Minutes of a Meeting of the Milford Haven Town Council

held at the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Milford Haven

on Thursday, 17th November, 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: A. E. Byrne J. W. Cole

A. W. Eden R. D. Evans

R. Gray E. R. Harries

Mrs. J. Hawkins M. P. Rickard

D. R. Sinnett Mrs. Y. G. Southwell

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

PRAYERS:

In the absence of the Mayor’s Chaplain, Father H. Williams, prayers were led by the Mayor.

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

160. APOLOGIES:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors S. G. Joseph, A. H. Miles and Mrs. C. T. Williams and the Mayor’s Chaplain, Father H. Williams. Apologies for absence were not received from Councillors M. J. Norman and Mrs. C. Stevens.

161. TO CONFIRM AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON THE 31ST OCTOBER, 2016:

RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Meeting of

the Milford Haven Town Council held on the

31st October, 2016, be accepted and that they

be signed by the Mayor as a true record.

162. INFORMATION FROM THE MAYOR:

(a) Mayor’s Engagements:

Members were informed of the Mayor’s Engagements since 1st November, 2016:

2nd November (am) - The Meads Infant and Nursery School Council to

the Council Chamber and Mayor’s Parlour

2nd November (pm) - Site visit to the South Hook LNG Terminal

5th November - Milford Haven Round Table’s Firework Display

6th November - Dedication of the Cross Service

8th November - Mayor’s Award Presentation to Mr. Michael

Nicholas

9th November (pm) - Milford Haven Business Circle Meeting at the

Spinnaker Café

9th November (pm) - Milford Haven Sea Cadets and Royal Marines

Cadets Curry Night Fundraiser at the Taj Mahal

10th November - Pembrokeshire Tourism Awards 2016 at the

Pavilion, Withybush Showground

11th November (am) - Remembrance Service in the Memorial Gardens

11th November (am) - Dedication of the Memorial Bench in the

Memorial Gardens

11th November (pm) - Milford Haven Town Band’s Remembrance

Concert at St. Katharine and St. Peter’s

Church

12th November - Installation of the new Mayor of Newport,

Pembrokeshire, at the Court Leet

13th November (am) - Remembrance Service and Parade

13th November (pm) - Neyland Remembrance Service and Parade

16th November - Meeting with the Port of Milford Haven and the

Pembrokeshire County Council

(b) Remembrance Services:

The Mayor referred to the recent Remembrance Services, which included the dedication of the new bench in the Memorial Gardens. The Mayor thanked Councillor A. W. Eden for his assistance not only in bringing the bench to Members’ attention but also the siting of the bench and the Service of dedication.

The Mayor said that he was disappointed at the poor attendance of Councillors at Sunday’s Remembrance Service and Parade, which was commented on by many.

(c) Christmas Events:

The Mayor reminded Members of the following Christmas events:

(i) Saturday, 3rd December – Santa’s visit to the Town Hall.

The Mayor said that Councillors’ assistance is needed to ensure that this event continues to be such a success. He asked if Members could let Councillor Eden know after this meeting if they can help.

(ii) Friday, 16th December - Milford Haven Town Council Christmas Dinner.

The Mayor advised that the Council’s Christmas Dinner would be held at the Starboard Hotel. The deadline for those who wish to attend is Monday, 5th December.

(iii) Sunday, 18th December – Civic Carol Concert.

The Mayor confirmed that a Civic Carol Concert will take place at 7:00 pm on Sunday, 18th December at St. Katharine and St. Peter’s Church.

(d) Area of land in Steynton, Milford Haven:

The Mayor informed Members that the Welsh Government has given Milford Haven Rotary Club permission to take over the area of ground in Steynton where the Christmas Tree is located.

The Mayor said that the members of the Rotary Club are working hard to make this area an attractive welcome to the Town and he looks forward to seeing it develop over the coming months.

(e) Letter from Councillor E. R. Harries:

The Mayor read out a letter from Councillor E. R. Harries regarding the closure of Lloyds Bank in Milford Haven.

Councillor Harries wrote that he has been approached by residents expressing dismay at the impending closure of yet another bank in Milford Haven. Whilst it is recognised that other banking facilities are available online and telephone, very many elderly people are unable to avail themselves of these opportunities. Similarly, many banking customers visit their banks to use the services provided by real people. Lack of mobility will curtail this process when the bank is situated seven miles away. It is also contended that this closure will have an economic impact on the town.

Councillor Harries urged the Milford Haven Town Council to support Mr. P. Davies AM in his efforts to discuss with the Welsh Government the impact of bank closures.

Members discussed Councillor Harries’ letter and the impact that the closure of Lloyds Bank would have on the town.

RESOLVED THAT the Clerk contacts

Mr. P. Davies AM to advise of the Town

Council’s support in his efforts to discuss

the impact of bank closures with the Welsh

Government.

(f) P1 Powerboat Event:

The Mayor explained that he had only just received the relevant information and it had not been possible for this topic to be included on the Agenda for this evening’s meeting.

As the Port of Milford Haven’s Board Meeting will take place on 25th November, prior to the next Full Council meeting, the Mayor had no alternative but to place this item for discussion under the heading “Information from the Mayor”.

The Mayor said that he had a meeting with the Port of Milford Haven and the Pembrokeshire County Council regarding the Powerboat P1 powerboat racing event.

The Port of Milford Haven is keen to host the Welsh Grand Prix in Milford Haven from 2017 – 2019, on the 14th – 16th July, 2017. The Destination Director of the Port of Milford Haven is seeking support and financial assistance from local parties. To date Pembrokeshire County Council has pledged £20,000 in cash and kind and Visit Wales has pledged some of its marketing budget, although the quantum will not be known until after its Board Meeting on the 29th November.

The Mayor has been informed that the Pembrokeshire County Council would like the Milford Haven Town Council to support the event as it is the local Council.

A Member asked whether there is a list of activities that are taking place that this Council could sponsor, such as during Fish Week, when Members scrutinised a list of activities needing sponsorship and decided on which ones to support.

Another Member said that the utilities network should be contacted as soon as arrangements are in place to ensure that there is no disruption to traffic during the event.

Another Member proposed that the Town Council donates £5,000 towards this event, with the funds taken from those set aside for Town Regeneration.

Another Member said that more information was needed before a sum of money could be suggested. He considered that Councillors need to know the total cost of the event, who is contributing, and how much they are contributing before they can make a firm decision.

Another Member said that the Town Council would be setting its precept in January and the amount of any donation could be agreed then.

Another Member pointed out that the Council would support this event not only financially but also with the support of other groups with which it is involved.

The Member withdrew his proposal that the Town Council donates £5,000 towards the event, with the funds taken from those set aside for Town Regeneration.

RESOLVED THAT:

(i) the Milford Haven Town Council indicates that

Members are rejoicing in the prospect of such

a prestigious event coming to the Milford Haven

Waterway and are most anxious to give it all

the support possible;

(ii) at this stage Members are unable to identify the

precise sum of any grant, and will have further

discussions in January at the precept meeting,

but would require further information before a

decision is made on the level of financial support.

The Mayor advised that the event has been previously held in Cardiff. The Clerk will send a copy electronically to any Member requesting a copy of the Cardiff 2016 Event Report.

163. CEMETERY REPORT:

RESOLVED THAT the Cemetery Report,

as presented by the Clerk for the month of

October, 2016, be approved.

164. PLANS:

RESOLVED THAT the recommendations of

the Chairman of the Public Works and Planning

Committee in respect of the planning applications detailed on Pages 1 and 2 of the attached report

(see Appendix B) be approved, with the exception

of Planning Application No. 16/0701/PA.

(a) Planning Application No. 16/0701/PA – Proposed extensive to domestic curtilage to enable access to off road parking, garage/machinery shed and stable block at land north of Northleigh, Liddeston, Milford Haven:

Councillor D. R. Sinnett wished it noted that he would not support approval of this planning application.

The Chairman, Councillor E. R. Harries, said that if Councillor Sinnett has genuine planning reasons for objecting to the recommendation for approval, then it would be appropriate for him to indicate those reasons.

Councillor Sinnett explained that he had already indicated his reasons to the Planning Authority. He would like to have noted that he would not support approval of this planning application. The application was brought quite late to his attention by the local County Councillor, otherwise he would have approached Councillor Harries, as Chairman of the Planning Committee, before this meeting.

Councillors R. Gray and Mrs. J. Hawkins also wished it noted that they could not support approval of this planning application.

Councillor G. Woodham MBA (Open) LL.B (Hons) abstained from voting on this application as he did not wish to predetermine any future discussion at a Pembrokeshire County Council meeting in his role as a County Councillor.

165. APPLICATION FOR A NEW PREMISES LICENCE:

It was noted that in the column “Address for which application is made” the address was shown as the applicant’s head office instead of the address in Milford Haven.

RESOLVED THAT:

(i) the address in the relevant column

should read “Unit A2, Havens Head Retail

Park, Milford Haven”;

(ii) subject to the above, the recommendation of

the Chairman of the Public Works and Planning

Committee in respect of the application for

a new premises licence be approved (see

Appendix C).

166. BT PAYPHONE REMOVALS CONSULTATION:

A letter and documentation was received from the Payphone Planning Officer, British Telecommunications plc, in which he advised that BT was consulting on the removal of 86 public payphones in Pembrokeshire.

Two of these were in Milford Haven – one at Market Square and the other at Steynton.

A Member considered that these payphones should remain in case people need to use them.

Another Member pointed out that the payphone at Market Square had been used once in the last twelve months, and the payphone at Steynton had not been used at all during that period.

RESOLVED THAT the Milford Haven Town Council

supports the removal of the two payphones in its

area – one at Market Square and one at Steynton.

167. SAFE ROUTES IN COMMUNITIES HAKIN/HUBBERSTON:

Members discussed an email from Ms. S. Lewis, Pembrokeshire County Council, in which she enclosed a plan of the Hakin/Hubberston bid to be submitted to the Welsh Government via the Safe Routes in Communities scheme.

Ms. Lewis wrote that the schemes are currently in the design stage only, as funding has not been acquired to progress them to any detail yet.

Ms. Lewis advised that they have been working with both schools engaging with pupils and obtaining data from them and staff.

Members closely scrutinised the plan.

A Member had some queries regarding the new Hakin Community School.

Councillor Mrs. Y. G. Southwell, speaking in her role as Chair of the Governors of the Hakin Community School, said that the plans have been approved for the new Community School. Noting the Member’s queries, Councillor Mrs. Southwell confirmed that updates will be available quite soon and she would endeavour to obtain more information before the next meeting.

After further discussion, it was RESOLVED THAT Ms. Lewis be advised that the Milford Haven Town Council:

(i) requests speed humps on Picton Road within the 20 mph

zone near to the entrance to Glebelands;

(ii) requests that raised crossing areas be placed along

Gelliswick Road;

(iii) asks why parents were not included in the discussions;

(iv) would have liked representatives from

Pembrokeshire County Council to attend a meeting

to discuss the schemes.

168. CONSULTATION ON THE WELSH GOVERNMENT’S NEW WELSH LANGUAGE STRATEGY:

An email and supporting documentation was received from the Deputy Clerk, Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee, National Assembly for Wales, in which he advised that the Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee is undertaking an inquiry into the Welsh Government’s new Welsh Language Strategy.

Information on the inquiry and how to submit evidence is available on the Committee’s website.

RESOLVED THAT:

(i) the information be received;

(ii) Members are to complete the consultation on

an individual basis, if they wish to do so.

169. TALKING FUTURE GENERATIONS REPORT:

Members considered a letter and “Talking Future Generations” document from Sophie Howe, Future Generations Commissioner for Wales.

A Member referred to the importance of the “Talking Future Generations” document.

He said that over the last few years the Welsh Government has provided extensive information on the Well-being of Future Generations Bill. This legislation puts certain responsibilities on Councils and encourages Councils to fully engage with the recently formed Public Service Board in Pembrokeshire. The “Talking Future Generations” report sets out the expectation about the Act and includes information on accountability.

The Member then read out relevant sections of the “Talking Future Generations” report.

The Member proposed that this Council establishes a Working Group to review what this Council does that supports the aspirations of the Well-being of Future Generations Act, and what Members need to consider in the future as it will take generations for this to come to fruition.

RESOLVED THAT:

(i) a Working Group be set up, consisting of the

Mayor, Deputy Mayor, and Chairmen of the

two Standing Committees;

(ii) and any other Member who notifies the Clerk

by 30th November, 2016, that they wish to

join this Working Group.

170. TRAVEL CONSULTATIONS:

(i) Active Travel (Wales) Consultation:

The Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013 aims to make Active Travel the most attractive option for shorter journeys.

The Integrated Network Maps are the next stage of delivery of the Active Travel Act. They set out the Pembrokeshire County Council’s plans for improving active travel over the next 15 years. Questionnaires regarding the existing Walking and Cycling Routes are available online.

RESOLVED THAT the information be received.

(ii) Bus Survey Consultation:

An email was received from Pembrokeshire County Council which stated that Pembrokeshire County Council is seeking the views of bus passengers across the County in a bid to get more people to use the service.

The questionnaires have been sent out to bus operators, leisure centre, Tourist Information Centres, customer service centres and libraries. They are also available online.

RESOLVED THAT the information be received.

171. APPLICATION FOR FUNDING FROM THE MILFORD HAVEN TOWN TEAM REGENERATION GROUP:

The Mayor, Councillor W. D. Elliott BA QTS, declared a personal interest in this issue as he is a member of the Milford Haven Town Team Regeneration Group.

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor C. A. Sharp, declared a personal interest in this issue as he is a member of the Milford Haven Town Team Regeneration Group.

Councillor G. Woodham MBA (Open) LL.B (Hons) declared a personal interest in this issue, as in his role as a Torch Theatre employee he is a member of the Milford Haven Town Team Regeneration Group.

Members discussed an application for funding from the Milford Haven Town Team Regeneration Group to provide entertainment on Saturday, 3rd December.

It was considered that this event would enhance the Town Council’s event as it would encourage people to go to Charles Street, visit the shops and stay on for the Visit of Father Christmas to the Town Hall.

One Member, however, looked at the list of activities planned by the Milford Haven Town Team Regeneration Group and expressed concerns as to whether the children’s rides were free of charge, and whether the “Inflatable Tin Can Alley Stall Hire” involved gambling.

RESOLVED THAT:

(i) a donation of £350 be made to the Milford Haven

Town Team Regeneration Group to assist with its

event on Saturday, 3rd December, 2016;

(ii) this sum is to be taken from the funds set aside for

Town Regeneration;

(iii) clarification be sought on whether the children’s rides

are free and whether the “Tin Can Alley Stall Hire” involves

gambling.

*This donation is to be made in accordance with the Milford Haven Town Council’s*

*powers under Section 144 of the Local Government Act 1972.*

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