Minutes of a Meeting of the Youth Working Group

held at the Town Hall, Milford Haven

on Monday, 28th November, 2016 at 6:00 pm

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PRESENT

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

The Deputy Mayor (Councillor C. A. Sharp)

 Councillors: R. D. Evans M. P. Rickard

 Mrs. C. T. Williams

 Also in attendance were Councillors Mrs. C. Stevens and G. Woodham MBA (Open) LL.B (Hons) and Ms. F. Galliford, the Council’s Secretary.

172. MAYOR’S COMMENTS:

 The Mayor, Councillor W. D. Elliott BA QTS welcomed Members to the first meeting of the Youth Working Group.

173. APOLOGIES:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor M. J. Norman.

174. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEE:

 The Deputy Mayor, Councillor C. A. Sharp, indicated that he wished to become a member of the Youth Working Group as an individual Councillor and not in his role as Deputy Mayor.

 RESOLVED THAT Councillor C. A. Sharp becomes

 a member of the Youth Working Group.

175. DISCUSSION ON YOUTH ENGAGEMENT:

 The Mayor referred to the document “Advice to Community and Town Councils on Working with Young People”, as provided by One Voice Wales.

 He said that there are two key messages in this document – the setting up of a Youth Council and the establishment of community youth representatives.

 (a) Youth Council

 The Mayor said that, although Milford Haven does have a Youth Council, the link is presently not as strong as when Councillor G. Woodham MBA (Open) LL.B (Hons) was Mayor.

 The Mayor advised that he had attempted to re-establish that link and had written some time ago to the Youth Council offering the use of the Council Chamber for meetings, but had not received a response.

 A Member explained that the Youth Council has a busy agenda and the youth members are very keen to engage in community focused events. He had been informed that the Mayor’s letter would be discussed at a future meeting of the Youth Council.

 Members agreed on the importance of re-establishing links with the Youth Council.

 It was RECOMMENDED THAT:

 (i) the Town Council re-establishes links with

 the Youth Council;

 (ii) the Mayor re-invites the Youth Council to use

 the Council Chamber for its meetings and

 to attend Full Council meetings as observers.

 (b) Youth Representatives:

 The Milford Haven Town Council could, under the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011, appoint no more than two individuals to act at any one time as community Youth Representatives who are over the age of 15 but not attained the age of 26. The Council can decide on the terms of such appointments.

 The Mayor said that when he attended the One Voice Wales Larger Councils Committee, the Town Clerk and a Youth Representative from Pontardawe Town Council gave a very interesting and informative presentation which highlighted the benefits of youth representation.

 As the appointment of Youth Representatives and their role is at the discretion of the individual Community or Town Council, it will be for the Council itself to determine whether they are entitled to ask for a DBS check, and at what level, for Councillors, Clerks and Staff working with Youth Representatives, given the individual circumstances of the Council. If the role of the Youth Representatives changes, the Council would need to consider its position regarding DBS checks.

 It was RECOMMENDED THAT:

 (i) this Council appoints two individuals who are over

 the age of 15 but not attained the age of 26 to act

 as Youth Representatives;

 (ii) a discussion should be held as to whether there should

 be a probationary period for the Youth Representatives;

 (iii) in order to assist the Youth Working Group in

 their deliberations, the Town Clerk from Pontardawe

 Town Council is to be asked for detailed information

 regarding the appointment of Youth Representatives

 on to that Authority.

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