Minutes of a Meeting of the Milford Haven Town Council

held electronically using the Zoom software

on Monday 19th November 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

 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

A member of the public was also present during the Port of Milford Haven’s presentation.

TO RECEIVE MR. S. EDWARDS, COMMERCIAL DIRECTOR, PORT OF MILFORD HAVEN, REGARDING “CALL TO ACTION FOR A FREEPORT IN PEMBROKESHIRE”:

Mr. Edwards introduced himself to the Meeting.

Mr. Edwards advised that he has been Commercial Director at the Port of Milford Haven since May 2020.

Mr. Edwards unveiled a series of slides detailing the proposal, which he would also be emailing to the Secretary to circulate amongst Members.

The “Call to Action for a Freeport in Pembrokeshire” was sent to over 100 stakeholders and informed by several interviews and sessions held with a wide variety of potential interested parties and partners.

A Freeport at the Port of Milford Haven represents the "best opportunity for Wales given the compelling strategic, economic and community case, combined with the alignment with the UK Government’s Freeport criteria and the UK and Welsh governments’ wider industrial strategies".

Mr. Edwards said that the Haven Waterway Freeport would amplify economic development efforts to safeguard recovery and employment and build economic resiliency in the long-term.

The Port of Milford Haven is a key trade hub for the British energy supply. A Freeport will help safeguard the existing professional energy jobs and skillsets to utilise for low-carbon ambition while regenerating the economy.

The Port's existing energy transmission and distribution infrastructure presents the opportunity for large-scale hydrogen production and injection with minimal additional infrastructure requirements.

Existing strong wind, wave and tidal resources combined with deep water access has already accelerated an emerging renewables sector such as floating wind in the Celtic Sea.

Freeport status would support supply chains from equipment manufacturing through to system integration and power connectivity, helping companies develop bankable projects and a lower cost of energy to UK consumers, while the proximity to major shipping routes and existence of LNG terminals mean the Haven freeport could also support a cleaner global maritime sector.

The UK Government has pledged to create up to 10 Freeports across the UK. The UK Government published a consultation on 10th February 2020 which closed on 13th July 2020. The UK Government has since published its Bid Prospectus for English Ports on Monday 16th November 2020.

Mr. Edwards spoke of the positive response received following the publication of the Port of Milford Haven’s “Call to Action for a Freeport in Pembrokeshire” document, and the strong economic case for such a move. He stressed how vital it is that Welsh ports do not lose out, and he spoke of the need for clarity from the Welsh Government.

A Member queried how the Port of Milford Haven’s plans would operate along the expansion of locally based fuel producing organisations such as Valero.

Mr. Edwards spoke of how there would be cooperation with these organisations, and emphasised the need for positive communication.

Another Member thanked Mr. Edwards for explaining the process in a manner that was easier to understand. The Member spoke of her concern that Wales was being sidelined.

A further Member enthused as to the local benefits that a Freeport would bring. He voiced his fears, however, as to how Charles Street may be detrimentally affected by the increase in resources on the Marina.

Mr. Edwards referenced the Port of Milford Haven’s Masterplan, including the new 100-bedroom hotel, which will bring more people into Milford Haven and Pembrokeshire, with an onus on wealth and prosperity.

The Mayor, Councillor T. J. Davies, thanked Mr. Edwards for his presentation.

Mr. Edwards then left the Meeting.

286. APOLOGIES:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors P. Coe, R. D. Gray, E. R. Harries, A. H. Miles, C. A. Sharp, D. R. Sinnett, Mrs Y. G. Southwell and R. Williams.

287. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

 There were no declarations of interest received.

288. INFORMATION FROM THE MAYOR:

The Mayor asked Members to read emails from the Clerk and Secretary thoroughly to avoid any confusion.

289. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FULL COUNCIL HELD ON 26th OCTOBER 2020:

 RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Meeting of

 the Full Council held on 26th October 2020 be accepted

 and that they be signed as a true record.

290. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ESTABLISHMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 11TH NOVEMBER 2020:

 RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Meeting of the

 Establishment Committee held on 11th November 2020

 be accepted and that they be signed as a true record.

291. PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

Although the application was not one of those listed, a Member said that it was with relief and pleasure that she noted that the planning application for the former Motorworld building was being progressed.

RESOLVED THAT the recommendations made by

the Chairman of the Public Works and Planning

Committee be approved.

292. LICENSING APPLICATION – MADISON’S BAR, MILFORD HAVEN:

 RESOLVED THAT the recommendation made by

the Chairman of the Public Works and Planning

 Committee regarding this application be

 approved.

293. PEMBROKESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL AND PEMBROKESHIRE COAST NATIONAL PARK LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN DRAFT SUPPLEMENTARY GUIDANCE ON ARCHAEOLOGY AND BIODIVERSITY (JOINT) – PEMBROKESHIRE COAST NATIONAL PARK LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN DRAFT SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING GUIDANCE:

 Members discussed the above document.

 RESOLVED THAT the document be received.

294. REMOTE MEETINGS:

Members considered the result of the Remote Meeting Survey undertaken by One Voice Wales to assess the views of Community and Town Councils on the effectiveness of remote meetings.

Based on the survey’s results and the fact that two thirds of respondents (66%) said they would like to retain the facility for remote working, One Voice Wales recommended that:

\* Permission to hold remote meetings in future should be enshrined in law.

\* The legislation should include flexibility to permit a hybrid situation where Members and the public could attend meetings either physically or remotely. Meetings could be live streamed to provide full public access.

\* For the future, remote meetings/working could be supported and facilitated by ensuring the availability of training for staff and Councillors.

\* Consideration be given to support Community and Town Councils to fund the technical equipment needed by Councillors e.g. by extending to Community and Town Councils the facility available to unitary authorities for claiming equipment costs refunds from Welsh Government.

\* It would be useful to assess whether or not unitary authorities could provide Community and Town Councils with a link to their technical facilities for remote meetings in order to facilitate public participation and an easier login process and, if so, whether it would be beneficial to do so.

 RESOLVED THAT:

 (i) the document be received;

 (ii) the Clerk is to contact One Voice Wales to ask whether

 this Council can be notified if there is any fund opening

 that this Council can benefit from.

295. £13.2 MILLION REPAIR AND REUSE FUND:

A document was received from the Repair Care Wales which gave information on repair and re-use activities in town centres. It was noted that the criteria did not appear to be applicable to Milford Haven.

 RESOLVED THAT THE document be received.

296. STATEMENT OF INCOME:

 Members discussed the Statement of Income from April to September 2020.

 RESOLVED THAT the Statement of Income from April

to September 2020 be received.

297. SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURE:

Members discussed the Summary of Expenditure from April to September 2020 and the anticipated expenditure until the end of this financial year and for the next financial year.

 RESOLVED THAT:

(i) the Summary of Expenditure from April to September 2020 be received;

(ii) the Clerk is to ask the Pembrokeshire County Council whether an anchor point for the Christmas Lights could be reinstalled at the former Motorworld building;

(iii) the Clerk is to investigate whether it is possible to obtain revenue from permitting banners to be erected across Charles Street.

298. APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE – 1ST MILFORD HAVEN GUIDES:

 RESOLVED THAT the following decision be made in

 respect of an application for financial assistance:

1st Milford Haven Guides - £360

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

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