Minutes of a Meeting of the Milford Haven Town Council

held at the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Milford Haven

on Thursday, 5th March, 2020 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

Mrs N. C. Joseph C. A. Sharp

D. R. Sinnett Mrs Y. G. Southwell

Mrs C. Stevens Mrs L. E. Turner

Ms F. K. Galliford, Town Council Secretary

County Councillors Mrs V. Stoddart (Hubberston), M. Stoddart (Hakin) and S. T. Hudson (Milford North)

A number of residents from the Lower Priory and Havens Head areas were also present

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TO RECEIVE MR. A. JONES (CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER), MR. D. THOMAS (SENIOR PROJECT MANAGER) AND MRS L. WONNACOTT (MARKETING MANAGER) – PORT OF MILFORD HAVEN:

The Mayor, Councillor T. J. Davies, introduced Mr. Jones, Mr. Thomas and Mrs Wonnacott to the Meeting.

Prior to the Meeting, Councillors had been circulated a copy of responses from the Port of Milford Haven of questions that had been asked by residents of Lower Priory and Havens Head. These questions had been received by County Councillors D. R. Sinnett (Lower Priory/Milford West) and Mrs V. Stoddart (Havens Head/Hubberston) and presented to the Port of Milford Haven.

The Mayor furnished the residents of Lower Priory and Havens Head with copies of the responses.

Mr. A. Jones (Chief Executive Officer) introduced himself to the Meeting. He advised that he would welcome questions.

Mr. Jones emphasised his vision for the Milford Waterfront, stressing the need for action. He referenced the difficulties in obtaining community opportunities in a rural county such as Pembrokeshire.

Mr. Jones then advised that he had recently returned from a property conference in France. This was a valuable experience which enabled him to connect with possible investors.

Mr. Jones noted that strong relationships with the Planning Authorities and stakeholders are paramount to securing investment, as any disquiet can prevent interest due to the abundance of opportunities.

Mr. Jones enthused about building relations with the Town Council and the Pembrokeshire County Council. The Port of Milford Haven is dependent upon the support of the community so that its plans for the town can progress.

Mr. Jones advised of the Port of Milford Haven’s Place Board, which presently has a project entitled “Milford Haven Regeneration through Sense of Place”. The project will initiate sustainable economic regeneration in the town by developing a sense of place based on three themes: Waterways, Historic Haven and Energy Kingdom.

A Member said that he had been a member of the Place Board but left because he felt that the focus on the Marina was disproportionate to the rest of the town and that no consultation as to this project appeared to have been received.

Mr. Jones advised that he would take a look at this matter.

Mr. Jones opened the floor to questions.

A Member spoke passionately about his support for the Port of Milford Haven but urged for more communication between parties. He felt it vital for news to come directly from the organisation as opposed to local conjecture.

Mr. Jones said that he was happy with increased communication and recognised the opportunity provided by this Town Council Meeting. He reiterated that the Port of Milford Haven can always be contacted regarding any particular issues.

Another Member echoed her support for greater communication. She referred to the devastating flooding experienced by residents of Lower Priory and Havens Head on 8th November 2018, and wanted to ensure that the Port of Milford Haven was fully aware of its responsibilities.

A further Member stated that she felt that the fallout from the recent planning application – *19/0948/PA* *The Erection of a 5 storey 100 bed hotel at Milford Waterfront* – to which this Council had recommended refusal under the policy GN1 on the grounds of health and safety concerns until the completion and consideration of the Capita report – had taken a personal turn. The Member stressed that the hotel was needed – a sentiment shared by other Councillors – but not at any cost.

Mr. Jones was cognisant of these concerns, and stated that there were no personal issues. He reiterated his pleasure at being a part of the Meeting and any future Meetings.

Mr. Thomas (Senior Project Manager) responded to a question regarding the planned demolition of the Burnyeats Building. It was understood that the consent would come through in approximately two to three weeks.

A Member raised the important issue of disability access, while speaking supportively of the Port of Milford Haven’s plans.

Mrs Wonnacott (Marketing Manager) acknowledged this question and advised that the new plans would see an increase in access, along with such facilities as bicycle racks and electric car charging points. Mrs Wonnacott advised that she would update the Council regarding this situation.

A further Member queried what he thought could be construed as a lack of compassion from the Port of Milford Haven to the Lower Priory and Havens Head residents following their floods.

Another Member asked a question relating to the passage of water following the Quay Stores Development. Mr. Jones advised that engineers would be required to answer such a question and he would respond to the Member as soon as he had an answer.

A Member thanked the Port of Milford Haven for attending the Meeting. He spoke in support of the Port of Milford Haven’s plans, but stressed the cumulative impact upon the people of the town. He spoke of the duty to his constituents and the strength of feeling in the aftermath of the flooding in November 2018.

The Member continued by encouraging the Port of Milford Haven to maintain consistent engagement. Mr. Jones was fully supportive of this suggestion, and reiterated the need for everyone to work together. Future Meetings will be held which will be open to the public.

Questions were then concluded. The Mayor thanked Mr. Jones, Mr. Thomas and Mrs Wonnacott for attending the Meeting. Mr. Jones, Mr. Thomas and Mrs Wonnacott then left the Meeting.

Councillor Mrs N. C. Joseph also left the Meeting at this point. Councillors Mrs Y. G. Southwell and Mrs C. Stevens joined the Meeting during the Port of Milford Haven’s question and answer session.

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PRAYERS:

In the absence of the Mayor’s Chaplain, Father A. P. Johnson, prayers were led by the Mayor.

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

195. MAYOR’S REMARKS:

Speaking on behalf of the Council, the Mayor conveyed his very best wishes to the Town Clerk, Mrs M. L. Galliford, who was recovering in hospital following an accident earlier in the week.

196. APOLOGIES:

Apologies for absence were received from the Town Clerk and from Councillors E. A. Davies, W. D. Elliott BA QTS, R. D. Gray, E. R. Harries, A. H. Miles, M. P. Rickard, R. Williams, G. Woodham MBA (Open) LL.B (Hons) and the Youth Representatives, Miss A. Coaker and Miss B. Roberts.

Apologies for absence were also received from the Mayor’s Chaplain, Father A. P. Johnson.

197. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

There were no declarations of interest.

198. TO CONFIRM AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON THE 13th FEBRUARY, 2020:

RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Meeting

of the Milford Haven Town Council held on the

13th February, 2020, be accepted and that they

be signed by the Mayor as a true record.

199. INFORMATION FROM THE MAYOR:

(a) Town Hall

The Mayor advised that the Town Hall had been purchased by a

prominent local businessman, Mr. B. Evens. Significant progress

had already been made regarding the boiler and Town Hall lights

to name but a few.

The Mayor emphasised that the Town Council’s position in the

Town Hall will remain unchanged and that special events such

as the Visit of Father Christmas will not be in any way affected.

(b) Citizens’ Award Board

The Mayor alerted Members to a quotation that had been received

from Mr. P. Terry from Sign It! in relation to a new Citizens’ Award

Board.

The cost for the Board will be £895.00 plus VAT, with extra cost

for the fixing of the Board. The cost for the inscription of names on

the Board would also be extra.

A Member queried whether there would be room for another Board

in the Town Hall. His concerns were assuaged by the Mayor, who

advised that the present Board would be moving further up the wall

to create space, and it was RESOLVED THAT the quotation be accepted.

200. CEMETERY REPORT – JANUARY 2020:

RESOLVED THAT the Cemetery Report, as

presented by the Clerk for the month of

January be accepted.

201. PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

A Member commented on a number of applications from the Port of Milford Haven. He suggested that, in the interests of maintaining the relationship, that the Port of Milford Haven be invited back to a Meeting to discuss these applications and their implications for the town.

Another Member noted the applications relating to the demolition of the old Hakin and Hubberston School buildings, and raised concern as to traffic and unpleasant smells in the vicinity.

A further Member voiced his concern of the delay in communication from the Pembrokeshire County Council, citing the late receipt of a letter to this Council from the Planning Department.

This was noted by another Member, who highlighted bureaucracy complications. The Member suggested that the new Meeting structure – due to commence in the new Mayoral Year – will give Councillors more time to consider planning applications.

Issues relating to planning permissions and biodiversity were also raised by Members.

Following discussion, it was RESOLVED THAT:

(i) representatives from the Port of Milford Haven

and County Councillors for Milford Haven be

invited to a further Meeting to discuss their

outstanding planning applications and their

implications for the town;

(ii) the Secretary is to contact the Pembrokeshire County

Council to ascertain information relating to traffic

issues surrounding the Hakin and Hubberston School

building proposals;

(iii) the Secretary is also to contact the Pembrokeshire

County Council in relation to a delay in communication.

Councillor D. R. Sinnett abstained from voting on resolution (i).

Subject to the above, it was RESOLVED THAT the recommendations of the Chairman of the Public Works

and Planning Committee in respect of the detailed

planning applications be approved.

202. REVIEW OF THE MILFORD HAVEN TOWN COUNCIL’S FIDELITY GUARANTEE INSURANCE, FINANCIAL REGULATIONS AND STANDING ORDERS:

A Member urged all Councillors to read the whole document, stressing its importance.

RESOLVED THAT, in the interests of

increased community participation, that

Standing Orders be referred to a future

Meeting of the Establishment Committee

to look at ways at facilitating further

community engagement.

203. INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL FOR WALES ANNUAL REPORT – FEBRUARY 2020:

Members considered the Annual Report which had been received from Mr. L. Jones, Secretariat from the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales.

RESOLVED THAT the information be received.

204. PROPOSED TRO – WAITING RESTRICTIONS – VARIATION 19:

Members considered a public notice and plans associated with the proposed making of a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) for waiting restrictions in Pembrokeshire. This documentation had been received from Ms K. Morris, Traffic Management Officer, Pembrokeshire County Council, and pertained to the following local areas – Bay View Drive, Fairsea Close, Gelliswick Road, Hayston Avenue, and Richard John Road.

A Member spoke of his support, and also spoke in favour of the possibility of waiting zones being instituted in the town. This idea was endorsed by another Member, with the caveat that such zones would have to be policed.

RESOLVED THAT this information be received.

205. SPIKES LANE RECYCLING BRING SITE:

Members discussed a letter received from Mr. M. Harries, Waste Operations Manager, Pembrokeshire County Council, regarding the removal of the bring site which was located at Spikes Lane in Hakin.

A Member spoke of his disappointment at the removal, but indicated that the removal might not be permanent. Another Member replied to state of his belief that the removal was probably permanent.

Members spoke of the terrible condition of both the Spikes Lane and Robert Street sites, and the intolerable verbal abuse endured by Pembrokeshire County Council staff who were based at the Robert Street site.

Mention was made of the Pembrokeshire County Council’s new recycling scheme. A Member spoke of the significant improvements that have been made since the start of the scheme, including an improvement on the Mount Estate.

Members also noted the availability of the local Civic Amenity and Recycling Centres (tips).

RESOLVED THAT County Councillor C. Tomos,

Cabinet Member for Environment, Public

Protection and Welsh Language, Pembrokeshire

County Council, and Mr. M. Harries, Waste Operations

Manager, Pembrokeshire County Council, be invited to address a future Meeting to answer any outstanding questions Members may have.

206. ONE VOICE WALES LARGER COUNCILS COMMITTEE – MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 5TH FEBRUARY 2020 IN HAFOD A HENDRE, BUILTH WELLS:

RESOLVED THAT the Minutes be received.

207. REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODY – REPRESENTATIVE ON THE DRAGON LNG COMMUNITY LIAISON COMMITTEE:

RESOLVED THAT Councillor P. Coe be

nominated by this Council as Representative on the

Dragon LNG Community Liaison Committee.

208. SCHEDULE OF ACCOUNTS – JANUARY 2020.

RESOLVED THAT the Schedule of Accounts,

as presented by the Clerk for the month of

January 2020 in the sum of £23,995.924 be

accepted and approved for payment.

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