Minutes of a Meeting of the Milford Haven Town Council

held at the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Milford Haven

on Thursday, 11th January, 2018 at 6:30 pm

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PRESENT

The Mayor (Councillor C. A. Sharp)

The Deputy Mayor (Councillor R. D. Gray)

Councillors: A. E. Byrne T. J. Davies

W. D. Elliott BA QTS Miss K. Gray

A. H. Miles Mrs. T. Olin

M. P. Rickard D. R. Sinnett

Mrs. L. E. Turner 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.

221. MAYOR’S REMARKS:

The Mayor, Councillor C. A. Sharp, welcomed Councillors to the meeting and hoped that they had a pleasant Christmas and New Year. He extended a special welcome to Councillor A. E. Byrne and passed on his best wishes to Councillor Byrne and his family.

222. APOLOGIES:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors R. D. Evans, E. R. Harries and Mrs. Y. G. Southwell, and the Youth Representatives, Miss A. Coaker and Miss B. Roberts. Apologies for absence were not received from Councillor J. Thrower.

223. CONSULTATIONS:

(a) Proposed Changes to Household Waste and Recycling Collections

Councillor G. Woodham MBA (Open) LL.B (Hons) said that although it is not technically a prejudicial interest, on this item he wished to exclude himself from the Chamber because the answers to the public consultation will come before an extraordinary meeting of the Policy and Pre-decision Overview and Scrutiny Committee of the Pembrokeshire County Council in February of which he is Chair.

Councillor Woodham MBA (Open) LL.B (Hons) then left the Chamber.

Members gave consideration to the draft consultation document as prepared by the Mayor and the Clerk.

RESOLVED THAT, subject to the following, the draft

consultation form be approved for submission

to the Pembrokeshire County Council:

* Question 5: “Please briefly outline any concerns you have about restricted three weekly collections of black bags”
* *Additional answer to Question 5: “Some people might find three bags per household on a three-weekly collection unacceptable. Concerns were raised over how collections would be policed i.e. areas where residents collectively place their bins how would one identify the number of bags left by individual residents. We also have concerns over incontinence products and the registration of it. Will it be a different colour bin? It may be very embarrassing for the house holder when putting the bin out for collection.*

*There were also concerns over how feminine hygiene products would be disposed of, especially in a household where there may be more than one female. Although we understand these products can be placed in a black bin bag, there were concerns over the length of time they could be left in these bags, attracting attention from vermin.”*

The Mayor encouraged Members to complete the consultation form on an individual basis.

Councillor Woodham MBA (Open) LL.B (Hons) returned to the Chamber.

(b) Proposed Changes to Car Parking Charges December 2017

Members gave consideration to the draft consultation document as prepared

by the Mayor and the Clerk.

RESOLVED THAT, subject to the following, the draft

consultation form be approved by submission

to the Pembrokeshire County Council:

* Question 1a: “If you have indicated your own opinion (re Proposed Amendments Document), please provide brief details below”
* *Additional answer to Question 1a: “Car Parking Charges should reflect the strength of the local economic circumstances in the town centre and in this we would strongly disagree that a 50p per hour standing charge should be implemented in Milford Haven”*

The Mayor encouraged Members to complete the consultation form on an individual basis.

224. TO CONSIDER THE COUNCIL’S PRECEPT REQUIREMENTS FOR 2018/2019:

Members discussed the Council’s precept requirements for 2018/2019. The Mayor thanked Councillor G. Woodham MBA (Open) LL.B (Hons) who had prepared a short paper explaining the precept process for the benefit of the new Councillors.

(a) Cemetery Expenditure

A Member questioned the figure of £10,000 in the roads and paths budget. The Chairman, Councillor M. P. Rickard, explained that this figure might vary as it was based on previous estimates for the improvement to roads and paths at the Cemetery. The Chairman continued to explain that this was a slightly inflated figure as the Members of the Cemetery Maintenance and Land Acquisition Group do not know how much remedial work is needed.

The Chairman said that the Members of the Cemetery Maintenance and Land Acquisition Group would be preparing a schedule of maintenance work for the Cemetery.

It was proposed and seconded that £15,205 (£10,000 for the roads and paths, £2,000 for topsoil and turf and £3,205 for the contract hire of a new HPX Gator utility vehicle) in the expenditure column of the draft estimates be taken from reserves; that any Cemetery income identified as a surplus in 2018/2019 be reinvested in the Cemetery in 2019/2020 and that a project management approach for the ongoing maintenance schedule is produced during the next financial year to support discussions at the January 2019 precept.

An amendment was proposed and seconded that £10,000 be removed from the precept and taken from Reserves. A vote was taken and the amendment was carried by 6 votes to 5.

RESOLVED THAT the figure of £10,000 in the roads

and paths budget be taken from the precept and that

up to £10,000 for roads and paths be taken from

Reserves when needed.

(b) Cemetery Income

RESOLVED THAT:

(i) the 5% increase in Cemetery fees as recommended

by the Cemetery Fees Sub-Committee be approved,

(this figure is to be adjusted to the nearest pound where

necessary) with the exception of the fees for headstones,

which are to remain unchanged (£185 for first inscription

and £92 for second inscription);

(ii) a new fee structure be introduced for cremated remains

tablets and inscribed pots (£100 for first inscription and

£50 for second inscription).

(c) Water Events

RESOLVED THAT:

(i) the £2,000 allocated in this budget line be moved

to the Public Events Budget;

it was FURTHER RESOLVED THAT:

(ii) following the initial review of the precept, it was agreed

to remove the £2,000 from the budget.

(d) Milford Haven Round Table (LGA 1972, s.145)

RESOLVED THAT:

(i) the Milford Haven Round Table’s donation is to remain

at £4,150 for the financial year 2018/2019;

A Member said that if all the applications for donations were granted, that would double the amount of donations given last year.

It was FURTHER RESOLVED THAT:

(ii) before finalising the Council’s precept requirements

it was agreed to revisit the figures if considered necessary.

(e) Milford Haven Twinning Association (LGA 1972, s.145)

The Mayor, Councillor C. A. Sharp, declared a personal interest as he has been appointed by this Council as its representative on the Milford Haven Twinning Association.

RESOLVED THAT the Milford Haven Twinning

Association’s donation is to remain at £1,000

for the financial year 2018/2019.

(f) Milford Haven Museum Trust (LGA 1972, s.145)

The Mayor declared a personal interest as he is the Chair of the Milford Haven Museum Trust and handed the Chair for this Agenda item to the Deputy Mayor, Councillor R. D. Gray.

Councillor Mrs. C. T. Williams declared a personal interest in this issue, as she has been appointed by this Council as its representative on the Milford Haven Museum Trust. She took no part in the discussion and abstained from voting.

RESOLVED THAT the Milford Haven Museum

Trust’s grant be increased from £7,000

to £10,000 for the financial year 2018/2019.

(g) Milford Haven Town Band and Milford Haven Junior Town Band (LGA 1972, s.145)

Councillor G. Woodham MBA (Open) LL.B (Hons) declared a personal interest as he is the President of the Milford Haven Town Band and Milford Haven Junior Town Band.

Councillor W. D. Elliott BA QTS declared a personal interest as he is the Vice- President of the Milford Haven Town Band and Milford Haven Junior Town Band.

Members noted that the Milford Haven Junior Town Band does not have its own set of accounts. The Junior Town Band’s accounts are held with the Milford Haven Town Band’s accounts.

RESOLVED THAT:

(i) a joint donation of £3,500 be given to Milford Haven

Town Band and the Milford Haven Junior Town Band;

It was FURTHER RESOLVED THAT:

(ii) following the initial review of the precept, it was agreed to

reduce this donation to £2,500 for the financial year

2018-2019.

(h) Milford Haven Sea Cadets and Royal Marines Cadets (LGA 1972, s.137)

The Mayor, Councillor C. A. Sharp, declared a personal interest, as he is the Vice-Chair of the Unit Management Team.

Councillor W. D. Elliott BA QTS declared a personal interest as he is an Adult Volunteer with the Milford Haven Sea Cadets and Royal Marines Cadets.

RESOLVED THAT the Milford Haven Sea Cadets

and Royal Marine Cadets are to receive a donation

of £2,500 for the financial year 2018/2019.

(i) Torch Theatre Company Limited

The Mayor, Councillor C. A. Sharp, declared a prejudicial interest in this item as his husband is employed by the Torch Theatre as Senior Manager - Business.

Councillor C. A. Sharp left the Council Chamber during discussion of this item and the Chair was taken for this item by the Deputy Mayor, Councillor R. D. Gray.

Councillor G. Woodham MBA (Open) LL.B (Hons) declared a prejudicial interest in this item as he is employed by the Torch Theatre as Senior Manager - Business. He left the Council Chamber during the discussion of this item.

Councillor D. R. Sinnett declared a personal interest in this item, as he has been appointed by the Pembrokeshire County Council as its representative on the Torch Theatre Management Board. He left the Council Chamber during discussion on this item.

RESOLVED THAT the Torch Theatre Company

Limited’s grant is to be increased from £9,000

to £12,000 for the financial year 2018/2019.

(j) Pill Social Centre

The Mayor, Councillor C. A. Sharp, declared a personal interest in this item as he is a Trustee of the Pill Social Centre. He abstained from voting on this item.

Councillor W. D. Elliott BA QTS declared a personal interest in this item as he is an occasional volunteer at the Pill Social Centre.

Councillor G. Woodham MBA (Open) LL.B (Hons) declared a personal interest in this item as he is a volunteer and the volunteer Treasurer at the Pill Social Centre.

RESOLVED THAT:

(i) a donation of £5,000 be made to the Pill Social

Centre for the financial year 2018/2019;

It was FURTHER RESOLVED THAT:

(ii) following the initial review of the precept, it was

agreed to reduce the donation to £4,000 for the

financial year 2018/2019.

(k) Suspension of Standing Order

As it was almost 8:30 pm, it was RESOLVED THAT

Standing Order 1u – *“Meetings shall not* *exceed a*

*period of 2 hours”* - be suspendedto continue with

the meeting.

(l) Mayor’s Allowance

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor R. D. Gray, declared a personal interest in this issue.

(m) Mayor’s Civic Duties/Mayor’s Civic Service/Civic Dinner/Entertaining Ships

RESOLVED THAT:

(i) a budget of £3,100 be administered by the Clerk

to assist the Mayor with his/her Civic Duties;

(ii) this issue is to be referred to the Standing Orders

Sub-Committee where matters such as the

Independent Remuneration Panel’s Determination on

childcare will be discussed.

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor R. D. Gray, abstained from voting on this item.

(n) Councillor Allowance

RESOLVED THAT the payment of the Councillor

Allowance is to be referred to the Standing Orders

Sub-Committee to ensure that this Council is

approaching this issue in the most prudent way.

(o) Entertaining Ships

RESOLVED THAT this budget line be merged with

the Mayor’s Civic Duties Budget.

(p) CCTV Cameras

RESOLVED THAT representatives from Dyfed-Powys

Police are to be invited to address a Full Council

meeting later this year to provide information on the

usage of the CCTV Cameras and the impact that they

have on reducing crime in the community.

(q) Rath Paddling Pool

RESOLVED THAT up to £3,000 is taken from Reserves

to fund the Rath Paddling Pool for the financial year

2018/2019.

(r) Gelliswick Toilets

Members expressed dismay at the photographs of the vandalism incurred at Gelliswick Toilets.

RESOLVED THAT this issue is to be referred to

a future Full Council meeting for further discussion.

(s) Rent of Town Hall Suite

RESOLVED THAT the Pembrokeshire County Council

is to be asked to address a number of items that are

causing concern.

(t) Precept

RESOLVED THAT:

(i) £10,000 be taken from Reserves to lower the precept;

(ii) a Precept Requirement in the sum of £180,373 be served

on the Pembrokeshire County Council in respect of the financial year 2018/2019. This figure is equivalent to a charge of

£35.00 per annum per Band “D” household, an increase

of £1.87 per annum.

Councillor D. R. Sinnett wished it recorded that he had voted against the precept.

225. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CEMETERY FEES SUB-COMMITTEE HELD ON 27TH NOVEMBER, 2017:

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

RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Meeting of the

Cemetery Fees Sub-Committee held on 27th November,

2017, be approved and adopted.

226. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CEMETERY MAINTENANCE AND LAND ACQUISITION GROUP HELD ON 11TH DECEMBER, 2017:

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Cemetery Maintenance and Land Acquisition Group held on 11th December, 2017, were moved by the Chairman, Councillor M. P. Rickard.

RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Meeting of the

Cemetery Maintenance and Land Acquisition Group

held on 11th December, 2017, be approved and adopted.

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