Minutes of a Meeting of the Town Regeneration

Environmental Action Team (TREAT)

held at the Town Hall, Milford Haven

on Monday, 21st December, 2015 at 4:00 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 – Public Works and Planning Committee)

M. P. Rickard

221. APOLOGIES:

Apologies for absence were received from the Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee, Councillor Mrs. Y. G. Southwell, and Councillors R. D. Evans, R. Gray, C. A. Sharp, Mrs. C. T. Williams and G. Woodham MBA (Open) LL.B (Hons).

222. CONTINUE THE PURSUIT OF STREETSCAPE:

The Mayor, Councillor S. G. Joseph, explained that Mr. G. Codd, Area Maintenance Manager, Pembrokeshire County Council, had been invited to this Meeting but was on annual leave until 4th January.

RESOLVED THAT as Mr. Codd is unavailable,

this issue is to be deferred until the next

meeting of TREAT, when an invitation to

attend will be extended to Mr. Codd.

223. FLORAL DISPLAYS IN MILFORD HAVEN:

The Mayor explained that letters had been written to the local garden centres asking for quotations for floral displays in Milford Haven. Two quotations had been received.

Members discussed the Pembrokeshire County Council’s quotation which had been circulated at November’s Full Council Meeting.

A Member said that the thought of the town next year without a flower show is unacceptable, as the people of Milford Haven take great pride in the floral displays in their town.

RESOLVED THAT:

(i) a recommendation is made to the Finance and

General Purposes Committee that a budget of £6,000

be set aside for floral displays in the town for the

financial year 2016 – 2017;

(ii) the Pembrokeshire County Council is to be

asked to continue to provide flowers as per

previous years and maintain them during

normal daytime hours between Monday and

Friday;

(iii) in preparation for future years, an alternative,

more efficient, and less expensive system

for floral displays is to be investigated.

224. DEAL WITH ANY INFORMATION IN RELATION TO THE INDOOR MARKET:

The Clerk advised that the Chief Executive had responded to the Council’s letter and said that any decision regarding to the indoor market would be referred to Cabinet.

The Clerk had been on the Pembrokeshire County Council’s website to check the Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting of the 30th November. The Cabinet Minutes stated the following: “The Director of Development is authorised to hold discussions with the Town Council on their interest in the property and report back to the meeting of Cabinet in February”.

RESOLVED THAT a letter be written to Mr.

I. Westley, Chief Executive, Pembrokeshire

County Council, stating that this Council

has been given to understand that there

has been discussions in Cabinet

in relation to the future of the former

Motorworld building, and Members

further understand that there is a prospect

of discussions taking place between

the Pembrokeshire County Council and the

Town Council on this matter. Clarification is

sought on this issue.

225. ANY FEEDBACK ON DOG FOULING:

Councillor M. P. Rickard declared a personal interest as he is a member of the Committee of the Milford Haven RFC.

Members discussed an email from Mr. Steve Morbey, Team Leader in Public Protection, Pembrokeshire County Council.

Mr. Morbey stated that a Dog Warden is generally in Milford Haven on a daily basis, either in connection with the Statutory function of collecting stray dogs, responding to complaints of dangerous dogs, or dealing with dog welfare issues such as micro-chipping or neutering, all of which will be free to various service users. Additionally, all of these functions are used to promote responsible dog ownership, part of which is educating the public about dog fouling and the law. Given the geographical area of the County and only having three Wardens to cover this area, there may on occasion be a day during the week when Milford Haven is not visited, but this is infrequent.

Mr. Morbey said that in terms of prosecutions for Fouling Act offences, there has only been one ticket issued in the Milford Haven area in 2015. The fine was paid and hence further action was not considered. Mr. Morbey said that it is extremely difficult to

witness a fouling Act offence, and even with all the PCSOs in the County authorised to serve tickets, few offences are actually witnessed.

Mr. Morbey said that dog fouling is a widely reported problem, and may be facing a reduction in the number of Dog Wardens due to financial restrictions.

Councillor M. P. Rickard explained that only the PCSOs have the power to prosecute, the PCs do not. He is a member of the Neighbourhood Watch Forum and at every meeting the problem of dog fouling is raised. It is becoming a huge issue, particularly on play parks.

The Pembrokeshire County Council and Police are currently in discussion with Milford Haven RFC regarding a potential PSPO on the playing field which could ban dogs from being walked there. Councillor Rickard said that Dog Wardens are at the playing field 2 or 3 times a week when the teams are training as there are a lot of people who do not look after their dogs responsibly, which can be very distressing for the teams.

RESOLVED THAT a letter be written to Mr. M.

Elliott, Head of Service, Pembrokeshire County Council,

stating that:

(i) this Council is pleased to note that the Pembrokeshire

County Council considers dog fouling to be a very

serious issue; it is, however, dismaying to hear a statement

which indicates that the Pembrokeshire County Council

will possibly be reducing its Dog Warden service;

(ii) it is also surprising, in view of the evidence that dog

fouling is a very distressing issue that the Pembrokeshire

County Council has only succeeded in prosecuting one

person where there is lots of evidence to indicate that

many dog owners are showing a total sense of

irresponsibility and appear to take no action to deter their

dogs from fouling in public areas;

(iii) with a view to addressing this issue more effectively

this Council would welcome a Meeting with the appropriate

Officer of the Pembrokeshire County Council.

226. ITEM(S) FOR DISCUSSION AT THE NEXT TREAT MEETING:

RESOLVED THAT the Agenda for the next TREAT Meeting

is as follows:-

(i) Apologies.

(ii) Continue the pursuit of Streetscape.

(iii) Deal with any information in relation to the Indoor Market.

(iv) Any feedback on dog fouling.

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