FISHGUARD AND GOODWICK TOWN COUNCIL

The minutes of the meeting held at the Town Hall, Fishguard on

TUESDAY 15th DECEMBER 2015 at 7:30pm

COUNCILLOR RICHARD GROSVENOR in the Chair (Mayor)

Signatures:
R. Grosvenor Town Mayor
C. Bannister Town Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer

1762 APOLOGIES RECEIVED:
Cllr. J. Wyer and C. Cllr. P. Davies

1763 MAYORS REMARKS:

Lights switch on
The Mayor attended the lights switch on in both Goodwick and Fishguard. Goodwick lights switch on was a bit of a washout with torrential rain but the weather was much fairer for Fishguard the following evening. A massive turn out – possibly the biggest I have seen, so many congratulations to all involved with Lucy Wilkes and her group of brilliant helpers.

Senior Citizens
The Mayor and his escort Christine, attended the annual luncheon of the Goodwick senior citizens at the Bay Hotel. A very nice few hours were spent in good company.

Flag poles
Progress has been made with regards the siting of the flagpoles in Goodwick. We had a successful meeting with PCC and the contractor. We are just awaiting costings to see if the ideas are viable and then we can announce them at council.

Meetings
Attended the Economic Regeneration sub-committee meeting

Christmas Day
The local churches are holding their service at the Tabernacle at 9am on Friday 25th December – everyone is welcome.

1764 DEPUTY MAYORS REMARKS:

Lights switch on
The deputy mayor attended both Goodwick and Fishguard Christmas lights switch on events.

Economic Regeneration
The Deputy Mayor also attended the econ. regen. meeting – minutes to be read later in the meeting

1765 MEMBER INTERESTS:
None declared on the evening.
MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:
Item number 1758 – the finance meeting minutes were agreed by Cllr. Mayberry and seconded by Cllr. Allison and not “the raise in the precept” as stated.
Amendment agreed.
Minutes recorded as a true record.
Cllr. Allison proposed and Cllr. Davies seconded. All agreed.

CLERKS REPORT:

Planning Amendment to Goodwick Marina
Planning Application ref: 15/0851/PA – erect two dwellings on grassland adjacent to 49, Dan Y Bryn.
Letter received 10.12.15 and in correspondence later in the agenda
The clerk has submitted the Town Councils objections with regards the loss of local amenity (outside playing area) as discussed at the meeting on 1.12.15, via the PCC Planning website. (Not simple to do)

COUNTY COUNCIL UPDATES:
C. Cllr. Price
At the planning committee today at PCC, the application for a wind turbine at Manorowen was refused due mainly to the fact that it was to be located within 75 metres of a busy public bridleway.
Cllr. Price attended St. David’s Cathedral for one of the Christmas events. It was packed out and was a truly wonderful evening. The Goodwick Brass Band were playing and as a town, we should be very, very proud of them and of their achievements. It was a delightful evening.

C Cllr. James – Town Councillor but reporting back as County Councillor for Scleddau. Things are changing at a steady pace at the county hall, due to the constitution being changed.
He noted that the surveyors were out at the dangerous bend at Manorowen, so it is anticipated there may be a report out soon.
Too much happening at the County Council at the moment. It’s difficult to recollect exactly what is happening!

REPORTS:
Cllr. Allison reported on the following:

Christmas Lights Competition
I attended a tasking and finishing group meeting with Cllr. O’Conor with regards the Christmas lighting competition.
For 2016, we propose to split the competition into different categories – private, businesses and local areas (streets). Each will be judged and will have their own prizes – yet to be decided and suggestions will be put forward for the finance committee to discuss for consideration.
We discussed a nomination process rather than just driving around and judging as we have previously. This way, we can respect peoples right to privacy. For the 2015 winner, we are looking at a unique Christmas Bauble with the winners details on it.

**Goodwick Train Station**

Cllr. Allison is in the early stages of engaging with both the PCC and Stena with regards to acquiring one of the two units that are available at Goodwick station, for a museum at the station.

He has some more enquiries to make and a few more people to speak to and then he should be in a better position, to know if it is a feasible project. He hopes to be able to make a further report in the new year.

**Flooding in Lower Town:**

Councillor Allison updated the town council with regards to the risk of flooding meeting, in Lower Town.

A meeting with Welsh Water, Pembrokeshire County Council, Natural Resources Wales, the AM Paul Davies along with representatives of the town council, was held in August 2015. It was agreed at that meeting that different work would be carried out by different bodies and that this group, should meet again in October 2015, along with members of the public, to discuss, update and advise with regards to the flood risk issues faced by the local people.

Cllr. Allison was very concerned that no progress had been made by Welsh Water, PCC or Natural Resources Wales. Indeed, if any work had been carried out, they had not updated the town council.

There was a general discussion between councillors with regards to work being carried out in Solva and other coastal areas. There was a suggestion that the most beautiful area, Lower Town, had again been neglected.

Various comments had been made by the above reporting bodies, but all were unsubstantiated.

It was now nearing the end of December and the public meeting had not taken place.

Cllr. Allison will be able to progress the matter by agreeing to suggestions made on the evening:

- The clerk to write to PCC/Welsh Water/Natural Resources Wales, with regards a follow up meeting.

Cllr. Allison then read through the ER minutes. See below.

**High School Proposals**

Cllr. Allison and Cllr. Grosvenor, had both visited Ysgol Bro Gwaun with a view of looking at the plans for the proposed school refurbishment/rebuild.

They were both interested in what might be happening at the school hall.

There were different reports from both councillors, one stating that the refurb did include the school hall and another saying that it didn’t include the school hall.

However, Cllr. Allison had the opportunity to put his proposals forward to surveyors present at the viewings and his ideas were gratefully received.

Cllr. Allison was advised that any refurbishment to the hall and all subsequent
funding, would need to be met locally. Cllr. Allison suggested an urgent meeting with local interested people be held in January to include Town Team, town councillors, the Chamber of Trade and the local action group that worked hard in saving the Learning Centre.

Cllr. Allison had been contacted by Jason Venables, the front of office manager at the Millennium Centre in Cardiff and an ex local school pupil of Fishguard. He had read in the County Echo that Cllr. Allison had voiced his concern with regards to the poor acoustics in the Hall at the School. Being a very large venue, possibly one of the biggest in the County, it had been used to host a variety of musical activities, which in turn, had led to an income boost to the town. He was interested in assisting the town council in achieving improvements to the hall.

For the last few years, and since some vital equipment had been removed from the hall, the acoustics had deteriorated and was not used as a musical venue any longer.

Cllr. Allison suggested that when the school is modernised, the hall should be considered and revamped as well.

The plans with regards to the new school layout and the revamp, were to be on public display from Monday 14th December and would be available for public viewing.

Cllrs. Allison and Grosvenor both agreed to visit the school and to look at the plans to see if improvements to the acoustics in the hall, were included in the revamp. It was suggested that going forwards, as many interested parties as possible, for example, the Theatre Gwaun, PCC, Town Team, Town Councillors, get together to discuss taking the matter further with the aim of regenerating footfall to the town. Cllr. Perkins commented that a big hall/venue like this, would be a huge asset to the town and this matter should be pursued.

A general discussion then took place.  
Cllr. Allison and Cllr Grosvenor, will report back to the full council.

The Last Invasion  
Cllr. Allison asked the sub-committee if any decision with regards to the purchase of the replica military uniform had been made. After a general discussion, it was concluded that if Scoltern Manor had decided against purchasing the uniform, then it wouldn’t be in the interest of the Town Council to do so.

Phoenix Centre  
Cllr. Ryan informed the sub-committee, that he had now got a list of 9 Trustees for the Phoenix Centre. He asked if there were any improvements in the centre answering their telephone. He stated that the accounts for the centre were overdue. Cllr. Mayberry informed the sub-committee about being let down by the centre, with regards to a long standing business arrangement. Cllr. Ryan proposed that a responsible person for the Phoenix Centre be asked to attend a town council meeting. Cllr. Ryan wasn’t sure as to why they should be invited but, the town council need to find out what was going off.
Cllr. Grosvenor questioned the authority to do that and that as a town council, it wasn’t our business to get involved in and, if they did attend, what would be the outcome? The town council could not impose any penalty or sanctions upon the centre. It would be a better approach to them if we (town council) were able to offer support or assistance, but at this stage, we are not in a position to do that. The town council had gifted £5k to the commission of the building, but that did not make the Phoenix Centre accountable to the town council. A general discussion ensued.

Cllr. Ryan suggested that the town council write to the Phoenix Centre (John Deeson).

Cllr. Ryan said that if the centre did go under, then the town council could be happy that they had tried to offer assistance.

Clerk to contact Cllr. Ryan and ask him to draft a letter, outlining his concerns and suggestions, which she would send on behalf of the town council.

**Jazz Band**

Cllr. Allison advised the sub-committee, that despite several attempts to contact the jazz band by various means, the trail had gone cold.

Cllr. Allison requested that this item remain on the agenda for the next meeting.

**Museum at Trecwn**

Cllr. Allison had expressed a great interest in the possibility of opening a military museum on site at Trecwn.

He had briefly discussed the matter with Jeremy Martineau and they believed that it was something that would be a genuine asset to the town of Fishguard and of great interest to local residents, with many of the old workforce, being residents of our twin towns. He (Cllr. Allison) was asking if the town council would support the project.

It was agreed that as much information should be gathered and the matter taken forwards pending that information gathering session.

Cllr. Allison stated that the area needs new attractions and a military museum, would be of great interest to young and old.

The following was suggested:

Cllr. Allison will contact Roy Lewis of Trecwn and seek his support. He has lots of information with regards the site, memorabilia and of the secret army.

Cllr. Perkins suggested that he contact the current owners of the site to see if this is a viable project to take forwards.

Cllr. Mayberry agreed it was a positive project, but pointed out that Trecwn isn’t in our area. Cllr. Allison agreed but then suggested that he contact Scleddau Town Council to see if their town council would be interested in getting involved (Trecwn comes under Scleddau CC)

Reports would be bought to the next econ. regen. meeting.

*Cllr Allison – to make contact with Scleddau TC and Roy Lewis.*

*Cllr. Perkins to contact the site owners.*

**Wexford/Waterford Town Councils**

Cllr. Allison suggested that the econ. regen. committee, on behalf of the town council, make contact with both Wexford and Waterford town councils, to see if better
exchanges between the two towns in Ireland and ourselves, could be developed. Cllr. Grosvenor, advised the group that the town councils in Ireland, had all been devolved into the County Councils and that perhaps such a request should come from County Council level at this end. Cllr. Allison was adamant that he wanted to open up better links between the towns over there and ourselves.

In principle, there was an agreement from those present at the meeting. It was suggested that this town council make contact with them in order to improve communications. The clerk to compose a letter to the relevant town councils, on behalf of the town council.

1769  **Wi-Fi IN FISHPGUARD AND GOODWICK:**

Referring back to the previous meeting held on 1st December 2015 after the presentation by Dave Bannister, Antur Teifi, where it was provisionally unanimously agreed to take the project forward with the PCC, it was now time to formally agree and record the proposal. The Mayor asked the town councillors if they agreed to entering into a contract to implement the installation of free Wi-Fi in Fishguard and Goodwick. The issue was proposed by Cllr. Grosvenor and seconded by Cllr. James. All agreed.

1770  **CORRESPONDENCE:**

1. Letter from Mike Simmons, PCC with regards an amendment to planning condition 31, reference Fishguard Harbour, Goodwick
2. The Precept Application Form has arrived and needs submitting before 15.1.15
3. Christmas/New Year waste and Recycling collections
4. PLANED Workshops - information
5. Response reference the public toilets from M Harries – PCC.

All correspondence accepted by the town councillors.

11.0  **PLANNING APPLICATIONS:**

**Planning Application Consultation**

15/0896/PA – Alteration and extension to 3, Wallis Street, Fishguard – no adverse comments

15/0910/PA – Open front porch (retrospective) at 21, Heol Penlan, Goodwick – no adverse comments
Notification of Planning Decisions

15/0781/PA – Alterations to the observatory at The Studio, Brodog Lane - conditionally approved

15/0688 – Side Porch Rear Fenestration and Rear Extension at 13, New Hill Villas - Goodwick – conditionally approved

Discharge of Condition Consultation

15/0920/DC – Scheme for the disposal of surface water on land adjacent to Troed-y-rhiw, Clement Road, Goodwick

12.0 PAYMENT OF OUTSTANDING ACCOUNTS:

- Pembrokeeshire County Council – Rent £458.3
- MH Services – erection of notice boards - £120.00
- Y Siop Fach Losin – Supply of sweets for Lights switch on - £125

It was agreed to pay all outstanding accounts.