

MINUTES OF THE SECOND MEETING OF THE
PEMBROKE DOCK ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION TEAM
HELD AT THE PATER HALL, PEMBROKE DOCK, ON
WEDNESDAY 7TH JUNE 2006 AT 1700HRS (5.00PM).

Present:

Councillor Ron Watts	Pembroke Dock Town Council (Chairman)
County Councillor Kate Becton	Pembrokeshire County Council
County Councillor Tony Wilcox	Pembrokeshire County Council
County Councillor Sue Perkins	Mayor of Pembroke Dock
Mr Simon Preddy	Keep Wales Tidy Group
Mr Ricky Somerville	McDonalds, Pembroke Dock
Miss Maureen Bermingham	Pembroke Dock Civic Society
Mr Andrew Lewis	Pembroke Dock Chamber of Trade

In attendance:

Mr Ian Jones	Town Clerk, Pembroke Dock
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Apologies for absence:

Mrs Pam Hopkins	Tescos Stores, Pembroke Dock
Ms Wendy Earl	Strategic Recycling Team Co-ordinator, PCC
Mr Bob Phillips	Environment Agency, Wales
Mr Andrew Johnstone	Pembroke Dock Community Website Project

7. Minutes of the last meeting.

The minutes of the last meeting held on 3rd May 2006 had been circulated prior to this meeting and it was proposed by County Councillor Kate Becton and Seconded by Mr Simon Preddy that they be accepted as an accurate record of proceedings. The spelling of the name of “Brian” in County Councillor Brian Hall was amended.

8. Matters arising

County Councillor Kate Becton stated that she and Sue Perkins had met with Mr Brian Maddocks recently to discuss the state of street cleaning etc within the town. Mr Maddocks had accepted that standards were not good. The Weed Ripper Machine had started within the town e.g. at the top of Commercial Row and it was to be hoped that this would be the start of a longer term improvement. Kate also stated that she was to meet Barry Davies from the County Council next week regarding the state of footpaths / pavements within the town. Comment was made of the streets near to Albion Square where black bin bags put out for refuse collection had been ripped open by birds / animals etc. There was a need to educate persons putting out bags with regard to reducing the risk of birds attacking the bags. There maybe an improvement once Composting Bins arrive in the town, providing of course they are used correctly.

9. Correspondence

The Town Clerk, Ian Jones stated that he had written to both Focus / Do It All and Instore with regard to the litter problems at London Road. In the absence of any reply from both stores he had written to the Managing Directors of both companies. This had resulted in a letter from the local Manager of Instore who had stated that they wished to co-operate with the Team to improve the current situation. In the case of Do It All no reply had been received to date and Ian had asked Bob Phillips from the Environment Agency to pay an informal visit to try and promote better storage of waste materials. Bob stated that he would try and make a visit shortly.

10. Dog Fouling.

The Dog Warden gave brief details of her duties and provided an information brochure for all members which set out clearly the obligations of Dog Owners. She explained that PCC were looking to publicise successful prosecutions and to this end she encouraged members of the team to take photographs of any animal fouling the street or amenity area where the dog owner did not clean up afterwards. There was a fixed penalty of £75 for every offence. It was explained that ordinary litter bins could be used for the depositing of such waste material. Councillor Ron Watts stated that most dog owners acted responsibly and he thought the Memorial Park was such a venue, however, in other areas such as Front Street, Western Way amenity area, the amenity area overlooking the Cleddau Bridge and Barrack Hill this was not the case. The Dog Warden stated that a standard letter could be issued to offenders which reminded them of their obligations. Comment was made about specific individuals in Front Street and the warden asked that names be provided to her so that a formal warning letter could be issued. There was a discussion on the effectiveness or otherwise of signs reminding owners of their responsibilities. The Town Clerk would write to Mr. Brian Maddocks to suggest signs in those areas where an improvement was required. The Dog Warden stated that once owners had been warned about the consequences of their failure to clean up after their animals then there was usually an improvement. There was the possibility that fixed penalties for dog fouling etc. will be delegated to Town and Community Councils shortly.

11. Keep Wales Tidy Week (26th June to 2nd July 2006).

Simon Preddy informed members of the Keep Wales Tidy Group's plan to arrange for divers to recover bikes, shopping trolleys etc which had been dumped by irresponsible individuals off Hobbs Point. This was an ideal opportunity for this Action team to become involved with the tasks of picking up litter etc. He told members that during the week the 1st Pembroke Sea Scouts would be involved in a litter pick. Last year over 28,000 volunteers over Wales collected litter or were involved in some activity relating to the week and it was hoped that this year the numbers would increase to 50,000. Ricky Somerville from McDonalds stated that he would arrange for 5 members of his staff to assist at Hobbs Point and perhaps provide some refreshment for volunteers. Members drew attention to the area to the rear of Tesco's Car Park leading to King William Street which was becoming a haven for litter etc. The Town Clerk was asked to investigate and in addition the area near to the Station – old railway sidings off Water Street which was also subject to accumulations of litter. It may prove difficult to establish who owns this area but some enquiries would be made.

12. Pembrokeshire County Council Update.

The absence of a representative from the Maintenance section of the County Council prevented this matter being discussed other than what had been said earlier by the three County Councillors.

13. Environment Agency Update.

Bob Phillips has asked that members of the Committee be advised of the Agency's contact telephone number when they had any problems on:-

Pollution of Water courses
regulation of water treatment plants and discharges
regulation of waste management sites
flytipping of waste
flood defence
fisheries protection

The number to ring was **08708 506 506**

As stated earlier Bob had agreed to pay a visit to the London Road site and Focus Do It All in particular and to report back to the next meeting.

14. Any Other Business.

Comment was made about the fact that there was extensive vandalism taking place in the Western Way Car Park with regard to the Litter Bins. In some instances the inner part of the bin had been removed and other bins had been badly smashed up. The Town Clerk was asked to highlight this problem with the Police. Councillor Ron Watts stated that it maybe a question of changing the bins such that they were more secure. The cost was £600 per bin but they were more robust and the ones replaced in the Memorial Park were definitely superior in quality. There was also the point of the location of these bins since some litter deposited near the slipway maybe diverted to a litter bin if one was nearby. Simon Preddy and Kate Becton agreed to look at the problem and hopefully make recommendations to the County Council.

Kate Becton suggested that the Team look at the question of what the County Council cyclical maintenance schedules are in respect of street cleaning, weeding etc. Are these schedules being adhered to? The Town Clerk agreed to write to Mr Brain Maddocks asking for the information which would also include number of days manpower allocated to the Town of Pembroke Dock. Andrew Lewis agreed to make enquiries with fellow Chamber of Trade members to see if they were satisfied with the effectiveness and standard of cleaning within the town. He will report back to the next meeting.

Members also discussed the question of the overnight parking of lorries going to / from the ferry terminal. Lorry drivers needed to have washing and toilet facilities available for their use. There are occasions where lorries within the Dockyard area have been seen to have fixed washing lines to dry clothes, had built fires to keep warm etc. There appeared to be a need to provide some kind of kitchen as well as toilet facilities. The Town Clerk was asked to write to the Port Authority to set out the problems and to ask if Objective One money could be used to build such facilities within the Dockyard. He

was also asked to write to the Police to see what line they would take on the issue. An Enquiry with the European Commission / MEP to see if there were any laws which covered this type of provision.

Simon Preddy stated that any litter picking organised by the Town Council could be covered by the Insurance Cover of Keep Wales Tidy provided a member of the Keep Wales Tidy Team was present.

It was agreed that the Environment Action Team should work in close co-operation with the Web site project to increase our exposure. Sue Perkins had spoken to Radio Pembrokeshire and we therefore had some exposure via local radio.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 1830hrs. The next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday 19th July 2006 at 1700hrs (5.00pm).