Minutes of a Meeting of the Milford Haven Town Council

held at the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Milford Haven

on Thursday, 28th 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

A. H. Miles M. P. Rickard

D. R. Sinnett Mrs. C. Stevens

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.

179. APOLOGIES:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors R. Gray, E. R. Harries, S. G. Joseph, Mrs. J. Hawkins, M. J. Norman and Mrs. Y. G. Southwell.

180. TO CONFIRM AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON THE 17TH NOVEMBER, 2016:

RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Meeting of

the Milford Haven Town Council held on the

17th November, 2016, be accepted and that they

be signed by the Mayor as a true record.

181. INFORMATION FROM THE MAYOR:

(a) Upcoming Events:

The Mayor reminded Members of the following events:

(i) The visit of Father Christmas on Saturday, 3rd December. The Mayor said that he hoped as many Councillors as possible would be able to attend to assist the Chairman of the Christmas Lights/Festivities Sub-Committee, Councillor A. W. Eden.

(ii) The Council’s Christmas Dinner to be held at The Starboard

Hotel on Friday, 16th December.

(iii) A Civic Carol Service to be held at St. Katharine and St. Peter’s

Church on 18th December.

(iv) A New Year’s Eve Dinner and Dance in aid of the Mayor’s Charity

Fund to be held at the Pill Social Centre.

The Mayor concluded by wishing Councillors and their families a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

(b) Mayor’s Engagements:

Members were informed of the Mayor’s Engagements since 17th November, 2016:

17th November (pm) - St Francis RC School Christmas Fayre at

the Pill Social Centre (also attended by the

Deputy Mayor).

24th November (pm) - Hakin Community School Christmas Fayre

at the Infant School.

24th November (pm) - Milford Haven Junior School Christmas

Craft Fayre (also attended by the Deputy

Mayor).

26th November - Chief Scout Award Presentation Evening for

Pembrokeshire at Tasker Milward School.

27th November - Milford Haven Junior Town Band “Nearly

Christmas” Concert at the Johnston

Institute (also attended by the Deputy Mayor).

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REPORTS ON COMMITTEES

182. CHRISTMAS LIGHTS/FESTIVITIES SUB-COMMITTEE:

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Christmas Lights/Festivities Committee held on 16th November, 2016, were moved by the Chairman, Councillor A. W. Eden.

RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Christmas Lights/

Festivities Sub-Committee held on 16th November,

2016, be approved and adopted.

183. SOCIAL MEDIA GROUP:

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Social Media Group held on 17th November, 2016, were moved by the Chairman - the Mayor, Councillor W. D. Elliott BA QTS.

RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Social Media Group

held on 17th November, 2016, be approved and

adopted.

184. SAFE ROUTES IN COMMUNITIES HAKIN/HUBBERSTON:

Members gave consideration to an email from Ms. S. Lewis, Pembrokeshire County Council, in which she responded to queries raised at the last Full Council meeting.

RESOLVED THAT:

(i) Ms. Lewis’s response be received; and

(ii) she be thanked for her quick response to

the Council’s queries.

185. FUTURE PRIMARY EDUCATION PROVISION IN THE MILFORD HAVEN AREA:

The Mayor, Councillor W. D. Elliott BA QTS declared a personal interest in this issue as he has been appointed by this Council as its representative on the Governing Body of The Meads Infant and Nursery School. He is also a Governor of the Milford Haven Junior School.

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor C. A. Sharp, declared a personal interest in this issue as he a Governor of both The Meads Infant and Nursery School and the Milford Haven Junior School.

Councillor Mrs. C. Stevens declared a personal interest in this issue as she has been appointed by this Council as its representative on the Governing Body of Milford Haven Junior School.

Councillors R. D. Evans, M. P. Rickard, and Mrs. C. T. Williams declared a personal interest in this issue as Councillor R. D. Evans is a Governor of the Milford Haven Junior School, Councillor M. P. Rickard is the Vice-Chair of the Milford Haven Junior School Governing Body and Councillor Mrs. C. T. Williams will shortly be a Governor of the Milford Haven Junior School.

Councillor G. Woodham MBA (Open) LL.B (Hons) declared a personal interest as Chair of the Milford Haven Junior School Governing Body and County Councillor. His contribution to the discussion was for information purposes only and he did not participate in any debate on this issue.

Councillor D. R. Sinnett wished in recorded that he did not participate in any discussion on this issue as it will be debated by the Pembrokeshire County Council.

Members discussed the consultation of the future primary education provision in the Milford Haven area.

The decision of the Council of the Pembrokeshire County Council on 14th July, 2016, was as follows:

* Discontinue The Meads Infant and Nursery School and Milford Haven Junior School

and establish a new 3 – 11 school using both current school sites.

* Extend the range of St. Francis Catholic Primary School in order to admit part-time

3-year-old pupils.

A Member asked whether Councillors were aware of the date of the amalgamation of the schools and what the parameters were.

Councillor G. Woodham MBA (Open) LL.B (Hons), in his role as Chairman of the Milford Haven Junior School, summarised the consultation process and explained that all the information regarding the consultation could be found in the 52 page consultation document.

RESOLVED THAT the information be received.

186. PRE-PLANNING APPLICATION CONSULTATION FOR A MOBILE PHONE BASE STATION INSTALLATION AT PEMBROKESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL DEPOT, THORNTON INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, MILFORD HAVEN:

A letter was received from Clarke Telecom Limited, in which the writer gave details of the proposed site for a mobile phone base station and the alternative site options considered and discounted in the site selection process.

Clarke Telecom Limited considered that the best solution for the installation of a radio base station was at the Pembrokeshire County Council Depot on the Thornton Industrial Estate. The writer stated that the site is required to provide new 4G coverage for Vodafone and improved 2G/3G services. It will also enable Telefonica to provide a new 4G service and improved 2G/3G services within the Milford Haven community.

A Member expressed concern at the proximity of this site to two housing estates.

Another Member said that this Council has to be mindful of health issues concerning masts, but all the evidence indicates that they do not pose as great a health risk as some may suggest. Councillors have to weigh up the provision of 4G in Milford Haven and the users of devices that would benefit. He did not feel that there were enough grounds to object to the siting of this radio base station.

Another Member referred to the masts already located in residential areas within the town.

It was proposed and seconded that the application be rejected on the grounds that it is unsuitable and too close to two large housing estates. This proposal was defeated and it was RESOLVED THAT this planning application consultation be received.

Councillor J. W. Cole wished to record his objection to this planning application.

187. SUGGESTED RESPONSE TO “HAVE YOUR SAY – MID AND WEST WALES FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE” FROM MR. M. H. GEORGE QGM:

At a previous Full Council meeting, it had been agreed to ask former Councillor, Mr. M. H. George QGM, for his response to the “Have Your Say – Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service” consultation document in view of his role as a former Commander of the Local Fire Service.

A Member questioned the penultimate question which stated that “the Council is led to believe that due to retirement and other changes, the level of command experience when dealing with major incidents at these particular risks by senior officers within the local command area, is no longer available”. The Member said that he was not very comfortable about this paragraph being submitted as the Council’s response, as it was being relied upon by an ex-Councillor who has been retired for a number of years. He did not consider that it was an appropriate Town Council response.

Another Member said that Mr. George QGM would have looked into this issue in depth. He did not consider that the letter should not be amended.

It was proposed and seconded that the letter produced by Mr. M. H. George QGM should be submitted to the Mid and West Wales Fire Authority as this Council’s response to the Consultation Document. Five Members were in favour of submitting this letter, with 3 against.

RESOLVED THAT the letter produced by Mr.

M. H. George QGM be submitted to the Mid

and West Wales Fire Authority as this Council’s

response to the Draft Corporate Plan 2017-2022.

188. STATEMENT OF INCOME:

RESOLVED THAT the statement of income for the

second quarter of the financial year 2016-2017 be

received.

189. SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURE:

RESOLVED THAT the summary of expenditure for

the second quarter of the financial year 2016-2017

be received.

190. APPLICATIONS FOR CHRISTMAS DONATIONS 2016:

The Mayor proposed that the application for a Christmas Donation for the Milford Haven Business Circle be moved from the list of Applications for Funding from the Christmas Donations Budget and be considered separately. Any donation granted could be taken from the funds ringfenced for town regeneration.

RESOLVED THAT the application for funding from

the Milford Haven Business Circle be removed from

the applications for consideration under the Christmas

Donations Budget heading and be considered under

the funds allocated for town regeneration.

(A) Applications for Funding from the Christmas Donations Budget:

Members then discussed how best to allocate funding for the remaining 16 applications for funding under the Christmas donations budget.

A Member said that this Council had wanted to receive applications for funding from new applicants and was pleased to note that 9 of the 16 applications were from new applicants.

Another Member suggested that applications could be grouped under a number of different headings - children’s parties, older person’s events, activities looking at addressing poverty within the town through the provision of toys and other gifts for the disadvantaged, the event that is proposed by the Church which looks at telling the Christmas story, and the decorations for the Pill Social Centre which does not appear to fit any of the categories.

The Member suggested that the applications be grouped and prioritised.

After some discussion, it was proposed and seconded that each application should be considered individually and if the total awarded exceeded the budget of £1,400 then the funds be taken out of Reserves for this year alone. 6 voted for this proposal with 3 against.

RESOLVED THAT:

(i) the applications for funding for Christmas Donations

are to be considered individually and if the budget of

£1,400 is exceeded then the additional funds be taken

out of Reserves for this financial year only.

(ii) the following donations be made in respect of the

applications for Christmas Donations:

(a) 1st Hakin Brownie Unit

(Girlguiding Pembrokeshire) - £100

(b) 7th Milford Haven Brownie Unit

(Girlguiding Pembrokeshire) - £100

(c) Friends of Havenhurst - £100

(d) Hakin Old Age Pensioners - £80

(e) Haven Over 60s Club - £80

(f) Hubberston Women’s Institute - £40

(g) Milford Haven Rugby Club - £100

(h) Milford Haven Swimming Squad - £100

(i) Milford Haven Youth Council - £300

(j) Milford United Football Club

Junior Section - £100

(k) National Federation of Retirement

Pensioners’ Association - £80

(l) PATCH – Pembrokeshire Action

to Combat Hardship - £200

Councillor J. W. Cole wished it noted that he abstained from the voting

on this item.

(m) Pill Social Centre - £75

The Mayor, Councillor W. D. Elliott BA QTS declared a personal interest as an occasional volunteer at the Pill Social Centre.

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor C. A. Sharp declared a personal interest as a Trustee and volunteer of the Pill Social Centre.

Councillor G. Woodham MBA (Open) LL.B (Hons) declared a personal interest

as a volunteer at the Pill Social Centre.

(n) RVS Milford Haven Darby and

Joan Club - £80

(o) Salvation Army - £100

(p) St. Katharine and St. Peter’s Church - £150

An amendment of £100 was proposed and seconded. 5 voted for the £100, with 5 against. The Mayor used his casting vote to vote for the donation of £150.

Councillor Mrs. C. T. Williams declared a personal interest as the wife of the Vicar of St. Katharine and St. Peter’s Church and took no part in the voting or discussion on this item.

RESOLVED THAT:

(iii) As the sum of the donations totals £1,785, and the

Christmas Donations budget is £1,400, the balance

of £385 is to be taken from Reserves.

(B) Milford Haven Business Circle:

The Mayor, Councillor W. D. Elliott BA QTS declared a personal interest as the Town Council representative on both the Milford Haven Business Circle and the Milford Haven Town Team Regeneration Group.

Councillor G. Woodham MBA (Open) LL.B (Hons) declared a personal interest as the Torch Theatre representative on both the Milford Haven Business Circle and the Milford Haven Town Team Regeneration Group.

Members questioned whether the recent donation to the Town Regeneration Team in the sum of £350 was for the same event. The Mayor explained that it was, but the Milford Haven Business Circle wished to enhance the day with additional events to draw people into the Town Centre. The Port of Milford Haven was supporting both events.

Some Members considered that there should have been a joint application made from the Town Team and the Milford Haven Business Circle for this event.

4 voting for the donation of £350, with 4 against and 3 abstentions. The Mayor gave the casting vote that the Milford Haven Business Circle should receive a donation of £350 for this event.

RESOLVED THAT:

(i) the Milford Haven Business Circle is to receive a grant

of £350 for the event on Saturday, 3rd December to

coincide with the visit of Father Christmas to the Town

Hall and the Lantern Parade;

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

Council’s Reserves for Town Regeneration;

(iii) as from the financial year 2017-2018, any applications

for Christmas Donations are to be considered by the

Christmas Lights/Festivities Sub-Committee;

(iv) consideration is to be given whether applications for

Christmas Donations should be prioritised.

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