

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE TOURISM COMMITTEE HELD IN THE  
MEYRICK SUITE, PATER HALL, PEMBROKE DOCK ON TUESDAY 30<sup>th</sup>  
OCTOBER 2007 COMMENCING AT 1100HRS.**

**Present:** Councillor Mrs Pam George (Chairman)  
Councillor Mrs Veronica Roach  
Councillor Paul Weatherall  
Councillor Phil Gwyther  
Councillor Ron Watts

**Apologies:** Councillor Ted Hissey  
Councillor Kevin Higgs  
Councillor Tim McMahon  
Councillor Sue Perkins  
Mrs Charlotte Damery (Chamber of Trade)

**In attendance:** Mr Ian Jones (Town Clerk)

**12. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> July 2007.**

The minutes had been circulated prior to the meeting and had also been seen by the full Town Council at its meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> July 2007. It was proposed by Councillor Paul Weatherall and seconded by Councillor Ron Watts that they be accepted as a correct record of proceedings. This was agreed by all present.

**13. Matters arising.**

There were no matters arising which would not be discussed elsewhere in the agenda.

**14. To consider whether to recommend to the Town Council that they support the Pembrokeshire Firework Champion of Champions event in 2008.**

There was a discussion on the Fireworks Championships which had taken place on 28/29<sup>th</sup> September 2007. It was agreed that this had certainly attracted a large number of people to the town and that if the event was repeated in 2008 we would need to try and increase the number of associated events. The Town Clerk stated that the organising Committee had recommended that the event take place in 2008 and funding was now being canvassed for the event. The Committee believed that some additional activity be arranged for Front Street or Barrack Hill e.g. fast food outlet which would then increase the takings for the event. It was proposed by Councillor Paul Weatherall and seconded by Councillor Ron Watts that in the coming year the event be supported to the tune of £3000. This would be put to main Council for approval at the Budget Meeting.

**15. To consider preliminary investigations into proposals for events to co-incide with the Town's Bi-centenary in 2014.**

The Town Clerk advised members that we should now start putting away money towards any events we were to arrange as well as commencing the outline planning for the event. In his view to make the event really memorable a budget of £75,000 should be set. Some funding would no doubt come from ticket sales for events but he believed that an outline budget of

this sum was justified. It was proposed that a Bicentenary Committee be formed in 2011 /2012 to take forward the finalisation and logistics for the commemorative events. Councillor Ron Watts provided some information on what plans he had fleshed out with regard to the Armed Services involvement in the celebrations. It was hoped that perhaps some of the events could be held within the Old Dockyard area perhaps on the hard standing between the two old RAF Seaplane Hangars. It was agreed that the Summer Festival Committee would need to be fully involved with the planning. A suggestion was put forward that that some sort of permanent feature to mark the event should be commissioned. This will be taken forward for future discussion as to what format it should be e.g. statue or artistic work etc. Consideration would also be given to having a “peoples’ night” within Pembroke Dock so that all residents were involved in some way. We would need to consider marquee costs and whether some form of sponsorship should be sought. Our twinning connections would also need to be included in the celebrations. Members agreed that we needed to start putting aside money for the year of celebrations and it was proposed by Councillor Veronica Roach and seconded by Councillor Paul Weatherall that in 2008/9 a capital sum of £7000 be precepted.

**16. To review the arrangements for Christmas Decorations within the town to include the illuminated trees for shops within Dimond Street.**

The Town Clerk reported that the “take up” on the offer of the provision of exterior artificial Christmas trees for traders in Dimond Street at a hire charge of £25 for the “season” had resulted in a reasonable “take up”. 12 businesses had responded favourably and 14 trees had been ordered in case there were some “late takers”. It was hoped that the Christmas Decorations would be put up over the weekends of 17<sup>th</sup> /18<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup> November subject of course to weather conditions.

**17. To consider further renewal of Christmas Decorations within the town and whether the area to be covered by lights should be extended in 2008.**

It was agreed that there would be no major increase in the area currently subject to Christmas decorations although perhaps extra displays could be placed at the junction of Laws Street and Dimond Street and perhaps Gordon Street. The Town Clerk reminded members that new displays were to be erected this year in Dimond Street and Lower Meyrick Street. In his view the budget for next year 2008/9 can now be reduced by about 50% since we would now only be replacing displays on a cyclical basis. Members agreed that this was a proper course of action.

**18. To receive an update on the arrangements for the synthetic Ice Rink event from 14 – 15 December 2007 and associated Christmas Festivities.**

It was agreed that this year we would not have a best dressed window competition for each of the wards within the town. If the Chamber of Trade were in agreement then there would be a competition for the best dressed shop window and the Town Clerk would write to Chris Morris to see if they were prepared to offer 50% towards the prize and to advertise the event. A decision would also have to be made if all shops or only those associated with the Chamber of Trade could participate.

With regard to the events over the 14/15 December it was confirmed that a Lantern parade would accompany Father Christmas from the Memorial Park. There would be no street closure this year so there would be a saving on the costs of advertising. There would be an

associated cost of closing the Car Park, tentatively it had been suggested that this would be £50 per day but it depended upon the amount of money which was likely to be raised by the event. The Town Clerk had written to the County Council setting out how much was being spent for the synthetic Ice Rink and he was awaiting a response. Once that had been received then he would need to enter into discussions with the Showman's Guild about how much they were prepared to pay for the concession of providing fairground style attractions to complement the rink. The Town Clerk explained that he had already met Mr Holmes and prepared a site map to show where the attractions would be located in the Car Park over the weekend. A decision on the venue of the "rink" would need to be made on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> in the light of the weather forecasts for the Friday and Saturday. The Town Clerk had arranged some preliminary publicity in a publication going to schools in the autumn and this will be followed up with further publicity at the end of November / beginning of November with a Press Release.

Councillor Phil Gwyther suggested that it may be appropriate to hire a marquee / tent from the scouts which would be placed near the rink so that some covered area was available for those supervising the rink etc. He would make enquiries with Mr Don Brickle regarding costs.

### **19 Any other business.**

The Chamber of Trade's ideas concerning Business in Bloom were to be investigated. The Town Clerk would write to Andrew Lewis to seek a meeting between himself, the Chairman of the Tourism Committee and the Town Clerk.

### **20. Date of next meeting.**

The date of the next meeting was fixed for Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> November at 1030hrs in the Meyrick Suite.

The meeting closed at 1245hrs.