Minutes of a Meeting of the Milford Haven Town Council

held at the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Milford Haven

on Thursday, 17th October, 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 E. A. Davies

W. D. Elliott BA QTS R. D. Gray

E. R. Harries A. H. Miles

C. A. Sharp D. R. Sinnett

Mrs Y. G. Southwell Mrs L. E. Turner

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

The Town Clerk was in attendance.

County Councillor S. T. Hudson MBE (Milford North) was in attendance.

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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.

110. APOLOGIES:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors P. Coe, M. P. Rickard, R. Williams, and the Youth Representatives, Miss A. Coaker and Miss B. Roberts. Apologies for absence were not received from Councillors L. J. Bridges and Mrs N. C. Joseph.

111. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

There were no declarations of interest recorded.

112. TO CONFIRM AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON THE 30TH SEPTEMBER, 2019:

RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Meeting

of the Milford Haven Town Council held on the

30th September, 2019, be accepted and that they be

signed by the Mayor as a true record.

113. INFORMATION FROM THE MAYOR:

The Mayor, Councillor T. J. Davies, thanked all those who attended the recent Baby Loss Awareness Service which had been very well received.

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REPORTS ON COMMITTEES

114. STANDING ORDERS SUB-COMMITTEE:

The Minutes of the Meeting of Standing Orders Sub-Committee held on 30th September, 2019 were moved by the Mayor, Councillor T. J. Davies.

(a) Minute 92 – To discuss the structure of the Milford Haven Town Council:

Members discussed the recommendations made by the Standing Orders Sub-Committee.

A Member observed that the Traffic Working Group is on the list of Groups. She said that, having attended all the meetings, she has concerns about this Group. She felt it superfluous as the Town Council has no influence over this matter and it has confused residents unnecessarily. The Town Council does not have a Housing Committee or an Education Committee because Members do not have a say in that. She suggested that residents should be contacting their County Councillor when they have a traffic issue, rather than the Town Council. The Traffic Working Group met with a local resident and the Clerk is still being contacted for answers she does not have.

The Member was advised that under the new structure, the Traffic Working Group would be removed as it would be merged into the Planning, Policy and Community Committee because in theory there would be no ambiguity to the public because there is no traffic working group. However, if there is a consultation needed on traffic, this will be referred to that Committee.

The Member continued by saying that traffic consultations are a completely different issue.

The Mayor said that he considers that if there is a problem with traffic residents should be contacting their Town Councillor who will then go to the County Councillor for the Ward.

Another Member said that the Traffic Working Group was set up because a number of concerns were raised over a particular area, and it was felt that perhaps the Town Council did have a role in supporting the residents. As a Town Council, Members are here to represent people and need to engage with them as best they can and need to be clear that the Town Council is not a decision maker. There is a role for the Town Council in that representation.

A further Member said that he would not wish to lose the opportunity to look into these issues, as long as the local Member is involved in the discussion.

A Member said that he when he attended a recent meeting of One Voice Wales recently one of the Agenda items was Any Other Business. He would like one of the new Committees to have Any Other Business on the Agenda.

The Member was advised that One Voice Wales was a different entity. Local Government Legislation does not allow for Any Other Business. Any Agenda must be available to the public and press and if Any Other Business is allowed items could be added to the Agenda without the public or press being aware of their existence. In addition, Standing Orders state the order of business to be transacted at meetings.

It was proposed that an additional recommendation be added to the list of recommendations made by the Standing Orders Sub-Committee.

RESOLVED THAT:

(i) Councillor W. D. Elliott BA QTS be commended for his

proposals;

(ii) an additional recommendation be added:

(x) where a new sub-committee is formed it

will become incorporated into one or other of

the Committees.

IT WAS FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, subject to the

above, the Minutes of the Meeting of the Standing

Orders Sub-Committee held on 30th September, 2019,

be approved and adopted.

115. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE:

(a) Acknowledgement of Donations:

The Mayor advised that letters of thanks had been received from Milford Haven Junior Town Band, Milford Haven Town Band, Milford Haven Youth Council and Wales Air Ambulance.

(b) Applications for Financial Assistance:

RESOLVED THAT the following decisions be

made in relation to the applications for financial

assistance:

(i) 7th Milford Haven Brownie Unit - £500

A Member had investigated the costs of the tents referenced

in this application and had found that they were available

from an alternative supplier at a cheaper price. It was FURTHER

RESOLVED THAT the Brownies be provided with this information.

*This donation is to be made in accordance with the Milford Haven Town Council’s powers under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972.*

(ii) The Nelson Society - £100

*This donation is to be made in accordance with the Milford Haven Town Council’s powers under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972.*

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