



Fishguard & Goodwick Town Council Cyngor Tref Abergwaun ac Wdig

Town Hall, Fishguard, Pembrokeshire, SA65 9HE

Neuadd Y Dre, Abergwaun, Sir Benfro SA65 9HE

Clerk/Clerc: Catherine Bannister

Tel: 01348 874406

email: clerk@fishguardgoodwick-tc.gov.wales

The Extra **MINUTES** of the Town Council Meeting which was held virtually,
under current COVID-19 Regulations (Wales) at 7pm on **Monday 18th October 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:

The purpose of this extra meeting was to discuss a consultation document received from Atkins Global with regard to a review of the A487 between Lower Town Fishguard and Cardigan.

Members of the public present were:

Mr. and Mrs. Bowen,

Ms. H. Davies,

Dr. B. Moffett,

Mr. T. Tsai

Mr. S. Edwards,

Representations were made by individual members of the public. Letters and emails had been received and comments at the meeting made, to assist the Town Council in responding to the consultation.

COUNTY COUNCILLORS PRESENT:

None in attendance.

STANDING ORDERS TO BE ADOPTED

134/21 APOLOGIES: CLLR. STOKES

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

Apologies: Cllr. Thickitt – personal business, Cllr. Sturman – conflict with another meeting, Cllr. Davies – no reason given, Cllr. Perkins – conflict with another meeting.
Those Cllrs. present were: Cllrs. McCarney, Price, Stokes, Porter, Gwynn, Murphy, Owen, Ryan and Mason.

Those Cllrs. who were absent: None

It should be noted that the Clerk noticed that after the meeting, Cllr. Shaw had attempted to join but had not been able to, due to the meeting link not working for him.

135/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: CLLR. STOKES

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

No declarations of interest were made.

136/21 ATKINS CONSULTATION INTO THE A487: CLLR. STOKES

Cllr. Stokes outlined the purpose of the extra meeting. She apologised for the short notice, but the Town Council had only been offered a small window to respond. She also thanked everyone present, for attending and for their contributions.

The meeting was to respond in an informative manner, to the consultation opportunity given to the Town Council, as consultees, to the issues regarding traffic flow along the A487 between Lower Town Fishguard and Cardigan.

There was an informative discussion, following feedback from the local community and a summary of the response from them and from the Town Councillors, has been attached to the end of the minutes.

It was resolved that the Clerk summarise the comments made and forward them onto Atkins.

137/21 DATES OF THE NEXT MEETINGS: CLLR. STOKES

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

2nd November 2021

7th December 2021

4th January 2022

1st February 2022

1st March 2022

138/21 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 discuss, the meeting was closed at 6:58pm

Summary of response to the consultation attached.



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Date: 30 November 2021

Atkins Global

Dear Sir, Madam,

I am responding to you on behalf of the Fishguard and Goodwick Town Council.

It was noted that the consultation is with regard to the A487 Lower Town, Fishguard to Cardigan road but the Town Council felt unable to comment outside of our boundary as we do not have sufficient knowledge of issues outside Fishguard.

On the evening of Monday 18th October, the full council met, along with members of the local community of Lower Town, Fishguard, via ZOOM.

Written comments had been provided by members of the community, prior to the meeting starting. Members of the public were given time to get their points across, before the full council meeting commenced.

The comments are those of the residents and the Town Councillors.

I can report that the outcomes of the meeting are as follows:

Existing Issues:

Safety of people using the bridge across the River Gwaun.

This is a narrow bridge and as well as being part of the A487 Trunk Road, it is also the coastal path that winds along the coast of Wales and the route out of the village into Fishguard town.

It is used by pedestrians, local and visitors. Children, prams, pushchairs, people with large backpacks and dog walkers, face the daily onslaught of vehicles driving towards them, some of them at speed and some of them trying to drive across whilst another vehicle is coming the other way. Buses and large articulated lorries also regularly use the bridge.

Properties have been damaged by larger vehicles on numerous occasions.

Larger agricultural vehicles, for example, tractors and large trailers as well as combine harvesters and other agricultural vehicles with overhanging spikes, use the bridge too.

The large signs advising drivers of HGV's and of an excessive length that are installed, are too far away and ignored by drivers.

On approaching the bridge, which is down a steep hill from both directions, some drivers actually speed up in order to avoid waiting for vehicles coming down on the other side of the hill. There is certainly not much regard for the 20mph speed limit in some cases.

The road itself is in a U shape with houses either side of the road. The flow of traffic is unregulated and daily congestion is a common sight. Extra large vehicles can get totally wedged in and as recent as a month ago, one blocked the entire A487 for nearly two hours

before it managed to manoeuvre itself into a position to continue with its journey. In that time, massive queues had built up on both approaches to the village. Large vehicles have even had to reverse back up the hill for a good half a mile to find a suitable place to turn and try another route.

The road surfaces are in a poor condition and are not clearly marked. Road signs are scarce and left until the last minute and do not attract the attention of drivers as many are too busy looking at the view and not the road.

At the time of the meeting, the Town Council, despite endeavouring to do so, were unable to confirm if any enforcement action has ever been taken by the police for ignoring signs and driving through and causing chaos in the village. Is this the case? It is understood that enforcement action is available, but, is it being carried out and are the penalties high enough to deter drivers taking the risk?

Objectives:

To ensure that the safety of people on foot are safe from oncoming vehicles when crossing the bridge.

To retain the heritage of the iconic bridge that was constructed in the 1880's.

To ensure that larger vehicles avoid using the village as part of their commute to their destination and find suitable, alternative and safer routes.

To ensure that service users (refuse collectors, oil delivery trucks etc.) as well as emergency vehicles, have free access through the village at all times.

Improvement Options:

That a full survey of the issues are carried out, particularly during the summer/visitor months and includes consultation with local people who witness the interactions on a daily basis. The community would like a temporary camera to be installed to record the chaos.

That a dedicated area on the bridge is allocated to foot passengers – it could be defined by lines or bollards.

That a pedestrian bridge is built connecting the public car parks on either side of the river.

That clear, possibly flashing signage, is installed giving drivers adequate warning of the possible hazards facing them.

That clear signs, giving access to oncoming vehicles (direction to be determined) is clearly installed on both sides of the bridge.

That the ANPR camera located on the hill travelling from Lower Town to Fishguard, is programmed to take the numbers of vehicles of an excessive size, so that retrospective enforcement can be carried out. This suggestion also includes issuing heavier fines.

That speed humps are installed on approaching the bridge on both sides and in the middle of the bridge, to slow vehicles down.

That consideration is given to installing traffic lights on the approaches to the village, to regulate traffic. It was discussed that this could prove difficult to manage as there are two entrances to the car park and one onto Glyn Y Mel Road to consider.

It was noted on the evening, that there more members of the community wanted to respond, but due to the small window of opportunity given to us by yourselves, they were unable to respond in time.

How will the Town Council receive feedback, or be made aware that the above comments have been noted? I would be grateful to receive a feedback form from yourselves, advising us of the next stages of this consultation.

On behalf of the Fishguard and Goodwick Town Council and the residents of Lower Town, Fishguard.

Yours faithfully

C. Bannister.

Mrs. Catherine Bannister

Town Clerk

Fishguard and Goodwick Town Council