Minutes of a Meeting of the Milford Haven Town Council

held at the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Milford Haven

on Monday, 13th March, 2017 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 R. Gray

E. R. Harries A. H. Miles

M. P. Rickard D. R. Sinnett

Mrs. Y. G. Southwell G. Woodham MBA (Open) LL.B (Hons)

Ms. F. K. Galliford (Milford Haven Town Council Secretary)

PRAYERS:

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

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240. APOLOGIES:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A. E. Byrne, Mrs. J. Hawkins, S. G. Joseph, M. J. Norman, Mrs. C. Stevens, and Mrs. C. T. Williams. Apologies for absence were also received from the Town Clerk, Mrs. M. L. Galliford.

241. TO CONFIRM AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON THE 27th FEBRUARY, 2017:

A Member stated that he had no intention of being critical. He was, however, in receipt of new information regarding the Social Media Group (Minute No. 233) and Youth Working Group (Minute No. 234) Meetings, and stressed once more that he and a number of other Councillors had not received prior notice of these Meetings. The Member was concerned that correct procedures relating to these Meetings were not being followed.

Another Member raised a point of order, emphasising that this was explicitly not the time for such comments. He suggested that this item could be put on the Agenda for the next Full Council Meeting if the other Member was agreeable, where rules for conduct at future Meetings could be devised.

The Mayor advised that he had spoken to the Town Clerk about this matter last week and he had been informed that it was not common practice for every Councillor to receive an Agenda for any of the Working Group Meetings.

Subject to the above, it was RESOLVED THAT

the Minutes of the Meeting of the Milford Haven

Town Council held on the 27th February, 2017, be

accepted and that they be signed by the Mayor as

a true record.

242. INFORMATION FROM THE MAYOR:

(a) Mayor’s Engagements:

Members were informed of the Mayor’s Engagements since 27th February, 2017:

28th February - Meeting of the Milford Haven Business Circle.

1st March - Opening of the Rotary Club of Milford Haven’s Garden at the entrance of Milford Haven.

1st March - Relaunching Slicks Martial Arts Headquarters in Charles Street.

1st March - The Mayor of Pembroke’s Charity Concert by the Pembroke Male Voice Choir.

2nd March - Meeting with Bags of Help Wales Coordinator and Tesco Milford Haven Community Champion.

2nd March - Meeting with Dyfed-Powys Police, Tesco Staff and Milford Youth Matters.

3rd March - Visit to the Red Dragon Ju-Jitsu Club at the Milford Haven Leisure Centre.

7th March - Tesco Senior Citizens’ Coffee and Cake Afternoon at the Hubberston and Hakin Community Centre.

9th March - Hanover Court event. *(Attended by the Deputy Mayor)*

10th March - Funeral of Commander Tony Mason MBE, Royal Naval Liaison Officer for Pembrokeshire.

10th March - Milford Haven Amateur Operatic Society’s Production of “Oliver!” at the Torch Theatre.

11th March - Cardiff Philharmonic Orchestra Charity Concert in aid of the H.O.P.E. Centre and Pembroke Rotary at Folly Farm.

13th March - Youth Workshop at the Council Chamber.

(b) Application by Egnedol Wales Limited for a Development of National Significance at Land at Blackbridge and Waterston, Milford Haven:

The Mayor drew Members’ attention to an upcoming hearing at the Murray Suite in the Town Hall. Scheduled for 28th March, 2017, at 7:00 pm, and called by the Planning Inspectorate for Wales, this will be a local public open forum giving interested parties the opportunity to voice their opinions on all aspects of the proposed development.

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243. APPLICATION FOR A NEW PREMISES LICENCE AT THE WELSH BAKERY, 129 ROBERT STREET, MILFORD HAVEN:

RESOLVED THAT the recommendation of

the Chairman of the Public Works and Planning

Committee in respect of the application for

a new premises licence be approved (see

Appendix C).

244. CLOSURE OF LLOYDS BANK IN MILFORD HAVEN:

Members considered a letter from Mr. S. Morrison Brown, Manager, Lloyds Banking Group, relating to the company’s decision to close their Milford Haven Branch. This topic had been discussed at a Meeting of the Full Council on 30th January, 2017, when it was agreed to contact Lloyds Bank expressing this Council’s concerns at the closure, believing the closure to be detrimental to the people of Milford Haven.

RESOLVED THAT a letter from Mr. S. Morrison

Brown, Manager, Lloyds Banking Group, be

received.

245. INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION FOR WALES – ANNUAL REPORT 2017/18:

Members debated Section 13 of the Report – *Payments to Members of Community and Town Councils.*

A Member expressed his surprise at the amounts suggested. He alerted all present to Section 13.7 (Determination 45) – “Community and town Councils are authorised to make an annual payment not exceeding £500 each to up to 3 members in recognition of specific responsibilities”. A number of Milford Haven Town Councillors have taken a yearly allowance of £100 for this financial year, with Chairs of the Public Works and Planning / Finance and General Purposes Committees receiving £200 for their additional duties. Several Councillors opted out of receiving the allowance.

The Member continued by stressing that, if an increase in the Councillor Allowance was approved, money for the increase would have to be taken from the Council’s Reserves.

Another Member felt it imperative for this Council to come to a firm decision. He observed that £1100 has been precepted for this purpose – a figure which presupposes that not every Councillor will accept the allowance.

Following further discussion, it was RESOLVED THAT:

(i) the Councillor Allowance for 2017/18

be frozen at £100;

(ii) there will be no doubling of this payment

for the Chairs of the Public Works and

Planning and Finance and General Purposes

Committees;

(iii) the option for Councillors to opt out of

receiving such a payment will remain in place;

(iv) any additional spend is to come from Reserves,

and this figure will be highlighted on the Council’s

budget line.

246. THE 2018 REVIEW OF PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCIES IN WALES – SECONDARY CONSULTATION PERIOD:

Members considered a letter from Mr. S. Halsall, Secretary, Boundary Commission for Wales, relating to The 2018 Review of Parliamentary Constituencies in Wales – Secondary Consultation Period. The letter advised that the Commission had published all of the responses received during its initial consultation on proposed changes to Parliamentary constituencies in Wales – both written responses and those made orally at public hearings – on 28th February, 2017.

A statutory four week consultation period will run from 28th February to 27th March and any responses received after 28th March, 2017, will not be considered.

Written responses and those made orally at public hearings can be found on the Commission website at [www.bcw2018.org.uk](http://www.bcw2018.org.uk) .

It was RESOLVED THAT the letter be received.

247. VEHICLE ACTUATED ROAD SIGNAGE:

A Member, speaking in his role as County Councillor for the West Ward, advised that he had been made aware of the problem of cars speeding in lower Cromwell Road. The Member had contacted the Highways and Transport Department of the Pembrokeshire County Council to enquire about the possibility of increased road signage in the area but was told that funds for such signage were not available.

The Member continued by emphasising that he was not asking his fellow Councillors to approve a big budget spend. He pointed out that the signage could be used flexibly and in a mobile capacity, with the signage moving when required to particular speeding hotspots in the town of Milford Haven.

The Member further advised that the costs for obtaining the signage were in the region of £2200 to £3800. He asked for this issue to be fully explored so that a decision can be made in the future.

A discussion followed amongst Councillors.

It was asked whether the Highways and Transport Department was no longer taking authority for such matters. A Member stated that the Milford Haven Town Council should not be asked to finance Pembrokeshire County Council responsibility, although he was happy for this issue to be explored.

Another Member spoke in support of exploring the signage possibilities. He felt it would benefit a number of areas in Milford Haven, including Coombs Road and Gelliswick Road.

A Member queried as to who will be culpable for the installation and maintenance of the signage, and expressed budgetary concerns.

A further Member, who sits on a Neighbourhood Watch Body as a volunteer, felt it imperative that the residents of Milford Haven are kept safe. The Member can access information relating to accident blackspots through his Neighbourhood Watch participation and suggested that this may be considered for Agenda inclusion at a future Full Council Meeting.

RESOLVED THAT:

(i) Vehicle Actuated Road Signage be

investigated thoroughly;

(ii) a Representative from the Highways

and Transport Department at the

Pembrokeshire County Council be invited

to address a future Full Council Meeting.

Councillor J. W. Cole wished it recorded that he voted against these recommendations.

248. REQUEST FOR A BIN FOR DOG WASTE IN THE MARBLE HALL CLOSE AREA:

Members were advised that dog waste was a significant problem in the Marble Hall Close area. The Town Clerk and Secretary had been contacted by an Officer of the Pembrokeshire County Council, speaking on behalf of the residents of Marble Hall Close, and explaining that the Pembrokeshire County Council would not fund a dog waste bin, but would empty it. A Member, speaking as County Councillor for the West Ward, has since entered into correspondence with the Pembrokeshire County Council to obtain further advice and costings relating to this issue.

The Member stated that he had been informed that the Pembrokeshire County Council would supply an old type bin suitable for dog waste and install the bin on a concrete slab at a cost of approximately £96.

The Member felt it important to highlight the purchase of a bin as an opportunity for the Town Council. He was cognisant of arguments that this purchase was another Pembrokeshire County Council responsibility, but felt that the Town Council had to take the initiative, and asked other Councillors to support him in the pursuit of this matter.

Another Member agreed that dog waste in Milford Haven is a big problem. He did not deny the need for such a bin, but queried that the town would not just need this particular bin, but many bins. He asked if this Council would be responsible for the installation and maintenance of the bin.

Another Member felt that an important point had been raised. Whilst the Member was supportive of the proposal for the bin in the Marble Hall Close area, he noted the recent increases in Council Tax by the Pembrokeshire County Council, while the Milford Haven Town Council was forced to take on services, resulting in an increase in the yearly precept. The Member felt that Council Tax payers in the town were being hammered from both ends, and that the status quo cannot be tolerated for very long.

Discussion continued in which Members spoke of seeing little bags of dog waste hanging from tree branches, and the importance of listening to residents.

RESOLVED THAT:

(i) the Milford Haven Town Council supports

the installation of a bin suitable for dog waste

in the Marble Hall area, in the region of

£96;

(ii) the Pembrokeshire County Council be

contacted over the installation

of this bin, and advised that there will be

further discussion regarding the exact siting

of this bin.

Councillors J. W. Cole and A. H. Miles wished it recorded that they voted against this recommendation.

249. DISCUSSION ON “MEMBERS ON OUTSIDE BODIES ARE TO BE ENCOURAGED TO FEEDBACK THEIR ACTIVITY TO MEETINGS OF THE MILFORD HAVEN TOWN COUNCIL”. (REFERRED FROM THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING OF 27th FEBRUARY, 2017):

Councillor J. W. Cole, who is the Milford Haven Town Council’s Representative on the Valero Community Advisory Panel, spoke before the upcoming discussion on his Reports. He wished to encourage Councillors on Outside Bodies to respond as he has.

Councillor Cole was roundly commended by other Members for his diligence in submitting comprehensive and well-written Reports.

It was RESOLVED THAT:

(i) all Members on Outside Bodies advise

the Town Clerk when they are attending

a meeting;

(ii) each Member should, at the least, produce

a short paragraph to indicate that they

were present at the meeting;

(iii) the Office staff is to ask organisations who

produce their own Minutes if these Minutes

may be circulated amongst our Members.

250. REPORTS BY COUNCILLOR J. W. COLE, THE MILFORD HAVEN TOWN COUNCIL’S REPRESENTATIVE ON THE VALERO COMMUNITY ADVISORY PANEL, HELD AT THE PEMBROKE REFINERY ON TUESDAY, 22nd NOVEMBER, 2016, AND WEDNESDAY, 1st MARCH, 2017:

It was RESOLVED THAT Councillor

J. W. Cole’s Reports be received.

251. WELL-BEING ASSESSMENT AND WELL-BEING PLAN:

Members considered news of the Draft Well-being Assessment from the Pembrokeshire County Council and an attached questionnaire.

It was RESOLVED THAT Members may

complete the questionnaire on an individual

basis if they wish to do so.

252. HYWEL DDA UNIVERSITY HEALTH BOARD TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME:

Members considered a letter from Mrs. L. Ryan-Davies, Transformation Director, Hywel Dda University Health Board, in which the organisation’s Transformation Programme was detailed.

RESOLVED THAT the letter be received.

253. MEMBERSHIP OF ONE VOICE WALES 2017/2018:

Following discussion, it was RESOLVED THAT the Milford Haven Town Council renew its Membership of One Voice Wales from April, 2017, at a cost of £1970.

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