Minutes of a Meeting of the Milford Haven Town Council

held at the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Milford Haven

on Monday, 29th February, 2016 at 7:00 pm

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PRESENT

The Mayor (Councillor S. G. Joseph)

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

Councillors: A. E. Byrne J. W. Cole E. R. Harries Mrs. J. Hawkins

A. H. Miles M. P. Rickard

C. A. Sharp D. R. Sinnett

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

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

The Mayor, Councillor S. G. Joseph, welcomed Mr. Brian Mumby, Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR), Dyfed-Powys Police, to the Meeting.

A Member said that, on a point of procedure, Councillors have been notified that Mr. Mumby’s presentation contains sensitive and confidential information that he had asked not to be minuted, so it is necessary to comply with Standing Order No. 1 (d) which relates to the exclusion of members of the public and the press from the Meeting.

RESOLVED THAT:

(i) in accordance with Standing Order No. 1 (d)

members of the public and the press are to

be excluded from Mr. Mumby’s presentation;

(ii) Mr. Mumby’s presentation is not to be

minuted.

After Mr. Mumby’s presentation, the Mayor thanked him for his attendance and Mr. Mumby left the Meeting. There was then a five-minute recess.

PRAYERS:

Prayers were led by the Mayor’s Chaplain, Mrs. Naomi Joseph.

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

290. APOLOGIES:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A. W. Eden, R. D. Evans, R. Gray, M. J. Norman and Mrs. Y. G. Southwell.

291. TO CONFIRM AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON THE 25TH JANUARY, 2016:

RESOLVED THAT, subject to the above, the

Minutes of the Meeting of the Milford Haven

Town Council held on the 25th January, 2016,

be accepted and that they be signed by the

Mayor as a true record.

292. INFORMATION FROM THE MAYOR:

(a) Mayor’s Engagements:

Members were informed of the Mayor’s engagements since the 12th February, 2016:

12th February - Tribute on The Rath in memory of Mr. Morgan Power.

14th February - Opening of Book of Condolence in the Town Hall

in memory of Mr. Morgan Power.

19th February - Attended Service at Thornton Cemetery in memory

of those who lost their lives at sea, especially

remembering the crews of Milford Viscount, Richard

Crofts, Robert Limbrick and Boston Heron.

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REPORTS ON COMMITTEES

293. PUBLIC WORKS AND PLANNING COMMITTEE:

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Public Works and Planning Committee held on the 8th February, 2016, were moved by the Chairman, Councillor E. R. Harries.

(a) Minute 268 Cemetery (b) (i) Windows at Cemetery House:

A Member asked whether Cemetery House could be brought up to rental standard.

The Chairman replied that he could give an assurance that the Committee will consider that particular situation. He could not predict what the recommendation would be after that discussion, but could confirm that the discussion would take place.

(b) Minute 271 – Proposal to introduce a Council Tax Premium on Second Homes:

Councillor A. E. Byrne declared a prejudicial interest in this issue and left the

Council Chamber during the discussion of this item.

A Member said that he was disappointed in the resolution proposed by the Public Works and Planning Committee.

The Member said that he was in favour of this Council supporting a proposal to charge second home owners a 100% premium on top of the 100% of Council Tax, for which second home owners are already liable.

The Member continued by stating that he considered that there was potential in these difficult times to raise up to £2.5 million per annum by introducing a 100% premium on second homes. This could also have the potential to free up property for local people to get on to the housing ladder.

As the closing date of the consultation was 22nd February, the Clerk explained that she, after consultation with the Chairman of the Public Works and Planning Committee, had submitted the Public Works and Planning Committee’s comment to the Pembrokeshire County Council and advised the Officer that this recommendation would have to be confirmed by Full Council.

Another Member advised that at the Cabinet meeting held on 22nd February, it had been agreed not to adopt the notice of motion other than to increase the Council Tax on second homes.

An amendment was proposed that this Council changes the Public Works and Planning Committee’s resolution and agrees that the premium on second homes

should be considered by Pembrokeshire County Council and should be set at a 100% tax premium on top of the 100% of Council Tax.

There was no seconder to the amendment.

The Chairman of the Public Works and Planning Committee said that as there was no seconder to the amendment, he felt it appropriate for the Mayor to call a vote in support of the recommendation made by the Public Works and Planning Committee.

A vote was taken and eight Members voted for the Public Works and Planning Committee’s recommendation.

Councillor D. R. Sinnett wished it recorded that he had voted against this recommendation.

The Mayor, Councillor S. G. Joseph, wished it recorded that he took no part in the discussion or the voting thereon in case this matter is raised at the Full Council Meeting of the Pembrokeshire County Council on 10th March.

Councillor G. Woodham MBA (Open) LL.B (Hons) wished it recorded that he only took part in the discussion in an advisory capacity. He abstained from voting in case this matter is raised at the Full Council Meeting of the Pembrokeshire County Council on 10th March.

RESOLVED THAT, subject to the above, the Minutes

of the Meeting of the Public Works and Planning

Committee held on the 8th February, 2016, be

approved and adopted.

294. FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE:

In the absence of the Chair and the Vice Chair of the Finance and General Purposes Committee, the Minutes of the Meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on the 11th February, 2016, were moved by the Immediate Past Chairman, Councillor G. Woodham MBA (Open) LL.B (Hons).

(a) Minute 278 (b) One Voice Wales - Minutes of the Pembrokeshire Area Committee held at County Hall, Haverfordwest on Tuesday, 29th September, 2015:

Councillor A. E. Byrne said that, as previously reported to the Finance and General Purposes Committee, one of the reasons he did not attend the Pembrokeshire Area Committee Meetings was that One Voice Wales was not forwarding notification of the Meetings. Furthermore, some of the Meetings are held in Builth Wells.

Councillor G. Woodham MBA (Open) LL.B (Hons) confirmed that the Finance and General Purposes Committee did discuss this, and there was an acknowledgement that there is a difficulty with one of two nominated Councillors being able to attend the Meetings. This is why the Finance and General Purposes Committee recommended that two nominations are put forward from each of the two Standing Committees, so hopefully one Member of the four nominated should be able to attend the Meetings of the Pembrokeshire Area Committee.

RESOLVED THAT, subject to the above, the Minutes

of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held

on the 11th February, 2016, be approved and adopted.

295. REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES:

(a) Milford Haven Business Circle:

Councillor G. Woodham MBA (Open) LL.B (Hons) declared a personal interest as the Torch Theatre has renewed its Membership and he is currently the nominated person to attend the Meetings.

A Member said that when he was this Council’s representative on the Business Circle he had made a comment which the members of the Business Circle did not like and they asked for him to be removed from the Committee. He felt that if a Member of this Council represents the Council on a Committee they should be able to say what they feel without the Committee members being offended, and the Council should stand behind the Councillor.

Another Member stated that the membership of the Business Circle is very different from when this incident occurred.

The Member said that it requires diplomacy to represent this Council on outside bodies and would not support it being said that, if something controversial is discussed which generates unhappiness, that this Council would automatically support a Town Councillor just because he or she was a representative on that body. The Member did not consider it appropriate for a Town Councillor to make a statement that includes the whole of the Council when they are representing this Council. Individuals, however, are quite entitled to say what they like.

A Member suggested that as this Council is moving forward in working in partnership with organisations within the town, it would be very helpful if the Mayor were to be this Council’s representative on the Milford Haven Business Circle.

It was noted that in the email from Mr. B. T. Jenkins, Chair, Milford Haven Business Circle, he extended a personal invitation to all Councillors to join the Business Circle.

RESOLVED THAT:

(i) the Milford Haven Town Council appoints the

incumbent Mayor as its representative on the

Milford Haven Business Circle;

(ii) the Town Council will fund the annual fee (which

is £30 for the Membership year January to December

2016) for the Town Council representative;

(iii) Members can join the Milford Haven Business Circle

on an individual basis if they wish to do so and pay

the Membership fee of £30.

(b) Milford Haven Museum:

Councillor C. A. Sharp, speaking as Chair of the Milford Haven Museum, advised that Mr. D. E. Davies had resigned from the Milford Haven Museum.

Mr. Davies’ resignation leaves the Museum in quite a crucial position because the Museum now only has 5 of the 7 Trustees that are needed.

Councillor C. A. Sharp reminded Members that, for some time, the Milford Haven Museum has been seeking another Trustee to represent this Council.

Councillor C. A. Sharp stated that if there was no interest from this Council, the Milford Haven Museum would like to propose that they look outside of the Council to fill the vacancies but would like to have Members’ approval before they do so. They would like to rectify the position by the end of this financial year.

Councillor C. A. Sharp advised that the actual wording of the Museum’s constitution is “at least one of the seven Trustees must be from the Council”.

Councillor Mrs. J. Hawkins said that she was one of the Town Council representatives on the Milford Haven Museum before her illness and would be willing to act as Trustee again.

Councillor Mrs. C. T. Williams said that she had expressed an interest at a previous Meeting in becoming a Trustee of the Milford Haven Museum and did have a conversation with Councillor Sharp. She asked if the Meetings were still held on Thursday evenings, as she was unable to attend on that evening, but she would be able to attend on another evening.

Councillor C. A. Sharp replied that since Mr. Davies’ resignation, the Meetings are now held on a Wednesday evening.

Councillor Mrs. J. Hawkins noted Councillor Mrs. C. T. Williams’ interest and withdrew her interest.

Councillor A. H. Miles registered his interest in becoming a Trustee of the Milford Haven Museum but did not receive a seconder.

A vote was taken and it was RESOLVED THAT Councillor Mrs. C. T. Williams be appointed as a Trustee on the Milford Haven Museum.

Councillor C. A. Sharp welcomed Councillor Mrs. C. T. Williams as Trustee of the Milford Haven Museum.

296. DATE OF MARCH’S FULL COUNCIL MEETING:

As the scheduled date of March’s Full Council Meeting falls on Easter Monday, it was RESOLVED THAT the date of the Meeting be changed to Tuesday, 29th March, 2016.

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