

**MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF NEYLAND TOWN COUNCIL, HELD ON MONDAY 1st JULY
2024, 7.00PM AT NEYLAND COMMUNITY HUB**

This meeting was recorded.

IN ATTENDANCE: Cllr. P Hay (Mayor)
 Cllr. A Phelan (Deputy Mayor)
 Cllr. E Phelan
 Cllr. M Harry
 Cllr. A Richards
 Cllr. A Thomas
 Cllr. S Campodonic
 Cllr. S Hancock
 Cllr. S Thomas
 Cllr. D Devauden
 Mrs. Deborah Yea (Minute taker)

APOLOGIES: Cllr. B Rothero
 Clerk

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: 4 Members of the public via teams, Ellie, Jackie, Michelle, Mary
 3 Members of the public were in attendance Mr. Ian Hatchett, Mrs. Donna Matthews, Miss. Alice Matthews

Meeting opened at 7.03pm. The Mayor confirmed Mrs. Deborah Yea would be taking the minutes at this meeting.

4469 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST REGARDING THE BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED

Member:	Interest:	Agenda Item:
Cllr. M Harry	Personal; Non-paid Director of Neyland CIC	N/A
Cllr. S Thomas	Personal; Member of LCC Personal; Husband to the former Clerk of the Burial Board	N/A N/A
Cllr. S Hancock	Personal; Member of family in the Police Force Sit on the Police and Crime Panel Dyfed Powys	Agenda item 17 4.4

4470 – REPRESENTATION BY THE PUBLIC (limited to 15 minutes)

Cllr. P Hay (Mayor) offered the opportunity for members of the public to address the Council. The Mayor opened the meeting up to the public. A member of the public, a family member of the Clerk requested to read a statement:

“We are aware that over a number of months the Clerk has been subject to harassment and intimidation from three current council members Stephen Thomas, Brian Rothero and David Devauden. This continuous harassment has caused great upset to the town clerk that we as a family have seen firsthand and has resulted in her taking time off with stress, not as Mr D Devauden stated in his email that it was due to an alleged alcoholic problem and that she was allegedly having an affair with another council member. In any other occupation this would never be allowed to get this far and it is appalling to us that these three men are still allowed to be able to sit on the council and represent Neyland. So, we are asking today what measures are being taken to ensure this ends immediately and these men face the repercussions for their actions preferably with them resigning from their positions.”

Cllr D Devauden responded to the statement addressing the member of the public stating that they did not have the power to request their resignation and declared he had no involvement with the Clerk since Christmas.

Further discussions went on regarding the current situation with the Clerk, with particular reference to the context of emails sent from Cllr D Devauden to which Cllr M Harry presented an example of an email sent on the 6th June 2024 from Cllr D Devauden where the reference to alcohol and the affair with another council member were stated.

Cllr. P Hay (Mayor) addressed the public, “It is very difficult we do not have workplace controls over councillors” referencing many councillors have “expressed similar opinions and concerns as them but do not have the HR procedures as in any other workplace”. Cllr S Hancock added for bullying and harassment there is a separate independent process. He sought confirmation from the family member that a complaint had been made and is currently being investigated by an independent party, who will evaluate the evidence and come to a conclusion. The member of the family acknowledged the information provided but requested clarification on what will be done in the meantime with the continuous harassment.

Cllr D Devauden quoted section 10 of the human rights act referencing freedom of speech, the discussion continued.

Cllr S Thomas thanked the member of the public for coming in and expressed sympathy to them for the situation they are in, he continued to state that the emails to the Clerk were of council business. The family member asked how he reacted to emails that aren't responded too straight away, discussions continued around the email decorum/ lack of decorum sent by Cllr S Thomas. Cllr S Thomas noted that the emails are confidential, and the family member confirmed that at no point do they see the emails just the stress it causes the Clerk.

Cllr P Hay (Mayor) requested to move on. Cllr A Phelan addressed Cllr S Thomas and asked if he thought Cllr S Thomas had done anything wrong? Cllr S Thomas would not answer a blanket question but stated he had not done anything malicious. Cllr M Harry then expressed support for the Clerk and how he was disappointed that none of the above referenced Councillor's read in the statement have accepted any responsibility. Cllr S Thomas responded with referencing the conversation he was having with the Ombudsman. Cllr D Devauden then made a reference that this Clerk was going the same way the other Clerk was going, a number of Councillors and members of the public started talking over each other in aggressive way. Cllr A Phelan proposed that Cllr D Devauden was not allowed to comment for the duration

of the meeting Cllr M Harry seconded Cllr P Hay (Mayor) said that was not possible and he had not had a warning and confirmed this was not a warning to him either.

A family member said it had been agreed that the three councillors referenced in the statement above had been asked not to contact the Clerk and this has not happened. Cllr. Hay responded, "that there was very little we can do from the Council perspective, we need to wait for the process to follow through and it is very time consuming". Cllr P Hay (Mayor) requested would it be ok to move on.

Jackie – guest no surname provided, had her hand up on TEAMS. She joined and identified herself as the former Clerk to the Burial Board and continued to say her work should never have been discussed in a public forum in April and had requested for it to be removed from the minutes which was refused. Jackie continued to say she too had received offensive emails from Councillors Ash Phelan, Alison Richards and Peter Hay and they had taken no responsibility for their actions. Jackie claimed the reason she had resigned was due to bullying and harassment and the way she had been treated by the Neyland Town Councillors, mainly Cllr A Phelan, Cllr A Richards, Cllr P Hay. Cllr A Thomas brought up an incident regarding an alleged refusal of an interment at Honeyborough commentary in April, discussions on this this interment continued without the facts presented. Cllr P Hay (Mayor) asked for this to be moved on. Jackie continued to ask why time had been take to discussed the Clerks case and not allowing her to have her say. Cllr S Thomas then addressed Cllr P Hay (Mayor) and pointed out that these cases with Clerk and the Clerk of the Burial Board should not have taken place in a public meeting or recorded in the minutes. Cllr P Hay (Mayor) said he will investigate this. The discussion continued between Councillors. Cllr S Hancock addressed Cllr P Hay (Mayor) and confirmed that staff performance should not at any point be discussed in a public forum. Cllr S Hancock summarised the current situation; The Clerk of the Burial Board is pursuing a grievance, and this is under investigation and is ongoing, the Clerk of Neyland Town Council is also pursuing a grievance, and this is under investigation and is ongoing, and a conclusion for both will be completed by an independent body. A message should be sent to the Clerk of Neyland Town Council wishing her our best and that we are looking forward to having her back and that is the best we can do as corporate body. Another member of public expressed thanks to the Clerk for the work she had completed on the Toilets and wished her the best.

4471 – TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING 22.05.2024

Cllr P Hay (Mayor) asked had everyone read the minutes. Cllr S Thomas wanted to address that none of this should be disused in a meeting and recorded in the minutes as it is further publicising the Clerks difficulties and concerns. Cllr P Hay (Mayor) acknowledged Cllr S Thomas' request and advised we would seek advice as to what level of recording we can do in the minutes and a decision will be taken then. If there is anything that we should not publish, we will not put it in the minutes.

One of the members of the public left the meeting

54/24

- Agreed

55/24

- Declaration of interest; Cllr S Thomas asked for the prejudicial interest to be removed.
- 4439; Cllr S Thomas on the format of the font in italics and that the minutes were emphasizing negative comments. Asked for Cllr P Hay (Mayor) to ask Clerk not to use italics for future meetings. Discussions took place around the use of improper comments, after a detailed discussion it was agreed to move on.

56/24

71/24

- 4412; Cllr S Thomas clarified his query on the comment of the selection boxes. 14 were left and only 8 returned. Cllr P Hay (Mayor) agreed to query with the Clerk where the other boxes were.

57/24

- Agreed

58/24

- 5547; Cllr S Thomas asked can the first main paragraph be updated to read “asked if Dragon LNG, VPOT and Egnedol would be contributing this year to the Christmas event and that Dragon LNG agreed that they would be happy to support with the Santa Fun Run this year, and that VPOT and Egnedol would look to support in other area’s”.

59/24

- Agreed

60/24

- Agreed

61/24

- Cllr S Thomas referenced the last paragraph; font italics to be amended. Discussions took place around the accuracy of the paragraph. After the discussion Cllr S Thomas accepted this paragraph was accurate.

Proposal: To approve the minutes, with amendments of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 22nd May 2024 as a true record.

Proposed: Cllr A Thomas

Seconded: Cllr A Phelan

Votes for: 6

Votes against: 2

Abstained: 1

RESOLVED: MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON 22ND MAY 2024 ARE ACCEPTED AS A TRUE RECORD.

4472 – MATTERS ARISING

56/24

- 4414: Cllr A Phelan, any update on the transfer of the field? To knowledge, nothing further known at the time, and we are awaiting the signing of the documents.

58/24

- 4445 & 4448; Cllr S Thomas asked was there an update on the events Cllr P Hay (Mayor) had attended. He confirmed an update would be provided in his report.

59/24

- 4450 – Cllr A Phelan asked was there any update? No update due to Cllr P Hay (Mayor) being extremely busy very low on his list of priorities

61/24

- Cllr A Phelan asked was there any update on the fireworks? Cllr P Hay (Mayor) confirmed all in place for 1st November.
- Cllr A Phelan asked if there was any update on the internal auditor? Cllr P Hay (Mayor) advised he would obtain an update from the Clerk.

4473 – TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING 3rd JUNE 2024

Cllr S Thomas asked could they be deferred as they were only received a couple of hours before the meeting. Cllr P Hay (Mayor) acknowledged that they were circulated late, he provided time to read through the minutes. Approximately 10 minutes were provided, and everyone was happy to continue.

62/24

- Declaration of interest; Cllr S Thomas asked for the declaration of interest to be amended to Personal; Husband to the Former Burial Board Clerk who resigned from the position due to alleged constructive unfair dismissal.

63/24

- Agreed

64/24

- Agreed

65/24

- 4461 Cllr S Thomas requested for the last sentence to be amended to include the word Permanent annual occurrence

66/24

- 4464 Cllr S Thomas the last sentence needs to be amended to state that there was no claim therefore remove as the claim was still under investigation.

67/24

- Agreed

Proposal: *To approve the minutes, with amendments of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 3rd June 2024 as a true record.*

Proposed: Cllr S Thomas

Seconded: Cllr A Thomas

Votes for: 8

Votes against: 0

Abstained: 2

RESOLVED: MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON 3rd JUNE 2024 ARE ACCEPTED AS A TRUE RECORD.

4474 – MATTERS ARISING

62/24

- 4455 The Mayor has said there is a drop box in PCC referencing the 20 mph, Cllr P Hay (Mayor) continued to say that an email has been provided to enable us to give comments on the 20mph change in the speed limit. A request was made to the Councillors to share this information and also the Clerk had been requested to share this on our Face Book page and the website. Further discussions took place around the vandalism of the 20mph signs. Cllr S Hancock noted that he had made contact with PCC highways to request for them to be cleaned

63/24

73/24

- 4456 Cllr S Thomas raised the livestream system problem with audio and video, Cllr M Harry requested for this to be added as a September Agenda item, as it needs to be discussed do we need to use the system as it is not a legal requirement. Cllr A Phelan advised we are not a Principle Authority, it is only required for Local Authority's. It was also noted we do not have exclusive use; it was agreed that we need to have a clear understanding of how it is maintained and how it works with a training session.

Review of system use to be added as an Agenda Item in September

65/24

- 4462 Cllr S Thomas enquired has the cheque been received from RWE, it was agreed to check and confirm back

Confirm back to Cllr Thomas has the cheque been received

4475 – DEFIBRILLATOR PACKAGE COSTING FROM TENBY & SAUNDERSFOOT FIRST RESPONDERS

Defibrillator package costings from Tenby & Saundersfoot First Responders has been received with the costings. The quote referenced installation and Cllr P Hay (Mayor) asked the Councillors if everyone is happy with the word installed and what it meant. Cllr S Thomas and others agreed we need clarification on what installed means. Considerations need to be taken as to does it have heating, as an example. A number of discussions took place as to what the contract provides, the specification of the item and the service needed to be agreed and an understanding of the Service Level Agreement (SLA) that will be in place, key stakeholders to include Rose and Willow and Electrician's to be contacted. With all this discussed and the Councillors still not having the full details of the proposal and the SLA, the below proposal was still put forward as the cost quoted was an excellent cost.

Proposal: To go with the Tenby First Responders quote at the cost of £1,395.00, there may be a slight difference in the cost for the installation and to also to gain an understanding of the service that will accompany the defibrillator

Proposed: Cllr S Thomas

Seconded: Cllr A Phelan

All in favour

RESOLVED: ALL IN AGREEMENT AND TO PROCEED WITH THE INSTALLATION WITH THE INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT THIS MEETING ALL ACCEPTING THERE MIGHT BE AN ADDITIONAL COST AND UNCLEAR OF THE SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT IN PLACE

Cllr A Phelan asked about the signage of the defibrillators. Cllr P Hay (Mayor) expressed his views on the signage options postcodes/ location and Cllr D Devauden referenced it needs to have 3 words, however never confirmed what the three words were, the discussion on signage moved on with nothing agreed.

4476 – A REPORT FORM THE COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE

Cllr. A Phelan advised proposed election of the Chair as it was poorly attended, however the meeting was quorum. £700 donation agreed to Carnival Committee. Cllr S Thomas challenged that the meeting wasn't quorate as it needs to be 4. Discussions took place around the number it should have been. Cllr S Thomas stated that the decision shouldn't have been taken in that meeting and proposed that we call for a vote now to legitimise that decision, Cllr P Hay (Mayor) agreed:

74/24

Proposal: Accept the decision of the donation of a £700 from the Community Enhancement Committee to the Carnival Committee

Proposed: Cllr S Thomas

Seconded: Cllr P Hay (Mayor)

All in favour

RESOLVED: ALL IN AGREEMENT £700 DONATION TO BE GIVEN TO THE CARNIVAL COMMITTEE FROM THE COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE.

Cllr E Phelan raised how poorly attended the Community Enhancement Committee is, and it is becoming increasingly hard to make decision's when it is so poorly attended. The general feeling in the room was agreement with her. No further discussion on this.

4477– AN INVITATION AND SUPPORT REQUEST FROM THE PEMBROKE DOCK FIRE AND RESCUE STATION (s137)

Letter received from Pembroke Dock Fire Service open day with regards to the open day Wednesday 31st July from 10am. The request is for a donation to their fundraising effort. A discussion took place noting that the fire and rescue service is publicly funded but a charitable donation is different. This request is for a registered charity. Cllr S Thomas raised a concern that we fall into Milford Haven so should we be supporting Pembroke Dock? Cllr P Hay (Mayor) noted that it was very unlikely that Milford Haven would be doing an event like this.

Proposal: To give a donation of £100 to their charity

Proposed: Cllr. A Phelan

Seconded: Cllr S Hancock

9 in favour,

1 against.

RESOLVED: A DONATION OF £100 TO BE PROVIDED TO PEMBROKE DOCK FIRE AND RESCUE

4478– SUMMER FUNDING FOR NEYLAND YOUTH CLUB

This is for Neyland Youth Club. Cllr A Phelan has received a request for £1806.05 for July (£573.42) and August (£1232.63) so they can be open for these months in the Summer. Cllr P Hay (Mayor) asked if the finance committee had budgeted for this, which was confirmed. This has been supported for many years and it is a great support for young people, with strong numbers continuously attending. Cllr S Hancock noted that we are making a practical difference, as a Council, to the young people in the town.

Proposal: To provide a donation of £1806.05 to the Neyland Youth Club

Proposed: Cllr. A Phelan

Seconded: Cllr S Thomas

All in favour

RESOLVED: A DONATION OF £1806.05 TO BE PROVIDED TO PEMBROKE DOCK FIRE AND RESCUE

4479 – TO MOVE A MOTION REFERENCE INVESTITURE CHAIR

“The Investiture Chair, upon being cleaned and made sound, should be loaned to Neyland Library, for usage in its seating area” Cllr. P Hay

Cllr P Hay (Mayor) provided a background to the investiture chair and noted how it had been in the container since the move. This proposal is to clean it up and be used. Discussions took place and Cllr S Hancock explained that the chair is of historical importance. 4600 of them were made and are not the most robust chair. These chairs were gifted to us after the investiture acceptance and he would be happy to have it on display, but not used for seating, as if it were damaged it is irreplaceable. Cllr S Hancock proposed an amendment to the motion to add that it is not to be used but for display purpose.

Cllr S Thomas suggested that if it is to be cleaned it needs to be professionally cleaned. Cllr D Devauden informed the members he was an antiques furniture restorer for many years. Cllr P Hay (Mayor) pointed out that no one has had an interest in this chair for many years and it almost got thrown out, it has very little historical residence of Neyland and that it should be seen, used and if it is damaged after some years, it should be thrown out. Discussions took place on how it would be put on show? Information text and ropes were discussed, which moved onto the condition of the chair as it gets removed from the container as it needs to be treated with respect.

Amendment : *“The Investiture Chair, upon being cleaned and made sound, should be loaned to Neyland Library, for display purposes only.”*

Proposed: Cllr S Hancock

Seconded: Cllr S Thomas

**9 in favour,
1 against.**

Cllr A Thomas requested the total cost of the refurbishment prior to voting on the proposal, Cllr D Devauden said it should cost no more than £100.

Proposal: *“The Investiture Chair, upon being cleaned and made sound, should be loaned to Neyland Library, for display purposes only.”*

**9 in favour,
1 against.**

RESOLVED: THE INVESTITURE CHAIR, UPON BEING CLEANED AND MADE SOUND, SHOULD BE LOANED TO NEYLAND LIBRARY FOR DISPLAY PURPOSES ONLY WITH A RESTORATION COST OF NO MORE THAN £100.

4480 – TO MOVE A MOTION FOR PLENARY POWERS OF THE CHRISTMAS WORKING GROUP TO BE REMOVED

“That any plenary powers granted to Members of the ‘Christmas Working Group’, or to the ‘Group’ itself, be withdrawn” Cllr’s. P Hay, A Phelan, E Phelan and A Thomas.

Cllr S Thomas requested to raise a concern and Cllr P Hay (Mayor) replied to advise we can debate the motion. Cllr S Thomas continued that no information had been provided in advance to the Christmas working group, this has been requested and they have been informed that no information is available, therefore this has been added to the Agenda without any additional supporting information. Cllr S Thomas continued that this was difficult for the Christmas working group to provide any information or reply to this and understand what the concerns are without seeing any information prior to the meeting. Cllr A Phelan said he is part of the Christmas working group, agreed at the AGM, and was not invited to the Christmas working group meeting recently held. Cllr S Thomas noted he was not aware of this. Discussions continued and Cllr S Thomas explained that the group operate in the same way as the Community Enhancement Committee, the group have the information and feedback the information. Cllr A Phelan to be invited going forward.

Discussions took place around the voting on plenary powers and had it taken place.

Cllr P Hay (Mayor) expressed that he is very worried we will become short of cash, as they have taken on a toilet they weren’t planning for and with the issues with the Burial Board, we will have to find thousands of pounds to support. A discussion took place on the financial processes that the spending agreements have to go through. With all the committee’s, the only one which has funds to draw on is the Christmas Committee, and it is foreseen that some money will be needed. It had been bought to Cllr P Hay’s (Mayor) attention the required purchase of new lights, which he was not aware of. Cllr S Thomas interjected and said the information was emailed over, Cllr P Hay (Mayor) continued that he is concerned that money is spent without full consideration of the budget, and therefore money will be spent which we can’t afford. Money that is spent needs to come through full council, so we all understand where it is spent, and this is what the proposal is for.

Cllr A Phelan agrees we should have an event, but we need to understand the figures, and last year’s figures have only recently been presented. He continued that a working group legally cannot have plenary powers, it needs to be a committee. Cllr M Harry questioned the profit declared and was it a profit or met budget which does not mean profit. Reference was made to the money spent on the Santa Fun Run, which in previous years had not been spent. He went on to compare Christmas to the Carnival. Reference was made that if a donation was received, it should come to full Council to decide what to do with the money and that, also should sub committees be going out to company’s asking for donations without the full committee being aware? Cllr. Harry also feels that the Christmas Market event should be combined with and held at The Hub.

Cllr E Phelan supported Cllr M Harry and Cllr A Phelan noting that there was a requirement to vote on Christmas expenditure for spend that had already taken place. Expenditure got out of hand that wouldn’t have happened if it had been bought to full council, she showed understanding for reason behind plenary powers being required as it does take longer to wait for decisions at full council as it does delay things. There are also concerns that expenditure will be greater this year with talks of an ice rink and that outside funding spends needs to be decided at full council.

Cllr D Devauden noted the Ice rink nothing to do with the Council but the this is the School organising.

Cllr S Thomas and Cllr D Devauden declared their feelings that people want to stop the planned Christmas event / wind them down as much as possible. Cllr P Hay (Mayor) confirmed this is not the case but that we needed to keep a close eye on the expenditure. Discussions took place on the Agenda item wording.

Cllr D Devauden raised that plenary powers do not mean money, that is pecuniary powers.

Discussions took place around how the donations are spent at Christmas, and that there needs to be a vote on how the money is spent. There was a lot of talking over each other.

Cllr S Thomas was provided authorisation at a full council to go to and obtain donations. Cllr D Devauden also noted his concerns that if money was donated for the Christmas event than this is where it needs to be allocated.

Cllr S Hancock pointed out that there are two separate discussions here: an issue with funding. If a subcommittee wants to go out and obtain funding for their event, then this is admirable. The motion being discussed is about power of spending to stop the subcommittee having the powers to spend and noted that this is a small council that meets every month. The subcommittees should still meet to provide assurance and advise for their committees, but spending should be brought to full council. Cllr S Thomas supported this, in principle treating all sub committee's the same, therefore the Community Enhancement group spend should also come to full council.

Cllr M Harry noted that the Community Enhancement group has been going for years and this is not on the agenda, Cllr P Hay (Mayor) confirmed this. Further discussions took place around providing the Christmas Committee with a budget and them working to that as the Community Enhancement group does. Further discussions took place around plenary powers and that it relates to money only. Cllr A Phelan asked for exact conformation on what plenary powers means before voting on the motion. Cllr E Phelan suggested that it needs to follow normal committee's; have the meeting, make the decisions, complete the minutes, come to council and full council approves it, which also includes spend and the commitment to spend.

Cllr A Thomas expressed concerns about the planned ice rink and that we could potentially be asked to support with the ice rink without funds budgeted for it.

Cllr S Hancock asked what the Terms of reference for the group are, it was confirmed there are none. Further discussions took place around the planning of Christmas last year and how a number of plans weren't in place and last-minute plans had to take place which is why the committee requested plenary powers, this year all is looking on target. Discussions continued with the Santa run and the money spent on it.

Cllr S Thomas requested an amendment and for a spend limit of £50 for buying items in the month before the event, to allow for emergencies as this could potentially have an impact on support required from the Clerk.

Amendment: 'That any plenary powers granted to Members of the 'Christmas Working Group', or to the 'Group' itself, be withdrawn. A spend limit of £50 to be put in place for buying items a month before the event.'

Prosed: Cllr S Thomas

Second: Cllr S Campodonic

Cllr S Hancock brought to the attention of Cllr P Hay (Mayor) that there was a member of the public with their hand up and Cllr P Hay (Mayor) confirmed he was not inviting them to speak.

3 in Favour

Cllr. S Thomas
Cllr. S Campodonic
Cllr. D Devauden

7 Against

Cllr. P Hay (Mayor)
Cllr. A Phelan
Cllr. E Phelan
Cllr. M Harry
Cllr. A Richards
Cllr. A Thomas
Cllr. S Hancock

Proposal: 'That any plenary powers granted to Members of the 'Christmas Working Group', or to the 'Group' itself, be withdrawn.'

3 Against

Cllr. S Thomas
Cllr. S Campodonic
Cllr. D Devauden

7 For

Cllr. P Hay (Mayor)
Cllr. A Phelan
Cllr. E Phelan
Cllr. M Harry
Cllr. A Richards
Cllr. A Thomas
Cllr. S Hancock

RESOLVED: THAT ANY PLENARY POWERS GRANTED TO MEMBERS OF THE 'CHRISTMAS WORKING GROUP', OR TO THE 'GROUP' IT SELF BE WITHDRAWN

4480 – A REPORT FROM THE CHRISTMAS WORKING GROUP

Cllr S Thomas provided a report and started by noting this is significantly affected by the items discussed in agenda item 13 (minute item 4479). He noted that he didn't have the office support required last year. A meeting was held on fact finding as it was not quorate, so no decisions were made. Discussions took place around the ice rink being self-funded as there will be a charge for using it and they are not expecting anything from the Christmas working group. The group are looking for a response on what support will be provided from the office at this year's event. There are concerns with running the event as to the receiving of the money for the Santa run and also the stalls, noting what payments have been received. Mayor reconfirmed that the group are looking for support with the financial elements, to which Cllr S Thomas agreed and referenced a spreadsheet so that they are aware of payments in real time, Mayor asked was there any reason that they needed to know in real time. It was agreed that communication from both sides to be improved on from last year and support provided. Mayor assured there will be support required this year.

4481 – A REQUEST FROM TO APPLY FOR THE COMMUNITY COHESION FUND AND A PLAN OF UTILISATION

Cllr S Thomas opened by noting this was not worded clearly and had requested it to be amended and re circulated. He had requested that the Agenda item should read ***An update Community Cohesion Fund and authorisation to hold a disability inclusion conference***

This event should have taken place last civic year but Cllr S Thomas was not able to complete the event due to extra demands. The application for the funding last year was due in in September, but he was not aware until October. The deadline for application this year had passed. Cllr S Thomas apologised for missing the email. Cllr S Thomas has put the application in, hence why this item is for a request to hold the event. Last year the fund was for £1500, this year it is £2000. This year £1800 (approx.) has been requested due to cost increases. The conference is based on the same theme as last year which was supported by the council.

Initially source Pembrokeshire People First to present, then extended to Time to Change Wales which is a national organisation that focus on mental health. They will support by bringing merchandise and gifts.

Cllr S Thomas continued to explain that he has applied for £1800 in funding from Welsh Government managed under Carmarthenshire County Council to cover everything that was arranged last year. Cllr S Thomas continued to say that he was trying to get a para-athlete to open and attend the event where the expenses would need to be covered. These had been costed and included in the grant application of £1800.

There should be no cost to Neyland Town Council, but would like to do it under the Neyland Town Council. Cllr A Phelan made a comment about additional money and noted that we could have potentially gained some funds back.

Cllr M Harry noted all seems very reasonable request and there was no reason to highlight the wording of the agenda at the start in so much detail.

Proposal: Organise the event Community Cohesion Fund and authorisation to hold a disability inclusion conference at no cost to the council under the banner of Neyland Town Council.

Cllr S Hancock noted that we all agree on this and there is no one who would not agree on the event and requested for it to be moved to a vote

**Propose Cllr S Thomas
Second Cllr. D Devauden**

All in favour

RESOLVED: ORGANISE THIS EVENT COMMUNITY COHESION FUND AND AUTHORISATION TO HOLD A DISABILITY INCLUSION CONFERENCE AT NO COST TO THE COUNCIL UNDER THE BANNER OF NEYLAND TOWN COUNCIL

4482– VACANCY FOR NEYLAND EAST

There is a casual vacancy for Neyland East. Cllr M Harry proposed the Clerk contacts Pembrokeshire County Council moves this forward.

4483 – OUTSTANDING MATTERS

The following items are on the agenda and currently there are no further updates:

- A477 Speed Limit
- HHVC School Transport
- NHS Dental Provision
- Police presence in Neyland

4484 – PAYMENTS TO BE APPROVED**Expenditure June**

The document Below was presented to the members for the June payments. Most of the payments are for members allowances, loans and insurance. All total £10,112.07



Expenditure June
2024.pdf

Cllr D Devauden noted that he has returned his allowance, Cllr P Hay (Mayor) responded that this will appear in next month's report as a credit for £52.00

Payments for authorisation

Payments for
Authorisation.pdf

Salary:	£1,784.67
HMRC:	£490.42
Nest Pension:	£151.71
Flowers PCC:	£1,601.40
Defibrillator Package	£1395.00
Elections PCC:	£5,688.22
Christmas Lights:	£3,144.00
Total in Accounts:	£14,255.42

Members had been presented with a list of payments for approval totalling £14,255.42.

Proposal: To authorise June's payments, total of £14,255.42

Proposed: Cllr M Harry

Second: Cllr A Thomas

All in agreement

Cllr S Thomas requested do we pay the cost of the Elections to PCC in full or installments. Paying in installments incurs approx. 6% additional cost.

Proposal: Pay the Election PCC cost in full

Proposed: Cllr M Harry

Second: Cllr A Phelan

All agree

RESOLVED: PAY THE PCC ELECTION INVOICE IN FULL

4475 – CLERKS REPORT

There was no Clerk's report to be presented.

4476 – MAYOR'S REPORT

Cllr. P Hay reported the following:

1. Battery replaced for the speed sign
2. Reset the clock for a second time on Bethesda Chapel and noted it might need looking at
3. Strimmed the grass in front of the Council's container
4. Attended D Day Commemorations on the 6th of June, it went well, and many town's folk had congratulated the Council on its efforts. There was a well-attended short service mid- morning and the Beacon lighting in the evening. More focus to be given to future beacon lightings to make it an event. Reference was also made to the loudspeaker and the condition of it. If anyone uses it if there is an issue, could we be informed so that it can be rectified. Cllr E Phelan suggested it gets replaced. Further discussions took place on it, then we moved on.
5. Visited the open day at HOPE on the industrial estate. An excellent charity doing great work. Originally set up to treat conditions of Multiple Sclerosis, they now see many other conditions where their facilities can help. Well worth supporting where you can.
6. Attended Neyland Community School colour run and handed out the medals.
7. Attended Milford Haven Port Authority event at Ty Hotel celebrating a year with their stakeholders and the stepping down of their chair.
8. Attended VIP dance studio with the Vice Chair and presented their luggage cases to those attending the World Dance Championships in Prague. VIP were very appreciative of the support and some girls have won their dance events and are World Champions. Can we look to publicise their success.
9. Met with PCC Helen Keohone at the carpark to discuss the high street car park signage. All were informed and invited too as it came around very quickly following on from June's meeting where a site meeting was suggested by PCC's Darren Thomas. The car park will soon be refurbished, signage, line painting, surface repair etc. Also, a discussion took place for the placement of a speed sign in high street which can be discussed further. It was noted that the report provided instigated a "bitching" email from Cllr S Thomas, no need for this it needs to stop.
10. Asked the owner of 44 Kensington Road and PCC to have a conversation with regards to the "pinch point" in the public pavement. The pavement on the Western side of Kensington Road opposite the entrance to School Lane. The owners are rebuilding their wall and are happy to talk to PCC with regards to a deal to be completed with regards to some of their land. He is happy to discuss moving

his wall slightly and for the pinch point to be resolved. **Cllr S Hancock asked to keep Cllr P Miller in the loop.**

11. Speed signs, they could be mounted on the car park signs. Any evidence provided will not supply convictional evidence. Potentially a recognition sign more appropriate.
12. Has been sorting out Burial Board since the 17th June, trying to sort out the financial situation. The Burial Board, HMRC, suppliers and wages have all had issues, these have come to light since the resignation of the Clerk. It is exceptionally exhausting. Suppliers have been paid into the wrong accounts, final demands received, all necessary payments that could be found have now been bought up to date. Biggest problem is that the Clerk went off-piste with HMRC payroll. Cllr S Thomas asked Cllr P Hay (Mayor) to elaborate on this comment, stating a different laptop was used. Many hours have been spent with HMRC and the accountant trying to get it up to date and back online. More time allocated with the accountant to get in back online. We have until the 20th July to pay the next set of wages. Approximately over £2,000.00 (not confirmed yet) is owed to HMRC by the Burial Board, accountancy bill unknown yet. Official communication will be received from the Burial Board, and it looks like Neyland and Llanstadwell will have to further financially support the Burial Board, not just this year but for future years. Both councils have already paid the Burial Board more than what they have budgeted for 2024/2025. Cllr S Hancock requested an indication of the amount we might be talking about, Cllr P Hay (Mayor) replied possible £6,000 for the remainder of this year and potentially £8,000 for 2025/2026, being pessimistic. This is why it was previously mentioned we might be running out of money as we have taken on the toilets we had not budgeted for, and the Burial Board cost. **Cllr S Hancock suggested that this should be an agenda item for the next meeting, Mayor agreed and hopefully we will have a clearer picture at the next meeting but wanted to make everyone aware of the situation.**

4477 – EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

Cllr M Harry: we need a new PA system and the dance group is an example of the good support the community enhancement committee work provided.

Cllr S Hancock left the meeting at 21:40

Cllr S Thomas noted plenty of information with regards to the Burial Board. Mayor noted this to be added as an Agenda item.

4478 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting is set for Monday 2nd September 2024.

Meeting closed at 21:42