Minutes of a Meeting of the Milford Haven Town Council

held at the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Milford Haven

on Monday, 29th July, 2019 at 7:00 pm

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PRESENT

The Mayor (Councillor T. J. Davies)

The Deputy Mayor (Councillor Miss K. F. Gray)

Councillors: A. E. Byrne P. Coe

E. A. Davies R. D. Gray

E. R. Harries C. A. Sharp

D. R. Sinnett Mrs Y. G. Southwell

Mrs L. E. Turner R. Williams

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

The Town Clerk was also present.

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PRAYERS:

The Mayor’s Chaplain, Father A. P. Johnson, led Members in prayer.

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

58. APOLOGIES:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors L. J. Bridges, W. D. Elliott BA QTS, Mrs N. C. Joseph, A. H. Miles, M. P. Rickard, and the Youth Representatives, Miss A. Coaker and Miss B. Roberts.

59. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

There were no declarations of interest recorded.

60. TO CONFIRM AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON THE 11TH JULY, 2019:

RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Meeting of

the Milford Haven Town Council held on the

11th July, 2019, be accepted and that they be

signed by the Mayor as a true record.

61. INFORMATION FROM THE MAYOR:

(a) Mayor’s Engagements

Members were informed of the engagements undertaken by the Mayor since the 24th June, 2019:

24th June Milford Haven School Children’s Meeting

26th June Retirement Party for Mrs Cynthia Harper and Mr Bernard Davies at the Town Hall

26th June Milford Haven Army Cadets Inspection

27th June Funeral of Mrs D. Sinnett

27th June Milford Haven Community Primary School Sports Day

28th June Milford Haven Rotary Club Lunch

29th June Pembrokeshire Scouts AGM at St. Brides

1st July Meeting of Milford Haven Soroptimists

2nd July Lunch and Bingo at the Mount Community Centre

2nd July Greeting “Team Shipley” at their Round Britain Coast Path walk

3rd July Beating of the Bounds at Haverfordwest

5th July Afternoon Tea at Cancer Research UK

6th July Visit of MS Europa

6th July Milford Haven Carnival

8th July Bingo at the Pill Social Centre

8th July Bingo at the Milford Haven Youth Centre

9th July Meeting with the Heads of Years at Milford Haven School

10th July Music Evening at St. Clement’s Church, Neyland

11th July Quiz Night at the Pill Social Centre

12th July Pembrokeshire Business Awards

14th July Neyland Civic Service

14th July Sea Service at Pembroke Dock

16th July Inspection at the Milford Haven Sea Cadets and Royal Marines Cadets

17th July Community Day at Milford Haven School

18th July Exhibition at Waterfront Gallery

20th July Family Fun Day at the Hubberston and Hakin Community Centre

21st July Narberth Civic Service

25th July Meeting of the South Hook LNG Liaison Group

27th July Milford Haven Beer Festival

28th July Haverfordwest Carnival

Speaking on behalf of his family, Councillor D. R. Sinnett thanked the Mayor for attending his mother’s funeral.

(b) Miss B. Roberts

The Mayor then congratulated Miss Bethany Roberts, one of the Council’s Youth Representatives, who has gained BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Health and Social Care with triple grade distinction.

A round of applause followed the announcement of this achievement.

(c) Hakin United AFC

The Mayor advised that Hakin United has found funding for this year and will apply for a grant in November for discussion at the precept meeting in January 2020.

62. CEMETERY REPORT:

RESOLVED THAT the Cemetery Report, as

presented by the Clerk for the month of

June, 2019, be accepted.

63. PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

(a) Recommendations

RESOLVED THAT:

(i) 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 be approved;

(ii) the planning applications listed on the report as being

out for consultation numbered 19/1171/LB, 19/0279/PA, 19/0381/PA, 19/0353/PA, 19/0374/PA, and 19/0395/PA

be approved.

(b) Planning Application No. 19/0275/PA – Subdivision of building to create 10 bedsits at The Crest, 26 Priory Road, Milford Haven

Councillor D. R. Sinnett, speaking in his role as County Councillor for the West Ward, said that he was very pleased that the Chair of the Public Works and Planning Committee had recommended that this Council objects to this planning application due to the risk of overcrowding at this property.

Councillor Sinnett said that in the planning application there appears to be no reference made to parking facilities for the residents who may be taking up the bedsits within the property. He advised that he has been approached by a number of individuals who live in the surrounding area who have some real concerns as to how this site would be managed. He had objected to this planning application as the local County Councillor based on the comments he had received from local residents.

64. PEMBROKESHIRE LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT:

Members discussed documentation advising that the Pembrokeshire County Council is consulting on draft Supplementary Planning Guidance ‘Landscape Character Appraisal’ between 15th July and 16th September.

Councillor R. Williams said that in his role as Chair of the Public Works and Planning Committee he welcomed this report. He considered that each individual application should be judged on its own merit and not just a generic report that has been put together.

A Member referred to a statement made in the press by a Cabinet Member which stated that Haverfordwest and Pembroke will be priorities for the town centre regeneration programme. He considered that Milford Haven, as the largest town, should be a priority.

Another Member said that this was a separate issue and referred to the draft regeneration framework. He proposed that Ms Sinéad Henehan, Community Safety, Poverty and Regeneration Manager, Pembrokeshire County Council, be contacted to ask whether she could forward a copy of this document. The Member said that when Councillors scrutinise this document, they will be able to see where Milford Haven stands as a town in relation to other towns in the County.

The Member said that he was pleased to note that the Landscape Character Assessment referred to flood risks.

RESOLVED THAT:

(a) Ms S. Henehan, Community Safety, Poverty and Regeneration Manager, Pembrokeshire County Council, be asked to forward a copy of the draft regeneration framework;

(b) a letter be written to Ms J. Kirk, Senior Planning Officer, Pembrokeshire County Council to ask how the Council plans to protect the residents of Milford Haven and their properties in view of the heavy flooding that has taken place in the town over the last few years.

65. TO DISCUSS THE FUTURE STRUCTURE OF THE COUNCIL:

A Member said that he believes that as a result of the elimination of the Committee system this Council is not doing justice to many important issues in the course of its debates and he suspected that others share this view. He asked Members to consider reverting to a committee structure. This would not necessarily be the same as the previous structure. He considered that in order to achieve this a small Sub-Committee of 4 or 5 Members could be established to scrutinise the situation and report back to the Council with constructive suggestions for recreating a committee structure.

Another Member said that she felt very frustrated that this topic is being raised again. This Council has a significant number of committees for a Council that does not have sub-committees. She agreed, however, that perhaps there is not the debate in the Chamber that there should be, and perhaps Members should be looking at this in order to make it easier for Councillors to become involved in the discussion.

The first Member said that as a point of explanation he wished to revert to a committee structure but not necessarily the same structure as before.

Another Member said that it is always important for Councillors to look at whether they are transacting Council business in the best possible way.

He asked the Member who had made the proposal to amend it to include the exploration of various options in more detail and bring them back to Full Council where Members can have a vote on which they prefer. One option might be to stay the same, one might be to go back to the old system but there may be some models in between.

A further Member said that he had been a Councillor under both the current and old systems. He was very supportive of the implementation of the current system. The main driver was that it was very much a duplication of everything - the work being carried out by the Clerk would come to this Chamber having gone through the Public Works and Planning Committee and Finance and General Purposes Committee and the whole debate would be held again. It was felt that having two Full Councils when business could be actioned immediately was the appropriate way to make this Council more efficient. The membership of the Council has changed, however, and Members do need to look at how the Council operates to make sure that it is as efficient as it can possibly be. He felt that there was merit in having an opportunity to perhaps tackle some issues at a pre-meeting and get them sorted out before ratification at Full Council.

Another Member said that it would take some time to consider this issue. As this Council is in an administrative cycle maybe any changes could be implemented at the next municipal year, unless it is felt that there is an urgency to change the way this Council is operating this year.

The Member who made the original proposal reiterated that he does not think that the way in which Councillors are debating at this present time does justice to the seriousness and importance of the subject. He proposed a Sub- Committee to look at the various possibilities for the future operation of this Council and take into consideration the possibility of a Committee structure or any other constructive suggestions.

The Member put forward names of some Councillors to join this Group.

One of the Councillors named said that he felt that it was unfair to name Councillors individually.

Members agreed that the Sub-Committee should be formed of a mix of Councillors – those who operated under the previous structure, as well as newly elected members and with a gender balance.

The Mayor, Councillor T. J. Davies, the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Miss K. F. Gray, and Councillors P. Coe, E. A. Davies, R. D. Gray, Mrs Y. G. Southwell, Mrs L. E. Turner and R. Williams (Chair of Public Works and Planning Committee) indicated that they would be interested in joining the Sub-Committee.

RESOLVED THAT all Members are to be invited to

a meeting at 6:00 pm (prior to the Full Council

meeting) on Thursday, 12th September, for initial

discussion on the review of the Council’s structure.

66. REVIEW OF THE ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE COUNTY OF PEMBROKESHIRE:

An email was received from the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales which advised that the final stage of the review of the electoral arrangements for the County of Pembrokeshire has been completed. The Commission is now publishing Final Recommendations.

RESOLVED THAT the information be received.

67. REPORT HIGHLIGHTING THE COSTS INCURRED BY THIS COUNCIL IN RESPECT OF SERVICES PREVIOUSLY CARRIED OUT BY THE PEMBROKESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL:

A Member said that this report clearly shows the move to transfer responsibility from a County level to a Community level. He highlighted the percentage of the precept allocated to these services since 2014/2015.

Members agreed that the cost of elections is a concern.

RESOLVED THAT the Report is to be updated and

discussed at December’s meeting of the Full Council.

68. #2minstreetclean:

An email was received from Jemma Lewis, Environmental Services and Public Protection Business Manager, Pembrokeshire County Council, in which she stated that the Pembrokeshire County Council is the first County in Wales to provide #2minute Beach Clean Boards located on many Pembrokeshire beaches.

This means that anyone can pick up a litter picker and small plastic bag while out and about and pick up as much or as little as they want before placing the contents inside a recycling or litter bin and placing the litter picker and bag back for reuse.

The email asked whether Members would like to host a board and encourage residents and visitors to do their bit for the environment. The Pembrokeshire County Council had a limited number available that they could provide free of charge to communities.

Members were pleased to support this initiative which would encourage people to be environmentally friendly. They discussed where the board should be sited.

The Mayor said that when he and the Clerk had spoken to Ms Lewis her only stipulation had been that the board had to either be put out in the morning and taken in at night, or chained securely.

RESOLVED THAT:

(i) the Clerk is to advise Ms Lewis, Environmental

Services and Public Protection Manager,

Pembrokeshire County Council, that this

Council would like to host a board;

(ii) the board is to be located in the confines of the

Rath Paddling Pool;

(iii) after the Summer holidays when the paddling

pool closes the board will be moved to another

venue.

69. PEMBROKESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS SURVEY:

The Pembrokeshire County Council is carrying out a review of their communications to assess if what they are doing at the moment is working and how they might improve things for the future. The purpose of Council communications is to encourage local residents, businesses and visitors to make the best use of the services provided, in order to help individuals and communities be the best they can.

The surveys can be completed either online or post.

RESOLVED THAT Members are to complete the

survey on an individual basis if they wish to do

so.

70. TRANSFORMING DAY OPPORTUNITIES:

Members discussed the Transforming Day Opportunities Consultation Paper which sets out how the goals the Pembrokeshire County Council wishes to achieve regarding Day Opportunities.

The Pembrokeshire County Council is proposing to create a hub and spoke model for delivering Day Opportunities in Pembrokeshire.

A Hub is a venue which provides a single point of access for a range of social care, health and information needs, where services for those with an assessed need are provided, as well as a range of activities supported by the voluntary sector and the local community, for people with both assessed and non- assessed needs.

Linked to the Hubs will be Spokes creating links to thriving community activities and opportunities outside of the Hub. These activities will be assessed by both people with assessed needs (with support where required) and non-assessed needs, reducing the requirement for travel whilst ensuring benefit from the resources already in the communities.

Two options are proposed: Option 1 – Up to 4 Hubs shared across all customer groups supported by a number of Spokes. Option 2 – 2 Hubs - one located in the North and one in the South of Pembrokeshire supported by a number of Spokes.

RESOLVED THAT before responding to this

consultation, a letter be written to Mr. J. Griffiths,

Director of Social Services and Housing, Pembrokeshire

County Council, requesting clarification as to the changes of current service provision in Milford Haven and how such changes would impact on the residents of the town.

71. SCHEDULE OF ACCOUNTS:

RESOLVED THAT the Schedule of Accounts,

as presented by the Clerk for the month of

June, 2019 in the sum of £13,442.50

be accepted and approved for payment.

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