising rather than carry on with the debate over the office location. As the item was not part of the later agenda, it was decided to continue.

Councillor M Colgan stated that she wished to propose the office relocate back to the Pater Hall as the new office space would be ready by Christmas. Councillor P George seconded this proposal. Councillor P Gwyther stated that he felt Councillor Colgan was not correct in her assumption that the offices would be complete.

It was again questioned whether the space allocated by the Pater Hall Trust for the Town Council

would be sufficient. It was again pointed out that the space was not going to be large enough.

It was decided to take a vote on both proposals currently on the table:

Proposal to relocate the Town Council offices back to the Pater Hall

It was **PROPOSED BY Councillor M Colgan**
SECONDED BY Councillor P George

Members voted:

For – 4
Against – 6
Abstain – 4

Therefore the proposal falls.

Proposal to relocate the Town Council offices to Dimond Street (formerly Megan's)

It was **PROPOSED BY Councillor G Manning**
SECONDED BY Councillor B Hall

Members voted:

For – 7
Against – 4
Abstain – 3

It was **RESOLVED that the Town Council relocate to the property in**
Dimond Street (formerly Megan's)

76 TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER THE REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK

Councillor B Hall apologised but wished to speak prior to the commencement of the Town Clerk report.

Councillor Hall stated that he was still concerned over the allegations of bullying that are hanging over this council and the town. Members of the public are constantly referring to nothing else when speaking to Councillor Hall. Councillor Hall referred to an email that had been received from the Chair of the Pater Hall Trust, Mr D Esmond in which allegations of a Councillor harassing a member of the Pater Hall Trust were made.

Councillor Hall stated that he did not wish to name the three Councillors who are now involved in the bullying but did wish to reiterate that this entire situation could have been sorted by a simple apology from them to the staff. Councillor Hall stated that he would therefore propose a vote of no confidence in the three councillors concerned. This proposal was seconded by Councillor G Manning.

Councillor S O'Connor stated that he would like to check the rules under which a no confidence vote could take place as he was reluctant to take any action until the internal investigation which is ongoing had concluded. Only at that point could any next steps be realistically taken.

Councillor Hall stated that the vote of no confidence would show the three councillors in question that the other members feel these three councillors are out of order. No Councillors would be sacked from the Town Council but their place on the Pater Hall Trust should be revoked.

Councillor T Wilcox stated that he was confused as a decision of the Personnel Committee had been made prior to the elections and this should stand.

Councillor D Burrell read an extract from a document by One Voice Wales to those present and commented that Council should not be taking votes on this proposal at this meeting. Councillor Burrell stated that she would not be voting as she had not yet seen all the facts surrounding the allegations.

Councillor G Manning stated that he had no problem in seconding Councillor Hall's proposal in this would indicate to the three councillors that their fellow members were not happy with their actions.

Councillor G Goff agreed with Councillors Hall and Manning and further stated that the actions of the three councillors in question have been detrimental to the town and the town council. For this reason Councillor Goff would vote for the no confidence proposal.

Councillor P Gwyther stated that there had been a conflict of opinion. Councillors had questioned and the staff did not like the response.

The officers left the meeting at this point and the Mayor adjourned the remaining business.