Minutes of a Meeting of the Milford Haven Town Council

held at the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Milford Haven

on Monday, 10th April, 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 R. Gray

 E. R. Harries Mrs. J. Hawkins

 A. H. Miles M. P. Rickard

 D. R. Sinnett G. Woodham MBA (Open) LL.B (Hons)

PRAYERS:

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

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278. MAYOR’S REMARKS:

 The Mayor, Councillor W. D. Elliott BA QTS, welcomed Members to the Meeting. He reserved a special welcome for the Town Clerk, Mrs. M. L. Galliford, who was present at a Full Council Meeting for the first time following her operation in February.

279. APOLOGIES:

 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors R. D. Evans, S. G. Joseph, Mrs. Y. G. Southwell, Mrs. C. Stevens, and Mrs. C. T. Williams. Apologies for absence were not received from Councillor M. J. Norman.

280. TO CONFIRM AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON THE 27th MARCH, 2017:

 RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Meeting

 of the Milford Haven Town Council held on the

 27th March, 2017, be accepted and that they be

 signed by the Mayor as a true record.

281. INFORMATION FROM THE MAYOR:

 (a) Mayor’s Engagements:

 Members were informed of the Mayor’s Engagements since 27th March, 2017:

 29th March - P1 Welsh Grand Prix of the Sea 2017 – Travel Management Planning Meeting at the Port of Milford Haven *(also attended by the Deputy Mayor)*

 29th March (pm) - High Sheriff of Dyfed’s Awards Evening at the University of Wales, Trinity Saint David (Carmarthen Campus)

 3rd April - Golden Anniversary Service and Celebration for Mr. J. and Mrs. D. Woodham

 5th April - Town Regeneration Meeting at Town Hall

 6th April - Mayor’s Charity Fund Bingo (sponsored by Tesco) at the Pill Social Centre

 7th April - St. Francis RC School’s Easter Bonnet Parade and Celebrations *(also attended by the Deputy Mayor)*

 7th April - Meads C & I Nursery School visit for their Easter Bonnets *(also attended by the Deputy Mayor)*

 10th April - Presentation of Cheque from Tesco for the Mayor’s Charity Fund

 (b) Email – Application by Egnedol Wales Limited for a Development of National Significance at Land at Blackbridge and Waterston, Milford Haven:

 The Mayor drew Members’ attention to an email from Mr. R. Rigby, Major Casework and Chart Case Officer, Planning Inspectorate Wales, relating to the application by Egnedol Wales Limited for a Development of National Significance at Land at Blackbridge and Waterston, Milford Haven, which had been received in the Town Council office earlier in the day.

 The email read as follows:

  *I am writing to advise you that the determination of the application has been suspended for a period of 6 months, until 30 September 2017, as the Environmental Statement (ES) is considered to be inadequate in respect of effects on several protected species and habitats. Further work is required in relation to the associated Habitats Regulations Assessments, and the examination is being suspended in order to allow time for this additional work to be completed.*

 RESOLVED THAT the information be received.

 (c) Milford Haven Paddling Pool:

 The Mayor advised Members that he had received a petition to be presented to the Pembrokeshire County Council calling for the Milford Haven Paddling Pool to be funded and kept open. This petition, which has been heavily circulated in the town, has amassed a large number of signatures, with a concomitant Internet petition also accumulating many signatures. Mr. I. Westley, Chief Executive, Pembrokeshire County Council, has been contacted in regard to this issue and Mr. Westley will receive the physical petition tomorrow (Tuesday, 11th April).

(d) Youth Representation on the Milford Haven Town Council:

 The Mayor informed Members that two applications for the two Youth Representative posts on the Milford Haven Town Council had been received. As a result, the proposed shortlisting of candidates (scheduled for 12th April, 2017) would not be taking place.

(e) Vehicle Actuated Road Signage:

 The Mayor advised Members who do not access the Internet that the Secretary had circulated an email requesting knowledge of speeding hotspots in their Wards. This information will be collected and personally put forward to Mr. B. Blake, Senior Traffic Engineer, Pembrokeshire County Council, at the end of April. Those Members were encouraged to contact the Secretary with any information they may have.

(f) Citizens’ Awards 2017:

 The Mayor acquainted Members with the news that nominations for the Milford Haven Town Council Citizens’ / Youth Citizens’ Awards were being invited, with the closing date (and time) for nominations being 5:00 pm on Friday, 5th May, 2017.

 Following a query from a Member, the Mayor then advised that the nominations would be considered by all Councillors at a Public Events Meeting on Wednesday, 17th May, 2017.

 Another Member requested clarification as to the date of the Citizens’ Awards Ceremony in June, which had not been held on the nearest Saturday to the town’s birthday last year. The Mayor said that it had been agreed that the Citizens’ Awards Ceremony should be held on the Saturday before the Founders’ Day celebrations.

(g) Motorworld Building in Charles Street:

 The Mayor advised that the Pembrokeshire County Council had received an email from Mr. B. Cooke, Head of Property, Pembrokeshire County Council, stating the Council’s intention to carry out the demolition of the Motorworld Building in Charles Street. The building has a 2 storey element facing Charles Street and a 4 storey element to the rear facing Barlow Street.

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282. NEW TRAFFIC ORDER – PROPOSED WAITING RESTRICTIONS, MILFORD HAVEN:

 Members considered a document from Mr. B. Blake, Senior Traffic Engineer, Pembrokeshire County Council, advising that the Pembrokeshire County Council will shortly be advertising various waiting restriction proposals as part of a County wide review. Included in the review are two proposals in Milford Haven, which are detailed below:

 1. Skomer Drive – *introduction of no waiting at any time restrictions (double yellows) to remove parking near the junction with the A4076 where visibility is restricted for traffic turning into Skomer Drive*

 *2.* Wellington Road / Gardens and Nubian Crescent, Hakin – *introduction of no waiting at any time restrictions (double yellows) to remove indiscriminate parking currently obstructing footways and access visibility splays in this region*

 Members reacted very positively to the Skomer Drive proposals, believing the proposals to be very timely.

 Members questioned the feasibility of the proposals in Wellington Road / Gardens and Nubian Crescent, expressing concern that these proposals would cause a significant problem for a number of people who live in that area.

 RESOLVED THAT Mr. B. Blake, Senior Traffic

 Engineer, Pembrokeshire County Council, be

 contacted with Members’ comments.

283. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE:

 (a) Acknowledgement of Donations:

 The Mayor advised that letters of thanks had been received from the Milford Haven Amateur Operatic Society, Tall Ships (Wales) Trust, and Torch Theatre.

 A Member sought clarification as to the stipulations of the grant form. He noted that only some of the applicants had provided the supporting financial information that was requested on the form, and questioned how all of the applications could be considered fairly.

 Another Member noted that this Council had a budget line of £5,735 for General Donations for this financial year, and asked for this figure to be taken into consideration.

 Another Member observed that the amounts requested have been steadily increasing with time, with some organisations now asking for thousands of pounds.

 Discussion followed with a Member stating the difficulties faced as there was no maximum amount stated on the grant form for applicants to heed when requesting financial assistance. The Member further noted that there is often a rush of applications in April, and the present national financial climate meant additional concern for many organisations. It was also observed that many smaller organisations did not have audited accounts.

 The Mayor advised Members that he was in a position to furnish Members with some additional information relating to a number of the applications. The Milford Haven Rotary Club is presently preparing audited accounts. The structure of the Dyfed and Glamorgan Army Cadet Force (ACF) Milford Haven Troop was such that accounts specific to Milford Haven could not be provided. Milford Haven F.C. Under 9s had sent an email to the Secretary confirming that a new company bank account had been set up, and the Clerk and Secretary had unsuccessfully tried to contact Hakin United seeking financial information.

 RESOLVED THAT the applications from the

 organisations requesting financial assistance

 who had provided supporting financial information

 be considered first.

 (b) Applications for Financial Assistance:

 RESOLVED THAT the following decisions be

 made in relation to the applications for financial

 assistance:

 (i) PATCH - £200

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

 *powers under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972.*

 (ii) Milford Haven Rotary Club - £300

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

 *powers under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972.*

 (iii) Dyfed and Glamorgan Army Cadet Force

 (ACF) Milford Haven Troop - £1,210

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

 *powers under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972.*

 It was further RESOLVED THAT:

 (A) the £1,210 is to be funded from the Council’s

 Reserves;

 (B) the Dyfed and Glamorgan Army Cadet Force

 (ACF) Milford Haven Troop is to be encouraged

 to apply for financial assistance for discussion at

 January’s Precept Meeting.

 Councillor E. R. Harries declared a personal interest as the Chairman of another youth organisation, the Milford Haven Sea Cadets and Royal Marines Cadets.

 Councillor W. D. Elliott BA QTS declared a personal interest as the Commanding Officer of the Milford Haven Sea Cadets and Royal Marines Cadets.

 Councillor C. A. Sharp declared a personal interest as a Unit Member of the Milford Haven Sea Cadets and Royal Marines Cadets.

 Councillor A. E. Byrne declared a personal interest as he knows the applicant.

 (iv) Hakin United - deferred whilst awaiting further information relating to their pitch renovation plans and receipt of requested financial information.

 Councillor R. Gray declared a personal interest in this application, as her children are involved with Hakin United.

 (v) Milford United F.C. Under 9s - £100

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

 *powers under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972.*

 Councillor M. P. Rickard indicated that he would contact this organisation via the Clerk as to other means of funding.

 (vi) Pembrokeshire Disabled Bowlers Club - £300

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

 *powers under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972.*

 (vii) Pembrokeshire Special Needs Gymnastics Club

 - £200

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

 *powers under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972.*

 (viii) All Pembrokeshire Cruse - £100

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

 *powers under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972.*

 It was FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Clerk

 is to prepare a Report on the categories of

 financial applications received over the last

 three years, and how any grants were

 apportioned.

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