Minutes of a Meeting of the Town Regeneration

Environmental Action Team (TREAT)

held at the Town Hall, Milford Haven

on Wednesday, 22nd July, 2015 at 6:00 pm

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PRESENT

The Mayor (Councillor S. G. Joseph)

Councillors: E. R. Harries

(Chairman – Public Works and Planning Committee)

Mrs. Y. G. Southwell

(Chairman – Finance and General Purposes Committee)

R. D. Evans C. A. Sharp

D. R. Sinnett Councillor G. Woodham MBA (Open) LL.B (Hons)

73. APOLOGIES:

Apologies for absence were received from the Deputy Mayor, Councillor W. D. Elliott BA, and Councillors J. W. Cole, A. W. Eden, R. Gray, A. H. Miles, M. J. Norman, M. P. Rickard and Mrs. C. Stevens.

74. TO REGENERATE ‘TREAT’ AND LOOK AT FUTURE AIMS AND ASPIRATIONS:

The Mayor welcomed Members to the meeting.

The Mayor explained that he and Councillor G. Woodham MBA (Open) LL.B (Hons) had recently met with some members of the Pembrokeshire County Council Regeneration Group. During that meeting, it soon became apparent that there is a need for a stable platform to act as a conduit from the Pembrokeshire County Council into the town. There does not seem to be a stable association or group in Milford Haven at this moment, other than this Council. The situation might change, but in the meantime it seems an excellent idea for this Council to be proactive and seize the initiative.

(a) Action Plan:

The Mayor asked Councillor G. Woodham MBA (Open) LL.B (Hons) to give some background information on the Town Team and the Action Plan, and to explain the points brought up at the meeting with the Pembrokeshire County Council

Regeneration Group.

Councillor G. Woodham MBA (Open) LL.B (Hons) declared a personal interest as he is the Treasurer of the Milford Haven Business Circle.

Councillor G. Woodham MBA (Open) LL.B (Hons) advised that Town Teams started as regeneration groups. Milford Haven’s Town Team has not met for over 12 months and part of the reason for that was due to a lack of membership from other groups within the town.

Councillor G. Woodham MBA (Open) LL.B (Hons) said that there is still an expectation at County level for there to be some momentum in relation to the Town Teams. A refresh of the priorities that were seen by the small groups involved with the Town Team was submitted a year ago with three priorities listed from the Action Plan that was put together in approximately 2013.

The three priorities were: to establish a market in Milford Haven, to improve the streetscape in Charles Street, and develop the Water Gardens on the Rath. When those three priorities were submitted a response came back stating that the Water Gardens on The Rath was not classed as being Town Centre, so the main focus switched to the market. This Council funded £3,000 to support the market, the Pembrokeshire County Council match funded this through their regeneration fund, and the Business Circle invested £1,500. The Pembrokeshire County Council has monies available for match funding until the end of this financial year.

The Business Circle has a separate bank account for the market, and all monies either provided through stall hire or income are deposited into that account. The market has run regularly over the course of nearly a year. A decision relating to the market’s sustainability was recently taken by the Business Circle, when members came to the conclusion that the market relied very heavily on two individuals from the Business Circle who, amongst other tasks, set up the stalls and managed proceedings on a Saturday. Assistance has been requested through the Business Circle, social media and local press, but without success. There have been many suggestions concerning the market, such as some form of paid market manager role.

Councillor G. Woodham MBA (Open) LL.B (Hons) was asked to define “streetscape” and explained that it encompasses flowers, hanging baskets and benches.

Councillor G. Woodham MBA (Open) LL.B (Hons) advised that an updated report needs to be submitted to the Pembrokeshire County Council’s Economy and Overview Scrutiny Committee (a Committee on which he sits as a County Councillor).

Councillor G. Woodham MBA (Open) LL.B (Hons) referred to the recent meeting with the Mayor and the representatives from the Pembrokeshire County Council. He said at that meeting they explored the possibility of co-opting some non-Councillors on to TREAT.

Members referred to the success of MEAT, which was a multi agency initiative instigated by Councillor D. R. Sinnett during his Mayoral year. It was agreed that it is important to bring everyone together into a single unified, constructive and forward-looking body such as TREAT to feed off each other’s strengths so there is one single agenda for the town - an agenda that not only supports regeneration but also environmental improvements - an agenda that supports small scale projects and bigger strategic ones.

Councillor G. Woodham MBA (Open) LL.B (Hons) said that he would forward a copy of the Action Plan to the Clerk for distribution to all Members of the Milford Haven Town Council.

It was RECOMMENDED THAT:

(i) Members are to scrutinise the Action Plan and

decide on the objectives;

(ii) as the funding from the Pembrokeshire County

Council is only available until March 2016, it is

essential that decisions are made before the end

of this financial year;

(iv) other sources of funding, such as Tidy Towns, are

to be explored.

(b) Streetscape:

The Mayor, Councillor S. G. Joseph, said that he has been very heartened by the comments made regarding the floral displays in Charles Street. He considered that it would be advantageous to have an all year round display and to include plants that boost the number of pollinating insects.

It was RECOMMENDED THAT:

(i) the Mayor and Clerk are to investigate options regarding streetscape;

(ii) a letter is to be hand delivered by the Mayor

and Councillor R. D. Evans to businesses in

the Town Centre for ideas on how to regenerate

the Town Centre.

(c) Dog Waste:

The Mayor referred to the enormous problem of dog waste in the Town.

A Member referred to the difficulties of finding bins to dispose of dog waste. Another Member suggested that as there are only a set number of dog walks around the town, dog owners are to be asked where would be the best places to install bins for dog waste.

It was RECOMMENDED THAT:

(i) a competition is to be held for schoolchildren to

design a poster to encourage people to pick up

their dogs’ waste;

(ii) a letter is to be written to the Pembrokeshire County

Council stating that they are not enforcing the law

and our streets are being abused by pet owners

who refuse to obey the law and pick up their dogs’

waste.

(d) Area Maintenance Schedule:

It was RECOMMENDED THAT the Pembrokeshire

County Council is to be requested to supply area

maintenance schedules for the town.

(e) Port of Milford Haven:

It was RECOMMENDED THAT:

(i) a representative from the Port of Milford Haven be

invited to join TREAT;

(ii) the Port of Milford Haven is to be asked how they address

environmental issues on their land.

(f) Date of Next Meeting:

It was RECOMMENDED THAT the next meeting of TREAT

be held on Wednesday, 2nd September, 2015.

75. ISSUES TO BE RAISED AT THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING ON 27TH JULY, 2015:

It was RECOMMENDED THAT under the Agenda Heading

“Information from the Mayor” the Mayor is to ask for the

following recommendations to be approved:

(i) plenary powers to action non financial matters be vested

in the Mayor and Chairmen of both Standing Committees;

(ii) all Town Councillors to be furnished with a copy of the Town

Action Plan;

(iii) an open invitation to all Town Councillors is to be issued

to the next meeting of TREAT to discuss the Action Plan

and agree on the goals;

(iv) a letter be written to all shopkeepers in the Town Centre

to canvas their opinion on the way forward for the town

centre;

(v) the Mayor and Clerk and to investigate the funding available

from the Pembrokeshire County Council for streetscape in

the Town Centre.

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