Minutes of a Meeting of the

Social Media Group

held at the Town Hall, Milford Haven

on Thursday, 9th February, 2017 at 5:45 pm

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PRESENT

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

Councillors: C. A. Sharp (Deputy Mayor) R. D. Evans R. Gray M. P. Rickard

Ms. F. K. Galliford, Council Secretary

219. APOLOGIES:

Apologies for absence were received from the Town Clerk, Mrs. M. L. Galliford.

220. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SOCIAL MEDIA GROUP HELD ON 17TH NOVEMBER, 2016:

RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Meeting of the Social

Media Group held on 17th November, 2016, be accepted and

that they be signed by the Chairman.

221. MATTERS ARISING:

(i) Minute No. 157 - “Time for Paperless?”

The matter of paperless correspondence, replacing the traditional photocopied Agenda packs was raised by Members. It was suggested that Members in favour of receiving such correspondence could embark upon a trial period using their own electronic devices. This trial period would last for approximately six months, and Councillors who did not wish to receive paperless correspondence would be required to opt out.

A Member noted the environmental concerns of producing the traditional Agenda packs. Another Member observed that the production of the Agenda packs can be a very costly and energy consuming exercise, with the office photocopier frequently at risk of malfunctioning.

The Chairman advised that this Council is being observed as a progressive authority, and a move such as the switch to paperless correspondence would be swiftly picked up.

Whilst in support of this initiative, a Member spoke of his worry that this move would create a heavier workload for the office staff, with both electronic and physical Agenda packs having to be prepared.

The Secretary confirmed that Mr. C. Davies, Information Technology Officer, Pembrokeshire County Council, had agreed to assist with this transition.

It was RECOMMENDED THAT:

(i) subject to satisfactory measures being put in place,

Councillors are to receive paperless Agenda packs

for a trial period of six months commencing in March

2017, with those Councillors who wish to continue with

the traditional method opting out;

(ii) those Councillors who have opted into the paperless

scheme have the option to opt out again within the

six months if they so wish;

(iii) Councillors who have opted into the paperless scheme

will bring their own electronic devices to Meetings.

222. UPDATE ON TOWN COUNCIL WEBSITE:

The Chairman informed Members that (as of 9th February, 2017) the website stood at 77,412 hits. The jump in the number of hits was attributed to the “Councillor Attendance” page on the website being shared and commented upon by a number of Facebook users.

A Member stated that there is an apparent misconception amongst many that Milford Haven Town Councillors are remunerated. Recent circumstances such as family bereavements, ill health and childcare/work commitments have meant that Councillors have not been able to attend Meetings, and these circumstances are not reflected on the Councillor Attendance page.

It was RECOMMENDED THAT the “Meet

Your Councillor” Facebook profiles, which have generated interest across social media platforms,

be uploaded on to the Town Council website.

223. UPDATE ON MILFORD HAVEN TOWN COUNCIL’S SOCIAL MEDIA:

The Chairman advised that the Milford Haven Town Council Facebook page presently has (as of 9th February, 2017) 813 “likes”, with our Milford Haven Town Council Twitter page registering 355 followers.

Members agreed that the Milford Haven Town Council’s social media is going in the right direction, and the outlook is very positive.

It was RECOMMENDED THAT a correct complaints

procedure be devised and followed if any Members

have concerns as to the content of the Council’s

social media pages.

224. TOWN WIFI:

Following an engaging and enlightening discussion, it was RECOMMENDED THAT:

(i) statistics as to the use of the Town WiFi be prepared

and presented at the next Meeting of the Social Media

Group;

(ii) the Secretary is to contact Ms. S. Henehan, the Community

Safety, Poverty and Regeneration Manager at the

Pembrokeshire County Council, to ascertain whether there

are stickers promoting the free WiFi that can be circulated

to local shops;

(iii) organisations that are serving as access points for

the free Town Wifi be championed by the Milford Haven

Town Council as much as possible.

225. ANTI-BULLYING INITIATIVES:

Members referred to the recent tragic death of a Milford Haven School pupil, and felt that the Milford Haven Town Council should do everything possible to support the youth of the town.

A Member explained that there is an information, advice and advocacy service named Meic Cymru, which is available for children and young people up to the age of 25.

It was RECOMMENDED THAT this service be promoted

across the Milford Haven Town Council’s social media

pages and website.

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