Minutes of a Meeting of the Public Works and Planning Committee

held at the Town Hall, Milford Haven

on Monday, 4th January, 2016 at 6:00 pm

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PRESENT

The Mayor (Councillor S. G. Joseph)

The Deputy Mayor (Councillor W. D. Elliott BA)

Councillors: E. R. Harries (Chairman) J. W. Cole

A. W. Eden Mrs. J. Hawkins

M. P. Rickard C. A. Sharp

Mrs. C. T. Williams

227. CHAIRMAN’S REMARKS:

The Chairman, Councillor E. R. Harries, welcomed Members to the first meeting of 2016 and wished them a Happy New Year.

228. APOLOGIES:

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs. C. Stevens.

229. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PUBLIC WORKS AND PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD ON 9TH NOVEMBER, 2015:

RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Meeting of

the Public Works and Planning Committee held

on 9th November, 2015, be approved as a correct

record and that they be signed by the Chairman.

230. INFORMATION FROM THE MAYOR:

Mayor’s Engagements:

Members were advised of the following engagements undertaken by Mayor since the 30th November, 2015:-

5th December - Visit of Father Christmas to the Town Hall

12th December - Christmas Cracker 2015 at Milford Marina

14th December - Milford Haven School Senior Certificate Award Ceremony

20th December - Mayor’s Christmas Carol Service at Christ Church

20th December - Carol Service at St Katharine and St Peter’s Church

(attended by Deputy Mayor)

21st December - Christmas Concert at Havenhurst

24th December - Crib Service at St. Katharine and St. Peter’s Church

(attended by Deputy Mayor)

25th December - ‘Christmas Together’ (attended by Mayor and Deputy

Mayor)

231. CEMETERY REPORT:

RESOLVED THAT the Cemetery Report, as

presented by the Clerk for the months of

November and December, 2015 be accepted.

232. PLANS:

RESOLVED THAT the recommendations of

the Chairman of the Public Works and Planning

Committee (which have been made in consultation

with Members of the Public Works and Planning

Committee) in respect of the planning applications detailed on Pages 1 and 2 of the attached report

(see Appendix B) be approved, with the exception

of Planning Application 15/0780/PA.

(a) Planning Application 15/0780/PA – Section 73: Variation of condition 3, Conversion of farm buildings (Block B) to two units of accommodation at Castle Pill Farm, Castle Pill Road, Steynton, Milford Haven:

A Member said that there are in excess of 10 units on this development and asked whether there had been one application or piecemeal. He stated that if the planning application had been made as one entity there would have been a Section 106 condition attached to it, which could have given some benefit to the people of Steynton.

Another Member explained that the applicant has received planning permission for every single permitted development on that site. Development has been going on for many years piecemeal and has been approved accordingly.

RESOLVED THAT the Planning Department,

Pembrokeshire County Council, is to be asked

for a comprehensive map of the total development

within the curtilage of that area.

233. APPLICATIONS FOR A NEW PREMISES LICENCE:

RESOLVED THAT the recommendations of

Chairman of the Public Works and Planning

Committee in respect of the applications for

new premises licence detailed on the attached

report (see Appendix C) be approved.

234. RATE ESTIMATES FOR 2016-2017:

(a) Income:

A Member said that it is noticeable that since the last 20% increase in burial charges there has been a marked decrease in the number of interments. He stated that Members need to bear in mind that this Council could be faced with a major problem, even with a 20% increase, if the income does not cover the running costs of the Cemetery.

(b) Expenditure:

Members gave consideration to details of estimated expenditure for 2016-2017 in respect of the services coming with the purview of the Public Works and Planning Committee.

Members discussed the provision of £14,000 for the Chapel roof and associated works. It was pointed out that the building is used infrequently, there is no electricity in the Chapel and the door is permanently locked. The Chairman said that the plans for the future use of the Chapel have not been finalised.

A Member advised that when £40,000 was earmarked for town regeneration some time ago, it was stipulated that if money was needed for Council usage it could be taken from these funds.

RESOLVED THAT:

(i) the estimates for 2015-2016 be approved

with the exception of the provision

of £14,000 for the Chapel roof and associated

works;

(ii) discussion on the Chapel roof and associated

works is to be deferred until the long term

plans for the building are decided and, if

necessary, any funds can be taken from the

£37,000 set aside for town regeneration.

235. CONSULTATION ON DRAFT IMPROVEMENT OBJECTIVES FOR THE PEMBROKESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL:

Members discussed a Consultation on Improvement Objectives for the Pembrokeshire County Council.

Improvement objectives are improvements that the Council sets out to achieve over the next financial year. The Pembrokeshire County Council is required to set these under the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009.

The Pembrokeshire County Council has outlined seven possible Improvement Objectives for 2016-2017.

\* Educational attainment (how well pupils do in Pembrokeshire schools)

\* Efficiency savings (focusing on 2016 – 2017 budget)

\* Governance (the way that the Pembrokeshire County Council’s elected

Members oversee the organisation and how the Pembrokeshire County Council

accounts to the public)

\* New ways of working (meeting on-going budget pressures in the long-term)

\* Review of Overview and Scrutiny Function

\* Tackling poverty

\* Town centres (regeneration)

RESOLVED THAT Members are to respond to the

Improvement Objectives 2016-2017 on an

individual basis, if they wish to do so.

236. ‘PEMBROKESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL IS CHANGING’:

Members discussed correspondence from the Pembrokeshire County Council in which the writer explained that the Pembrokeshire County Council has held a number of events last year to improve the way they engage with stakeholders. The writer enclosed a Second Round – Community Engagement Events Report which gave feedback received at the events.

The Mayor said that he had attended one of the sessions at the Milford Haven School where the idea was that elected members, members of the public, stakeholders etc. go to give their points of view, ask questions and give their input. He was disappointed at the lack of Town Councillors present at that session.

RESOLVED THAT the documents be received.

237. ROAD SAFETY REVIEW ACROSS TRUNK ROADS IN WALES:

Members gave consideration to a letter from the Head of Asset Management Standards, Network Management Division, Welsh Government, in which he advised that following completion of the initial review in January, the Minister for Economy, Science and Transport continued to receive correspondence regarding speed limits, and road safety more broadly. The findings of the review have been updated and are available on the Traffic Wales website.

The schemes have been prioritised on an all-Wales basis and the website provides information on the earliest start dates. However, these may be subject to change based on the availability of funding and emerging road safety issues.

The Chairman asked the Clerk to consult the Traffic Wales website. He and the Clerk scrutinised the website and he informed Members that the existing speed limit for Johnston was to be retained and there would be other works to improve road safety.

Members then discussed other aspects of road safety and it was pointed out that a site visit took place at the Marble Hall Junction in the middle of the school holidays, which did not give any indication of the true situation that prevails there.

A Member asked when a Road Crossing Officer would be repositioned outside Milford Haven School as there has not been one located there for a very long time.

RESOLVED THAT a Road Safety Officer be invited

to address the Public Works and Planning Committee

on road safety issues within the town.

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