Minutes of a Meeting of the Milford Haven Town Council

held at the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Milford Haven

on Thursday, 8th March, 2018 at 7:00 pm

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PRESENT

The Mayor (Councillor C. A. Sharp)

The Deputy Mayor (Councillor R. D. Gray)

Councillors: A. E. Byrne W. D. Elliott BA QTS

R. D. Evans Miss K. Gray

E. R. Harries M. P. Rickard

D. R. Sinnett Mrs. C. T. Williams

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

Youth

Representatives: Miss A. Coaker Miss B. Roberts

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PRAYERS:

In the absence of the Mayor’s Chaplain, Father Harri Williams, prayers were led by the Mayor, Councillor C. A. Sharp.

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The formal meeting of the Milford Haven Town Council then commenced.

277. MAYOR’S REMARKS:

The Mayor welcomed Councillor R. Williams to his first meeting as a Town Councillor.

278. APOLOGIES:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors T. J. Davies, A. H. Miles, Mrs. T. Olin, Mrs. Y. G. Southwell and Mrs. L. E. Turner.

279. REGISTER OF MEMBERS’ INTERESTS:

The Mayor said that any Member who wished to declare an interest should complete the form in front of them.

280. TO CONFIRM AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON THE 15TH FEBRUARY, 2018:

RESOLVED THAT, subject to the above, the Minutes

of the Meeting of the Milford Haven Town Council

held on the 15th February, 2018, be accepted and

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

281. INFORMATION FROM THE MAYOR:

Mayor’s Engagements

Members were informed of the Mayor’s Engagements since 29th January, 2018:

5th February - Meeting with Sergeant Terri Harrison, Dyfed- Powys Police

5th February - Meeting with Joan Walters

15th February - Remembrance Service – *In Memory of Those Who Lost Their Lives at Sea*

15th February - Radio Pembrokeshire Local Hero Awards

17th February - Rotary Fundraiser Night

20th February - Opening Night of “The Wood” at the Torch Theatre

22nd February - Meeting with David Swidenbank

22nd February - Milford Waterfront Presentation

24th February - Milford Haven Town Band Awards Night

27th February - Presentation of “The Age of Stupid”

28th February - Meeting with Jeff Edwards re Preseli Bluestone Run

2nd March - Milford Haven School Cheque Presentation

5th March - Milford Waterfront Meeting

7th March - Milford Haven Amateur Operatic Society’s production of “Annie Get Your Gun”

REPORTS ON COMMITTEES

282. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SOCIAL MEDIA GROUP HELD ON 15TH FEBRUARY, 2018:

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Social Media Group held on 15th February, 2018 were moved by the Chairman, Councillor W. D. Elliott BA QTS.

(a) Minute 252 – Review of Social Media Platforms

A Member referred to the totals of “likes” on the Council’s Facebook page and the totals of followers on the Council’s Instagram and Twitter pages and said that the totals were given as of 7th February, 2018, but questioned the date when these records began.

The Chairman advised that the date was when the Council’s social media platforms were first opened. The Clerk confirmed that the dates of the opening of the social media platforms would be given in any future information.

Another Member drew attention to the second recommendation regarding the use of social media to collect a record of defibrillators in Milford Haven.

The Member said that he had been approached by an employee of the Pembrokeshire County Council who works in Milford Haven. This employee was very concerned at the lack of information relating to defibrillators in the town. The Member urged Councillors to be proactive with their approach and suggested that the topic of defibrillators could be added to the Agenda for discussion at a future meeting of the Full Council.

Councillor M. P. Rickard said that he had already spoken to the Clerk about this matter. He indicated that he was happy to assist the Clerk with all work relating to this vital resource.

RESOLVED THAT, subject to the above, the

Minutes of the Meeting of the Social Media

Group held on 15th February, 2018, be

approved and adopted.

283. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PUBLIC EVENTS SUB-COMMITTEE HELD ON 20TH FEBRUARY, 2018:

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Public Events Sub-Committee held on 20th February, 2018, were moved by the Chairman, Councillor W. D. Elliott BA QTS.

RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Meeting of

the Public Events Sub-Committee held on 20th

February, 2018, be approved and adopted.

284. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CEMETERY MAINTENANCE AND LAND ACQUISITION GROUP HELD ON 22ND FEBRUARY, 2018:

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Cemetery Maintenance and Land Acquisition Group held on 22nd February, 2018, were moved by the Chairman, Councillor M. P. Rickard.

(a) Minute 267 - Cemetery Toilets

A Member spoke of his deep concerns and stressed the public need for the Cemetery toilets to remain open.

The Chairman, Councillor M. P. Rickard, explained that the Members of the Cemetery Maintenance and Land Acquisition Group had inspected the toilets and found them to be in very poor condition. A discussion at the Cemetery had resulted in a suggestion that the toilet located in Cemetery House may be made available for the public.

Another Member stated his belief that many people do not use the Cemetery toilets because they are in such a poor condition. He spoke of his hope that the future of the toilets has not been completely decided and that there may be an opportunity to debate this issue further in the near future.

The Chairman responded that there is a feasibility study in operation and that the recommendation for that area was still to be determined.

The Chairman asked whether the £3,000 unexpended for the toilet block in the budget line 2018-2019 could be carried over to the financial year 2019-2020.

RESOLVED THAT the £3,000 in the budget line

for the toilet block 2018-2019 be carried over to

2019-2020.

(b) Minute 268(b) - Chairman’s Report - Boundary Wall

A Member noted that, since becoming a Councillor, there appeared to be an ongoing issue with the boundary wall. He considered that a metal railing/fencing similar to the railing/fencing on the gates around the boundary might be the answer.

The Chairman indicated that this issue had been explored during the discussion on the replacement of the boundary wall and it would open the vista to the general public passing the Cemetery. He thanked the other Member for his suggestion.

(c) Minute 268(c) – Chairman’s Report - CCTV

A Member stated his concern as to the legal ramifications of permitting the bereaved to install mini-CCTV cameras on graves on Town Council land.

The Mayor said that, to his and the Clerk’s knowledge, there were not currently any mini cameras on graves at the Cemetery.

Another Member asked whether the Cemetery Maintenance and Land Acquisition Group could review the Cemetery Rules and Regulations. He was mindful of the sensitivity of the situation but had observed that many people were adding more than permitted to graves and benches and he felt that this should be discussed.

The Chairman said that he is more than happy to add this to the Agenda of the next meeting of the Cemetery Maintenance and Land Acquisition Group. He added that this is a very emotive subject that needs to be handled with great care.

RESOLVED THAT:

(i) the Clerk is to seek advice from various authorities

regarding the legality of mini-CCTV cameras in the

Cemetery;

(ii) an item “to review the Rules and Regulations

of Milford Haven Cemetery” is to be placed on

the Agenda for the next meeting of the Cemetery

Maintenance and Land Acquisition Group.

RESOLVED THAT, subject to the above,

the Minutes of the Meeting of the Cemetery

Maintenance and Land Acquisition Group held

on 22nd February, 2018, be approved and adopted.

285. GELLISWICK TOILETS:

Members discussed an email from Ms. K. Daly, Strategic Project Officer, Pembrokeshire County Council, in which she stated that she would be writing a report to ask the Cabinet to authorise a consultation process for closure of the toilets or to seek input from any interested parties.

Once this consultation process is complete, should the Pembrokeshire County Council continue with permanent closure then the Pembrokeshire County Council will be going back to Cabinet so any outcomes can form part of that report.

RESOLVED THAT, due to the high level of

vandalism, it was with great regret that the

Milford Haven Town Council is not able to adopt

the Gelliswick Toilets on the basis that they will

be constantly destroyed, and that this is a very sad

loss to the town.

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

Members gave consideration to the Independent Remuneration for Wales Annual

Report 2018/2019.

RESOLVED THAT this document be referred to the

Standing Orders Sub-Committee for further discussion.

287. POSITION WITH THE CONTROL OF DOGS:

A Member indicated that he had great concerns regarding irresponsible dog owners and immediately offered his help with any initiatives.

Councillor D. R. Sinnett, as Chairman of the Team, referred to the inaugural meeting of TREAT – Town Regeneration Environmental Action Team – which had taken place on Tuesday (6th March). A Dog Watch Scheme was discussed at that meeting. It was also recommended that a meeting be arranged with responsible dog owners in the town. These responsible dog owners would be requested to wear a hi vis jacket when walking their dogs on the basis that this would encourage other dog owners to pick up their dog’s mess. This has been instituted in other areas with positive feedback.

A fellow Member advised that Council tenants are informed that they are restricted to the number of animals allowed in their properties, but local authorities and housing authorities do not check whether the rules are complied with which could result in irresponsible dog owners.

Another Member stated that he does not believe that hi vis jackets will act as a deterrent, claiming that irresponsible dog owners will not stop unless you can financially penalise them. He felt that the national dog licence scheme, which encouraged responsibility, should not have been abolished.

RESOLVED THAT discussion on this issue be

deferred until the TREAT minutes for the meeting

held on 6th March are considered at the next

Full Council meeting.

288. NEW TRAFFIC ORDER

Members considered an email from Mr. D. Thomas, Head of Highways and Construction, Pembrokeshire County Council, in which he advised that the Pembrokeshire County Council will shortly be advertising the following proposals to change restrictions in various locations across the County.

1. No waiting at any time restriction to be extended on Hayston Avenue at the junction with Picton Road.

2. Limited waiting 30 minutes on four spaces on Richard John Road to assist local business premises.

A Member said that there were frequently problems driving on Richard John Road because of the parked cars and he questioned whether Civil Enforcement Officers visited that area.

RESOLVED THAT the Pembrokeshire County Council

be requested to ensure that the Civil Enforcement

Officers are monitoring the parking at this location.

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