



# Fishguard & Goodwick Town Council Cyngor Tref Abergwaun ac Wdig

Town Hall, Fishguard, Pembrokeshire, SA65 9HE

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The **MINUTES** Town Council Meeting

held virtually, under COVID-19 Regulations (Wales)

at 7pm on **Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

The Mayor, Cllr. Jackie Stokes, was in the Chair

Cllr. Jackie Stokes – *J. Stokes*

Cath Bannister, Town Clerk – *C. Bannister*

## **MINUTES**

### **PUBLIC SESSION: CLLR. STOKES**

The public session offers members of the public, the opportunity to comment on items on this agenda or those previously requested and agreed.

The public will be limited to two minutes per comment or question.

The Mayor will update those present, with regards to previous actions and ideas proposed by the public during this session, should there be any.

This session will also allow County Councillors to update the Town Council and those members of the public present, on matters of interest and for the Pembrokeshire County Council Liaison Officer to update the Town Council.

### **PUBLIC PRESENT:**

No members of the public were present

### **COUNTY COUNCILLORS PRESENT:**

County Councillor Pat Davies

Before the Town Council meeting began, Cllr. Davies gave a short presentation to the Cllrs. with regards to the effects of the latest Brexit deal might have upon the port of Fishguard.

There is currently a site for lorry holding on Wern Road, opposite the port entrance, for document checking. There is no current holding area for livestock or agricultural loads.

These are currently located in St. Clears, between the ports of Fishguard and Pembroke Dock. This is insufficient to meet the current requirements.

Legislation states that a new holding area for livestock/agri-feeds, need to be in place by 1<sup>st</sup> July.

There is a long term threat to the future of Fishguard harbour. There are 150 local people currently, with 130 on board the ferry and 20 dockside. The fear being that lorries will by-pass Fishguard and use the new routes into Europe via Rosslare to Dunkirk. It is important to get lorries to use the Fishguard ferry as the port cannot be sustained on holiday/personal use traffic long term.

The question of historical and annual flooding on Wern Road was discussed. Stena are looking into this.

Cllr. Davies suggested that the Town Council write letters to Stephen Crabb MP, Paul Davies AM and to Simon Hart MP informing them of the Towns worries and concerns for the future of the port.

There was a general discussion after the presentation.

Cllr. Stokes thanked Cllr. Davies for her informative update.

Cllr. Davies also updated with regards to:

COVID-19 vaccines have now been administered to staff at Fishguard Heath Centre and at Withybush Hospital.

The Fishguard Co-op will remain closed for approximately 18/20 weeks. The land, previously owned by the Co-op, is now in the ownership of Pembrokeshire County Council. The temporary Co-op unit is on the same land.

The long awaited future of the Ship and Anchor can possibly be resolved as the building can now formally go up for sale.

## STANDING ORDERS WERE ADOPTED

### 1/21 **APLOGIES: CLLR. STOKES**

To formally record apologies for absence and to record the attendance of those Town Councillors present

Those Councillors sending their apologies were: Cllr. Davies

Those councillors present were:

Cllrs. Mason, McCarney, Murphy, Perkins, Porter, Price, Ryan, Stokes, Gwynn and Shaw.

### 2/21 **MEMBER INTERESTS: CLLR. STOKES**

To formally record any personal or pecuniary interests that a Town Councillor may have in any of the agenda items listed below:

There were no formal declarations of interest made.

### 3/21 **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING: CLLR. STOKES**

To record the previous meeting minutes, held on 1.12.20, as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

It was resolved to accept the minutes of the meeting held on 1.12..20 as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

### 4/21 **CLERKS REPORT: TOWN CLERK**

Report by the Clerk of matters since the last meeting.

Vacancies F/G NW and Goodwick	Casual vacancy now closed. Waiting to hear from PCC if an election has been called or not.
Training from OVW	Please feel free to choose a training session and book your slot through the Clerk.
Christmas Lights	Take down should be by 10 <sup>th</sup> /11 <sup>th</sup> January or shortly thereafter,

### 5/21 **REPORTS: CLLR. STOKES.**

The Chairmen of the following committees gave feedback to the Town Council with regards to their committees and the matters they have undertaken. All minutes, previously circulated to all.

Planning Committee – Cllr. Perkins

Finance Committee – No committee meeting held since November

Events Committee – Cllr. Stokes

Governance Committee – No committee meeting held since November

### 6/21 **TOWN COUNCILLOR UPDATE SESSION: ALL**

An opportunity for Town Councillors to update the Town Council with regards to what has happened, what is happening and if anything needs attention, within the community that they represent.

Cllr. Murphy

Has spoken to the local PCSO with regards to minor criminal damage caused to the

bus shelter in Goodwick. Enquiries led the Cllrs. to believe that the shelter was gifted to the local community by the Women's Institute, but they are unable to determine for sure.

There was a discussion with regards to the Town Council making good the damage. The idea was supported in principle and will be brought to full council in February for a firm agreement.

#### Cllr. Stokes

Advised the Town Councillors of the possibility of the closure of the Town Team and that she, along with others, would support this.

This was supported by Cllrs. and Cllr. Stokes will progress.

#### **7/21 POST COVID-19 RECOVERY ZOOM MEETING: CLLR. STOKES**

Reference the email circulated on 16.12.20, the Town Council needs a representative on this meeting.

Please discuss

Both Cllrs. McCarney and Murphy volunteered to attend the meeting. The Clerk will pass their details forward to PCC.

#### **8/21 WEST STREET TOILETS UPDATE: CLLR. STOKES**

The toilets on West Street, should be ready to re-open sometime in January. The Town Council will be asked for a pro-rata payment. The Clerk has responded saying that the Town Council will authorise a pro-rata payment up to 31.3.21, once a suitable contract has been received.

Please discuss.

It was resolved that the Town Council will not pay a pro-rata payment, until after an agreed contract has been signed.

#### **9/21 APPLICATION OF REGISTRATION AT ST. MARY'S FIELD, FISHGUARD: CLLR. STOKES**

The Town Council has been sent an Application for the Registration of land as a town or village green at St. Mary's Field, Fishguard.

Please discuss.

There was a great discussion with regards to this. Some of the points raised were: Is the application valid? It was agreed that it probably was, but it wasn't down to the Town Council to decide.

Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, the Cllrs. had not had the opportunity to view the application in full. They were available for viewing at the post office, where space is limited and social distancing could not be adhered to, whereas applications are usually available for viewing in the library. As a result, a lot of information was not available to the Cllrs.

8:05pm, standing orders dropped to allow County Cllr. Davies to join in the discussion. She advised the Cllrs. that the land is indeed currently owned by the St. Mary's Church, who can no longer afford to maintain it or to insure it and as such, it is now starting to become a bit of a wild area. The Local Development Plan is currently

being reviewed for green spaces. The church want to sell the land off so that social housing can be built and a proper recreational area provided for the community. The Town Council are under pressure to seek an agreement tonight as the closing date for consultation with regards to the application, is set for 27<sup>th</sup> January, before the Town Council meet again.

8:10pm standing orders re-adopted. The discussions continued along the same lines with access and rights of way for the public, being discussed. Cllr. Gwynn explained this to the satisfaction of the Cllrs.

It was agreed that the Town Council had not been given enough information to make an informed decision.

Cllr. Stokes proposed not to support the application. This was seconded by Cllr. McCarney. The Cllrs. refused to vote due to lack of information and not being sure what they were voting for so the discussions continued.

Cllr. Ryan made a counter proposal that the two parties, the church and the applicant, meet to discuss the future of the land. This proposal was not seconded.

Cllr. Perkins suggested that Cllrs. consider Cllr. Stokes initial proposal under the following circumstances:

1. There is insufficient evidence available in order to make an informed decision.
2. There was no information available as to who would be responsible for the maintenance and the insurance of the land, should the application be successful.

It was resolved that the Clerk drafts a letter to PCC, advising that the Town Council cannot support the application by outlining the above mentioned two points.

At this point, Cllr. Stokes suggested that the meeting be closed and all other business on the Agenda, except authorisation of invoices, was delayed until the February meeting. This was accepted by the Cllrs.

#### **10/21 RETROSPECTIVE PAYMENTS AND AUTHORISATIONS: CLERK**

Two overdue payments need to be brought to the attention of the full Council in line with Financial Regulations.

1. Repair to glass of the telephone box located at Dyffren - £74.45
2. Abersign. Vinyl panels for telephone boxes - £90.00

It was resolved that the Clerk makes the above payments.

#### **11/21 DATES OF THE NEXT MEETINGS: CLLR. STOKES**

It is proposed that all meetings are scheduled to start at 7pm, unless otherwise agreed:

2<sup>nd</sup> February 2021

2<sup>nd</sup> March 2021

6<sup>th</sup> April 2021

4<sup>th</sup> May 2021 Annual Meeting and Mayor Making Ceremony

#### **12/21 URGENT MATTERS: CLLR STOKES**

Any matters that have come to the attention of the Town Council after the Agenda has been circulated, can be discussed here.

The Chair and the Town Clerk will need to be advised before the start of the meeting.

*Please be aware that no resolution can be reached on non-agenda items, but, they can be discussed and deferred to the relevant committee for further discussion or taken to the next full town council meeting as an agenda item.*

There being no further business to be discussed this evening, the meeting was closed at 8:40pm.