Minutes of a Meeting of the Milford Haven Town Council

held at the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Milford Haven

on Tuesday, 29th March, 2016 at 7:00 pm

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PRESENT

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

Councillors: A. E. Byrne A. W. Eden

J. W. Cole R. Gray E. R. Harries M. P. Rickard

C. A. Sharp Mrs. Y. G. Southwell

Mrs. C. T. Williams G. Woodham MBA (Open) LL.B (Hons)

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.

310. APOLOGIES:

Apologies for absence were received from the Mayor, Councillor S. G. Joseph, and Councillors R. D. Evans, A. H. Miles, M. J. Norman and D. R. Sinnett. Apologies for absence were not received from Councillors Mrs. J. Hawkins and Mrs. C. Stevens.

311. TO CONFIRM AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON THE 29TH FEBRUARY, 2016:

RESOLVED THAT, subject to the above, the

Minutes of the Meeting of the Milford Haven

Town Council held on the 29th February, 2016,

be accepted and that they be signed by the

Mayor as a true record.

312. INFORMATION FROM THE MAYOR:

(a) Mayor’s Engagements:

Members were informed of the Mayor’s engagements since the 8th March, 2016:

9th March - Meeting of the Milford Haven Business Circle at the

Council Chamber in the Town Hall (attended by the

Deputy Mayor).

21st March - Funeral of Mr. Morgan Power at St. Katharine and St.

Peter’s Church.

22nd March - Official opening of the Milford Haven Museum for the

2016 season (attended by the Deputy Mayor).

23rd March - Dedication Service held by the Milford Haven Port

Authority for the pilot boat “St. Brides”.

24th March - Drawing of Easter Raffle at the Milford Haven Sea Cadets

Unit and inspection of Unit.

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REPORTS ON COMMITTEES

313. PUBLIC EVENTS SUB-COMMITTEE:

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Public Events Sub-Committee held on the 16th February, 2016, were moved by the Deputy Mayor, who is Chairman of the Sub-Committee, Councillor W. D Elliott BA QTS.

RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Public Events

Sub-Committee held on 16th February, 2016, be

approved and adopted.

314. SOCIAL MEDIA GROUP:

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Social Media Group held on the 16th February, 2016, were moved by the Deputy Mayor, who is Chairman of the Group, Councillor W. D. Elliott BA QTS.

(a) Minute 289 – Discussion on Town Wifi:

Councillor W. D. Elliott BA QTS said that he and Mr. Bannister had met informally with business owners who had attended the Town Wifi presentation made by Mr. Bannister to the Milford Haven Business Circle. There were more business owners in favour of the scheme than against. The majority of the business owners with whom the Chairman and Mr. Bannister had spoken were happy to incur the additional cost of supplying power to the access points on their businesses.

The Chairman explained that when Mr. Bannister from Antur Teifi had attended the Special Meeting of the Full Council to discuss Wifi in the town, he advised that Members had 6 months to make a decision as to whether to join the scheme.

Since that meeting, Ms. Sinéad Henehan, the Community Safety, Poverty and Regeneration Manager, Pembrokeshire County Council, had asked for a decision to be made by the end of this financial year.

The Chairman asked for confirmation this evening that Members agreed, in principle, to proceed with the scheme. He said that 9 out of the 10 Town Councils approached had agreed to participate in this project, with Milford Haven being the only town to not have made a decision.

RESOLVED THAT:-

(i) the Milford Haven Town Council agrees in

principle to proceed with the scheme to

develop and deliver free public Wifi in the

town for a 3-year period;

(ii) the Pembrokeshire County Council will fund

the landing page licence per town

scheme per annum for a period of 3 years,

and the maintenance costs at £150 per access

point per annum;

(iii) the costs for the Town Council would be the

power and broadband costs incurred by the

owners of the buildings hosting the access

points.

315. PUBLIC WORKS AND PLANNING COMMITTEE:

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Public Works and Planning Committee held on the 7th March, 2016, were moved by the Chairman, Councillor E. R. Harries.

(a) Minute 299 (b) Manchester Square Health Centre Car Park:

A Member advised that this Council does not have the authority to write to the owner of the vehicles to ask him to remove them from the Manchester Square Health Centre Car Park. The letter needs to be written by the owner of the property.

The Member confirmed that one of the doctors from the Health Centre had written to the owner.

The Chairman, Councillor E. R. Harries, thanked the Member for this information.

(b) Minute 304 – Letter from Road Safety Officer, Pembrokeshire County Council:

A Member observed that the Public Works and Planning Committee had compiled a list of streets in Milford Haven that they classified as hazardous. He expressed surprise that the junction of Robert Street and Priory Road was not on the list.

RESOLVED THAT the junction of Robert Street

and Priory Road be added to the list of streets

that Members classified as hazardous.

The Chairman of the Committee said that he hoped that the Committee’s overtures to the Pembrokeshire County Council would be fruitful. He said that if any Member has any suggestions for road safety within the town that need

to be addressed to advise him through the Clerk.

RESOLVED THAT, subject to the above, the

Minutes of the Meeting of the Public Works

and Planning Committee held on the 7th March,

2016, be approved and adopted.

316. MILFORD HAVEN TOWN COUNCIL RISK ASSESSMENT SCHEDULE:

RESOLVED THAT the Milford Haven Town Council’s

Risk Assessment Schedule for the financial year

2015 – 2016 be approved.

317. MILFORD HAVEN TOWN COUNCIL ANNUAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY:

RESOLVED THAT the Milford Haven Town Council’s

Annual Investment Strategy for the financial year

2015 – 2016 be approved.

318. BALANCES REMAINING IN CHRISTMAS LIGHTS/FESTIVITIES AND PUBLIC EVENTS BUDGETS:

The Clerk asked whether the balances remaining in the Christmas Lights/Festivities

and Public Events budgets be carried over to the next financial year.

RESOLVED THAT the balances remaining in the Christmas

Lights/Festivities and Public Events Budgets be carried

over to the financial year 2016-2017.

319. HAKIN AND HUBBERSTON COMMUNITY CENTRE:

A letter was received from Mr. M. Kent, Solicitor, Pembrokeshire County Council, in which he advised that the Pembrokeshire County Council is the Trustee of the Hakin and Hubberston Community Centre.

Mr. Kent wrote that it has been suggested that the advisory committee, which has been allowed to lapse in recent years, be reconvened with a view to calling a meeting of the Charity at which it will be proposed that the Charity should be closed and the assets be transferred to a new Community legal entity which is in the process of being created.

This new body is likely to be able to secure funding which would not be available if the Centre were to remain in its current form.

The Charitable Scheme under which the Centre should be run specifies the suggested make-up of the advisory committee. Mr. Kent approached this Council as it is similar to one of those originally specified. Mr. Kent asked if this Council would be prepared to

be a member of the advisory committee so that the proposals to try and secure the future of the Centre can proceed.

RESOLVED THAT Mr. M. Kent, Solicitor,

Pembrokeshire County Council, be advised

that the Milford Haven Town Council:

(i) wishes to be represented on the advisory

committee;

(ii) and seeks clarification as to how it will be

represented on the committee.

Councillor C. A. Sharp wished it recorded that he abstained from voting on this issue.

320. PROPOSED PROHIBITION OF RIGHT TURNS – PRIORY STREET, MILFORD HAVEN:

A letter was received from Mr. B. Blake, Senior Traffic Engineer, Pembrokeshire County Council, in which he said that a safety review of the pedestrian crossing located on Hamilton Terrace near the junction with Priory Street has been carried out by Atkins on behalf of the South Wales Trunk Road Agent following concerns raised about near and actual accidents at the site.

Mr. Blake wrote that the report identified turning movements from Priory Street onto Hamilton Terrace and the close proximity of the crossing as the main causation factor for the accidents.

The conclusion of the report gave two mitigation options to improve safety at the site, which were to either prohibit right turns from Priory Street onto the trunk road or relocate the crossing to the eastern side of the junction. Relocating the crossing was the least preferred option as it would take the crossing away from the natural pedestrian desire line potentially leading to pedestrians crossing unassisted and could see the problem transferred from one side of the junction to the other. The recommendation of the report was, therefore, to look to prohibit right turns.

The turning prohibition affects a County road and Atkins has submitted a request to the Pembrokeshire County Council to consider introducing the necessary traffic order.

Members discussed this proposal.

It was pointed out that this Council was opposed to the construction of the pedestrian crossing at its current location, which Members believed to be hazardous, and had passed on those concerns to the Pembrokeshire County Council at the time.

A Member said that the construction of the pedestrian crossing had led to the closure of the only ironmongers in the town.

Another Member expressed concern that if right turns are prohibited from Priory Street onto Hamilton Terrace it would put extra pressure on Dartmouth Street, which is already heavily congested.

RESOLVED THAT a letter be written to Mr. B. Blake,

Senior Traffic Engineer, Pembrokeshire County

Council, reaffirming this Council’s opposition to the

location of the pedestrian crossing at its current

location and recommending that the crossing be

removed to a safer location between the former

Barlow House Surgery and the electrical substation

known as the “Chinese Shelter”.

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