Minutes of a Meeting of the Milford Haven Town Council

held at the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Milford Haven

on Thursday, 6th September, 2018 at 7:00 pm

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PRESENT

The Mayor (Councillor R. D. Gray)

The Deputy Mayor (Councillor T. J. Davies)

Councillors: L. J. Bridges P. Coe

W. D. Elliott BA QTS Miss K. Gray

E. R. Harries A. H. Miles

M. P. Rickard D. R. Sinnett

R. Williams Mrs C. T. Williams

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TO RECEIVE PCSO S. THOMAS 8012, DYFED-POWYS POLICE, REGARDING VOLUNTARY SPEED AWARENESS:

The Mayor welcomed PCSO S. Thomas 8012, Dyfed-Powys Police, to the meeting.

PCSO S. Thomas advised that she had been approached by Councillor P. Coe for further information on this issue. As a result, she was attending this evening’s meeting in case any Town Councillors were interested in joining Community Speedwatch.

PCSO Thomas explained the basics of the scheme - a community project which encompasses areas such as Milford Haven, Neyland, Johnston, Burton, Houghton and Rosemarket. She stressed that the Community Speedwatch scheme is purely about education and there are no fines involved. Speeders receive a cautionary letter for first and second offences, and officer involvement is invoked upon a third offence.

Volunteers, who must be over the age of eighteen (there is no upper age limit), are all CRB checked, trained by PCSO Thomas, and provided with the necessary equipment. Members of the public advise of speeding hotspots which are then checked by the police for their suitability for volunteers to attend. Councillor Coe has spoken about performing a speed check in Gelliswick Road in Hubberston.

Three volunteers are required to monitor the speed. One volunteer has the speed gun, one captures the number plate and one makes a note of the number plate. Volunteers carry out their duties when they have time. The scheme operates during daylight hours only.

A Member asked what was needed for a speed camera van to be deployed.

PCSO Thomas answered that one can go on to the GoSafe website and log a problem area.

PCSO Thomas then explained that the volunteers monitor an area for a period of approximately three months. If the volunteers believe there to be a problem they request the presence of the speed camera van. For example, in the first few weeks that a group of volunteers were monitoring Dale Road (Hubberston) they identified many speeders. This area has now been adopted by GoSafe so the volunteers will probably be deployed elsewhere.

A Member highlighted the concerns of residents in his Ward who are interested in participating in the scheme. He said that he would not be asking people to do anything that he would not do himself.

PCSO replied that she appreciated that people want to look after their own area, but stressed that it is not always a good idea.

The Mayor, Councillor R. D. Gray, asked how this Council could help promote the scheme.

PCSO Thomas said that she had advertised for volunteers in the Milford Mercury without success about two months ago.

PCSO Thomas said that Ms. S. Morris, who works as a driving instructor, co- ordinates the volunteers. Before the volunteers go to an assignment they visit the police station where they are provided with their equipment. The safety of the volunteers is paramount at all times. Once the volunteers return to the station they advise how many speeders have been caught. The information is passed on to GoSafe and letters are issued to the offenders.

PCSO Thomas was pleased to report that the Community Speedwatch volunteers had recently received a Divisional Commanders Award in appreciation of their service. She emphasised that this scheme is not about fines – it is about education and people pulling together to make the community a better place.

PCSO Thomas said that she would hand some CRB check forms to the Clerk. She appreciated that some Councillors are working and advised that they could attend whenever they had time, whether it be once a month or once every two months. PCSO Thomas advised that she would be happy to train an individual if there is no interest from others.

The Mayor asked PCSO Thomas to send information relating to the Council’s Secretary, Ms. F. K. Galliford, to be promoted on the Council’s Facebook page. PCSO Thomas agreed to do so.

The Mayor thanked PCSO Thomas for attending and PCSO Thomas then left the meeting.

PRAYERS:

In the absence of the Mayor’s Chaplain, Rev. A. Bookless, prayers were led by Mr. D. Kramer from the Church of Nantucket.

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

81. APOLOGIES:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A. E. Byrne, C. A. Sharp, Mrs Y. G. Southwell, Mrs L. E. Turner, G. Woodham MBA (Open) LL.B (Hons) and the Youth Representatives, Miss A. Coaker and Miss B. Roberts.

82. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Councillor P. Coe declared a personal interest in Agenda Item No. 9 – Discussion on letter of support from the Milford Haven Town Council to put towards a funding application for the redevelopment of Quay Stores – as he is a former employee of the Milford Haven Port Authority.

83. TO CONFIRM AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON THE 30TH JULY, 2018:

RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Meeting of the

Milford Haven Town Council held on the 30th July,

2018, be accepted and that they be signed by

the Mayor as a true record.

84. INFORMATION FROM THE MAYOR:

(a) Mayor’s Engagements

The Mayor said that as this Council is aiming to be paper free, and papers showing the Mayor’s engagements were left behind after every Full Council meeting, her engagements would be emailed to Councillors at the end of every month with a hard copy available for those Members who do not utilise email.

(b) Councillor L. J. Bridges

The Mayor welcomed Councillor L. J. Bridges to his first meeting as a Town Councillor.

(c) Mrs T. Olin

The Mayor referred to Mrs Olin’s recent resignation and wished her well for the future.

(d) Inner Wheel

The Mayor advised that the President of the Inner Wheel will be planting peace roses in the Memorial Gardens on 22nd September to mark International Peace Day.

The hope is that young people from the Pembrokeshire Siblings Group will be involved with the planting as they are the Inner Wheel’s chosen charity this year.

The President of the Group, Ms. V. Brown, has asked if any Councillor would like to sponsor a rose at a cost of £20. The Mayor asked any Councillor wishing to sponsor a rose to contact the Clerk as soon as possible.

The Mayor said that she will regrettably not be present on 22nd September but the Deputy Mayor, Councillor T. J. Davies, will be attending.

(e) Legion Event – Milford Haven Branch of the Royal British Legion and Milford Haven School

The Mayor reminded Members that the launch of the book that this Council has sponsored - “We Will Remember Them” – will take place at Milford Haven School at 6:00 pm on Friday 7th September, and identification badges for the event were available from the Clerk this evening.

85. CEMETERY MAINTENANCE AND LAND ACQUISITION GROUP:

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Cemetery Maintenance and Land Acquisition Group held on the 23rd July, 2018, were moved by the Chairman, Councillor M. P. Rickard.

1. Minute 65 – Chairman’s Report

The Chairman said that since the last meeting of the Cemetery Maintenance and Land Acquisition Group the Clerk had received a complaint regarding the condition of the toilets at the Cemetery via the local MP, Rt Hon S. Crabb, which the Deputy Mayor had dealt with straight away. He thanked the Deputy Mayor for his assistance.

1. Minute 67 (b) – Wheelie Bin Enclosure

Councillor P. Coe declared a personal interest as he is a volunteer with Norman Industries in Haverfordwest.

Councillor Coe referred to recommendation (b) (ii) “if the Cemetery Staff are unable to replicate this due to pressure of work, other community groups are to be asked to assist.” He asked if Norman Industries could be considered if other groups are to be asked.

Councillor M. P. Rickard, the Chairman, thanked him for this information and asked him to pass the details on to the Clerk. This will be considered at a future Cemetery meeting to which Councillor Coe will be invited to attend.

RESOLVED THAT, subject to the above, the Minutes

of the Meeting of the Cemetery Maintenance and

Land Acquisition Group held on 23rd July, 2018,

be approved and adopted.

86. CEMETERY REPORT:

RESOLVED THAT the Cemetery Report, as

presented by the Clerk for the month of

July, 2018, be accepted. (See Appendix A.)

87. PLANS:

RESOLVED THAT the recommendations of

the Chairman of the Public Works and Planning

Committee in respect of the planning applications detailed on Page 1 of the attached report

(see Appendix B) be approved.

1. Planning Application No. 18/0503/PA - Residential development comprising 81 dwellings (comprising a mix of 2, 3 and 4 bed units) along with associated access, parking, open space and highway and ancillary works at Land at Beaconing Field, Neyland Road, Steynton, Pembrokeshire.

The Chairman, Councillor M. P. Rickard, thanked the Mayor for letting him speak on this item.

He explained that the Case Officer dealing with this planning application had replied to several concerns that had been raised.

The Chairman then asked Councillor R. Williams to itemise his concerns regarding this application.

Councillor R. Williams referred to the pumping station and said that he wished to know if there is any associated smell or noise pollution currently affecting the residents of neighbouring Conway Drive. He was also concerned about the future traffic implications and whether there was a need for the Developer to undertake an Environmental Impact Assessment.

The Chairman read out the response from the Case Officer which stated that he had “consulted with his colleagues in the Public Protection section regarding the pumping station. To date, he has not received a response but they would advise about any issues concerning noise and smell. It is not anticipated that there will be any issues with regard to this element of the scheme.

With regard to future access to development on land to the south of the current application site, traffic generation and highway capacity, this issue would be assessed when any future application is submitted. Issues of highway capacity etc. and their acceptability or otherwise in planning terms has to be determined in the light of the current application, and not what may or may not happen in the future. He also noted that according to the current Local Development Plan for Pembrokeshire (adopted 2013), the land to the south is not allocated for housing development.

With regard to the sub-station, an Environmental Impact Assessment would not be required with regard to such a small element of the scheme or, having regard to the nature and scale of the whole proposal, to the site itself”.

The Chairman said that he was waiting for a response from Dŵr Cymru/Welsh Water as to whether the pumping station is adequately equipped to cope with the new development.

He also had concerns regarding the historic environment of the site.

The Chairman asked for Members’ support in requesting an extension in responding to this planning application as he considered that the questions raised by Councillor R. Williams had not been sufficiently answered.

RESOLVED THAT the Case Officer, Pembrokeshire

County Council be asked for an extension in

responding to this planning application whilst

further information is sought.

88. DISCUSSION ON LETTER OF SUPPORT FROM THE MILFORD HAVEN TOWN COUNCIL TO PUT TOWARDS A FUNDING APPLICATION FOR THE REDEVELOPMENT OF QUAY STORES:

Members discussed a letter from Ms. A. Malloy, Stakeholder Engagement and Communications Manager, Milford Haven Port Authority, in which she asked for a letter of support from the Milford Haven Town Council to put towards a funding application for the redevelopment of Quay Stores.

A Member said that did not feel able to put his name to a letter of support without seeing the Port Authority’s draft plans. He had attended the recent consultative meeting in Pembroke Dock and is confused as to whether the plans that he saw are the complete business plans.

Another Member drew attention to an extract from the Port Authority’s letter which stated that “the development reimagines the building as a state-of-the-art venue, combining a multi-use flexible auditorium with foldaway seating for 400 people, combined with a restaurant and bar with capacity for 100 covers. It will complement Pembrokeshire’s current offers by creating a substantial indoor space that will increase our united ability to attract larger events to the county.”

The Member said that she would not want to be seen to be against this proposed development which would be of benefit to the County. Her issue is that this Council gives a substantial grant to the Torch Theatre. She would recommend that this Council does not support a project that would stand in direct opposition to one of the assets of the town and which this Council supports. In addition, this new building would be located near to the Torch Theatre.

Another Member commented that Quay Stores is an eyesore but felt that the Port Authority has not provided enough information for this Council to back it fully. He was not against this development but was conscious that this Council has to support the venues that are already in situ.

A Member proposed, which was seconded, that this Council has a lack of information to enable Members to make an informed decision. Furthermore, this Council has made a substantial grant to the Torch Theatre, which is located near to the proposed new premises.

A Member said that the Port Authority’s Masterplan is what is needed for this town. The Masterplan has changed a few times, and plans evolve as circumstances change. Representatives from the Port Authority did meet with Councillors a few months ago to outline their plans for the Masterplan as a whole and at that point Members supported it. He stated that the Quay Stores is a massive eyesore. He said that he would not be able to support any moves to not write a letter supporting this development because it is an absolutely crucial part of bringing money into this town.

Another Member said that he is very aware that many people travel into Milford Haven by train and it appals him that the first impression when they come out of the station is that of a gross eyesore. He proposed that this Council should write a letter of support stating that Members are supportive in principle of the Port Authority going ahead with their plans so that they can change the aspect of the entrance to Milford Haven.

The Mayor reminded Members that, when the representatives from the Port Authority addressed this Council, they said that they had discussed their plans with the Torch Theatre and they were going to work together.

Another Member said that it is vitally important that this Council is seen to be supportive of development in this town.

A discussion followed and the original proposal was amended and it was RESOLVED THAT:

(i) the Town Council writes a letter of support

for the redevelopment of the Quay Stores

area which is an eyesore, and would support,

in principle, any development which improves

the built environment of this area;

(ii) a letter be sent to the Port Authority explaining

this Council’s concerns regarding the Torch

Theatre and seeking clarification that the

Port Authority will be working with, rather

than in competition with, the Torch Theatre

and stating that the Town Council looks

forward to seeing the Port Authority’s

final plans.

Councillor P. Coe abstained from voting on this item.

Councillor E. R. Harries left the meeting during the discussion of this item.

89. A4076 HAMILTON TERRACE PROPOSED TRAFFIC RESTRICTIONS:

Members discussed proposed amendments to the permanent traffic restrictions to the A4076 in Milford Haven.

RESOLVED THAT the Milford Haven Town

Council makes no formal response to these

proposals but requests more detailed

information in any future proposals.

90. OFF STREET PARKING PLACES VARIATION ORDER:

Members considered proposals to vary the present Off Street Parking Order for the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority.

A Member felt there is a lack of clarity in what is being proposed and this Council should be asking for a narrative behind these proposals.

RESOLVED THAT:

(i) this Council seeks a narrative to explain the

changes because of the lack of clarity within

them;

(ii) this Council is to make this information as

public as possible to encourage members of

the public to submit their comments to the

Pembrokeshire County Council.

91. CONSULTATION ON DRAFT STATEMENT OF GAMBLING POLICY:

Members considered a letter from Ms. S. Johns, Public Protection Manager (Public Health, Housing and Licensing), Public Protection Division, Pembrokeshire County Council, and an accompanying draft statement of Gambling Policy relating to the Gambling Act 2005.

RESOLVED THAT the information be received.

92. TOWN COUNCIL LINK OFFICER EVALUATION:

A letter and Link Officer evaluation form was received from Dr. S. P. Jones, Director of Community Services, Pembrokeshire County Council.

RESOLVED THAT, as the Milford Haven Town

Council has not had significant enough contact

with its Link Officers, Members are not able to

assess whether the scheme is of benefit so are

therefore unable to answer the evaluation form

at this time, but suggest that improvements can be

made with the presence of the Link Officers at Town

Council meetings to develop that relationship.

93. SCHEDULE OF ACCOUNTS:

RESOLVED THAT the Schedule of Accounts,

as presented by the Clerk for the month of

July, 2018, in the sum of £16,124.90

be accepted and approved for payment.

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