Minutes of a Meeting of the Milford Haven Town Council

held at the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Milford Haven

on Monday, 8th September, 2016 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 Mrs. J. Hawkins

M. J. Norman M. P. Rickard

D. R. Sinnett Mrs. C. T. Williams

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

PRAYERS:

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

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

80. APOLOGIES:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A. E. Byrne, S. G. Joseph and Mrs. Y. G. Southwell. Apologies for absence were not received from Councillors A. H. Miles and Mrs. C. Stevens.

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

RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Meeting of

the Milford Haven Town Council held on the

25th July, 2016, be accepted and that they

be signed by the Mayor as a true record.

82. INFORMATION FROM THE MAYOR:

(a) Mayor’s Engagements:

Members were informed of the Mayor’s Engagements since 26th July, 2016:

26th July - Town Regeneration Meeting *(also attended by the Deputy Mayor)*

27th July - Welsh Air Ambulance Visit at Haverfordwest Air Field

27th July (PM) - Pembrokeshire Housing AGM at the Pavilion, County Showground

28th July (PM) - South Hook LNG Community Liaison Group Meeting

28th July (PM) - Christmas Together Committee Meeting *(also attended by the Deputy Mayor)*

29th July (AM) - Memorial Service to Josh Winsper on The Rath

29th July - Phase 1 Office Clean

29th July (PM) - Tesco Fundraising Bingo at the Pill *(also attended by the Deputy Mayor)*  
  
 29th July (PM) - P!nk Tribute Concert at The Kimberley

2nd August - Beating of the Bounds at Haverfordwest

7th August - Wings Over Carew at Carew Airfield

16th August - Tour of Tesco and Meeting with the Store Manager and Community Champion

17th August - Welcoming of the Seaborne Quest Cruise Ship

19th August - FF Dancers Summer Show at the Church of the Holy Spirit

20th August - Rawffest 2016 in Newport, Gwent with the Torch Youth Theatre  
  
 21st August - Mayor’s Raffle Ticket Selling at Tesco

22nd August - Memorial Service to Gareth and Daniel Willington on The Rath  
  
 22nd August (PM) - The Mayor’s Summer Raffle Ticket Draw  
  
 25th August - Funeral of Lieutenant (SCC) D. Edwina Jones Royal Naval Reserve at Wiston, Haverfordwest   
  
 26th August - PATCH Afternoon Tea Charity Fundraiser at Cedar Court  
  
 29th August - Mayor’s Charity Prize Bingo at the Pill Social & Community Centre  
  
 3rd September - Funeral of Mr Frank Stammars at St Katharine & St Peter’s Church  
  
 7th September (PM)- Function at the Mayor’s Parlour of the County Borough for Neath Port Talbot  
  
 7th September (PM)- Opening of the Great Neath Fair  
  
 7th September (PM)- Showman’s Guild Reception at the Neath Town Hall

(b) Mayor’s Remarks:

The Mayor, Councillor W. D. Elliott BA QTS, welcomed Members to the first Full Council meeting after the recess.

(i) Change of Date of the first Full Council meeting in October:

The Mayor said that the first Full Council meeting in October was scheduled for 13th October. As the annual Milford Haven School Art Exhibition would be held in the Council Chamber that week, the Mayor asked whether Members would consider moving the date of October’s meeting to Monday, 17th October when the Exhibition would be over.

It was proposed and seconded that the date be changed. A vote was taken and it was RESOLVED THAT the date of the first Full Council meeting in October be changed from Thursday, 13th October, 2016 to Monday, 17th October, 2016.

(ii) Fishermen’s Tribute Service:

The Mayor told Members that this year’s Fishermen’s Tribute Service would take place at noon on Saturday, 24th September, 2016. He hoped that as many Councillors as possible would be able to attend this Service.

83. LETTER FROM THE NETWORK MANAGEMENT DIVISION, WELSH GOVERNMENT REGARDING THE A4076 MARBLE HALL CROSSROADS:

A letter was received from Mr. R. Morgan, Head of Planning, Network Management Division, Welsh Government, in which he referred to the recent accident at Marble Hall Crossroads. He explained that the Network Management Division was awaiting full details of the collision from the police. Once the police have concluded their investigation the Network Management Division will be able to determine whether any further safety measures are required on this section of the A4076.

Mr. Morgan wrote that Pembrokeshire County Council has also developed a Safe Routes in Communities scheme which aims to improve pedestrian and cycling routes around Milford Haven. Part of this work includes the upgrade of the pelican crossing to a toucan crossing to the north of Marble Hall junction.

RESOLVED THAT the letter be received.

84. LETTER FROM THE NETWORK MANAGEMENT DIVISION, WELSH GOVERNMENT REGARDING THE PROPOSED PART-TIME 20 MPH SPEED LIMIT ON THE A4076 STEYNTON ROAD:

Members discussed a letter from Mr. R. Morgan, Head of Planning, Network Management Division, Welsh Government, in which he referred to the proposed part- time 20 mph speed limit on the A4076 Steynton Road. He advised that the area covered by the part-time limit has been established based on the level of activity of

pupils at school times. Currently, there are no plans to extend the limit to Great North Road. Officials, however, will be monitoring the situation closely.

A Member said that he was not happy with this response as pupils, other than those from the Comprehensive School, utilise this road.

Another Member stated that there might be some change in the future as the letter states that officials will be monitoring the situation closely.

RESOLVED THAT:

(i) the letter be received;

(ii) Mr. Morgan be asked to keep the Clerk informed

if there are any changes.

85. LETTER FROM DŴR CYMRU WELSH WATER REGARDING THE CLOSURE OF THE

POINTFIELDS FOOTPATH:

Members gave consideration to a letter from Mr. S. Wilson, Managing Director for Waste Water Services, Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water.

Mr. Wilson wrote that although he understands that the closure of the eastern end of the Pointfields footpath has been long standing, Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water does not have any involvement in this.

Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water does not own the land and is not responsible for repairing any land damaged as a result of the cliff subsiding. Its liability is solely for its apparatus and operation of its network. Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water is continuing to monitor its sewer and to date has not found any defects or movement due to the subsidence of the cliff face.

Members discussed the length of time that this much used footpath has been closed to the residents of the town.

A Member said that no one seems to want to take responsibility for the situation that prevails at the eastern end of the Pointfields footpath.

Another Member said that the Rt. Hon. S. Crabb MP had convened a meeting between the interested parties in 2015 to try and rectify this problem.

RESOLVED THAT:

(i) a letter be written to Rt. Hon. S. Crabb MP, asking him

to provide a summary of the meeting and suggestions

as to how this situation can be rectified;

(ii) a copy of the letter be sent to the Assembly Member,

Mr. P. Davies.

86. ONE VOICE WALES:

(i) Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Pembrokeshire Area Committee

held on Wednesday, 15th July, 2015:

Members gave consideration to the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Pembrokeshire Area Committee held on Wednesday, 15th July, 2015.

A Member said that he was pleased to note that this Council had been represented at the meeting.

RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Annual General

Meeting of the Pembrokeshire Area Committee held

on Wednesday, 15th July, 2015, be received.

(ii) Minutes of the Meeting of the Pembrokeshire Area Committee held on Wednesday, 19th April, 2016:

Members gave consideration to the Minutes of the Meeting of the Pembrokeshire

Area Committee held on Wednesday, 19th April, 2016.

It was noted that this Council was represented at this meeting.

RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Meeting of the

Pembrokeshire Area Committee held on Wednesday,

19th April, 2016, be received.

87. ADVICE TO COMMUNITY AND TOWN COUNCILS ON WORKING WITH YOUNG PEOPLE:

Members discussed a document from One Voice Wales on ‘Working with Young People – Youth Representation, Creating a Successful Youth Council and Young Persons Initiatives’.

A Member said that when he was involved with the Youth Council some five years ago, the Mayor at that time established a link with the Youth Council which had been broken after his term of office. The Member asked if the link with the Youth Council could be re-established.

The Mayor, Councillor W. D. Elliott BA QTS, advised that he had attempted to re- establish that link. One of his first actions as Mayor was to write to all the local schools inviting them to the Chamber for School Council meetings. He had also written to the Milford Haven Youth Council and is awaiting a response.

The Mayor said when he had attended a recent meeting of the One Voice Wales Larger Councils Committee, he had been made aware of an example of youth engagement with a Town Council.

Pontardawe Town Council has utilised its powers under the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 to appoint two young people aged between 16 and 25 on the Council. The posts are advertised annually. The young people sit on the Council for a year and can re-apply after that term. If there are more than two candidates an interview panel is held. Young people have experience, therefore, of writing CVs and an interview process. The young people are able to take part in Council meetings but do not have a vote.

It was proposed and seconded that a Youth Working Group be established.

A Member pointed out that there are more deputy head boys and girls at Milford Haven

School and this could be an opportunity to strengthen the links with the School.

Another Member said that when he joined this Council in 2008 he was the youngest Councillor for four years, and in the last four years there are now six Councillors younger than him.

The Member continued by saying that he would like the Working Group to have a majority of those young Councillors on the Group because he believed that they will be bringing the right approach to the Group. He was not excluding anyone older, but believed it really important that this Council is proactive in taking this piece of work forward.

Another Member said that Councillors need to remind themselves that there are Members of this Council sitting on Governing Bodies of schools in Milford Haven so they are constantly in touch with the young people of this town and he is sure that they are taking a very active part in those roles to bring enlightenment to educational authorities in Pembrokeshire.

RESOLVED THAT:

(i) the report be received;

(ii) a Youth Working Group is to be established, in principle,

to be composed of proactive members;

(iii) the Youth Working Group is to be composed of the

Mayor, Councillor W. D. Elliott BA QTS and Councillors

R. D. Evans, M. J. Norman, M. P. Rickard and Mrs.

C. T. Williams.

A Member pointed out that some of the members of this Group are also School Governors.

88. TRAFFIC CALMING OUTSIDE THE PEMBROKESHIRE YACHT CLUB:

The Mayor said that he asked for this matter to be placed on the Agenda.

The Mayor advised that he uses the Yacht Club facilities for not only yachting but Sea Cadet and windsurfing activities. He has become increasingly alarmed over the safety of pedestrians as he frequently witnesses drivers speeding on the stretch of road outside the Yacht Club.

The Mayor also expressed concern at the potential impact of the extra traffic generated by the new Community School.

RESOLVED THAT a letter be written to the Head

of Highways and Construction, Pembrokeshire County

Council, expressing this Council’s concerns and asking

whether there are any plans to alleviate the situation.

89. FLOOD AND COASTAL EROSION COMMITTEE CONSULTATION:

Members gave consideration to a Consultation on the Establishment of a Flood and Coastal Erosion Committee.

RESOLVED THAT the document be received.

90. QUESTIONNAIRE – PLANNING POLICY WALES:

Members gave consideration to a Questionnaire on Planning Policy Wales.

RESOLVED THAT the document be received.

91. MILFORD HAVEN TOWN COUNCIL FINAL ACCOUNTS – REPORT FROM AUDITOR

GENERAL FOR WALES:

(a) Auditor General for Wales’ Audit Certificate and Report:

An Auditor General for Wales’ Audit certificate and report was received completing the audit of this Council’s Annual Return for the year ended 31st March, 2016.

(b) Letter from Auditor General for Wales:

The letter from the Auditor General for Wales stated that the Auditor General issued Milford Haven Town Council an unqualified audit report.

The Council’s attention was drawn to the need to obtain a letter of engagement from the Internal Auditor. This letter should state their independence and outline the tasks they will undertake. The Internal Auditor should not be requested to undertake tasks that may compromise their independence.

The Clerk said that this would be put in place for the next audit.

RESOLVED THAT:

(i) the documentation be received;

(ii) the Clerk is to ensure that the necessary letter of engagement

from the Internal Auditor is received for future audits.

92. CONSULTATION ON FEE RATES AND FEE SCALES 2017-2018:

Members discussed a consultation on fee rates and fee scales 2017-2018 from the Wales Audit Office.

RESOLVED THAT the document be received.

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