Minutes of a Meeting of the Public Works and Planning Committee

held at the Town Hall, Milford Haven

on Monday, 7th March, 2016 at 6:00 pm

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PRESENT

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

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

A. W. Eden M. P. Rickard

C. A. Sharp Mrs. C. T. Williams

288. APOLOGIES:

Apologies for absence were received from the Mayor, Councillor S. G. Joseph, who was attending an engagement on behalf of the Milford Haven Town Council, and Councillor Mrs. J. Hawkins. No apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mrs. C. Stevens.

289. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PUBLIC WORKS AND PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD ON 8TH FEBRUARY, 2016:

RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Meeting of

the Public Works and Planning Committee held

on 8th February, 2016, be approved as a correct

record and that they be signed by the Chairman.

290. INFORMATION FROM THE MAYOR:

(a) Mayor’s Engagements:

Members were advised of the following engagement undertaken by the Mayor since the 29th February, 2016:

7th March - Attended performance of the Milford Haven

Amateur Operatic Society’s “The Pajama Game”.

(b) Manchester Square Health Centre Car Park:

The Chairman advised that one of the Practice Managers from the Manchester Square Health Centre had contacted the Clerk.

The Practice Manager had advised that there were vehicles illegally parked on the Health Centre’s private car park and had asked this Council’s help to remove them.

A Member said that he would be able to provide the Clerk with the name and address of the owner of the vehicles.

RESOLVED THAT a letter is to be written to the

owner of the vehicles, advising that his vehicles

are parked illegally in a private car park.

291. CEMETERY:

(a) Report:

RESOLVED THAT the Cemetery Report, as

presented by the Clerk for the month of

February, 2016, be accepted.

(b) Minutes of the Informal Meeting of the Cemetery Fees Sub-Committee held on

16th February, 2016:

Members discussed the Minutes of the Informal Meeting of the Cemetery Fees

Sub-Committee held on 16th February, 2016.

RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Informal

Meeting of the Cemetery Fees Sub-Committee

held on 16th February, 2016, be recommended

for approval and adoption.

(c) Blocked Gulley at Cemetery House:

The Clerk said that an engineer had attempted to unblock the gulley outside Cemetery House. The engineer had advised that the gulley cannot be unblocked and it is necessary to install a new soakaway/pipe and gulley.

RESOLVED THAT Clerk obtains quotations for

the work.

(d) Repairs to HPX Gator:

The Clerk advised that the HPX Gator is one of the two utility vehicles in use at the Cemetery. Each utility vehicle is serviced every other year by the Company which sold the HPX Gator to the Council.

This year the HPX Gator needed two universal driveshafts to be replaced at a cost of £285.75 each. The cost of the servicing and driveshafts totals £1,232.27 plus VAT.

As the budget for the servicing is only £500, the Clerk recommended that the balance of £732.27 is met from the funds in the Roads and Paths budget.

RESOLVED THAT:

(i) the balance of £732.27 for the servicing and repair

of the HPX Gator is to be met from the Roads and

Paths budget;

(ii) the remaining funds in the Roads and Paths budget

are to be carried over to the financial year 2016-2017;

(iii) the Clerk is to explore alternative Companies to

carry out the servicing and any necessary repairs to the

Turfcat utility vehicle in the financial year 2016-2017.

292. 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 Page 1 of the attached report

(see Appendix B) be approved.

293. PRIMARY EDUCATION PROVISION IN MILFORD HAVEN:

The Chairman, Councillor E. R. Harries, declared a personal interest in this issue as he has been appointed by this Council as its representative on the Governing Body of St. Francis RC School.

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor W. D. Elliott BA QTS, declared a personal interest in this issue as he has been appointed by this Council as its representative on the Governor Body of the Meads Infant and Nursery School. He is also a Governor of the Milford Haven Junior School.

Councillor M. P. Rickard declared a personal interest as he is a Governor of the Milford Haven Junior School.

Councillor C. A. Sharp declared a personal interest as he is a Governor of the Milford Haven Junior School and the Meads Infant and Nursery School.

Members discussed the Pembrokeshire County Council’s Consultation on Primary Education Provision in Milford Haven. The Schools under consultation are Milford Haven Junior School, The Meads Infants and Nursery and St. Francis RC School.

The document stated that, at the very least, the Pembrokeshire County Council would wish to consider the following:

\* Addressing overcrowding and accommodating the growing pupil population of

Milford Haven;

\* Establishing provision for the 3 – 11 age group instead of separate infant and

junior schools;

\* Meeting the needs of parents who express a preference for Welsh medium

education.

Members expressed disappointment in the document and the way in which the Pembrokeshire County Council addressed some of the issues that were raised during the consultation evenings recently held in the town.

A Member considered that it is incumbent upon this Council to support the views of the head teachers and governing bodies of the schools who are striving for the best education for the children of Milford Haven.

Another Member said that the Governing Body of the Meads Infant and Nursery School has fought ceaselessly to get the Director of Education to see the ongoing issues at the School. By the end of this academic year 3 classrooms will be in portakabins at the School.

RESOLVED THAT:

(i) a letter is to be written to the Education Department,

Pembrokeshire County Council, stating that this

Council supports, in principle, proposals and

recommendations by head teachers and governing

bodies that seek to promote the best interests of the

wellbeing and education of the pupils of Milford Haven;

(ii) Members are to respond individually to this

Consultation if they so wish;

(iii) a letter is to be written to the Director of Education

saying that this Council is concerned at the failure

of the request to respond to the Governing Body of

The Meads to hold a Meeting on site regarding the

actual building.

294. SECTION 257 OF THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990, PROPOSED DIVERSON FOOTPATH PP65/2 MILFORD HAVEN:

Members gave consideration to a letter from the Definitive Map Officer, Pembrokeshire County Council, in which he enclosed a plan of the proposed diversion of the footpath PP65/2 to enable the development of a new primary school.

The Chairman advised that the proposed footpath is one that existed pre-war. In preparation for the D-Day landings of 1944 an American camp was built on this site and the proposed footpath was closed. As a result, the current footpath that goes across the rugby field was opened. The proposal is to close the current footpath and revert to the pre-war footpath.

Councillor M. P. Rickard said that he was no longer a member of Milford Haven Rugby Club so does not have to declare an interest.

RESOLVED THAT a letter be written to the Definitive

Map Officer, Pembrokeshire County Council, stating

that this Council accepts, with reluctance, the

diversion of Footpath PP65/2 Milford Haven.

Councillor J. W. Cole wished it recorded that he did not agree with this recommendation.

295. LETTER FROM ROAD SAFETY OFFICER, PEMBROKESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL:

At January’s Meeting of the Public Works and Planning Committee, it was agreed to invite a Road Safety Officer from the Pembrokeshire County Council to address the Committee to discuss road safety issues within the town.

Members discussed the response from a Road Safety Officer, in which she stated that she “politely declined” the Council’s invitation and requested that the concerns were put in writing to her, which will enable the department to investigate and respond accordingly.

A Member said that he was extremely disappointed at this letter. He considered that Councillors need to ask again in the strongest terms for a Meeting and ascertain why the Road Safety Officers are refusing to accept the Council’s invitation.

The Chairman said that over many years this Council has been concerned with road safety, particularly at Marble Hall crossroads, and had requested traffic lights at this junction. More recently Members have expressed concern at the prospect of the increased traffic in Gelliswick Road, Gelliswick Hill, Picton Road and the Rugby Club entrance, resulting from the building of the new Hakin Community School.

A Member observed there had not been a Road Safety Officer at the local comprehensive School for some time.

RESOLVED THAT a letter be written to the Road

Safety Officer, Pembrokeshire County Council,

saying that Members are disappointed with her

response and would seek clarity as to why she

has refused to address the Public Works and

Planning Committee and ask to reconsider the

decision and meet at a suitably convenient date.

296. EUROPEAN SULPHUR CONTROL AREA:

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. The control area does not include the Irish Sea where ships can continue to operate using heavy fuel oil until 2020.

At January’s Meeting of the Public Works and Planning Committee it was agreed to ask the Rt. Hon. S. Crabb MP to write to the Minister responsible for Maritime issues to enquire as to why the SECA does not extend to the Irish Sea.

Members discussed the Rt. Hon. S. Crabb MP’s response, in which he enclosed the response from Robert Goodwill MP, the Minister of State at the Department for Transport.

The Minister stated that an Emission Control Area was established in the North Sea because of the risk to the environment and to human health posed by sulphur emissions from ships.

The Chairman referred to a paragraph in the Minister of State at the Department for which stated “to extend the existing ECA to encompass all seas which surround the UK, the UK and the Irish governments would need to make a robust scientific case to the IMO. As maritime traffic density is much lower in the Irish Sea and the overall population density is also lower, we consider the case for an ECA in the Irish Sea would be much harder to justify”.

Members considered that this showed little regard to the people of the west coast.

RESOLVED THAT:

(a) a letter be written to the Rt. Hon. Stephen Crabb MP

expressing concerns that the Welsh Government

has not sought dispensation, and asking him to use

his good offices to raise the issue with the governing

bodies;

(b) a copy of the letter is to be sent to the First Minister,

Welsh Government.

297. 2018 REVIEW OF PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCES IN WALES:

Members discussed an email from Boundary Commission for Wales, which stated that the Boundary Commission for Wales, together with the other UK Boundary Commissions, has announced the number of constituencies for each part of the UK and the electoral quota to be used for the forthcoming review of Parliamentary constituencies, in accordance with the Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Act 2011.

For the purposes of the 2018 Review, the total UK electorate to be used by the 4 UK Boundary Commissions is 44,562,440.

The electorate for Wales is 2,181,841, the current allocation is 40, the new allocation 29, giving a reduction of 11. The UK electoral quota is to the nearest whole number 74,769. Each proposed constituency must therefore have an electorate that is between 71,031 and 78,507.

Initial Proposals for the Parliamentary constituencies in Wales will be published later this year followed by a period of consultation. The writer of the email asked for people not to submit their views until the period of consultation begins.

Members noted that Wales is faced with a reduction of 11 seats in an attempt to equalise as far as possible the size of constituencies. A Member said that the Boundary Commission has not taken the rural nature of Wales into account, which will result in Wales having constituencies that are far too big and unmanageable.

RESOLVED THAT this Council will respond to the consultation by

expressing deep concern at the fact that, in an attempt to

equalise constituencies by population, the Boundary Commission

is ignoring the rural nature of Wales which will result in Wales having

constituencies that are far too big and unmanageable.

298. APPOINTMENT OF TWO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WORKS AND PLANNING COMMITTEE TO REPRESENT THIS COUNCIL ON THE PEMBROKESHIRE AREA COMMITTEE OF ONE VOICE WALES:

RESOLVED THAT the Deputy Mayor, Councillor W. D. Elliott BA

QTS and Councillor C. A. Sharp, be appointed as the

Public Works and Planning Committee’s representatives

on the Pembrokeshire Area Committee of One Voice Wales.

299. PROPOSALS RELATING TO THE STATEMENT OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION FOR THE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK:

Members gave consideration to the Welsh Government’s consultation seeking views on the draft Statement of Public Participation for the National Development Framework (NDF).

The National Development Framework will be a development plan for the whole of Wales. It will set out national planning policies for the next 20 years and express spatially the Welsh Government’s long term economic, social and environmental objectives. The NDF will form part of the statutory plan for determining planning applications and will assist the determination of Developments of National Significance

(DNS).

RESOLVED THAT the document be received.

300. RENEWABLE ENERGY SPG CONSULTATION:

Members discussed the Pembrokeshire County Council’s consultation on Supplementary Planning Guidance – Renewable Energy.

International directives transposed into national regulations and guidance support the production of Renewable Energy. The UK has a target of producing 15% of its energy from renewable sources by 2020. The Welsh Government requires that planning policy at all levels should facilitate delivery of renewable energy, with the aim of reducing annual carbon emissions by 3% per year, with a commitment of at least a 40% reduction in all greenhouse gas emissions in Wales by 2020.

Pembrokeshire County Council’s approach to renewable energy is set out in its Local Development Plan (LDP). The Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) on Renewable Energy elaborates on Pembrokeshire County Council’s policy approach to renewable energy.

This item of Supplementary Planning Guidance will be subject to a formal six-week consultation. Following consultation, Cabinet will be asked to consider the consultation responses and any changes considered necessary to the draft document. Once agreed, a final document will be published, which will be a significant material consideration in evaluating planning applications.

RESOLVED THAT the document be received.

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