Minutes of a Meeting of the Milford Haven Town Council

held at the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Milford Haven

on Monday, 26th September, 2016 at 7:00 pm

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PRESENT

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

The Deputy Mayor (Councillor C. A. Sharp)

 Councillors: J. W. Cole A. W. Eden

 R. D. Evans A. H. Miles

 M. P. Rickard Mrs. Y. G. Southwell

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

 G. Woodham MBA (Open) LL.B (Hons)

PRAYERS:

 Prayers were led by the Mayor’s Chaplain, Father Harri Williams.

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The formal meeting of the Milford Haven Town Council then commenced.

100. MR. K. R. C. JOHNSON:

 The Mayor asked Members to stand in memory of a past Mayor of Milford Haven,

 Mr. K. R. C. Johnson, who had recently passed away.

101. APOLOGIES:

 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A. E. Byrne, R. Gray, E. R. Harries, Mrs. J. Hawkins, S. G. Joseph, M. J. Norman and D. R. Sinnett.

102. TO CONFIRM AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON THE 8TH SEPTEMBER, 2016:

 RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Meeting of

 the Milford Haven Town Council held on the

 8th September, 2016, be accepted and that they

 be signed by the Mayor as a true record.

103. TO CONFIRM AND SIGN THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON THE 19TH SEPTEMBER, 2016:

 RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Special Meeting

 of the Milford Haven Town Council held on the

 19th September, 2016, be accepted and that they

 be signed by the Mayor as a true record.

104. INFORMATION FROM THE MAYOR:

 (a) Mayor’s Engagements:

 Members were informed of the Mayor’s Engagements since 9th September, 2016:

 14th September - Milford Haven Business Circle Meeting

 15th September - Welcoming Passengers off the Cruise Ship ‘Albatros’ and visit on board

 20th September - Town Regeneration Meeting (attended by the Deputy Mayor)

 21st September - Port Welfare Committee Annual General Meeting at Dragon LNG

 23rd September - H.O.P.E. Multiple Sclerosis Centre Open Day in Neyland (attended by the Deputy Mayor)

 24th September - Fishermen’s Tribute Service (also attended by the Deputy Mayor)

 25th September - Tenby Civic Service

 (b) Mayor’s Remarks:

 The Mayor said that this information had been published earlier today on social media, but for those who were not on Facebook, he was pleased to advise that had received a letter from the Queen’s Chief Clerk regarding the planting of a horse chestnut tree in the Memorial Gardens.

 The Mayor then read out the letter in which he was thanked for writing to the Queen on the occasion of Her Majesty’s 90th birthday. The Chief Clerk wrote that the Queen greatly appreciated the gesture to plant a horse chestnut tree in the town’s Memorial Gardens and was grateful for the Mayor’s thoughtfulness in enclosing a selection of photographs. Her Majesty asked the Chief Clerk to send her warm good wishes to the Mayor and all concerned.

105. CEMETERY REPORT:

 RESOLVED THAT the Cemetery Report, as

 presented by the Clerk for the months of

 July and August, 2016, be received.

106. PLANS:

 RESOLVED THAT the recommendations of the

 Chairman 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 No. 16/0512/AD, for which

 an additional comment was made.

 (a) Planning Application No. 16/0512/AD – Replacement of existing flag pole with

 7.5 m high totem sign at Lidl UK GMBH, Great North Road, Milford Haven.

 RESOLVED THAT the Pembrokeshire County Council is

 to be asked whether the Highways Authority is satisfied

 that the proposed width of the new sign would not

 impair the vision of motorists entering and exiting

 this store.

 Councillor A. W. Eden declared a personal interest in this issue as he lives opposite Lidl UK in Great North Road.

 (b) Planning Application No. 16/0409/PA – Section 73: Variation/removal of

 conditions 3, 4, 14 and 16 of Ref: 12/0685/PA (to allow for an extension of time

 for the submission of reserved matters and the removal of the requirements for

 the code for sustainable homes) at land South of the Meads, Milford Haven:

 A Member advised that this Council had previously expressed concerns to the Pembrokeshire County Council over this development.

 The Member said that the main access point to the development is through the car park and necessitates the demolition of the two tennis courts. The Member had recently met with a gentleman who has coached tennis worldwide and, on a voluntary basis, is coaching children in the Junior School. The gentleman’s concern was that the demolition of the two remaining tennis courts in the town would be a scandal.

 The Member then stressed his myriad concerns regarding road safety at this location. He suggested that the Council needs to continue to raise objections to this planning application.

107. NEW FINANCIAL REGULATIONS:

 Members made amendments to the new Financial Regulations.

 RESOLVED THAT the Clerk is to prepare a draft of the

 amendments made to the new Financial Regulations for

 discussion at the next Full Council meeting.

108. THE CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MEMBERS:

 Members discussed a letter from Ms. Claire Jones, Monitoring Officer, Pembrokeshire County Council, in which she thanked all Clerks and Town and Community Councillors who have hosted the Monitoring Officer Code of Conduct training sessions over the last few months.

 The Monitoring Officer wrote that there are two further administrative tasks to be undertaken by each Town and Community Council in order to be fully compliant with Section 51 of the Local Government Act 2000.

 Firstly, as soon as reasonably practicable after revising the Code of Conduct, a Council must “publish in one or more newspapers circulating in the area a notice which states that the Council has adopted a revised code of conduct which states that copies of the revised code are available at an office of the authority for inspection by members of the public at such times as may be specified in the notice and specifies the address of that office”.

 Secondly, a Council must send a copy of the revised code to the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales.

 The Monitoring Officer advised that she was prepared to co-ordinate efforts in this respect by arranging one composite notice for the 76 Town and Community Councils, which will avoid duplication of effort and unnecessary cost. The Monitoring Officer would also be willing to liaise with the Ombudsman.

 RESOLVED THAT:

 (i) the Milford Haven Town Council accepts the offer from

 the Monitoring Officer to organise a newspaper notice

 under Section 51(6)(b) of the Local Government Act

 2000 and to contact the Ombudsman on its behalf;

 (ii) the Council will provide an undertaking that it will

 contribute up to £30 for the cost of the notice.

109. THE 2018 REVIEW OF PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCIES IN WALES INITIAL PROPOSALS:

 A letter was received from the Secretary of the Boundary Commission for Wales in which he announced that the Commission has published its Initial Proposals for changes to Parliamentary constituencies in Wales.

 At the meeting of the Public Works and Planning Committee held on 7th March, 2016, it had been agreed that this Council would 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.

 RESOLVED THAT the information be received.

110. ONE VOICE WALES:

 (i) Minutes of the Meeting of the Pembrokeshire Area Committee held at County Hall, Haverfordwest on Tuesday, 26th July, 2016.

 Members gave consideration to the Minutes of the Pembrokeshire Area Committee held on Tuesday, 26th July, 2016.

 RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Annual General

 Meeting of the Pembrokeshire Area Committee held

 on Tuesday, 26th July, 2016, be received.

 (ii) Agenda for the Meeting of the Pembrokeshire Area Committee to be held on Tuesday, 26th September, 2016.

 Members gave consideration to an Agenda for the Meeting of the Pembrokeshire Area Committee to be held on Tuesday, 26th September, 2016.

 Councillor A. E. Byrne had confirmed that he would be attending this meeting.

 RESOLVED THAT the Agenda for the Meeting of the

 Pembrokeshire Area Committee to be held on

 Tuesday, 26th September, 2016, be received.

111. TRAFFIC CALMING OUTSIDE THE PEMBROKESHIRE YACHT CLUB, GELLISWICK:

 Members discussed the response given by Mr. D. Thomas, Head of Highways and Construction, Pembrokeshire County Council, to the concerns raised by Members over the speed of traffic outside the Pembrokeshire Yacht Club.

 Mr. Thomas said that there is no specific mitigation work associated with the new Community School planned for the stretch of road outside the Pembrokeshire Yacht Club.

 If traffic calming or other infrastructure for this location is to be considered then this will need to be assessed in accordance with Council Policy (evidence of inappropriate speed and accident history) and, if justified, prioritised accordingly against other similar requests.

 Mr. Thomas advised that he would arrange for a review of the speed and accident record and advise further when he has more information.

 A Member said he was rather disappointed at the stance that the Pembrokeshire County Council seems to have taken. This Council has highlighted an issue that the Pembrokeshire County Council does not have seem to have taken on board, especially as there is going to be a huge infrastructure change in the vicinity in the very near future.

 Another Member stated that this is the standard Pembrokeshire County Council response. He suggested that the response be accepted, and Mr. Thomas be informed that it is regretful that there has to be accidents before action is taken. This can become a danger spot because of the increased traffic from parental drop offs and pick-ups and the increased number of children that will be frequenting that road.

 Another Member referred to the positive response in the last paragraph of Mr. Thomas’ email regarding arranging a review. He said that it would be interesting to see a copy of the Pembrokeshire County Council’s Policy. This Member told Councillors that the Pembrokeshire County Council is forming a new Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee. If Members are mindful, the Pembrokeshire County Council’s policy could be referred to that Committee to be addressed county wide, rather than restricted to Milford Haven.

 RESOLVED THAT a letter be written to

 Mr. D. Thomas, Head of Highways and

 Construction, Pembrokeshire County Council:

 (i) thanking him for his response

 and acknowledging that he will

 be forwarding a copy of the review;

 (ii) and expressing deep concern at the

 safety aspect of the road;

 (iii) and requesting a copy of the Policy

 referred to in Mr. Thomas’ email for

 further discussion by Members of

 this Council.

112. CONCERNS OVER ELECTROMAGNETIC RADIATION:

 Members discussed correspondence between local resident Mr. R. Maile and Mr. J. Robb, Parliamentary Researcher of the Office of the Rt. Hon S. Crabb MP.

 The correspondence detailed assurances from Mr. Crabb, in that the Public Health England (PHE) body has advised both the UK Government and the Welsh Government in relation to the protection of communities from radiation hazards. The position of Public Health England is that there is no convincing scientific evidence that exposures to electromagnetic and other radio technologies at levels below internationally agreed guidelines affect human health.

 A Member expressed concerns about this matter, and referred to the proximity of the masts to such buildings as schools and hospitals.

 The Member continued by stating that although this Council is concerned about the whole issue, the UK Government and European Parliament choose to adopt a policy statement which this Council is not capable of countering as Members do not have the knowledge or scientific background to do so.

 RESOLVED THAT the information be

 received.

113. CONCERNS FROM A RESIDENT OF MILFORD HAVEN:

 A letter was received from a resident of Milford Haven in which she voiced her concerns regarding public rights of way in Hubberston and Hakin.

 County Councillor Mrs. V. Stoddart had read this letter in the Agenda pack and written

 to Members to provide an update on the resident’s concerns.

 County Councillor Mrs. Stoddart said that she will continue to monitor the condition of the footpath. She will additionally pass on the resident’s concerns that have not to date been addressed to the relevant department of the Pembrokeshire County Council.

 RESOLVED THAT:

 (i) the letter from the resident be

 received;

 (ii) County Councillor Mrs. Stoddart

 be thanked for the update on this

 issue;

 (iii) the Milford Haven Town Council will

 write to the relevant bodies endorsing

 Councillor Mrs. Stoddart’s sentiments.

114. REPRESENTATION ON GOVERNING BODY OF HUBBERSTON CHURCH IN WALES VC NURSERY AND PRIMARY SCHOOL

 A letter was received from Ms. A. Ryan, Professional Officer, Governors’ Support Services, in which she advised that Councillor Mrs. J. Hawkins’ term of office as Additional Governor on the Governing Body of Hubberston Church in Wales VC Nursery and Primary School will come to an end on 20th December, 2016. The

 Officer asked for a new nomination for this position by 24th October, 2016.

 This nomination will be considered along with any others received at the next full Governing Body meeting due to take place on Thursday, 1th November. If this Council’s nomination is the only one received, the nominee will be appointed as Additional Community Governor at the earliest opportunity, following consultation with the Headteacher/Chair of Governors.

 The Clerk said that Councillor Mrs. J. Hawkins had indicated that she wished to

 continue as this Council’s representative as Additional Governor on the Governing Body of Hubberston Church in Wales VC Nursery and Primary School.

 RESOLVED THAT Councillor Mrs. J. Hawkins be nominated

 as this Council’s representative as Additional Governor

 on the Governing Body of Hubberston Church in Wales

 VC Nursery and Primary School.

115. SCHEDULE OF ACCOUNTS:

 RESOLVED THAT the Schedule of Accounts,

 as presented by the Clerk for the months of

 July and August, 2016, in the sum of

 £28,195.36 accepted and approved for

 payment.

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