Minutes of a Meeting of the Milford Haven Town Council

held electronically using the Zoom software

on Thursday, 24th September, 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 E. A. Davies

W. D. Elliott BA QTS M. P. Rickard

C. A. Sharp D. R. Sinnett

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

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

 Mrs M. L. Galliford, Town Clerk / Financial Officer

 Ms F. K. Galliford, Town Council Secretary

234. APOLOGIES:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors P. Coe, R. D. Gray, E. R. Harries, Mrs N. C. Joseph, Mrs C. Stevens and R. Williams. Apologies for absence were not received from Councillor A. H. Miles.

235. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Councillor G. Woodham MBA (Open) LL.B (Hons) declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 8 – *Publication of Statutory Notice – Milford Haven Sixth Form 2* – as he is the Pembrokeshire County Council Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Education and Lifelong Learning.

Councillor D. R. Sinnett declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 8 – *Publication of Statutory Notice – Milford Haven Sixth Form 2* – as he is an LEA appointed Governor at Milford Haven School.

236. INFORMATION FROM THE MAYOR:

 The Mayor, Councillor T. J. Davies, advised that he had been in touch with the Milford Haven branch of the Royal British Legion regarding this year’s Remembrance events, where he had heard of the branch’s plans to pass arrangements to the Town Council.

 The Mayor asked Members for their thoughts as to these plans.

 Several Members expressed their disappointment, as they considered this to be a Royal British Legion event. The Members felt that the branch was putting the Council in a difficult position, risking a local backlash.

 ­­ RESOLVED THAT the Clerk, Mrs M. L. Galliford,

 is to directly contact the national Headquarters

of the Royal British Legion to clarify the situation.

237. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ESTABLISHMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 7TH SEPTEMBER 2020:

 RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Meeting

 of the Establishment Committee held on 7th

September 2020 be accepted and that they

 be signed by the Mayor as a true record.

238. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FULL COUNCIL HELD ON 7TH SEPTEMBER 2020:

 RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Meeting

 of the Full Council held on 7th September 2020

 be accepted and that they be signed by the Mayor

as a true record.

239. MILFORD HAVEN CEMETERY:

(a) Report from Councillor C. A. Sharp, Chairman of the Cemetery Maintenance and Land Acquisition Group

 Councillor Sharp advised Members that he had recently met with Mr. P. Johnson, Cemetery Supervisor, at the Cemetery, where two major issues had been flagged.

 One of the lawnmowers at the Cemetery was very old and unlikely to continue working for much longer. Councillor Sharp asked whether a replacement lawnmower could be purchased for approximately £1,000 to £1,200, to which the Clerk replied in the affirmative, as money can be moved from last year’s Cemetery budget.

 Councillor Sharp then alerted Members to a potentially serious situation with the wall around the Cemetery, which was cracking around the edges as a result of the heavy surrounding industrial traffic.

RESOLVED THAT a Meeting of the Cemetery Maintenance and Land Acquisition Group be held imminently, where these two issues and other matters relating to the Cemetery, including financial considerations, be comprehensively discussed.

(b) Cemetery Benches (Deferred from the Full Council Meeting held on 7th September 2020)

 Councillor Sharp apologised for his absence from the Full Council Meeting on 7th September.

 Councillor Sharp informed Members of a request that had been made from a member of the public for a granite memorial bench to be situated at the Cemetery. He spoke of his sympathy for the person behind the request, but this request contravenes the Cemetery rules, where granite benches are not permitted.

 Discussion followed where it was emphasised that the Cemetery rules are very clear and that it is important for everyone to adhere to the rules.

 RESOLVED THAT:

 (i) the individual behind the request is to be

 advised that he may have a memorial bench,

 as long as the bench complies with all of the

Cemetery’s rules;

 (ii) the issue of benches at the Cemetery is to be

 placed on the Agenda for the next Meeting of the

 Cemetery Maintenance and Land Acquisition Group.

240. DRAFT CALENDAR OF MEETINGS (UP TO 31ST DECEMBER 2020):

Members considered the draft calendar of Meetings up to 31st December 2020, which listed the following dates:

* Thursday 15th October 2020
* Monday 26th October 2020
* Thursday 19th November 2020
* Monday 7th December 2020

A Member stated that he had no problem with any of these dates but asked when the Council would be holding an Annual Meeting. He asked whether any of the dates could be used to hold the Annual Meeting.

 RESOLVED THAT the Clerk is to take advice

 from One Voice Wales regarding this Council’s

Annual Meeting, which is required to take place

before 31st December 2020.

241. PUBLICATION OF STATUTORY NOTICE – MILFORD HAVEN SIXTH FORM 2:

Members considered the publication of a Statutory Notice from Pembrokeshire County Council relating to the proposal to remove Sixth Form education provision at Milford Haven School. The County Council had agreed to proceed with the removal at a Meeting of 16th July 2020.

RESOLVED THAT the publication be received.

Councillor G. Woodham MBA (Open) LL.B (Hons) took no part in any discussion or voting on this item.

242. COLUMN MOTIF LIGHTING ON LAMPPOSTS IN HAMILTON TERRACE:

The Mayor advised Members that he had recently spoken to Mr. B. Jones, the Council’s electrician, who had informed him that the lampposts in Hamilton Terrace were in a state of deterioration and were no longer suitable electrically for the erection of column motif lighting displays. The Trunk Road Agent was aware of the situation. Mr. Jones said that he would, if possible, extend the lighting displays in the Memorial Gardens and Charles Street.

 RESOLVED THAT this information be received.

243. MILFORD HAVEN RAILWAY STATION:

Members considered an email from Ms J. Barfoot, Community Officer, South West Wales Connected, seeking to ascertain Town Council support for possible projects to enhance Milford Haven Railway Station, such as the watering of new planters and ‘crowdfunding’ to raise funds to replace the existing portacabin on the platform.

Following discussion, it was RESOLVED THAT:

 (i) the Town Council is to write to Ms Barfoot

 expressing its best wishes for the company’s

projects;

 (ii) however, Councillors will not be watering planters

 or ‘crowdfunding’ to raise funds to replace the

 existing portacabin;

 (iii) South West Wales Connected is to be advised of

the importance of a large granite stone and plaque

located at the Station since 2013 to celebrate the

150th Anniversary of the opening of the Milford Haven

Railway Line.

244. PROSIECT FORY:

Members considered correspondence from Mr. E. Lewis relating to a Radio Beca/Bro360 project named Prosiect Fory (Tomorrow Project). Circulated by One Voice Wales, Prosiect Fory is a project calling upon Town and Community Councils across Wales to engage via the Zoom software to determine what society they would like to live in post-Coronavirus.

 RESOLVED THAT this correspondence be received.

Councillor M. P. Rickard declared a personal interest as he is employed by Pure West Radio.

245. UNEXPENDED BUDGETS FOR 2020/2021:

Members scrutinised a report prepared by the Clerk, which listed the following budget lines that had not been expended during 2020/2021 as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic:

* Festivities Week - £300
* Rath Paddling Pool - £3000
* Milford Youth Matters

(Under the Bridge) - £5000

The report also indicated that there is £2000 in the Christmas Donations budget which was used to help groups organise a community event over the Festive period, with the average donation being £100.

The Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee, Councillor W. D. Elliott BA QTS, made two propositions:

* for £2000 to still be made available for Christmas Donations and £1000 for other organisations in need during this time
* for up to £5000 to be made available for organisations financially hit by the pandemic, with an average donation of up to £200

A Member commended Councillor Elliott on his propositions, but urged caution as incoming Cemetery maintenance costs may affect budget plans.

The Clerk reminded Members that the Council would be moving to a new Meeting structure following the Annual Meeting, where there would be a focus on financial discussions.

 RESOLVED THAT this issue is to be deferred

 until more information is available regarding

 the Cemetery costs.

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