Minutes of a Meeting of the Milford Haven Town Council

held at the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Milford Haven

on Monday, 31st October, 2016 at 7:00 pm

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PRESENT

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

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

 R. D. Evans E. R. Harries

 A. H. Miles M. P. Rickard

 D. R. Sinnett Mrs. Y. G. Southwell

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

 TO RECEIVE MR. G. HOPKINS, TO DISCUSS THE MILFORD HAVEN EXPERIENCE:

 The Mayor, Councillor W. D. Elliott BA QTS, welcomed Mr. G. Hopkins to the meeting.

 Mr. Hopkins said he was a retired Bank Manager and past Clerk of Neyland Town Council. He resigned from the Neyland Town Council in November 2007.

 Mr. Hopkins explained that he came across a book regarding Kiltimagh, County Mayo, Republic of Ireland, (www.kiltimagh.ie) a town in a similar position to Neyland in 1989, just prior to Ireland obtaining substantial grants from the European Union. The town of Kiltimagh is an eighth of the size of Milford Haven. Mr. Hopkins described the town as being completely run down, in a back water in County Mayo, not on a direct road link, and some ten miles from the sea. Mr. Hopkins stated that the townspeople decided to do something about their town, without waiting for further promises to be implemented.

 Some of the funding for the rejuvenation of Kiltimagh came from the townspeople themselves through weekly door collections, but with a different culture in place in the Republic of Ireland, this is one area of funding in Milford Haven which would probably prove unpopular with the townspeople.

 Mr. Hopkins explained that when he was Town Clerk he set up a website in Neyland and Milford Haven. It was a large website of 230 plus pages with 2,000 links.

 Mr. Hopkins said that he had produced a book giving examples of how residents had regenerated their towns. He would leave a copy of this book with the Town Clerk. He

 urged Members to scrutinise the book, decide what can be developed and if they felt it appropriate, he would return in 6 months’ time to discuss any issues.

 Mr. Hopkins then answered questions.

 The Mayor thanked Mr. Hopkins for attending the meeting and he left the meeting at this point. The Mayor said that the document produced by Mr. Hopkins would be forwarded to any interested Member.

Councillors A. H. Miles, D. R. Sinnett, Mrs. Y. G. Southwell, Mrs. C. Stevens, and Mrs. C. T. Williams joined the meeting.

PRAYERS:

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

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

139. APOLOGIES:

 Apologies for absence were received from the Deputy Mayor, Councillor C. A. Sharp, and Councillors A. E. Byrne, R. Gray, Mrs. J. Hawkins, S. G. Joseph, M. J. Norman and G. Woodham MBA (Open) LL.B (Hons).

140. TO CONFIRM AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON THE 17TH OCTOBER, 2016:

 RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Meeting of

 the Milford Haven Town Council held on the

 17th October, 2016, be accepted and that they

 be signed by the Mayor as a true record.

141. INFORMATION FROM THE MAYOR:

 (a) Mayor’s Engagements:

 Members were informed of the Mayor’s Engagements since 18th October, 2016:

 20th October - Milford Waterfront Sponsorship Cheque Presentation

 to Sam and Daisy Coleman for their P1 Powerboat

 Racing at Foam

 20th October (pm) - Town Regeneration Team Meeting at the Torch

 Junction Room

 22nd October (am) - Stokey Lewis VC Reception and Book Launch at the

 Town Hall

 22nd October (am) - Stokey Lewis VC Commemorative Service in the

 Memorial Gardens followed by the Royal British

 Legion

 25th October - Phase 2 Clean Up – Kitchen (Day 1)

 26th October - Phase 2 Clean Up – Kitchen (Day 2)

 26th October (pm) - Parent/Guardians Open Evening and Meet the Staff

 at the recently reformed Milford Haven Army Cadet

 Detachment

 27th October - Town WiFi Training with Telemat

 27th October (pm) - South Hook LNG Liaison Committee Meeting

 (b) Milford Haven Army Cadets:

 The Mayor referred to the Open Evening at the recently reformed Milford Haven Army Cadet Detachment.

 He said how pleased he was to see that the Army Cadet force has reopened in Milford Haven with 20 Cadets, who will attend the Remembrance Service.

 (c) “Stokey” Lewis VC Commemorative Service:

 The Mayor thanked all those who attended the “Stokey” Lewis VC Commemorative Service.

 (d) Christmas Dinner:

 The Mayor said that a menu for the Christmas Dinner on 16th December had been received that day. The menus would shortly be circulated to Members.

REPORTS ON COMMITTEES

142. CEMETERY MAINTENANCE AND LAND ACQUISITION GROUP:

 The Minutes of the Meeting of the Cemetery Maintenance and Land Acquisition Group held on 18th October, 2016, were moved by the Chairman, Councillor E. R. Harries.

 (a) Minute 129 – Apologies:

 RESOLVED THAT Councillor M. P. Rickard’s

 name be added to the list of apologies.

 (b) Minute 130 (h) Mowers:

 RESOLVED THAT that Council seeks to negotiate

 a service contract for these mowers.

 It was RESOLVED THAT, subject to the above,

 the Minutes of the Cemetery Maintenance

 and Land Acquisition Group held on the 18th

 October, 2016, be approved and adopted.

143. PUBLIC EVENTS SUB-COMMITTEE:

 The Minutes of the Meeting of the Public Events Sub-Committee held on the 25th October, 2016, were moved by the Chairman, the Mayor, Councillor W. D. Elliott BA QTS.

 (a) Minute 135 – Review of Commemoration Service for Mr. Hubert William “Stokey” Lewis VC on 22nd October, 2016:

 RESOLVED THAT it be noted that the Army Cadets

 were also in attendance.

144. CEMETERY REPORT:

 RESOLVED THAT the Cemetery Report, as presented

 by the Clerk for the month of September, 2016, be

 approved.

145. MILFORD HAVEN TOWN CENTRE – MASTER PLAN:

 Members gave consideration to an email from Ms. Sinead Henehan, Community Safety, Poverty and Regeneration Manager, Pembrokeshire County Council, in which she wrote that the Pembrokeshire County Council would like the opportunity to develop master plans for the main towns in Pembrokeshire. Ms. Henehan said that the recently completed Haverfordwest Master Plan gives a strategic focus for the re-development of the town.

 The Milford Haven Master Plan would be a “place making” framework that would articulate a shared vision of what kind of town Milford Haven can become.

 Ms. Henehan wrote that the Pembrokeshire County Council has not yet identified the cost implications of such an exercise in Milford Haven, but would be interested to know whether Milford Haven Town Council would be prepared to financially contribute towards the development of the Milford Haven Master Plan.

 RESOLVED THAT Ms. Henehan, Community Safety,

 Poverty and Regeneration Manager, Pembrokeshire County

 Council, be advised that the Milford Haven Town Council

 supports the Milford Haven Master Plan, in principle, subject

 to costings and information from Haverfordwest Town Council

 regarding their contribution and experience.

146. MILFORD HAVEN FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS 2017:

 Members discussed an email from Ms. Katie Daly, Strategic Project Officer, Pembrokeshire County Council. Ms. Daly advised that, as the Pembrokeshire County Council no longer had a budget to provide flowers in Milford Haven, the Town Council agreed this financial year to purchase flowers with the Pembrokeshire County Council agreeing to continue to plant and maintain them.

 Ms. Daly said that if the Milford Haven Town Council wishes to keep the same arrangements for 2017, the flowers for this Council area will cost £4,520.33 to purchase.

 The Mayor advised that this figure is an increase of £88.63 on this year’s cost.

 RESOLVED THAT:

 (i) the Milford Haven Town Council accepts

 the cost of £4,250.33 for the purchase of flowers for the

 town this year, with the Pembrokeshire County Council

 continuing to fund the planting and maintenance of them;

 (ii) the Pembrokeshire County Council’s attention is to be

 drawn to the maintenance of the grass in Hamilton Terrace.

147. TRAFFIC CALMING POLICIES FROM MR. D. THOMAS, HEAD OF HIGHWAYS AND

 CONSTRUCTION, PEMBROKESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL:

 At the last meeting of the Full Council, Members had requested copies of the Pembrokeshire County Council’s policies regarding traffic calming.

 Mr. D. Thomas, Head of Highways and Construction, Pembrokeshire County Council, had forwarded two reports – the first one specifically about traffic calming and management and the second report concerning the wider issues of speed management.

 RESOLVED THAT the reports be received.

148. HAVE YOUR SAY – MID AND WEST WALES FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE:

 An email was received from the Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Authority Draft Corporation Plan 2017 – 2022 which sets out that Authority’s Strategic Priorities for the next five years. The plan also contains the 12 Draft Improvement Objectives for 2017-2018, which have been designed to help the Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service deliver its Strategic Priorities.

 RESOLVED THAT:

 (i) the document be received;

 (ii) in the light of his experience in the Mid and West

 Wales Fire and Rescue Service, former Councillor,

 Mr. M. H. George QGM, be asked for his comments

 on this document.

149. LAND TRANSACTION TAX AND ANTI-AVOIDANCE OF DEVOLVED TAXES:

 Members discussed an email from Ms. Caryl Mai Hughes, Outreach and Youth Engagement Officer, Cyfathrebu Communications, Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru, in which she explained that the Committee would like to collect ideas and views through an online discussion platform regarding the consultation to the Land Transaction Tax and Anti-avoidance of Devolved Taxes (Wales) Bill.

 In 2018 Wales will introduce the first Welsh Tax for 800 years. The Welsh Government will take responsibility for Stamp Duty Land Tax (SDLT). SDLT will be replaced by Land Transaction Tax in Wales and will affect a range of parties such as home buyers and businesses located in Wales. The Bill to pass Land Transaction Tax into Welsh law will be examined over the coming months in the Assembly.

 RESOLVED THAT the information be received.

150. NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE COMMISSION FOR WALES:

 Members considered a Consultation Document and Consultation Response Form.

 The purpose of the consultation is to inform stakeholders of the Welsh Government’s intention to establish a National Infrastructure Commission for Wales to inform and prioritise investment decisions on medium to longer term infrastructure needs, and provide stakeholders with an opportunity to contribute views on the way the Commission is set up and run.

 RESOLVED THAT the documentation be received.

151. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

 The Mayor said that he had received an invitation to the Pembrokeshire Tourism Awards 2016 which he would like to attend on behalf of the Council. As this event was to be held on the same date as the next Full Council, and as the Deputy Mayor was away, the Mayor asked whether the date of the Full Council meeting could be changed from Thursday, 10th November to Thursday, 17th November.

 RESOLVED THAT the date of the next Full Council

 meeting is to be changed from Thursday, 10th

 November to Thursday, 17th November.

152. FINANCIAL ASISTANCE:

 (i) Acknowledgement of Donations:

The Mayor advised that letters of thanks had been received from the Milford Haven Music Festival, Milford Haven Sea Cadets and Royal Marines Cadets, Milford Haven Swimming Squad, National Federation of Retirement Pensioners Association, Neyland Ladies Choir, Pill Social Centre, Port of Milford Haven, Rotary Club of Milford Haven and Shelter Cymru.

(ii) Applications for Financial Assistance:

 The Mayor declared a personal interest in this issue as he is a Schoolteacher.

 Members discussed the Meads Infant and Nursery School application for funding to visit Milford Haven Library.

 RESOLVED THAT:

 (a) a donation of £640 is to be made to The Meads

 Infant and Nursery School to transport children

 from the Meads School to Milford Haven Library

 on a weekly basis for 16 weeks;

 (b) the School is to be encouraged to take the

 schoolchildren to the Milford Haven Museum and

 the Torch Theatre;

 (c) this sum is to be taken from this Council’s

 Reserves;

 (d) this issue is to be revisited when considering the

 Council’s precept requirements for 2017-2018.

*This donation is to be made in accordance with the Milford Haven Town Council’s powers under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972.*

153. SCHEDULE OF ACCOUNTS:

 RESOLVED THAT the Schedule of Accounts,

 as presented by the Clerk for the month of

 September, 2016, in the sum of £10,327.54

 be accepted and approved for payment.

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