

At a Meeting of Pembroke Dock Town Council
held at the Pater Hall, Pembroke Dock on
Thursday 1 June 2006

PRESENT:

Councillor S. Perkins, Mayor
Councillors D. Esmond, Mrs. P.E.M. Folland
Mrs. C. Fortune, Mrs. P.E. George, P. Gwyther
E.F. Hissey, D.L. Jones, Mrs. J. Rees,
Mrs. V.M.J. Roach, R. Watts, P. Weatherall

IN ATTENDANCE:

Ian Jones, Town Clerk

25. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor K. Higgs

26. PRESENTATION GIVEN BY ROBERT GREAVES AND JOHN MURPHY ON THE FUTURE OF RURAL POST OFFICES

Mr. Greaves introduced John Murphy who is president of the Sub Post Masters Branch for West Wales as well as being Vice President of the Welsh Region. The two informed Council that 75% of Post Offices in Wales have a rural tag. The Department of Trade and Industry has indicated that in 2007 there will be a decrease in the Post Office Current Account holdings. This is in respect of payments for pensions, etc. It was explained that currently the Post Office provides services such as payments of rates, gas and electricity but despite all efforts to improve income many rural offices run at a loss. Sub Post Offices, as far as the Department of Trade of Industry is concerned, are viable if there are 100 transactions on the current account per day. The Department of Trade and Industry gets £1 for each transaction but Sub Postmasters only get pence for the transaction. Comment was made that not all banks make use of Post Offices for the withdrawal of cash. NatWest and HSBC do not participate in the scheme, although it is accepted that transport problems do not enable people from some villages to get to the main towns to withdraw cash from banks. This autumn the Government will decide about the size of the Sub Post Office network and there is a fear that a large number will cease operating. The presenters were of the opinion that there will be social problems following a closure programme. They remain concerned that up to 60% of business may be lost with the move to have pensions paid only into bank accounts.

Councillors asked what the Town Council could do to support their campaign for the retention of rural post offices. Mr. Greaves indicated that individuals could sign a petition which is available in most post offices which will then be presented to government in September/October this year. He also indicated that when a post office closes then some towns may become ghost towns because spending of money locally will reduce. He also put forward the view that those on the margins of society who are being forced to use bank accounts would face charges if those accounts became overdrawn. This was of real concern to those in deprived areas.

Councillors agreed to consider the matter of what representations to make later on in the meeting, and thanked Mr. Murphy and Mr. Greaves on their presentation.

27. UPDATE FROM REPRESENTATIVES OF THE LOCAL HEALTH BOARD ON THEIR PROPOSALS FOR UPDATING ACUTE SERVICES/HOSPITALS WITHIN PEMBROKESHIRE

Bernardine Rees updated Members on the current thinking of the Local Health Board. She told members that to date eight presentations of the Board's proposals had been made and over 3000 people had attended. The following issues had been raised:

1. Failure to address rurality, including transport links
2. The need to have maternity, paediatrics, obstetrics and cancer care within Pembrokeshire

As a result the Local Health Board were looking at revising their plans to include issues such as investing in Community Care which will result in lower numbers in hospital. There is regular contact with the Welsh Assembly Government with regard to putting together a new option.

The Community Health Council is now talking to all stakeholders so that they will be able to put together a new framework for consideration by the Health Board. This will take into account the two disadvantaged areas of Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire. As a result the consultation period had been extended by a month to allow the new framework/option to be put together. By the beginning of September the Local Health Board and the Welsh Assembly Government will be able to either support or decline the option put forward. Mrs. Rees pointed out that Withybush does not have facilities for research or ongoing training for medical staff. General Consultants are in the decline and specialists are what is required. The Health Board are encouraging Consultants to work differently and to co-operate more with other Local Health Boards in Ceredigion and Carmarthenshire. It will be necessary to consider whether some services currently provided elsewhere can be repatriated to Pembrokeshire. There were real achievements for the Local Health Board by working together with Social Services and this will be shown with the improvements in South Pems Hospital and the provision of facilities in Tenby once the Cottage Hospital closes. There was a feeling that GPs would need to take the initiative more before referring cases for outpatients attendance, by ensuring that blood tests, scans and X rays were available for the Consultant to see at the first appointment. The Local Health Board were now putting together a business case for an MRI scanner. The business case for the new A and E Department had been accepted and it was hopeful that building work would start soon. In reply to questions from Councillors, Mrs. Rees stated that account had already been taken of increases of population during the summer and the fact that we have an ageing population.

The Mayor thanked Mrs. Rees for her presentation.

28. MINUTES

PROPOSED by Councillor D. Esmond
SECONDED by Councillor Mrs. P.E.M. Folland

RESOLVED –

That the Minutes of the last meeting of the Town Council held on 18th May 2006 be adopted as circulated subject to the following amendment:

(a) Minute 24(a) – Pembroke Dock Harlequins visit to Malta

This issue had been raised by Councillor P. Weatherall and not Councillor P. Gwyther.

29. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

(a) Minute 21(a) – Land between ASDA and St. Govan’s Centre

In relation to this subject, Councillor Paul Weatherall said that the land was now for sale.

(b) Minute 20(38) – Revocation of Planning Permission for 37 Prospect Place, Pembroke Dock.

Councillor R. Watts said that he had been unable to attend the recent PALC meeting.

30. REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK

59. Training Event For Town Clerks

The Town Clerk had been advised that a Summer Seminar for Town Clerks would be held at the University of Gloucestershire on Wednesday / Thursday 12 and 13th July 2006 on the subject “Inside Neighbourhood Governance”. The subjects to be discussed would include :-

Partnership Working; Should use be made of facilities to cluster towns / communities for services?; working with the voluntary sector; Quality Councils – the next step; the future delivery of local services at the neighbourhood level. The cost of the event is £136.00 together with travel / subsistence. Neighbourhood governance is a topical subject of central government at present and the Town Clerk suggested that it might be worthwhile to pick up the latest thinking on the issue.

The opinion of members as to whether they would approve the Town Clerk’s attendance at such a course was sought.

Members agreed that the Town Clerk should attend the Summer Seminar.

60. Meeting Of The Pembroke And Pembroke Dock Joint Tourism And Twinning Committee.

The Town Clerk had been advised that there were proposals for an exchange visit of students from Pembroke Malta to Pembroke Comprehensive School in September this year. The matter would be discussed in more detail at a meeting of this Committee to be held in the Meyrick Suite, Pater Hall, Pembroke Dock on Thursday 8th June at 1900hrs (7.00pm).

Members of the Joint Twinning Committee would receive formal notification of the meeting shortly.

61. Charter 88's Campaign For A Modern Democracy.

Members were reminded of previous correspondence from the group on the above subject. The Town Clerk attached at Appendix A details of the latest information he had received. The Town Council was being asked to pass a resolution of support for the Sustainable Communities Bill, writing to our local Member of Parliament etc.

Members noted what was contained in the Appendix. However, Councillor P. Gwyther said that the ideals were good but in the end queried whether it would achieve anything.

PROPOSED by Councillor R. Watts
SECONDED by Councillor E. Hissey

RESOLVED –
That the Town Council should support the objectives of the Sustainable Communities Bill

62. Pennar Bus Service.

At the meeting held on 4 May 2006 the Town Clerk had been asked to make some enquiries into the reduction of bus services for those living within Pennar. He had now received a response from the transport manager of Silcox Coaches which stated “ For some years now the level of patronage on Pennar services has been too low for them to be operated on a commercial basis. It has therefore been necessary for Pembrokeshire County Council to provide a subsidy in order to maintain a bus service in that area . Your council will appreciate that PCC have a duty to monitor all subsidised bus services in the county, and to constantly review their funding in order to achieve best value, based on the needs of the county as a whole. We believe that it was a result of this ongoing review that the PCC took the decision to modify some services in the south of the county. Free buses have never operated in the Pennar area. “

The full letter was placed on the table to the right of the Council Chamber for members to read if they wished.

Councillor E. Hissey commented that it was not acceptable that persons living in lower Pennar could get into Pembroke Dock using the bus service but sometimes would be unable to get back. Two buses a day were not good enough, three buses would be better. He also questioned whether a smaller bus would meet the residents' needs as well as the operating company.

Councillor J. Rees wondered whether use could be made of a community fourteen-seater bus which could be operated by the community.

It was suggested that an approach be made to County Councillor Tony Wilcox.

PROPOSED by Councillor D. Jones
SECONDED by Councillor Mrs. C. Fortune

RESOLVED –
That the Town Clerk write to the County Council to point

out that there is an insufficient service for the Lower Pennar area and to ask for their proposals for improvement.

63. Street Naming For The Site At The Former Pennar Filling Station.

Councillor Mrs. C. Fortune declared her interest in this matter and took no part in the discussion.

Members were reminded that the Town Council at their meeting held on 30th March 2006 had been asked for observations on the proposed name for the new development at the above site. Stanley Roch Court / Close had been the suggestion put forward and the Town Clerk duly sent a copy of his reply to the County Council to the developer Gerard Developments of Harrow. The developer had now put forward the name of St. Patrick's Close, Treowen Road. Copies of the correspondence were attached at Appendix B.

Members instructions on the matter were now sought.

Councillor P. Weatherall stated that he was not in favour of St. Patrick's Close as there was definitely already confusion between St. Patrick's Road and St. Patrick's Hill. There would be further problems if the name of St. Patrick's Close was used. Members agreed that the name Roch Court may be a suitable compromise and the Town Clerk was asked to make direct contact with the developer to see if he could obtain agreement.

PROPOSED by Councillor D. Esmond
SECONDED by Councillor R. Watts

RESOLVED –

That the name Roch Court might be a suitable compromise and that the Town Clerk should make direct contact with the developer to see if he could obtain agreement.

64. Planning Applications.

The following applications had been received for the Town Council's observations:-

06/0140/PA	Mr & Mrs McCrow 1, Cenarth Close, Llanion Park, Pembroke Dock.	1, Cenarth Close, Llanion Park, Pembroke Dock. - Erection of a conservatory.
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PROPOSED by Councillor P. Gwyther
SECONDED by Councillor D.L. Jones

RESOLVED –

That the Town Council have no objection to this application.

06/0156/PA Presely Construction,
Unit 8,
Waterloo Industrial Estate,
Pembroke Dock.
SA72 4RT.

Land to the rear of 26, Nelson Street
Pennar,
Pembroke Dock.
SA72 6RU.
- erection of 11 starter homes.

PROPOSED by Councillor Mrs. C. Fortune
SECONDED by Councillor E. Hissey

RESOLVED –

The Town Council was of the opinion that this was overdevelopment since originally only 5 starter homes had been proposed. The Council was also concerned about the narrowness of the access road namely Nelson Street and that the sewerage system would need to be updated to take the additional load. Concern was expressed that an existing footpath would need to be diverted. Members believed that the size of the off street parking including 3 parking bays shown on the plans were insufficient in size for the number of cars shown.

06/0157/PA Mr D Thompson,
Lars, Knutson & Clode Ltd.,
Warrior Way,
Pembroke Dock

Lars, Knutson & Clode Ltd.,
Warrior Way,
Pembroke Dock.
**- construction of steel framed
storage building.**

PROPOSED by Councillor P. Weatherall
SECONDED by Councillor R. Watts

RESOLVED –

That the Town Council have no objection to this application.

06/0160/PA Stoddart Tyres Ltd.,
The Garage,
Tiers Cross,
Haverfordwest.

Eastern Avenue,
Waterloo Industrial Estate,
Pembroke Dock.
**- construction of portal frame
depot for call out tyre service &
repair
workshops.**

PROPOSED by Councillor D.T. Esmond
SECONDED by Councillor Mrs. C. Fortune

RESOLVED –

That the Town Council have no objection to this application.

06/0174/PA Mr G Hill, 11, Bellevue Terrace,
11, Bellevue Terrace, Pembroke Dock.
11, Bellevue Terrace,
Pembroke Dock.
- construction of garage to rear of property.

PROPOSED by Councillor Mrs. V.M. J. Roach
SECONDED by Councillor Mrs. C. Fortune

RESOLVED –
That the Town Council have no objection to this application.

06/0176/PA Mr P Bolwell, 1, Sunderland Avenue,
19, Ridgeway, Pembroke Dock.
Newport, Gwent.
- erection of two storey dwelling adjacent to existing semi – detached two storey dwelling.

The decision on this application was deferred until the Town Clerk's Supplementary Report was discussed.

65. Planning Decisions

The following decisions had been received:

- 05/1614/PA** Erection of two dwellings, Plot T, St. Patricks Hill, Pembroke Dock.
- **Refused.**
- 06/0011/PA** Outline – erection of one dwelling, land on Beach Road to the rear of 7 & 8, Chapel Road, Llanreath, Pembroke Dock. – **Granted.**

31. SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK

66. Death of Former Mayor of Pembroke.

The Town Clerk had been informed of the death at the age of 91 of Mrs Phyllis Peachy who had been Mayor of Pembroke in 1978/79. The funeral service would be held at St. Michael's Church, Pembroke at 2.00pm on Friday 9th June followed by a private cremation.

67. 37, Prospect Place, Pembroke Dock.

Councillor P. Gwyther and S. Perkins declared their interest in this matter and took no part in the discussion or voting.

The Town Clerk had attached to his Report a copy of a proposed letter to the Welsh Assembly Government which had been drafted by Mr Richard Shepherd the Hon Planning Officer for PALC (Appendix C).

Members were asked to consider whether this letter was acceptable.

The Town Clerk had expressed his concerns about the way the matter was proceeding given the stance the Town Council originally took when the Planning Application first came before them. He had taken legal advice from the Society of Local Council Clerks whose advice to him could be summed up as follows:-

“The Ombudsman was critical about the way the application was processed but not the decision itself. The Town Council’s instructions to the Pembrokeshire Association of Local Council’s should have been to seek advice about what action the Town Council might take and what the implications, including costs, of pursuing such action. May I suggest that the Council ask the Hon Planning Officer of PALC to take no further action until the matter is thoroughly reviewed and the Town Council has all the information including costs? The Town Council needs to be very careful about what action it takes given the Ombudsman’s report and how the Town Council handled the original matter. I am of the view that the Town Council may have difficulty justifying further action and my inclination is that the Town Council should take no further action given the Ombudsman’s decision.”

Members were asked to consider this advice in the light of the further letter being suggested by PALC.

Councillor R. Watts stated that the Town Council did not want the development but that in the light of the documentation relating to the decision, i.e. Minutes of the relevant Town Council meeting, we were in fact changing our original decision. This was not really acceptable. He also drew to Members’ attention that Mr. Shepherd, the Honorary Planning Officer for PALC, had said at the last meeting that it was unlikely that the application for revocation would be achieved.

The Town Clerk stated that on reflection the Minutes and actions taken by the Town Council could be subject to adverse criticism from any investigation by the Local Government Ombudsman. If there was a Planning Enquiry and we were found to be wanting, then in his view, costs could follow.

PROPOSED by Councillor P. Weatherall
SECONDED by Councillor R. Watts

RESOLVED –

9 votes for

1 abstention

That the Town Council withdraw its application to the Welsh Assembly Government seeking revocation of the Planning Permission originally given.

68. Financial Support to Mrs Margaret Payne

The Town Clerk had received correspondence from Mrs Payne which informed members that she had completed her voyage on the Jubilee Sailing Trust sailing vessel “Tenacious” and that the voyage had been everything she had hoped for. She thanked the Town Council once again for their kind donation towards the overall costs involved.

69. Hazards on Country Paths.

The Town Clerk had received a letter from Mr David McCabe the Public Rights of Way Officer for Pembrokeshire County Council which read as follows:-

“...I should like to encourage your Council to report any hazards on public paths that come to its notice, and would suggest that if Councillors have a particular interest it would also be helpful for them to undertake local surveys. Maps for these purposes can be supplied on request. In view of our drive towards “e-government”, the preferred way to report any problems would be via our “web-mapping” system on the Council’s website. this is accessed from ‘Maps and Stats’ on the right hand side of the home page, and then by choosing any of the categories listed, as these all show the current Ordnance Survey Explorer Map. Problems can then be reported via the ‘hazard’ symbol.”

This information was provided for members to note and to let the Town Clerk know if any Councillor had a particular interest to carry out a local survey.

Councillor P. Gwyther stated that he had interrogated the County Council website about this matter and had found that maps and statistics were out of date. There was a need for the cutting of grass on rights of way. In particular, the pathway between Nelson Street and Gilgal needed attention; one fingerpost had been broken; the black railing to Sycamore Street pathway needed to be cut, together with Birdcage Walk.

No councillor at this stage wished to carry out a local survey.

70. Rights of Way Improvement Plan for Pembrokeshire – Key Issues.

Earlier this year the Town Council had been consulted about the above plan. The Forward Planning Officer had now provided a copy of the summary of the consultation and one was provided for each member to peruse.

71. Dyfed Powys Police Authority – Community Consultative Forums.

The Town Clerk had been advised that there would be a Special Public Meeting to be held at Committee Room 1, County Hall, Haverfordwest on Thursday 15th June 2006 commencing at 1900hrs (7.00pm) to discuss the current position in relation to the restructuring of Police within Wales. The Town Clerk presumed the Town Council’s two representatives had received separate notification but other members could attend if they wished.

72. Planning Applications

06/0176/PA	Mr P Bolwell, 19, Ridgeway, Newport, Gwent.	1, Sunderland Avenue, Pembroke Dock. - erection of two storey dwelling adjacent to existing semi-detached two storey dwelling.
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This application had been set out in the Town Clerk’s main report, however, since it had been compiled the Town Clerk had received a letter of comment on the application from a local resident as follows:-

“.....A planning application has been put into Pembrokeshire County Council seeking to build a new dwelling in the garden of 1, Sunderland Avenue. Sunderland Avenue, along with Southampton Row is one of the last unspoilt areas of Pembroke Dock relating to its military heritage. The houses were built around 1950 for NCOs in the Navy and RAF. Bar a minor porch extension to one of the houses they are pretty much unchanged. The community spirit in the avenue is very good. The houses were designed for families in mind. The houses have good sized gardens and a very large green out the front which is a safe play area for the younger children. It is my concern that once a major development is allowed then it will be the thin edge of the wedge and the area will soon be changed. I am not a fan of “squeeze them in” housing. On ‘Technical issues’ it will be an increased loading on a sewer system designed for a specific number of houses. This system is private and not adopted by the authorities and any problems will have to be borne by the residents. It would also spoil the outlook for many owners of houses in Cumby terrace. At present their view is of open green areas and hedge rows. If this development goes ahead it will mean a view of a brick wall. Parking is also a problem already even with present off road standings. Cumby Terrace is a narrow road and there has already been an incident with a fire where the appliance could not get to the house and had to park right at the top of Cumby Terrace. Sunderland Avenue is a green area and has no road. With the environment, any development of the garden of number 1 would involve the destruction of a large mature common maple hedge and several other trees and the loss of green areas for ever. It would be the beginning of the end of a unique piece of Pembroke Dock fine military heritage. It serves as a monument to the Servicemen who have served in Pembroke Dock and their families. I would therefore like the Town Council to consider these points and hopefully raise an objection with the Planning Department of Pembrokeshire County Council. Sunderland Avenue is in a conservation area.”

PROPOSED by Councillor Mrs. V.M.J. Roach
SECONDED by Councillor Mrs. C. Fortune

RESOLVED-

That the Town Council was of the opinion that this was overdevelopment. The property was in a conservation area and the plans did not enhance this in any way. Note was made of the fact that the existing properties were former armed forces married quarters from the 1950s and the new development would not be in keeping with the ethos of the original buildings. There was a perception that the existing sewerage system may be insufficient for the additional property being proposed.

06/0184/PA	Mr & Mrs Spencer, 13, Clarence Street, Pembroke Dock.	13, Clarence Street, Pembroke Dock, - first floor extension
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PROPOSED by Councillor R.G. Watts
SECONDED by Councillor Mrs. C. Fortune

RESOLVED-

That the Town Council have no objection to this application.

06/0185/PA Mr & Mrs Jenkins,
Sutton House,
Beach Road,
Llanreath, Pembroke Dock.

Sutton House,
Beach Road,
Llanreath,
Pembroke Dock.

- **erection of one dwelling adjacent to Sutton House (land previously used as a garden)**

Councillors S. Perkins and P. Gwyther declared an interest in this matter and took no part in the discussion.

PROPOSED by Councillor Mrs. J. Rees
SECONDED by Councillor D.T. Esmond

RESOLVED-

That the Town Council were of the opinion that access and egress to the property were still an issue (a previous application had been turned down) in that the existing road was too narrow. The development would not be in keeping with the existing properties and would stand out. The question of existing trees being required to be cut back, etc also needed to be addressed.

73. Planning Decisions.

05/0505/PA Construction of an adoptable access road and pumping station, plot layout. – Land adjacent to Sycamore Street, Bufferland, Pembroke Dock. – **Approved.**

32. REPORT OF THE FINANCIAL OFFICER

7. Payment of Accounts

The following accounts were submitted for approval of payment:

24	The Consortium – Stationery	£4.64
25	British Telecom – Internet Charges	£105.71
26	Pembroke Dock Summer Festival Committee – Donation	£1,300.00

The Town Clerk also requested that the following accounts be added for approval of payment:

27	I. Jones – Quickbooks Computer Programme	£138.96
28	M. Roberts – Internal Audit	£125.00

PROPOSED by Councillor Mrs. C. Fortune
SECONDED by Councillor Mrs. V.M.J.Roach

RESOLVED –

That Account Nos. 24-28 be approved for payment.

33. REPORTS FROM TOWN COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES SERVING ON OTHER PUBLIC/VOLUNTARY BODIES

Councillor Mrs. Roach stated that she had attended a meeting of the Freshwater East Joint Management Group on 10th May 2006 at Lamphey Church Hall when amongst other things the Slipway Management for the current summer season was discussed and it had been decided that because of last year's success in the appointment of a Slipway Warden who had been employed for the peak period with main duties to give out information and advice, to control unauthorised beach parking and to check the car park and ticket machines, to do the same this year, since this allowed all beach users equal enjoyment. National Parks Authority had piloted 3 circular walks' leaflets giving details of routes which were deposited in a waterproof leaflet box at East End Car Park, Freshwater East. A meeting had been held in January 2006 to discuss the development and way forward for the establishment of a local Nature Reserve, since the Burrows site is valued by local people and visitors as a place for quiet recreation and enjoyment and provides many opportunities for access and education.

It was noted that since the site had been acquired and managed by National Parks Authority, flora and fauna had returned.

Councillor Mrs. Roach was thanked for her report.

34. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(a) Discussions on the Post Office (Sub Postmasters) Presentation

It was agreed that a letter of support be sent to Mr. Greaves together with copies to the Department of Trade and Industry Secretary of State, David Milliband, and Assembly Members. The Town Clerk was also asked to include details of the presentation and the Council's decision in the next press release.

(b) Christmas Dinner

Councillor Mrs. Rees suggested that the Town Clerk make enquiries with local restaurants within Pembroke Dock to see if a meal could be arranged for either the 18th or 19th December and to report back at a subsequent meeting

(c) Condition of the road in Bush Street between Argyle Street and the Blue School.

Councillor P. Weatherall stated that the road surface in this area had deteriorated. A complete new surface was required and patching was no longer an option. Members agreed and the Town Clerk was instructed to write to the County Council about the matter.

(d) Property at 49 Gwyther Street

Councillor R. Watts brought to Members' attention that this building was now subject to building work since a survey had indicated that there maybe a need to have it demolished with two residential buildings put in its place. This property was subject to

a complaint to the County Council about its state and the Town Clerk was still awaiting a reply having now invoked the Complaints Procedure.

(e) Building in Connaght Way

The Mayor informed Members that the builder had gone through the fencing into the area where there were listed buildings which were formerly known as The Armoury. County Councillor Kate Becton who was present as a member of the public at the Town Council meeting advised that she will take up the matter with the Townscape Heritage Initiative . Councillor R Watts will also investigate. The Town Clerk was asked to write to the County Council as well.

(f) Bus shelter opposite the Post Office in High Street, Pennar

Councillor Ted Hissey stated that the bus shelter opposite the Post Office requires attention and may be a dangerous structure

The Town Clerk was asked to make contact with the County Council.

(g) Degree Success – Town Clerk

Councillor Mrs P George drew Members of the Council's attention to the fact that the Town Clerk had recently graduated with a law degree and proposed that the Town Council congratulate him on his success.

The meeting ended at 2035hrs.

Mayor