Minutes of a Meeting of the Milford Haven Town Council

held at the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Milford Haven

on Monday, 27th June, 2016 at 7:00 pm

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PRESENT

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

Councillors: A. E. Byrne J. W. Cole

A. W. Eden R. D. Evans

E. R. Harries M. J. Norman D. R. Sinnett Mrs. Y. G. Southwell

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

PRAYERS:

In the absence of his Chaplain, Father Harri Williams, Prayers were led by the Mayor, Councillor W. D. Elliott BA QTS.

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

39. APOLOGIES:

Apologies for absence were received from the Deputy Mayor, Councillor C. A. Sharp, and Councillors R. Gray, Mrs. J. Hawkins, S. G. Joseph, M. P. Rickard, and G. Woodham MBA (Open) LL.B (Hons). Apologies for absence were not received from Councillor A. H. Miles.

40. TO CONFIRM AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON THE 9TH JUNE, 2016:

RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Meeting of

the Milford Haven Town Council held on the

9th June, 2016, be accepted and that they

be signed by the Mayor as a true record.

41. INFORMATION FROM THE MAYOR:

(a) Mayor’s Engagements:

Members were informed of the Mayor’s Engagements since 9th June, 2016.

9th June (pm) - Founders’ Day Evening of Mediumship, Magic and Music at the Royal British Legion *(also attended by the Deputy Mayor)*

9th June (pm) - Visit and Dining at the Taj Mahal Restaurant

10th June (pm) - St Francis School’s Garden Party for HM The Queen *(also attended by the Deputy Mayor)*

10th June (pm) - The Meads Infant & Nursery School’s Garden Party for HM The Queen *(also attended by the Deputy Mayor)*

10th June (pm) - Open Day for Volunteer Week at the Milford Haven Museum *(also attended by the Deputy Mayor)*

11th June - Opening and attendance at Milford Haven Founders’ Day.

11th June - Judging HM The Queen’s Birthday Cake Competition

11th June (pm) - Pimms and Hymns at St Katharine & St Peter’s Church  
  
 11th June (pm) - Seafair Haven Reception at the Waterfront Gallery

12th June (am) - Visit and Breakfast at the Crow’s Nest Café

12th June (am) - Opening of the Preseli Bluestone Run at Gelliswick

12th June (pm) - Hampers & Champers at St. Katharine and St. Peter’s Church

12th June (pm) - Mayor’s Charity Fundraiser – Consort doing the Abseil at Pembroke Castle

12th June (pm) - Planting and Dedication of the Tree for HM The Queen

12th June (pm) - Royal British Legion’s HM The Queen’s Birthday Party

15th June (am) - Meeting with SWTRA at Victoria Bridge  
  
 15th June (pm) - Herring Girls Exhibition with the Chairman of the Haven Enterprise Zone

16th June (pm) - Herring Girls Exhibition with the Deputy Chief Executive Officer of the Port of Milford Haven

16th June (pm) - Carnival Meeting with the Round Table at the Waterloo Club

17th June (pm) - The Meads Infant and Nursery School’s Summer Fair *(attended by the Deputy Mayor)*

17th June (pm) - The H.O.P.E. Concert at the St David’s Cathedral  
  
 17th June (pm) - The H.O.P.E. Dignitaries Reception at the St David’s Primary School  
  
 18th June (am) - Vigil for Jo Cox MP at Castle Square, Haverfordwest  
  
 18th June (pm) - Civic Service

18th June (pm) - Civic Dinner  
  
 19th June - St David’s Civic Service and Reception  
  
 21st June - Pembrokeshire Scouts AGM at the Cricket Club,   
 Haverfordwest  
  
 22nd June - Milford Waterfront Launch & Information Event at Foam Restaurant

24th June - 948 Squadron Air Training Corps (Cadets) 75th   
 Anniversary Concert at the Bethesda Baptist Church, Neyland  
  
 25th June - Opening of and attendance at Milford Fish Festival  
  
 25th June (pm) - RNLI Raffle Draw  
  
 25th June (pm) - Rotary Club’s President Handover Dinner at the Beggars Reach Hotel  
  
 26th June (am) - Attendance at Milford Fish Festival  
  
 26th June (pm) - Welcoming the new Curate Father Edward to St.   
 Katharine and St. Peter’s Church

The Mayor said that it is 5 weeks since he became the Mayor of Milford Haven, and that he has carried out nearly 50 engagements during this period.

(b) Mayor’s Remarks:

The Mayor wished Councillor D. R. Sinnett a happy birthday.

The Mayor informed Members that the Pembrokeshire County Council has repaired the window frames in the Council Chamber and the Mayor’s Parlour.

The Mayor then said that one of his themes this year is attendance at meetings and events. At the Ceremony to dedicate a tree for HM The Queen’s 90th birthday 8 out of 18 Councillors attended. 7 Councillors out of 18 attended the Mayor’s Civic Service and 6 out of 18 attended the Mayor’s Civic Dinner.

The Mayor advised that he had been informed by an official from the Port of Milford Haven that only 3 Councillors were in attendance at the Milford Fish Festival. The lack of Councillors was mentioned by a number of people who approached the Mayor.

There was also a lack of County Councillors at the Fish Festival, which was commented on not only by the Immediate Past Chairman of the Pembrokeshire County Council, but also the current Chairman, and they both said that they would be brought up at the appropriate Committee of the Pembrokeshire County Council.

The Mayor said that the Secretary is very active on the Town Council’s social media accounts and Councillors’ attendance is now published online. A Member

asked whether apologies were published and the Mayor indicated that they were.

Another Member said that he had been present at the Fish Festival on Saturday morning but his presence had not been acknowledged.

The Mayor asked Members to make an effort to attend as many events as possible during Festivities Week. He asked Members to try and submit a Quiz Team for Thursday’s Quiz Night.

The Mayor advised that he was holding a Curry Night at the Taj Mahal on 20th July in aid of his Mayor’s Charity. Anyone wanting to attend needs to contact the Mayor’s Consort, Mr. L. A. Jones, who is in charge of the event.

The Mayor concluded by reminding Members that the next Full Council meeting will take place on Tuesday, 12th July and not Thursday, 14th July, because of the One Voice Wales Presentation on Tuesday.

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REPORTS ON COMMITTEES

42. CHRISTMAS LIGHTS/FESTIVITIES SUB-COMMITTEE:

The Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Christmas Lights/Festivities Sub-Committee held on the 23rd June, 2016, were moved by the Chairman, Councillor A. W. Eden.

RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Christmas Lights/

Festivities Sub-Committee held on 23rd June, 2016,

be approved and adopted.

43. MARBLE HALL CROSSROADS, MILFORD HAVEN:

The Mayor said that he had put this on the Agenda for discussion. He was aware that this Council has attempted over many years to have traffic lights installed at the junction which joins Great North Road with Marble Hall and Pill Road, but to no avail.

On the day of his Civic Service an accident had taken place on Great North Road. There was also a petition online asking for safety measures to be implemented at Great North Road.

A Member said that this Council has made numerous overtures to the appropriate authorities to establish traffic lights on what is a very busy junction. As the junction is so busy, traffic is held up for long periods of time. The last site inspection with representatives from the Trunk Road Agent and the Pembrokeshire County Council took place during the school holidays, which did not reflect the usual situation that prevails at the junction before and after school.

The Member urged this Council to re-establish and reassert Members’ concerns about

the situation at this junction and request that further consideration be given to installing traffic lights at this junction.

A Member said that there are dropped kerbs nearby on both sides of the road which he could not imagine disabled people feeling comfortable using as the road is so busy. Furthermore, about 50 yards further up the road there is a crossing for children into the school area. He suggested that these points could be raised in any further discussion.

RESOLVED THAT:

(i) a letter be written to the appropriate authorities

to re-establish and reassert Members’ concerns

about the situation at this junction, and to request

that further consideration be given to installing traffic

lights at this junction;

(ii) in any further discussion the following points are to be

raised:

(A) there are dropped kerbs nearby on both sides

of the road, which disabled people might find

uncomfortable to use as the road is so busy;

(B) about 50 yards further up the road there is a

crossing for children into the school area.

44. CLOSURE OF PATH AT POINTFIELDS, HAKIN, MILFORD HAVEN:

Members discussed an email from Mr. D. Thomas, Head of Highways and Construction, Pembrokeshire County Council, in which he listed the following parties who seem to have involvement in the closure of the path at Pointfields, Hakin, Milford Haven:

The landowners – these include properties above and below the slope, but there is some lack of clarity on exactly who owns what, as not all land is registered.

Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water – they do not own the land but have infrastructure laid in the ground for which there is an easement. Their interest is ensuring their infrastructure is maintained in a safe and operable manner, which does not necessarily include wholesale slope support of the cliff.

Pembrokeshire County Council – this stretch of public footpath is currently under a

permanent closure order issued by Pembrokeshire County Council in the interests of public safety following a landslip some two years ago. Legally, although the Pembrokeshire County Council maintains this footpath, they do not own the land over which the footpath is located. As a consequence, their obligation to maintain the footpath only extends to maintaining the service to an appropriate standard.

A Member said that he had raised this issue previously as he was very concerned that this footpath had been closed for such a long time. He appreciated that the situation is very complicated but considered that this Council should express its concerns to Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water.

RESOLVED THAT a letter is to be written to

Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water expressing this

Council’s concerns over the lengthy closure

of the path at Pointfields, Hakin, Milford Haven.

45. CONCERNS FROM RESIDENT OF MILFORD HAVEN REGARDING TELECOMMUNICATION MASTS:

Members discussed two documents submitted by a resident of Milford Haven regarding his fears concerning health issues caused by telecommunication masts.

A Member said that he had scanned the larger document and it was quite clear that the resident has put a great deal of care, thoughtfulness and research into this issue.

The Member wished the resident well in his research and hoped other people in the UK will give further thought to this subject.

RESOLVED THAT the larger of the documents

prepared by the resident is to be forwarded

to the local MP, the Rt. Hon. Stephen Crabb.

46. INDUCTION LOOP HEARING SYSTEMS FOR COUNCIL CHAMBER:

The Mayor advised that unfortunately the Councillor who asked for this to be included on the Agenda was not present this evening.

RESOLVED THAT this issue is to be deferred

until the next meeting of the Full Council.

47. SAVE COMMUNITY CHANNEL:

Members gave consideration to an email from Save Community Channel in which the writer advised that Community Channel, the UK’s only national TV channel for charities and communities, is due to close on 30th June unless the voluntary sector and public rallies behind it to save it.

They needed to raise £300,000 to continue broadcasting and transform the channel into a charitable Community Benefit Society, handing ownership of the channel to the community.

RESOLVED THAT the email be received.

48. STATEMENT OF INCOME:

Members gave consideration to the statement of income for the financial year 2015- 2016.

RESOLVED THAT the Statement of Income for the

financial year 2015-2016 be received.

49. SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURE:

Members gave consideration to the summary of expenditure for the financial year 2015-2016.

RESOLVED THAT the Summary of Expenditure

for the financial year 2015-2016 be received.

50. FINAL ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 21ST MARCH, 2016:

(a) Summary Income and Expenditure Account:

RESOLVED THAT the Summary Income and

Expenditure Account for the financial year

2015-2016 be received.

(b) Accounting Statements 2015/2016:

RESOLVED THAT the Accounting Statements

for the 2015/2016 be approved.

(c) Annual Internal Audit Report:

RESOLVED THAT the Annual Internal Audit

Report be received.

The Clerk confirmed that the Internal Auditor’s recommendations had been incorporated into the accounting statements.

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