

KIDWELLY TOWN COUNCIL

28th JULY 2020

At the {virtual} **EXTRAORDINARY MEETING** of the **FULL COUNCIL** held on Tuesday 28th July 2020 at 6.30pm.

Present	Town Mayor	D. Lloyd-Waterford
	Deputy Mayor	A.Jenkins
	Councillors	J. Gilasbey, C.Peters, C.Peters-Bond, J. Mayne, G.Beer, J.Bezant, J.James,
	Town Clerk	V. O'Reilly
	Estates Officer	Mark Stephens
	Town Secretary	A Padgett
	Admin. Assistant	O.Davies
Apologies	Councillors	T.Burnett, P.Thompson
No apologies		C.Davies

101 MEMBER'S DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest

102 ARRANGEMENTS FOR COCKLING

Current position;-

The council holds a lease of the foreshore from the Crown Estate, which allows the public access over the slipway to launch boats. The Crown agent has indicated that charges can be levied for use of the slipway if the income is used for maintenance of the quay area.

If a license granting exclusive use is issued to one commercial enterprise a sub-lease from the Crown Estate would be needed. This would be complex, time consuming and not financially viable. Cockle beds would be closed during this period.

The estates officer had prepared a report with 3 options:-

1. Continue to implement the present exclusive use contract, which will require a sub-lease from the Crown Estate.
2. Rescind (1) above and negotiate 2 non-exclusive access licenses with (a) Kingfisher Seafoods and (b) a consortium of local cocklers.
3. Rescind (1) above and not allow any access to the cockle beds.

Since submitting his report the estates officer informed members that Welsh Fisheries have banned the use of mechanical lifting machines and limited cockling to one tide a day and not two. This would indicate the need to reduce the number of boats being included in the license agreements.

Members expressed concerns over Health and Safety at the Quay, access issues for unlicensed boat owners, financial provisions, monitoring arrangements and the level of council staff involvement in the day to day activities.

The estates officer stated that these matters would be included in the license agreement a draft of which had been circulated previously. Any breach of terms would mean the slipway could be closed to all cocklers.

Two substantial lockable bollards have been ordered and will be placed on the slipway. Only the two licensees will have keys and therefore access.

Vehicle registration numbers will be declared and payments will be made in advance.

A Notice of Motion to Rescind had been submitted by 7 councillors:

Cllrs D. Lloyd-Waterford, A.Jenkins, C.Peters, C.Peters-Bond, G.Beer, J.James, J.Bezant

Full Council 7th July 2020 - Minute 65 (2) was rescinded

“It was **RESOLVED** to accept Kingfisher Seafoods Ltd proposal and grant a license, noting that all income will be ringfenced for maintenance of the quay area.”

A new resolution was then proposed and passed:-

It was **RESOLVED** to issue two non-exclusive licenses to (1) Kingfisher Seafoods Ltd and (2) Cocklers consortium. The estates officer is to negotiate terms regarding the number of boats to be licensed and agree to the parties that make up the cockler consortium. He was given emergency powers to close the slipway if he deemed it necessary to ensure the license arrangements are not breached and a safe environment is maintained at the quay.

A named vote was taken:-

FOR		ABSTAIN
G.Beer	C.Peters	D.Lloyd-Waterford
J.Bezant	C.Peters-Bond	J.Gilasbey
J.James	J.Mayne	A.Jenkins

It was noted that:-

The estates officer will provide regular updates of the situation during recess.

The police will be informed of contact numbers for the license holder representatives.