Minutes of a Meeting of the Milford Haven Town Council

held at the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Milford Haven

on Monday, 11th December, 2017 at 7:00 pm

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PRESENT

The Mayor (Councillor C. A. Sharp)

Councillors: W. D. Elliott BA QTS T. J. Davies

Miss K. Gray E. R. Harries

A. H. Miles Mrs. T. Olin

M. P. Rickard 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 MR. M. CAVANAGH, HEAD OF CULTURAL, LEISURE AND REGISTRATION SERVICES, PEMBROKESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL, TO DISCUSS THE PADDLING POOL ON THE RATH:

The Mayor, Councillor C. A. Sharp, welcomed Mr. M. Cavanagh, Head of Cultural, Leisure and Registration Services, Pembrokeshire County Council, to the meeting.

Mr. Cavanagh said that, although he would be talking about the Paddling Pool, he had noticed that there was an Agenda item later in the meeting regarding the future of the Indoor Bowling Club at the Meads and he would also answer questions on that.

Mr. Cavanagh gave a brief description of his job history and said that the discussion regarding the closure of the Rath Paddling Pool predated his appointment as Head of Cultural, Leisure and Registration Services.

Mr. Cavanagh referred to the recent meeting with some Members of this Council. He said that a local Church had offered financial support to maintain the Paddling Pool.

Mr. Cavanagh said that it has become increasingly necessary for Town and Community Councils to support local services and work in partnership with the Pembrokeshire County Council.

A spreadsheet was circulated to Councillors which gave a breakdown of the expenditure for the Paddling Pool for the financial year 2017/2018 and the expected expenditure for the financial year 2018/2019.

A councillor referred to the agenda pack which said that 71 male adults, 256 female adults, 264 male children and 281 female children had visited the Paddling Pool this year. He questioned whether there was any way of identifying how many people actually used the Paddling Pool as opposed to how many visited in those categories the Paddling Pool. Mr. Cavanagh replied that it would be impossible to tell how many people used the Paddling Pool.

The Member said that when discussing the Precept in January he wanted a definitive idea of how many people used the facility.

Another Member asked Mr. Cavanagh what annual percentage increase he envisaged. The Member also queried what would happen to the £5,000 budget if the Paddling Pool was not open.

Mr. Cavanagh explained that staff costs are based on a total opening time of 324 hours and this would never happen because of the unpredictable weather. This year the Paddling Pool was only open 130.5 hours. Mr. Cavanagh said that the Pembrokeshire County Council could charge the actual cost incurred at the end of each financial year. There might be costs incurred that the Pembrokeshire County Council does not anticipate. For the financial year 2018/2019 £5,146 is the maximum cost subject to any exceptional issues.

A Member said that it might be clearer if the two parties paid a percentage of the costs – 60% funded by the Town Council and 40% or £2,000 by the Nantucket Charitable Incorporated Organisation, whichever is the lesser.

The Member asked what would happen if the Nantucket CIO decided not to go ahead after the first year.

Mr. Cavanagh said that there would need to be a contract, to which all parties would have to agree.

Another Member asked whether there would be anything in the agreement if there was no member of staff available to open the Paddling Pool. Mr. Cavanagh said that it would be possible to look at volunteers, as discussed at the last meeting.

A Member expressed disappointment that Town and Community Councils were expected to fund services previously operated by Pembrokeshire County Council.

Mr. Cavanagh explained that the Pembrokeshire County Council had already saved around £50 million over the last four years and they were already a lean authority. The Pembrokeshire County Council has the lowest council tax in Wales.

Mr. Cavanagh then referred to the Indoor Bowling Club at the Meads Leisure Centre.

Mr. Cavanagh explained that the Pembrokeshire County Council is trying to change the way services are used rather than cutting them.

The Pembrokeshire County Council has separate services in different buildings. If services are incorporated under one roof the services are retained and there is a saving in office costs etc.

In Milford Haven the Pembrokeshire County Council is looking at a number of options, including moving services, such as the Library at Cedar Court, into the Meads Leisure Centre.

Mr. Cavanagh said that the number of people using the Bowling Club has declined over recent years, with the corresponding decline in income. There is a bowling facility at Heatherton but that is a problem for people without transport.

Mr. Cavanagh said that he had attended a meeting with people who used the Bowling Club who were passionate about keeping the Club in Milford Haven. He said that he always had concerns about the impact that this would have on people.

A Member said that she had been informed that the figures are skewed as to how many people use that facility throughout the year as not all the people who use the bowling facility are logged.

The Member said that there was mayhem when the Library was moved from Hamilton Terrace to Cedar Court. The reasons given were that the building was no longer accessible and in need of repair. The Member said that she understood that the £84,000 paid to the Port Authority for the rent of that building could have paid for the refurbishments to the original Library building.

The Member continued by saying that taking the Tourist Information Centre away from the Town Centre had been unsuccessful.

The Member suggested that the ground floor of the potential new development at the former Motorworld building would be an ideal location for the Library – it would increase its usage and help regenerate the town centre.

Mr. Cavanagh replied that the £84,000 for the library at Cedar Court referred to the total property costs such as rent and utilities. He said that he prefers to place facilities in the town centre where possible.

Another Member said that Council had been unanimously opposed to moving the Library from Hamilton Terrace to Cedar Court.

Mr. Cavanagh said that he would shortly be meeting with Mr. B. Cooke, Head of Property, Pembrokeshire County Council in Milford Haven and would discuss the former Motorworld site.

Mr Cavanagh concluded by saying that, in principle, he believes that libraries are best placed in the town centre. He does, however, have to look at it on a case by case basis. The relocation of the library from Hamilton Terrace to Cedar Court was before his time.

Mr. Cavanagh was thanked for attending the meeting and he left the meeting at this point.

Councillors A. H. Miles and Mrs. C. T. Williams joined the meeting during Mr. Cavanagh’s presentation.

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.

210. APOLOGIES:

Apologies for absence were received from the Deputy Mayor, Councillor R. D. Gray, and Councillors A. E. Byrne, R. D. Evans, D. R. Sinnett and Mrs. Y. G. Southwell, and one of the Youth Representatives, Miss A. Coaker. Apologies for absence were not received from Councillor J. Thrower.

211. TO CONFIRM AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON THE 27TH NOVEMBER, 2017:

RESOLVED THAT, subject to the above, the Minutes

of the Meeting of the Milford Haven Town Council

held on the 27th November, 2017, be accepted and

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

212. INFORMATION FROM THE MAYOR:

(a) Mayor’s Engagements

Members were informed of the Mayor’s Engagements since 28th November, 2017:

29th November - Darby & Joan Christmas lunch at The Starboard

30th November - Milford Haven Junior Craft Fayre

2nd December - Visit to Value Independence to see Father Christmas

2nd December - Switch on of Christmas Lights

5th December - Green Conference at County Hall

6th December - PALS Christmas Tea

6th December - Christmas lunch at the Hubberston and Hakin Luncheon Club

6th December - Meeting with Mrs. McGeown regarding Disability Bowls Access

7th December - Meads Christmas Fayre

8th December - Mayor’s Charity Swing & Jive Night

9th December - Window Judging Competition

9th December - Opening of the Milford Waterfront Christmas Cracker

11th December - Panto Visit to the Torch Theatre with Milford Haven Junior School

(b) Visit of Father Christmas

The Mayor thanked the Councillors who assisted in the recent, very successful, visit of Father Christmas to the Town Hall.

(c) Delivery of Letters from Father Christmas

The Mayor said that if any Councillor wished to assist with the delivery of

letters from Father Christmas to contact the Clerk.

REPORTS ON COMMITTEES

213. PEMBROKESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL LIAISON GROUP:

The Minutes of the Pembrokeshire County Council Liaison Group held on the 23rd November, 2017, were moved by the Mayor, Councillor C. A. Sharp.

(a) Minute 183 – To Discuss the Paddling Pool on The Rath and The Rath in general

A Member said that he finds the recommendations too specific and does not believe that they are appropriate at this stage.

After some discussion it was RESOLVED THAT:

(i) the funding of the Rath Paddling Pool is to

be referred to the Precept Meeting to be

held on 11th January, 2018, for further

discussion;

(ii) a meeting be arranged with the Pembrokeshire

County Council Liaison Group, Pembrokeshire

County Council and the Nantucket Charitable

Incorporated Organisation to agree a jointly

acceptable contract, potentially for a 5-year

agreement with the Nantucket Charitable

Incorporated Organisation contributing

£2,000 or 40%, whichever is the lesser;

(iii) the draft contract will then be debated at Full

Council;

(iv) the Pembrokeshire County Council is to be informed

that this Council is following this process very

reluctantly and against Members’ better judgement;

It was FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, subject to the

above, the Minutes of the Meeting of the Pembrokeshire County Council Liaison Group held on the 23rd November, 2017, be approved and adopted.

214. PUBLIC EVENTS SUB-COMMITTEE:

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Public Events Sub-Committee held on 23rd November, 2017, were moved by the Chairman, Councillor W. D. Elliott BA QTS.

(a) Minute 185 (f) – Lantern Parade

Councillor M. P. Rickard, who oversees the Lantern Parade, said that the traffic management services employed to assist with the Lantern Parade were excellent and he thanked all those who assisted on the day. A local Police Officer had said that the Lantern Parade had been “fabulously organised”.

(b) Minute 186 – Membership of Committee

Councillor Mrs. C. T. Williams, the Chair of the Milford Haven Town Regeneration Team, advised that several Members of this Council are currently under the impression that they serve under the Milford Haven Town Regeneration Team as Members of this Council.

She informed Members that the Milford Haven Town Regeneration Team does have a structure in place.

RESOLVED THAT the heading “Representation

on Outside Bodies – Milford Haven Town Regeneration

Team” be placed on the Agenda for the Full

Council meeting to be held at the end of

January 2018.

RESOLVED THAT, subject to the above, the

Minutes of the Meeting of the Public Events Sub-

Committee held on 23rd November, 2017, be

approved and adopted.

215. ESTABLISHMENT COMMITTEE:

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Establishment Committee held on 27th November 2017, were moved by the Mayor, Councillor C. A. Sharp.

RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Meeting of

the Establishment Committee held on the 27th

November, 2017, be approved and adopted.

216. CEMETERY REPORT FOR OCTOBER 2017:

RESOLVED THAT the Cemetery Report, as

presented by the Clerk for the month of

October, 2017, be received.

217. PLANS:

(a) Planning Application No. 17/0641/PA – Residential development (six flats) at Ex-Allotments and Parking Spaces at The Ropewalk, Milford Haven

The Chairman of the Public Works and Planning Committee, Councillor M. P. Rickard, advised that since this document has been published the above numbered planning application has been declined by the Pembrokeshire County Council.

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.

218. FUTURE OF INDOOR BOWLING CLUB IN MILFORD HAVEN:

The Mayor referred to the earlier meeting with Mr. M. Cavanagh and said that at the moment there is merely discussion as to whether the Library will be moved from Cedar Court to the Meads Leisure Centre.

The Mayor said that he had had a meeting with 2 representatives from the Bowling Club and had extended his support. He had told them that he would visit them in January 2018. If any Member would like to join him in this visit, he asked for them to contact the Clerk for the relevant information.

219. DRAFT PSB WELLBEING QUESTIONNAIRE:

Members discussed the Draft PSB Wellbeing Questionnaire.

The Mayor thanked Councillors A. H. Miles for his input and G. Woodham MBA (Open) LL.B (Hons) for producing the document.

RESOLVED THAT the Questionnaire be approved

and forwarded to Pembrokeshire County Council.

220. PROPOSED CHANGES TO HOUSEHOLD WASTE AND RECYCLING COLLECTIONS:

Councillor G. Woodham MBA (Open) LL.B (Hons) said that he believes that this is a important document. It is one service that will impact upon every household in Pembrokeshire. Councillor Woodham explained that, in his role as County Councillor, he Chairs the Policy and Pre-decision Overview and Scrutiny Committee which will consider the responses to the Questionnaire in February and make a recommendation to Cabinet in March.

RESOLVED THAT the Milford Haven Town Council is to

respond collectively to the Questionnaire at a meeting

prior to the Full Council meeting on 11th January, 2018.

Councillor G. Woodham MBA (Open) LL.B (Hons) said that he would not be attending that meeting.

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