Minutes of a Meeting of the Public Works and Planning Committee

held at the Town Hall, Milford Haven

on Monday, 9th November, 2015 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

Mrs. C. Stevens Mrs. C. T. Williams

177. TO RECEIVE MR. R. MAILE TO DISCUSS HIS CONCERNS REGARDING ELECTROMAGNETIC RADIATION IN MILFORD HAVEN:

The Chairman, Councillor E. R. Harries, welcomed Mr. R. Maile to the Meeting.

Mr. Maile explained that he experienced ill health in 2001 and in 2010 he had a headache which lasted for about 6 weeks. He was given a brain scan and was sent home from hospital with painkillers. Another 6 weeks went by and he was still unable to drive a car. His symptoms disappeared and he returned to normal.

Mr. Maile took to his computer to investigate his symptoms and located a great deal of information stating that masts should never have been erected. Mr. Maile said that Members could carry out their own research if they wished.

Mr. Maile explained that masts emit electromagnetic radiation and this runs at speeds up to approximately 400 million waves per second. At the speed of 300 kilometres per second, the electromagnetic waves are so tiny that they go through your body.

Mr. Maile stated that masts cause 26 symptoms including cancer, Alzheimer’s disease and diabetes, with autism on the increase. Radiation is everywhere, and zero level is the only safe level.

Whilst Mr. Maile was addressing the Committee, Members were circulated with copies of Mr. Maile’s presentation regarding his concerns.

Mr. Maile showed Members a meter which he said picks up all the masts in the area, and immediately picks up radiation which damages our bodies. Mr. Maile said that if you are within 400 metres of a mast, the cancer rate is 3 and half times higher than outside that circle.

Mr. Maile was asked whether the rays dissipate. Mr. Maile said that they go as far as 8 kilometres in the open air but ultimately lose their potency at some point.

Mr. Maile has written to the Public Health Division of the Welsh Government and Public Health England about his concerns regarding masts and received a standard letter stating that masts do not cause symptoms.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Maile for his presentation and asked if the documentation could be left in the Chamber until the following lunchtime for any interested Members to scrutinise. Mr. Maile agreed to do so.

RESOLVED THAT Mr. Maile is to prepare a succinct and

precise document for Members’ perusal, with a view to

this Council considering forwarding this document to the appropriate authorities, particularly the Secretary of

State for Wales, for their comments.

178. APOLOGIES:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M. P. Rickard and C. A. Sharp.

179. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PUBLIC WORKS AND PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD ON 5TH OCTOBER, 2015:

RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Meeting of

the Public Works and Planning Committee held

on 5th October, 2015, be approved as a correct

record and that they be signed by the Chairman.

180. INFORMATION FROM THE MAYOR:

Mayor’s Engagements:

Members were advised of the following engagements undertaken by Mayor since the 1st November, 2015:-

1st November - Dedication of the Cross Service at the Memorial Gardens.

4th November - Lunch at Meads School as part of National School Meals Day.

4th November - Opening of garden at St. Francis RC School.

5th November - Presented cheque from Milford Haven Town Council to

Milford Youth Matters.

5th November - Milford Haven Round Table Firework Display at Milford Marina.

8th November (am) - Annual Service of Remembrance at The Cenotaph, Hamilton

Terrace.

8th November (pm) - Annual Service of Remembrance at Neyland War Memorial

(also attended by Deputy Mayor).

181. CEMETERY:

(a) Report:

RESOLVED THAT the Cemetery Report, as

presented by the Clerk for the month of

October, 2015 be accepted.

(b) Minutes of the Meeting of the Cemetery Fees Sub-Committee held on 27th October, 2015:

1. Minute 176 – to discuss future Cemetery fees for Milford Haven Cemetery:

A Member expressed disappointment at the recommendation that the Cemetery Fees be increased by 20% from 1st April, 2016, which he described as a tax on the bereaved. He referred to the increase in fees of 2% in the financial year 2013-2014, which was increased to 20% in this financial year. He considered that another increase of 20% in the next financial year was too large and any increase should be no more than 10%.

An amendment was proposed and seconded that the increase in Cemetery fees for the financial year 2016-2017 should be no more than 10%.

The Chairman explained that the Cemetery Fees Sub-Committee took into consideration the great deal of work that has to be carried out at the Cemetery, hence the increase of 20%.

The amendment was voted on, 4 voted in favour of the amendment with 3 against.

RESOLVED THAT the Public Works and Planning

Committee recommends to the Finance and General

Purposes Committee that the Cemetery fees increase

for the financial year 2016-2017 should be no more

than 10%, with the exception of the fees for headstones

and additional inscriptions which would remain

unchanged.

(c) Report of a Meeting with the Strategic Property Manager, Pembrokeshire County Council, held on 27th October, 2015:

The Chairman showed Members a map of land near to the Cemetery and advised that the Strategic Property Manager, Pembrokeshire County Council, had agreed to investigate the availability of two areas of land highlighted on the map.

The Chairman said that when the Strategic Property Manager reports back to the Clerk, this issue will come back to this Committee.

RESOLVED THAT this information be received.

(d) Email from Area Dean, regarding Steynton Churchyard:

Members discussed an email from the Area Dean, Rev. Canon A. Chadwick in which he advised that a letter written in August to Rev. D. Davies at Steynton Vicarage concerning the availability of land near the Church had just been brought to his attention.

The Area Dean explained that the Vicarage has been empty and the Rev. Davies did not live there.

The Area Dean said that if the Burial Board wishes to pursue this matter, a new Priest, Rev. John Cecil, will be in charge of Steynton from the end of November. The Area Dean suggested that a letter be written at the start of December.

RESOLVED THAT Rev. John Cecil is to be

contacted at the beginning of December.

(e) Cemetery House:

The Clerk advised that two of the windows at Cemetery House were leaking. She asked if she could obtain costings to replace the windows, and advised that any replacements would be covered by the appropriate budget.

RESOLVED THAT the Clerk be authorised to obtain

quotations to replace the leaking windows.

181. 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.

(a) 15/0718/PA - Erection of three storey attached dwelling at land adjacent to Starboard Five, Beach Hill, Milford Haven:

The Mayor said that, as both Mayor and County Councillor, he had received an email from the applicant who is astounded that this Council has recommended this planning application be refused, when in the past had recommended it for approval. The Mayor advised that the applicant had resubmitted the application to the Pembrokeshire County Council because they had to carry out additional clerical work.

The Chairman asked whether the applicant had notified the Clerk, to which the Clerk replied in the negative.

An amendment was proposed that the application be approved but was not seconded.

A vote was taken and 4 Members voted to support the recommendation that this planning application be refused, with 3 against.

RESOLVED THAT the recommendation that this

planning application be refused is upheld.

182. TRAFFIC CALMING AT GELLISWICK ROAD, HAKIN, MILFORD HAVEN:

Members discussed an email from Mr. D. Thomas, Head of Highway and Construction, Pembrokeshire County Council, in which he said that there are various proposals relating to highway/traffic mitigation measures for the new Hakin Community School.

Mr. Thomas wrote that he would ask Mr. N. Phillips, Project Coordinator, to produce a summary update of the scheme and proposed mitigation measures and issue this to the Council.

A Member said his greatest concern is that both Gelliswick Road and Gelliswick Hill have become increasingly busy from the traffic point of view, and with the development of the School are going to be very much busier.

A Member stated that the Hubberston Community Association was told by the Pembrokeshire County Council when they undertook a traffic survey that not enough people used that road as a crossing point, and children are not counted in any statistics, even though the majority of those who cross the road are children.

RESOLVED THAT the Pembrokeshire County

Council is to be asked:

(i) for clarification on the statements made

by the County Council to the Hubberston

Community Association when they were

undertaking a traffic survey; and informed

(ii) that this Council’s concerns relate to the

traffic in Gelliswick Road and Gelliswick

Hill, and with the anticipated building of

the Hakin Community School the volume

of traffic is going to increase to a very large

extent, and this Council wishes the

Pembrokeshire County Council to address this

issue.

183. LETTER FROM RT. HON. STEPHEN CRABB MP REGARDING THE EUROPEAN SULPHUR

EMISSION CONTROL AREA (SECA):

The Chairman reminded Members that since 1st January, Britain’s south and east coasts have been included in Europe’s Sulphur Emission Control Area (SECA), meaning that all ships docking there must use fuel with no more than .1% sulphur content or be fitted with “scrubber” devices to reduce their sulphur dioxide emissions. However the control area does not include the Irish Sea where ships can continue to operate using heavy fuel oil until 2020.

At the last Meeting of the Public Works and Planning Committee, it had been agreed to write to the Rt. Hon. S. Crabb MP to ask why there is this discrepancy.

Members discussed the response from the Rt. Hon. S. Crabb MP in which he stated that, if it would be helpful, he would be happy to write to the Minister responsible for Maritime issues to enquire as to why the SECA does not extend to the Irish Sea.

RESOLVED THAT the Rt. Hon. S. Crabb MP

be asked to write to the Minister responsible

for Maritime issues to enquire as to why the

SECA does not extend to the Irish Sea.

184. UPDATE ON LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN:

A letter was received from the Planning Officer (Park Direction), Pembrokeshire Coast National Park, in which she gave updates for October/November 2015 on local development plan land allocations and larger development sites in the National Park.

RESOLVED THAT the letter be received.

185. DRAFT CHARTER BETWEEN PEMBROKESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL AND COMMUNITY AND

TOWN COUNCILS:

Members discussed a letter and supporting documentation from the Corporate Planning Manager, Pembrokeshire County Council, in which he sought the views on the draft of a Charter between the Pembrokeshire County Council and the Community and Town Councils.

The purpose of the Charter is to improve communication and cooperation between the Pembrokeshire County Council and the 77 Community and Town Councils in Pembrokeshire.

RESOLVED THAT Members may respond individually

to the questionnaire if they wish to do so.

186. ACTIVE TRAVEL CONSULTATION:

An email was received from the Local Service Board Support Officer, Pembrokeshire County Council, informing Members that the Pembrokeshire County Council was consulting on Active Travel, which is an approach to travel and transport that focuses on physical activity (e.g. walking, cycling) rather than motorised means.

Members were asked to fill in a questionnaire relating to this consultation.

The Mayor, Councillor S. G. Joseph, in his role as County Councillor for the Central Ward, asked if Members would send any observations to him regarding this Ward.

RESOLVED THAT:

(i) Members may respond individually to the

questionnaire if they wish to do so;

187. STATUTORY CONSULTATION – SECONDARY EDUCATION RE-ORGANISATION IN HAVERFORDWEST:

Members discussed a consultation document from the Pembrokeshire County Council relating to Secondary Education Re-organisation in Haverfordwest.

A Member said that he attended a Meeting at Milford Haven School some months ago when a number of people expressed concerns regarding this matter.

He stated that a 6th form college could have a detrimental effect on Milford Haven School as you could find pupils from Milford Haven School gravitating to the 6th form college which would effect budgets and staffing, amongst other issues.

Another Member advised that Milford Haven School’s 6th form has changed significantly. The Headteacher wants to change the School into a centre of excellence for education and has altered the qualifications for students to enter the 6th form. This will, in effect, stop a lot of Milford Haven children returning to school to seek further education, with a 6th form college in Haverfordwest being their only hope.

RESOLVED THAT the Pembrokeshire County Council

be advised that the Milford Haven Town Council:

(i) raises concerns about the way the Consultation

has been handled;

(ii) considers it detrimental to see the end of Secondary

Schools for 11 – 18 year olds.

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