Minutes of a Meeting of the Milford Haven Town Council

held at the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Milford Haven

on Monday, 30th January, 2017 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 E. R. Harries

 Mrs. J. Hawkins S. G. Joseph

 A. H. Miles M. P. Rickard

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

 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.

200. APOLOGIES:

 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors R. D. Evans, R. Gray, M. J. Norman and Mrs. C. Stevens.

201. TO CONFIRM AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON THE 28TH NOVEMBER, 2016:

 RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Meeting of

 the Milford Haven Town Council held on the

 28th November, 2016, be accepted and that they

 be signed by the Mayor as a true record.

202. TO CONFIRM AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON

 THE 12TH JANUARY, 2017:

 RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Meeting of

 the Milford Haven Town Council held on the

 12th January, 2017, be accepted and that they

 be signed by the Mayor as a true record.

203. INFORMATION FROM THE MAYOR:

 (a) Mayor’s Engagements:

 Members were informed of the Mayor’s Engagements since 29th November, 2016:

 30th November (am) - Visit to St. Katharine and St. Peter’s Church Interactive Christmas Story for Schools

 30th November (pm) - Christmas Lunch with the Darby and Joan Club at the Starboard Hotel

 30th November (pm) - Meads Infant and Nursery School Christmas Fayre

 3rd December - Visit to Value Independence for a tour and to see Santa’s Grotto

 3rd December (pm) - Charles Street’s Christmas Market and Activities

3rd December (pm) - Switching on of the Christmas Lights

 4th December (pm) - Neyland Town Council’s Christmas Miscellany Service

 8th December (pm) - Milford Haven School Carol Concert at St. Katharine and St. Peter’s Church

 10th December - Breakfast with Santa at St. Katharine and St. Peter’s Church

 11th December - Opening of the Port of Milford Haven’s Christmas on the Marina at the Milford Museum

 12th December (pm) - Milford Haven Junior School Carol Concert (also attended by the Deputy Mayor)

 12th December (pm) - Community Consultation over Primary Education in Milford Haven (also attended by the Deputy Mayor)

 13th December (pm) - Christmas Together Volunteers Meeting at the Pill Social Centre *(*also attended by the Deputy Mayor*)*

 13th December (pm) - Mannequin Challenge with the Milford Haven Round Table, Milford Haven Sea Cadets & Royal Marines Cadets and the Police at Havens Head Business Park

 14th December (pm) - Judging the Best Decorated Boat for Christmas at Milford Marina

 15th December - Meads Infant and Nursery School Carol Concert at St. Katharine and St. Peter’s Church

 15th December (pm) - Mayor of Pembroke’s Carol Concert

 16th December (pm) - Councillors’ Christmas Meal at the Starboard Hotel

 18th December (pm) - Mayor of Pembroke Dock’s Carol Concert

 18th December (pm) - Carols by Candlelight at St. Katharine and St. Peter’s Church (also attended by the Deputy Mayor)

 19th December - Carols at Havenhurst Nursing Home with Neyland Ladies Choir (also attended by the Deputy Mayor)

21st December (am) - Christmas Together Set Up at the Pill Social Centre (also attended by the Deputy Mayor)

 21st December (pm) - Milford Haven Army Cadets / Milford Haven Sea Cadets and Royal Marines Cadets Christmas Party

 23rd December (am) - Collection of turkeys and picture with Capestone Organic Poultry Limited on behalf of Christmas Together (also attended by the Deputy Mayor)

 23rd December (pm) - Reception and Performance of the Sleeping Beauty pantomime at the Torch Theatre (also attended by the Deputy Mayor)

 24th December (pm) - St. Katharine and St. Peter’s Crib Service at the Memorial Gardens

 24th December (pm) - Midnight Mass including a reading at St. Katharine and St. Peter’s Church

 (also attended by the Deputy Mayor)

 25th December - Christmas Together at the Pill Social Centre (also attended by the Deputy Mayor)

 31st December - Mayor’s New Year’s Eve Charity Dinner and Dance at the Pill Social Centre *(*also attended by the Deputy Mayor)

 6th January 2017 - H.O.P.E 30th Anniversary Thanksgiving Service and visit to the Day Centre

 8th January - Inner Wheel Service at St. Katharine and St. Peter’s Church (attended by the Deputy Mayor)

 12th January - South Hook LNG Prize Giving Event at the Torch Theatre for the Winners of the 2017 Calendar Competition

 15th January - Town Regeneration Meeting (also attended by the Deputy Mayor)

 25th January - Business Circle EGM *(*also attended by the Deputy Mayor)

 (b) Christmas Lights:

 The Mayor said that he would like to publicly thank Councillor Eden for all his hard work in organising the switch on of Christmas Lights. He also thanked the Councillors who supported this very successful event. The Mayor stated that the comments that he had received regarding the Christmas Lighting in the Town had been nothing but positive.

 (c) Christmas Together:

 The Mayor stated that he and his Consort had the great pleasure and privilege to attend the Christmas Together event on Christmas Day. The Mayor said that it was such a heart-warming and humbling day and one that he would always remember. He thanked Councillors Sharp and Woodham for their selfless dedication in organising this event to benefit our community.

 (d) Date of Next Full Council Meeting:

 The Mayor advised that the Clerk had informed him that the next scheduled Full Council meeting was just a little over a week away on 9th February. The Clerk would not be present as that was the date she had been given for her operation. The Secretary would be taking over the Clerk’s duties during her absence. The Mayor said that he was sure Members would join him in wishing the Clerk a speedy recovery.

 The Mayor asked whether Members wished to keep the date of this meeting, or alternatively have one scheduled meeting at the end of February.

 RESOLVED THAT there be no Full Council meeting

 on Thursday, 9th February.

204. QUESTIONS WITHOUT DEBATE PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER NO. 6:

 The Mayor read out the following question from Councillor G. Woodham MBA (Open) LL.B (Hons):

 “Given that this Council has approved a deficit budget for the Cemetery (a deficit of £1,423) and a reduction in the 2017/18 Precept of approximately 30 pence per annum for a Band D property (which includes either freezing or reducing all grant funding when compared with 2016/17) will the Mayor please confirm that the only option now available to this Council, should it be required to address any additional expenditure in the next financial year, will be to utilise the funds this Council holds in Reserve thus putting at risk our future ability to manage essential maintenance requirements at the Cemetery; the future purchase of land for the Cemetery; the sum ringfenced in 2013 to support town regeneration and the Council’s ability to appropriately deal with any emergency situations that could arise in the future”.

 The Mayor replied in the affirmative.

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REPORTS ON COMMITTEES

205. YOUTH WORKING GROUP:

 The Minutes of the Meeting of the Youth Working Group held on the 28th November, 2016, were moved by the Mayor, Councillor W. D. Elliott BA QTS.

 RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Youth

 Working Group held on the 28th November,

 2016, be approved and adopted.

206. ESTABLISHMENT COMMITTEE:

 The Minutes of the Meeting of the Establishment Committee held on the 28th November, 2016 were moved by the Mayor, Councillor W. D. Elliott BA QTS.

 During the discussion of these Minutes, the Mayor’s Consort, Mr. L. Jones, and the Mayor’s Chaplain, Father H. Williams, left the Council Chamber.

 RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Establishment

 Committee held on 28th November, 2016, be

 approved and adopted.

207. CEMETERY REPORTS:

 RESOLVED THAT the Cemetery Reports, as

 presented by the Clerk for the months of

 November and December, 2016 be accepted.

 (See Appendix A).

208. 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.

209. APPLICATION BY EGNEDOL WALES LIMITED FOR A DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE: LAND AT BLACKBRIDGE AND WATERSTON:

 A letter was received from a Major Casework and Chart Case Officer, Planning Inspectorate.

 In his letter the Major Casework and Chart Case Officer stated that the application by Egnedol Wales Limited has been formally submitted to the Welsh Ministers for determination. The application has been passed to the Planning Inspectorate who will be arranging for an Inspector to consider the issues involved and submit a report to the Welsh Ministers within 24 weeks of 22nd December, 2016.

 Members discussed Egnedol Wales Limited’s application.

 A Member raised concerns regarding the safety and sustainability of the proposed development.

 Another Member said that the issue is an emotive one. He had visited the Planning Inspectorate website earlier that day and had observed that some people are very supportive of the development because of the prospect of bringing jobs to the town. Others, however, are concerned over the viability of this as a project, which has apparently not been successfully undertaken in the UK to date. Concerns have been expressed over the design – in particular the stack and the implications of its output. There are safety concerns at the proposed location next to an LNG Terminal. Egnedol does not seem to have adequately addressed those concerns.

 Another Member said that, in his view, Egnedol does not appear to have made a genuine attempt to engage with the community and the concerns that have been raised. He contrasted this with the actions taken by South Hook LNG when the proposals were put forward for their terminal. Many people had concerns about safety and issues relating to the Haven and the product itself. South Hook LNG had a shop on the Milford Haven Marina, held open meetings and were available on a regular basis for people to voice their concerns.

 The Member said that when there is an opportunity for jobs this Council needs to take that seriously as this area needs jobs – but is it jobs at any cost. He believes that safety is ultimately the most important issue – 500 jobs are very important but the safety of the people is even more so.

 A vote was taken and it was unanimously RESOLVED THAT the following letter be sent from this Council to the Planning Inspectorate:

 “While the promise of job creation in Milford Haven

 and the development of the Blackbridge site is to

 be welcomed, too many genuine concerns about

 the safety and sustainability of the proposed

 development remain unanswered by Egnedol.

 It is on this basis that the Town Council is not

 able to support this application at this time and

 would urge Egnedol to address the concerns

 raised as a matter of urgency. The safety of

 our communities will always be of paramount

 importance and until satisfactory answers to

 allay the concerns raised the position of this

 Council is unlikely to change”.

210. LLOYDS BANK, HAMILTON TERRACE, MILFORD HAVEN:

 Members discussed an email from Mr. P. Davies AM, in which he forwarded copies of correspondence regarding the proposals of the Lloyds Banking Group to close its Milford Haven branch. Mr. Davies AM said that he was very conscious of the negative impact that this proposal will have on the community.

 Mr. Davies AM had written to Mr. António Horta-Osório, Executive Director and Group Chief Executive of the Lloyds Banking Group, to voice his strong opposition to these proposals and to highlight the detrimental impact that it would have on his constituents. Mr. Davies AM wrote that it would be helpful if Milford Haven Town Council could also make representations to Mr. Horta-Osório.

 A Member questioned the need to write to Mr. Horta-Osório only to receive a standard letter in response.

 Another Member said that if the Council decided to refer this matter to the Financial Ombudsman it would be necessary to submit a paper trail.

 Another Member stated that if there is a cumulative response there might be a change of heart – if nothing is said, nothing will happen.

 RESOLVED THAT a letter be sent to Mr. Horta-

 Osório expressing this Council’s concerns that

 Lloyds Bank has decided to close its Milford Haven

 Branch, and that the closure will be detrimental

 to the people of Milford Haven.

211. LETTER FROM DEPUTY CHIEF FIRE OFFICER M. CRENNELL, MID AND WEST WALES

 FIRE SERVICE:

 Members discussed a letter from Mr. M. Crennell, Deputy Chief Fire Officer, Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service, who was writing in response to this Council’s comments regarding the Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Authority’s (MWWFRA) Draft Corporate Plan 2017-2022.

 RESOLVED THAT Mr. Crennell, Deputy Chief Fire

 Officer, Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue

 Service, be invited to address this Council on

 the Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Authority’s

 Draft Corporate Plan 2017-2022.

212. WELSH GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION DOCUMENT – THE DRAFT ACCOUNT AND AUDIT (WALES) (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 2016:

 Members discussed the Draft Account and Audit (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2016 Consultation Document.

 The proposed Regulations brings forward the timetable for preparing and publishing statements of accounts of Local Government bodies in Wales. They also propose removing the requirement for pension fund statements to be included in the administering bodies’ accounts. A further change to remove the requirement for local government bodies to publish public notices in local newspapers in also proposed.

 A Member said that he failed to understand why the Regulations need to be changed. Furthermore, the Consultation Document does not give any justification for amendment.

 It was proposed and seconded that this Council does not endorse the amendments to The Draft Account and Audit (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2016. 4 voted for this proposal with 6 against.

 It was then proposed and seconded that this Council receives this Consultation Document. 6 voted for this proposal, with 1 against and 1 abstention.

 RESOLVED THAT:

 (i) the Welsh Government Consultation Document –

 The Draft Account and Audit (Wales) (Amendment)

 Regulations 2016 be received;

 (ii) Councillors are entitled to submit their individual

 comments if they wish to do so.

213. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ONE VOICE WALES PEMBROKESHIRE AREA COMMITTEE HELD AT COUNTY HALL, HAVERFORDWEST ON 27TH SEPTEMBER, 2016:

 Members gave consideration to the Minutes of the Meeting of the Pembrokeshire Area Committee held at County Hall, Haverfordwest, on 27th September, 2016.

 The Mayor said that he was pleased to note that Councillor A. E. Byrne attended this

 Meeting on behalf of the Milford Haven Town Council.

 RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Meeting of the

 One Voice Wales Pembrokeshire Area Committee

 held at County Hall, Haverfordwest, on 27th

 September, 2016, be received.

214. REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES:

 (a) The Meads Infant and Nursery School:

 The Mayor advised that he had been this Council’s representative on The Meads Infant and Nursery School for the last 4 years and would like to be considered for reappointment.

 The Mayor was asked whether there was anything that could be an encumbrance to him in view of his employment by the Education Committee of the Pembrokeshire County Council.

 The Mayor advised that he had sought advice on this with Governing Support Services and had been informed that his employment as a supply teacher with the Pembrokeshire County Council would not impact upon any governing status.

 RESOLVED THAT Councillor W. D. Elliott BA QTS

 be nominated as this Council’s representative on

 The Meads Infant and Nursery School.

 (b) St. Francis Catholic Primary School:

 The Mayor said that Councillor E. R. Harries, had resigned as this Council’s representative on St. Francis Catholic Primary School.

 It was noted that nominations for this vacancy had to be received at the Pembrokeshire County Council by 13th February, 2017.

 RESOLVED THAT:

 (i) as no Member present at this

 evening’s meeting wished to be considered for

 this nomination, the Clerk is to approach the

 4 Members absent from this evening’s

 meeting;

 (ii) if one of the Members wishes to be

 nominated for this vacancy, that nomination

 is to be forwarded to the Pembrokeshire County

 Council before 13th February.

215. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE:

 (i) Acknowledgement of Donations:

The Mayor advised that letters of thanks had been received from Hakin Old Age Pensions, Haven Over 60s Club, Hubberston Women’s Institute, The Meads C.P.I. and N. School, Milford Haven Darby and Joan Club, Milford Haven Junior Town Band, Milford Haven Swimming Squad, Milford Haven Youth Council, Milford United Football Club Junior Section, National Federation of Retirement Pensioners Association, PATCH, Pill Social Centre, St. Katharine and St. Peter’s Church.

 RESOLVED THAT the organisations that have not

 acknowledged a donation from the Milford Haven

 Town Council be encouraged to respond with an

 acknowledgement.

(ii) Applications for Donations:

 RESOLVED THAT the following decisions be

 made in relation to the applications for financial

 assistance:-

 (a) Milford Haven Amateur Operatic Society - £500

 *This donation is to be made in accordance with the Milford Haven Town Council’s powers under Section 145 of the Local Government Act 1972.*

 Councillor G. Woodham MBA (Open) LL.B (Hons) declared a prejudicial interest as the papers refer to the hire cost of the event at the Torch Theatre, where he is employed. He did not take part in the debate or the voting thereon.

 Councillor D. R. Sinnett declared a prejudicial interest as he has been appointed by the Pembrokeshire County Council as a member of the Board of Management of the Torch Theatre. He took no part in the debate or the voting thereon.

 (b) Welsh Sailing Venture - £100

 *This donation is to be made in accordance with the Milford Haven Town Council’s powers under Section 19 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions)* *Act 1976.*

 (c) Llangollen 2017 - Regret, no donation

(iii) Unexpended Funds:

 RESOLVED THAT any unexpended funds in the

 General Donations budget are to be carried over

 to the financial year 2017/2018.

216. STATEMENT OF INCOME:

 RESOLVED THAT the statement of income for the

 third quarter of the financial year 2016-2017 be

 received.

217. SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURE:

 The Clerk was asked whether the funds in the Roads and Paths Budget would be utilised before the end of this financial year and she indicated that they would be.

 The Clerk was asked to list the items that had been funded from Reserves when she produced the quarterly reports.

 RESOLVED THAT, subject to the above, the

 summary of expenditure for the third quarter of

 the financial year 2016-2017 be received.

218. SCHEDULE OF ACCOUNTS:

 RESOLVED THAT the Schedule of Accounts,

 as presented by the Clerk for the month of

 October, 2016, in the sum of £21,392.33 and

 November and December, 2016, in the sum

 of £53,611.04, be accepted and approved

 for payment.

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