Minutes of a Meeting of the Town Regeneration

Environmental Action Team (TREAT)

held at the Town Hall, Milford Haven

on Tuesday, 10th July, 2018 at 6:00 pm

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PRESENT

The Mayor (Councillor R. D. Gray)

The Deputy Mayor (Councillor T. J. Davies)

Councillors: D. R. Sinnett (Chairman) Miss K. Gray

A. H. Miles Mrs. T. Olin

C. A. Sharp Mrs. L. E. Turner

R. Williams G. Woodham MBA (Open)

LL.B (Hons)

Youth

Representatives: Miss A. Coaker Miss B. Roberts

Mr. N. McCarthy, Operations Manager, Pembrokeshire County Council

49. CHAIRMAN’S REMARKS:

The Chairman, Councillor D. R. Sinnett, thanked everybody for attending the meeting. He explained that this would be a short meeting as there was a Special Full Council meeting at 7:00 pm to discuss the Hywel Dda Consultation.

50. APOLOGIES:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A. E. Byrne, P. Coe, W. D. Elliott BA QTS, E. R. Harries, M. P. Rickard, Mrs. Y. G. Southwell and Mrs. C. T. Williams.

51. UPDATE ON TREAT’S INITIATIVES:

The Chairman said that the idea of this meeting was to give a brief update on some of the TREAT initiatives and for a discussion on the way forward.

(a) Plastic Free

The Mayor, Councillor R. D. Gray, referred to the Community Toolkit as published by Surfers Against Sewage (which was available online) and recommended that the Milford Haven Town Council follows their criteria to enable Milford Haven to become a plastic free community.

The Mayor stated that there were five objectives listed in this document:

(i) Objective 1: Local Governance

The Local Council has to pass a resolution to support Plastic Free Coastlines committing to plastic free alternatives and supporting plastic free initiatives within the constituency.

This would mean that:

* the Council must lead by example to remove single-use plastic items from its premises.
* the Council is to encourage plastic free initiatives, promoting the campaign and supporting events.
* A representative from the Council must be named on the Plastic Free

Coastlines steering group.

It was RECOMMENDED THAT:

(i) the Mayor, Councillor R. D. Gray, is to be

the lead in this initiative;

(ii) this Council supports Plastic Free Coastlines,

and commits to plastic free initiatives within

the constituency.

(ii) Objective 2: Resistance Hubs: Local Businesses

The Mayor said that the second objective was “at least three single-use plastic items removed from local businesses and retailers; replaced with sustainable alternatives”.

The Mayor felt the best way forward was to ask the Town Team to take on this objective as there are business owners within the Team and shared objectives will be achieved much more quickly and without too much crossover.

The Chairman asked Councillor G. Woodham MBA (Open) LL.B (Hons) as Interim Chairman of the Milford Haven Town Team whether this could go on the Town Team’s next Agenda.

Councillor G. Woodham MBA (Open) LL.B (Hons) replied that the next meeting of the Town Team on 24th July will be deciding on whether the Town Team continues and he wished to keep the Agenda focused on that.

He continued by saying that the Town Team last met on 26th June. He explained that at that meeting £100 was donated to the Milford Haven Round Table to provide a water bottle container at Saturday’s Carnival. The idea behind this donation was that water could be accessed from the cooler unit using biodegradable cups, making the distribution of plastic bottles redundant. The water bottle on top of the cooler at Snapdragon was provided as part of the package. It was acknowledged that the Carnival did not go down Charles Street but it was seen to be promoting the reduction in the use of plastic.

The Mayor said that the water cooler outside the Town Hall had proved popular, but she stressed that the water had been used very quickly because of the hot weather.

Councillor G. Woodham MBA (Open) LL.B (Hons) said that in relation to July being a plastic free month there was talk leading up to the meeting on 26th June of their being a launch event at the Torch Theatre this coming Friday. It now appears that this will not be going ahead. Councillor G. Woodham MBA (Open) LL.B (Hons) is the Torch Theatre’s representative on the Town Team and he said that the Torch would look favourably in running a plastic free event at some other point during the year. He had already spoken to the Mayor and offered this as an option.

Councillor G. Woodham MBA (Open) LL.B (Hons) concluded by saying that he would be recommending that if the Town Team does fold some of what it does will be referred to either TREAT or the Public Events Sub- Committee.

(iii) Objective 3: Plastic Free Allies

“REQUIREMENTS FOR VICTORY:

This objective provides the opportunity to gain widespread community support for Plastic Free Coastlines, spreading the Plastic Free message and establishing the call to arms against Wasteland.

Targets are suggested and will be judged on an individual application basis. The more evidence provided of Plastic Free Coastlines being adopted by the local community, the increased effectiveness of Plastic Free Coastlines.”

The Mayor, Councillor R. D. Gray, advised that the local branch of Soroptimist International has confirmed that they will take on this challenge. Other organisations can also be invited to take on this project.

(iv) Objective 4: On the Ground Action – Plastic Free Rallies

The Mayor advised that there has to be two local community events arranged and made open for all to attend in one calendar year.

The events can be two community beach cleans.

There also has to be a fundraising event for Surfers Against Sewage to support Plastic Free Coastlines.

(v) Objective 5: Local Resistance Strategic Groups

This objective involves a local group of stakeholders to meet at least once per year to discuss the progress of Plastic Free Coastlines locally; agreeing and setting direction, meeting objectives, and completing application for official Plastic Free Coastlines status.

It was RECOMMENDED THAT TREAT takes on the

role as “Local Resistance Strategic Group”.

The Chairman thanked the Mayor for her comprehensive information.

(b) Beach Cleaning

The Chairman then said that he had recently received an email from Keep Wales Tidy regarding the All Wales Beach Clean which is a brand-new and ambitious campaign taking place from 14th – 30th September.

Everyone present was keen to become involved in this campaign and questioned whether there will be enough equipment available to facilitate the beach clean.

It was RECOMMENDED THAT:

(i) TREAT participates in the All Wales Beach Clean

and asks organisations and schoolchildren to

join the All Wales Beach Clean at the Milford and

Gelliswick Beaches;

(ii) the Clerk is to ask Keep Wales Tidy if they have

sufficient equipment for the beach clean and

whether they are going to segregate the waste;

(iii) Mr. N. McCarthy, Operations Manager, Pembrokeshire

County Council, said that he would ask Ms. K. Daly,

Environmental Services Project Officer, Pembrokeshire County

Council, if the Pembrokeshire County Council had any

available equipment.

(c) Dog Fouling

The Chairman said that the Dog Fouling Sub-Group had met and discussed a range of issues, some of which were previously discussed at TREAT, concerning hotspots and the issue of waste bins in the town.

Mr. N. McCarthy had provided a map of all the waste bins in the town. The Chairman asked Mr. McCarthy whether the map was up to date as the Sub-Group had noticed that not all the bins in the town were shown on the map.

Mr. McCarthy said that he would investigate this.

The Chairman asked Mr. McCarthy how frequently the bins are used for dog waste as there is a feeling that not everyone knows that they can put dog waste in ordinary bins.

Mr. McCarthy said that this depends on the location of the bins. There are quite a few users on The Rath but very little in Charles Street because people do not tend to walk their dogs there.

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor T. J. Davies, advised that was less dog waste at the Meads School as people are using the bin situated up the hill towards Cromwell Road.

The Chairman said that the town is not going to get any more bins because of the financial challenge that the Pembrokeshire County Council is in at the moment unless alternative funding is sought. Some might say that there are an insufficient number of bins in Hakin and Hubberston, and the Chairman suggested that perhaps bins could be re-sited as an alternative to purchasing.

Mr. McCarthy said that there would not be a problem in re-siting bins if he was advised of which ones to move. Bins would not, however, be moved specifically for dog waste.

The Mayor pointed out that the 3 bins in Hubberston are in very close proximity to each other, and there is one in particular that causes concern with the shop owner.

The Chairman said that the local junior schools have been approached to ask if their students would be interested in designing a sticker to encourage owners to dispose of their pet’s waste responsibly. The only school that has taken up the offer is the Meads Infant and Nursery School. There are a number of entries to be considered at the next meeting of TREAT where the winning entry will be decided and turned into a poster or sticker to be fixed to bins and lampposts.

The Chairman continued by stating that it would be necessary to identify funding to produce the stickers such as applying for funding from the Pembrokeshire County Council’s Enhancing Pembrokeshire Grant. The Mayor said that she and Councillor Mrs. T. Olin attended a consultation relating this matter and it would be necessary to provide detailed information as to how second homes have an impact on dog fouling.

Miss B. Roberts, Youth Representative, said that young people’s groups could be involved in this project as they can apply for funding specific for the youth.

The Chairman said that he would put a few thoughts on paper for discussion at the next meeting.

(d) Area Maintenance Issues

Councillor Mrs. L. E. Turner arrived during the discussion of these issues.

The Chairman read out an email that the Clerk had received recently in which the writer commented on the “delightful floral displays always evident in the town” – in particular the “wildflower planting on the Charles Street/Dartmouth Street site (next to the car park by the Torch Theatre)”.

The writer said that Milford Haven is “absolute triumph of colour and scent” – an underappreciated little gem with friendly people and a pleasure to visit.

Mr. McCarthy said that there was a raised flowerbed on Lower Charles Street which he believed County Councillor S. G. Joseph had taken over. He asked the Clerk to contact Councillor Joseph as to whether he was still responsible for this area.

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor T. J. Davies, confirmed that if Councillor Joseph did not want to continue to maintain this area, he would do so.

Councillor C. A. Sharp said that one of the gardeners had damaged a plaque placed by the tree in the Memorial Gardens in memory of a French Mayor who was heavily involved in Twinning. He advised that the Chair of the Twinning Committee had contacted Pembrokeshire County Council on several occasions to ask for permission to replace it but had not received any response.

Mr. McCarthy suggested that the new plaque be raised so the situation did not reoccur.

Mr. McCarthy said that there is a possibility that next year the Town Council would be charged for out of hours watering in Charles Street. Hamilton Terrace may be exempt as the gardener is able to park the water vehicle more easily.

Another Member asked whether the Victoria Drinking Fountain outside the Town Hall could be cleaned and restored to full working order.

Mr. McCarthy questioned who would pay for the water. He said that all the Pembrokeshire County Council’s standpipes are metered.

Another Member raised concerns regarding cross contamination.

It was RECOMMENDED THAT the restoration of

the Victoria Drinking Fountain be explored in

terms of cost implications and legislation.

(e) Milford Haven Town Team

Councillor G. Woodham MBA (Open) LL.B (Hons), in his role as Interim Chair of the Milford Haven Town Team, made the following points:

(i) Discussed at the last Town Team meeting was the welcome of the visiting cruise ships. There was positive feedback in having both the Mayor present and Councillor Mrs. L. E. Turner’s attendance on the tourist bus.

(ii) Also discussed was Founders’ Week – both the positives and lessons to learn and to take forward in the future.

(iii) What’s On publication – the Town Team has provided some funding to the What’s On publication.

He had spoken to the Clerk in terms of the future of that publication because Ms R. Evans from Volunteering Matters will be finishing in that role in 6 months’ time but is looking for sustainability. He said that one of the suggestions is that the Council might take over this publication upon the conclusion of Ms. R. Evans’ role. She is, however, but she is offering a three months’ supported handover. He said that there were very early discussions on this and there are questions that need to be answered.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Woodham for the information.

(f) Defibrillators

A Member asked why there was not an item to discuss Defibrillators on the Agenda, as agreed at a previous Full Council.

The Chairman pointed out that this evening’s meeting was to update on the current TREAT initiatives and discussion on Defibrillators would be included on the next TREAT meeting.

Another Member said that when the email was sent out about defibrillators in the town one of the responses was from Dragon LNG, which included a link to the NHS website which identified where all the defibrillators are. One of the reasons they have done

that is when someone dials 999 they are able to tell them where the defibrillator is. He questioned whether the Council should be promoting the availability of that website rather than promoting where the location of the defibrillators in the town are. The risk is that this Council may not be as up to date as they might be.

The Chairman said that this would be discussed at the next TREAT meeting to be held some time in September. In the meantime, the Clerk would explore how regularly the NHS website is updated.

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