Minutes of a Meeting of the Milford Haven Town Council

held at the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Milford Haven

on Monday, 13th November, 2017 at 7:00 pm

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PRESENT

The Mayor (Councillor C. A. Sharp)

Councillors: W. D. Elliott BA QTS R. D. Evans

Miss K. Gray B. T. Jenkins

A. H. Miles Mrs. T. Olin

M. P. Rickard Mrs. Y. G. Southwell

Mrs. L. E. Turner Mrs. C. T. Williams

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

Youth

Representative: Miss B. Roberts

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TO RECEIVE MS K. LINDLEY, EXPERIENCE LINK OFFFICER, PLANED:

The Mayor, Councillor C. A. Sharp, welcomed Ms. K. Lindley, Experience Link Officer, PLANED, to the meeting. Ms. Lindley thanked the Mayor for his warm welcome.

Ms. Lindley said that she is employed by PLANED - Pembrokeshire Local Action Network Enterprise Development – which is celebrating its 30th anniversary next year. She advised that some Councillors will be familiar with PLANED’s work.

PLANED started in Narberth where people came together in the Bloomfield Community Centre. The success of the community campaign led to the formation of the Taf and Cleddau Rural Initiative in 1987. This success led the way for the formation of South Pembrokeshire Action for Rural Communities (SPARC).

PLANED supports different projects such as tourism, heritage and the environment, and encourages communities to come together to produce an action plan.

PLANED has established and continues to support a Community Forum Network, whose purpose is to bring together Community Forums and Associations to share experience and good practice, along with Community, Town and City Councils and other agencies. The Forum meets twice yearly and is an opportunity for communities to discuss challenges and solutions across the county.

PLANED has also supported many community buildings and village halls. The Pembrokeshire Community Buildings Forum brings together representatives from community buildings throughout Pembrokeshire. It provides an opportunity to network and discuss issues that affect community buildings, as well as providing updates on current funding and relevant changes in legislation.

Ms. Lindley indicated that PLANED supported a Development Officer in Milford Haven through Milford Haven Plus and helped the development of other projects throughout the town.

PLANED supports different projects such as tourism, heritage and the environment, and encourages communities to come together to produce an action plan.

Ms. Lindley announced that PLANED administers the Pembrokeshire EU and Welsh Government LEADER fund. LEADER is a French acronym which translated means ‘links between actors for developing the rural economy’. Decisions on how the money is spent is decided by Arwain Sir Benfro Local Action Group (LAG) which is made of representatives from public, private and third sector organisations in the County.

PLANED is speaking to Community and Town Councils to see if they have any ideas for projects.

The LEADER plan:

* Can cover up to 70% of total project cost.
* Projects – maximum 2 year pilot projects.
* Eligible costs – Professional fees, Services, Mentorship, Training, Feasibility Studies or Pilot Projects.
* Small Scale Equipment Costs – up to £10,000.

Each project will need to fit with at least one of the five LEADER themes:

1. Adding value to local identity and natural and cultural resources.

2. Facilitating pre-commercial development, business partnerships and short- supply chains.

3. Exploring new ways of providing non-statutory local services.

4. Renewable energy at a Community level.

5. Exploitation of digital technology.

Ms. Lindley advised that all interested parties need to contact PLANED to discuss their ideas on a one-to-one basis before submitting an application.

Ms. Lindley then concluded her presentation and the Mayor thanked Ms. Lindley for her attendance. The Mayor said that it was unfortunate that the Chair of the Milford Haven Town Regeneration Team was not at the meeting as what Ms. Lindley was explaining would be perfect for the Town Team. The Mayor said that he would have a word with the Chair to see if it would be possible for Ms. Lindley to address a future meeting of the Town Team.

Ms. Lindley left the meeting at this point.

Councillors Mrs. C. T. Williams and G. Woodham MBA (Open) LL.B (Hons) joined the meeting.

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.

169. APOLOGIES:

Apologies for absence were received from the Deputy Mayor, Councillor R. D. Gray, and Councillors A. E. Byrne, T. Davies, E. R. Harries and D. R. Sinnett, and one of the Youth Representatives, Miss A. Coaker. Apologies for absence were not received from Councillor J. Thrower.

170. MAYOR’S REMARKS:

The Mayor advised that the Deputy Mayor, Councillor R. D. Gray, was unable to attend this evening’s meeting as she had tripped and fallen earlier that day and had hurt her elbow and shoulder. He would pass on the Council’s best wishes.

The Mayor said that he was pleased to inform Members that it was Councillor E. R. Harries’ birthday today.

171. TO CONFIRM AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON THE 30TH OCTOBER, 2017:

(a) Minute 156 – Gelliswick Toilets

RESOLVED THAT the word “Member”

should be amended to read “Members”.

(b) Minute 157 – Independent Remuneration for Wales – Annual Report 2018/2019

RESOLVED THAT in paragraphs 9 and 11 the

word “Review” should be replaced by the word

“Remuneration”.

RESOLVED THAT, subject to the above, the Minutes

of the Meeting of the Milford Haven Town Council

held on the 30th October, 2017, be accepted and

that they be signed by the Mayor as a true record.

172. INFORMATION FROM THE MAYOR:

(a) Mayor’s Engagements:

Members were informed of the Mayor’s Engagements since the 30th October, 2017:

31st October - Pirate Magic Show

31st October - Milford Haven Fire Station Halloween Night

4th November - Milford Haven Sea Cadets and Royal Marines Cadets Charity Night – *Ceri Dupree*

5th November - Dedication Service at the Memorial Gardens

5th November - Milford Haven Round Table Firework Display

8th November - PALS Coffee Morning

9th November - Visit of the Girl Guides to the Town Hall

9th November - Pembrokeshire County Council Social Evening

10th November - Milford Haven Town Band Remembrance Service

11th November - Royal British Legion Two Minute Silence in Charles Street

12th November - Milford Haven Remembrance Service

12th November - Neyland Remembrance Service

(b) South Hook Visit

The Mayor reminded Members that the visit to South Hook LNG would be taking place this Wednesday, 15th November.

(c) Mayor’s Parlour

The Mayor said that the Parlour would not be opened at the next Full Council. It will, however, be opened on 11th December and he issued an invitation to Members to invite their partners, family or friends (within reason) to the Parlour.

(d) Behaviour of Councillors

The Mayor said that a member of the public had brought to his attention that a Councillor was criticising both this Council and Clerk at a public event. The Mayor reminded Members to be very careful when in public as to what they say about the Council and its Officers.

If any Member has issues with any Councillor or Council Staff it is essential to follow proper procedure.

(e) Mayor’s Charity Event

The Mayor said that he is holding an event – *Mayor’s Charity Welsh Wrestling* - at the Pill Social Centre on Saturday, 25th November.

(f) Tempus Vocal Group Concert

The Mayor stated that he had been asked by a Councillor to mention that there is a Tempus Vocal Group Concert at St Katharine and St. Peter’s Church on 26th November. Tickets can be obtained from Councillor Mrs. Y. G. Southwell.

173. INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION FOR WALES – ANNUAL REPORT 2018/19:

The Mayor said that this item had been referred from the last meeting of Full Council, when it had agreed that if any Member had any comments to provide them via the Clerk. Only one Member had replied.

The Member said that she was wholly opposed to a remuneration whereby Councillors are expected to opt out. She was of the opinion that funding should be made available to actually compensate for expenditure incurred on Council duty and that no person should be precluded from Council duties due to a lack of financial resources.

The Member continued to say that she was uncomfortable with Councillors claiming allowances without any evidence of the need for financial remuneration.

The Member would be in favour of a maximum amount being decided upon for which individual Councillors could submit receipts etc before claiming.

Another Member referred to the word “must” in Determination 44, which states that *“Community and town councils must make a payment to each of their members of £150 per year for costs incurred in respect of telephone usage, information technology, consumables etc”*, as this takes the choice of either accepting or declining payment out of Councillors’ hands.

RESOLVED THAT the Clerk is to contact

the Independent Remuneration Panel to

seek further clarification on the Determinations

that affect this Council.

174. FLOWERS FOR MILFORD HAVEN 2018:

Members discussed an email from Ms. K. Daly, Strategic Project Officer, Pembrokeshire County Council, in which she wrote that she had received a quotation from the Pembrokeshire County Council’s supplier that the flowers for this Council area will cost £4,655.94 to purchase. In order to receive the maximum discount, the order needs to be placed by Friday, 24th November.

RESOLVED THAT:

(i) this issue is to be referred to the next meeting

of the Full Council;

(ii) Ms. Daly be asked to provide a breakdown of

the schedule for the provision of flowers in this

area, and whether the Clerk could forward the

Council’s decision on Tuesday, 28th November.

175. COMMUNITY REPORT:

Members gave consideration to a report by a Councillor in which she asked for an item ‘community report’ be added to the Agenda on a monthly basis.

The Member explained she had spoken with other Councillors and had been made aware that some councils have a monthly ‘community report’. This would serve a number of purposes, it would keep the Members up to date with issues that could potentially ‘cross’ wards, whilst informing the public of the help that this Council can offer.

As it would be Minuted, the public will see that this Council is not a body that is there ‘just for the title’. Any reports would be listed as ‘a Member assisted with X, Y or Z’ and not reported in any given name.

It would be seen by the public as far more transparent and hopefully be a positive step forward for the Council as a whole.

After a debate, it was RESOLVED THAT this matter be referred to the Standing Orders Sub-Committee for further discussion.

176. PEMBROKESHIRE PSB DRAFT WELL-BEING PLAN CONSULTATION:

Members discussed the Pembrokeshire PSB’s consultation on its draft Well-being Plan.

RESOLVED THAT a Meeting be called to

discuss the Pembrokeshire Public Services

Board’s Consultation and the draft response

referred to December’s Full Council meeting.

177. MID AND WEST WALES FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY DRAFT CORPORATE PLAN 2018 – 2023 CONSULTATION:

Members gave consideration to the Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Authority Draft Corporate Plan 2018 – 2023 Consultation.

RESOLVED THAT Members are to complete the

consultation on an individual basis if they wish to

do so.

178. CONSULTATION ON THE PUBLIC SERVICES OMBUDSMAN (WALES) BILL:

Members gave consideration to a Consultation on the Public Services Ombudsman (Wales) Bill.

RESOLVED THAT Members are to complete the

consultation on an individual basis if they wish to

do so.

179. REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES:

(a) Governor for Gelliswick School

RESOLVED THAT Councillor Mrs. Y. G. Southwell is

to continue as this Council’s representative on the

Governing Body of the Gelliswick School.

180. APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE:

(a) Acknowledgement of Donations

The Mayor advised that letters of thanks had been received from Citizens Advice Pembrokeshire, Milford Haven Yarn Bombers, PATCH, Pembrokeshire Special Needs Gymnastics Club, Pill Social Centre and St. Katharine and St. Peter’s Church.

(b) Applications for Financial Assistance:

RESOLVED THAT the following decision be

made in relation to the applications for financial

assistance:-

Volunteering Matters Project: Rural Wisdom,

Milford Haven - £500

*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.*

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