

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE PEMBROKE TOWN COUNCIL  
HELD AT THE TOWN HALL, PEMBROKE, ON THURSDAY, 9<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2026**

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**Present:**

**Councillors:**

G Jones (Mayor), J Grimes, K Nicholas, L Herring (Teams), R Blackburn, L Jenkins, L Asman, D Bush, A Mortenson, D Willcocks, A Brinn, D Evans

**In attendance:**

Suzie Thomas (Town Clerk)

Jayne Howes (Assistant Town Clerk)

Rob James (Mayor's Chaplain)

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**179. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE/DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Apologies received from Councillor Collins, Councillor Willington and Councillor Archibald. No declaration of interest received.

**180. QUESTION & ANSWER SESSION WITH MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC (MAX 10 MINS)**

Members of the public were present, who informed Council of their disagreement of one of the proposed routes through Pembrokeshire County Councils active travel consultation of a proposed new cycle/walking route through Monkton. The Clerk informed the member of the public that the Town Council had already written in with regard to this route, stating that they did not agree, and had received confirmation back that they were not proceeding with this route.

**181. TO SIGN AND CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THURSDAY, 9<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2026**

The minutes were accepted as an accurate record.

**182. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)**

a) Landing Craft Service – Freshwater West – April 25<sup>th</sup>

**The Clerk reminded Council of the service taking place on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> at Freshwater West.**

**183. PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED**

**25/1040/PA**

**Proposal:** Alterations and extensions to a dwelling and erection of a detached garage

**Site Address:** Florissant, Lower Lamphey Road, Pembroke, SA71 4AF

**Council would support this application.**

**25/1068/LB**

**Proposal:** Weatherslate part of the west elevation

**Site Address:** 69A Main Street, Pembroke, Pembrokeshire, SA71 4DA

**Council would support this application.**

**184. PLANNING APPLICATIONS DETERMINED**

**Proposal:** Construction, operation and maintenance of a ground mounted solar photovoltaic farm together with associated equipment, infrastructure and ancillary works.

**Site Address:** Land at Alleston Farm, Lower Lamphey Road, Lamphey, Pembrokeshire

You may have been notified that the above application was “withdrawn”. This is incorrect and the communication was sent out in error, many apologies.

This application was approved by the Planning & Environment Decision Wales (PEDW) (by powers conferred by the Welsh Ministers) on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2026. The decision can be found on the Council’s website under planning application reference 25/0905/NS.

**The above was noted.**

**185. LICENSING**

None received

**186. TO CONSIDER THE LIST OF ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

***Set out below is the list of bills for payment and confirmation:***

376	Cllr Gareth Jones	Chair Allowance	£500.00
377	Amazon	Black plastic table cloth roll	£41.66
378	High Speed Training	Sexual Harrassment Training for Employees	£30.00
379	B Shilke	Window cleaning	£20.00
380	Amazon	Banister hand rail for the museum	£13.32
381	Wages	Week ending 9.3.26	£683.58
382	Hanhong Trading	3D striped pattern window film	£10.45
383	Werner UK Sales & Distribution Ltd	Platform step ladder replacement	£8.20
384	British Gas Business	Gas 2.2.26 - 1.3.26	£647.10
385	C Beech	Alterations on Mayor's robe	£15.00
386	Post Office	Postage	£3.85
387	Timpson	Dry cleaning Mayor's robe	£41.62
388	Jewson	Paint and paint brushes	£34.49
389	Catering Centre	Large trolley for tables	£413.25
390	Halsted DIY Ltd	Tape measure, paint brushes & key	£50.91
391	Ebay	Time clock ribbon cartridge	£4.69
392	Tik Tok	3D striped pattern window film x 4	£25.88
393	Tanyard Youth Project Ltd	Donation	£225.00
394	Foundry House Community Centre	Donation	£225.00
395	First Kilgetty Scout Group	Donation	£225.00

396	Viking Explorer Scout Unit	Donation	£225.00
397	Paul Bowen Plumbing & Heating	Replace wash hand basin waste & reset water heater thermostat	£60.00
398	Total Tech Ltd	Broadband, Fibre and Phone	£55.00
399	Tesco	Kettle	£16.67
400	Amazon	Spear & Jackson SLPAPS 5 litre pump action pressure sprayer	£17.48
401	Jewson	Sand Cement Mortar	£76.64
402	Wages	Week ending 16.3.26	£683.58
402(a)	Wages	Week ending 23.3.26	£683.58
403	Arcswood	Green infrastructure (Mill Pond)	£1,082.46
404	Thomas Turf Wales Ltd	Screened topsoil (Mill Pond)	£230.00
405	Boston Seeds	Wildflower Seeds (Mill Pond)	£32.49
406	Total Tech Ltd	Broadband, Fibre and Phone	£55.00
407	HMRC	TAX/NI	£1,661.63
408	Carmarthenshire County Council	Pension March	£2,159.91

**It was proposed that the above schedule of payments was approved for payment. All voted in favour.**

## **187. COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT**

None received

## **188. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED**

The following correspondence has been received from Foundry House Community Centre

Dear Councillors,

On behalf of Foundry House Community Centre, Pembroke Limited, I would like to express our sincere gratitude to Pembroke Town Council for awarding financial support towards our Warm Rooms provision.

This contribution is already making a meaningful difference. It is helping us to provide a safe, warm, and welcoming environment for members of our community who may be experiencing hardship, isolation, or difficulty managing heating costs. The support enables us to continue offering not only a physically warm space, but also a place where individuals can connect, access support, and feel part of our community.

We are genuinely appreciative of Pembroke Town Council's recognition of the importance of this work and your commitment to supporting local residents through practical and impactful initiatives.

We would also like to extend an invitation to all Councillors to visit and see the Warm Rooms in operation. Our sessions run on Mondays from 10:00 hrs to 14:00 hrs, and we would be delighted to welcome you at any time during these hours. Visits provide an opportunity to meet our team and volunteers, observe the service in action, and gain a fuller understanding of the difference your support is helping us to make.

Once again, thank you for your generous support and for your continued commitment to the well-being of our beloved community.

### **The above was noted**

### **The following correspondence has been received from Jodie Bond, Director of Landed, who is writing a piece on the Pembroke River Restoration Project.**

You may be aware of the Office for Future Generations Commissioner's recent project looking at Asset Management Plans and their contribution to decarbonisation, nature recovery and 30x30. They are currently in the process of pulling together their findings of this work in order to report back to public bodies. As part of their reporting, they want to provide case studies on the management of land assets. You may be pleased to hear that they have identified the Pembroke River Restoration Project as an example of best practice. Landed Futures has been commissioned to produce a write up of 15 case studies, including your project.

I wanted to share this news with you - and offer you the opportunity to read through the case study, which has been written based on publicly available information, before it is shared more widely. I'm afraid there is a very tight turnaround for this piece of work as it needs to be circulated ahead of the pre-election period. Our deadline is the end of this week, so if you have any comments on the below, please let me know as soon as possible.

We're also hoping to bring the case studies to life through photographs, where possible, so if you have any that you would like to feature, please feel free to send them on my way.

With thanks,

Jodie

### **A RIVER TOWN TAKES ACTION: THE PEMBROKE RIVER RESTORATION PROJECT**

In his recent bestselling book, Robert Macfarlane poses a question that has reverberated far beyond literary circles: Is a River Alive? For the residents and businesses of Pembroke, the answer arrived not in philosophical debate but in the pea-green water of the Mill Pond each summer, the algal bloom that coats the moat of one of Wales's finest medieval castles and signals, unmistakably, that the River's lifeforce was in a critical condition.

The Pembroke River Restoration Project was initiated through Pembroke Town Council following concerns from residents and businesses about increased nutrient levels in the Pembroke River, which, combined with high summer temperatures, were resulting in annual algal blooms in the Pembroke Millponds.

The problem is not merely aesthetic.

Pembrokeshire's visitor economy is worth an estimated £604 million annually, welcoming over 6.3 million visitors and supporting 23% of all local employment. Pembroke Castle sits directly above the Mill Pond. When the pond turns green, so does the visitor experience at one of the county's foremost heritage attractions. The algal blooms are a symptom of a water quality failure that travels far downstream.

The Pembroke River drains into the Milford Haven Waterway, where high levels of soil erosion and nutrients cause sedimentation, with mud deposited on the rare pink, coral-like ecosystem of the Haven, known as maerl beds. Both the river and the inner Haven

transitional water are failing to meet good water quality status. A river in poor health at Pembroke eventually reaches the sea, with the damage compounding with every mile.

The restoration project is now supported by Natural Resources Wales (NRW), Pembrokeshire County Council, the Port of Milford Haven, Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority, West Wales Rivers Trust, Dŵr Cymru, Wildlife Trust South and West Wales, Pembroke Town Council and Pembrokeshire Nature Partnership.

What began as a town council's determination to act has grown into one of the most genuinely collaborative river restoration partnerships in Wales.

The work is practical and precisely targeted. Large woody material has been placed into a 200-metre stretch of the river to restore natural processes and 'un-straighten' it, encouraging meanders to form in a channel that has been straightened for human purposes.

The wood traps silt and debris, creates habitat for invertebrates and provides shelter and spawning grounds for migratory fish.

Atlantic salmon, sea trout and European eel all need access to the Pembroke River's upstream habitat and the river's straightened, nutrient-laden condition has long stood in their way. 570 metres of fencing has been installed to control livestock movement around the watercourse, reducing nutrient input and siltation.

600 trees were planted alongside the restored stretch which will, once mature, form a buffer zone between farmland and river, filtering nutrients before they reach the water.

NRW's Andrew Lewis, the Marine Opportunity Catchment Officer leading the project, was direct about what comes next. "The nature-based solutions delivered here are simple but effective. The project highlights the importance of partnership-driven conservation efforts, and it is our ambition to showcase what we've achieved here so it can successfully be replicated elsewhere."

Replication is the key word for asset managers. NRW has formally designated this stretch a demonstration site: a working proof of concept that low-cost, partnership-funded, nature-based intervention can begin to reverse decades of degradation in a river that connects a medieval castle, a market town, a marine SAC and 13 miles of living watershed.

Nine organisations have come together around a shared conviction: that the river's health and the community's wellbeing are not separate questions, and that acting now, with simple, low-cost, nature-based tools, gives the river every chance of recovery. They are, in the language of Macfarlane's book, bringing it back to life.

Jodie Bond  
Director, Landed

**Following a discussion, it was resolved that the Clerk send a letter of thanks to Mr Peter Howe of Pembrokeshire County Council who had been instrumental in the above project and also a letter to the new Head of Regeneration.**

## 189. MAYORAL APPOINTMENTS

27.3.26	Concert for Mayor's charity	Pembroke Town Hall	7.00pm	Cllr Jones
28.3.26	Blood Bikers	Pembroke	10.00am	Cllr Jones

13.4.26	Coffee Morning	Cosheston Village Hall	10.00am	Cllr Jones
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The above was noted.

**190. AGENDA ITEMS**

**191. UK TOWN OF CULTURE 2028**

The Clerk informed Council that a submission had been made to the UK Town of Culture 2028, which had been completed by Ceri Critchon, of the Roundhouse. There was no date set, of when applicants would hear, if they are through to the next round, but has stated Spring 2026.

**192. TO PAY FOR THE COST OF REPLACEMENT SIGN FOR “JACK’S SKONES LANE”**

The Clerk informed Council that County Councillor Phillips had messaged her to say that the signpost for “Jack Skone’s Lane” had gone missing from Holyland Road. From memory the Town Council purchased these signs, and she has asked would it be possible that they purchase a new one. The Clerk informed the meeting that she had not had time to get a price as yet, so would place it on the Agenda for the next meeting, with costings.

**193. EMERGENY AGENDA ITEM – PROPOSED HORSE FAYRE, PEMBROKE**

The clerk read out an email from Mr Marc Owen of Pembrokeshire County Council asking for Council’s views, of having a proposed Horse Fayre in a new location this year, not on Monkton Field, but the Free Car park on the Commons, and the car park on the main road. Following a discussion it was resolved to write back to Mr Owen stating, whilst the Council supports the principle of holding a Horse Fayre, we strongly disagree with the locations currently being suggested.

The proposed area of the Commons is unsuitable for such an event. Hosting large animals in a busy location—particularly on a bank holiday weekend—poses significant safety and logistical concerns. The suggested site is also considerably smaller than last year’s location.

Removing access to the closest car park during a bank holiday weekend would cause major disruption, especially given the high number of visitors expected.

In our view, a Horse Fayre should be held outside the town centre and away from busy roads and residential areas.

We would also appreciate sight of all relevant risk assessments and action plans, as required of other organisations when organising public events.

..... Mayor



