

MILFORD HAVEN TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Milford Haven Town Council
Finance, Governance and Planning Committee
held at the Town Hall, Milford Haven
on Monday 11th October, 2021 at 6:00 pm

PRESENT

The Mayor (Councillor Miss K. F. Gray)

Councillors: E. A. Davies DipSM FJOIFF (Vice Chair)

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

Ms F. K. Galliford, Town Council Secretary

114. APOLOGIES:

Apologies for absence were received from the Chair of the Finance, Governance and Projects Committee, Councillor W. D. Elliott BA QTS, the Deputy Mayor, Mrs C. Stevens, Councillor G. Woodham MBA (Open) LL.B (Hons) and the Town Clerk, Mrs B. J. Fitzgerald. Apologies for absence were not received from Councillors R. D. Gray and A. H. Miles.

115. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest received.

116. MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PUBLIC EVENTS SUB-COMMITTEE HELD ON 20TH SEPTEMBER 2021

RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Meeting of the Public Events Sub-Committee held on 20th September 2021 be accepted and that they be signed as a true record.

117. SOCIAL MEDIA/WEBSITE UPDATE

Members considered a report put together by the Town Council's Secretary, Ms F. K. Galliford, detailing the Council's social media and website activity over the last twenty-eight days.

A Member queried why a record of popular website search terms was included, stating that he felt it unnecessary.

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RESOLVED THAT:

- (i) the website information – obtained through the Google Search Console software – is not to be included in future updates;
- (ii) subject to the above, the update be received.

118. OFFICE EQUIPMENT

(a) Fireproof Cabinet

Members considered a report and documentation relating to the purchase of a fireproof cabinet to store burial books. The Town Council has been advised that this is a regulation, as in the event of a fire historical information would be lost forever.

RESOLVED THAT as this is a necessary purchase, a fireproof cabinet be purchased from the Phoenix Safe Company for £904.80 plus VAT.

(b) Photocopier Leasing Costs

Members considered a report and documentation relating to leasing costs for the office photocopier. The Town Council's current lease expires in March 2022.

RESOLVED THAT the quote from Morgan and Morgan be accepted.

119. FINANCIAL MATTERS

(a) Main and Exceptional Grant Applications

A Member stated that she had asked the Town Council staff for a breakdown of money awarded via the Council's precept donations since 2016. The Member felt that the majority of these donations were going to the same organisations and expressed concern that other organisations in the town were missing out.

The Member asked why these donations are not publicly advertised, and spoke of the need for transparency.

A lengthy discussion followed.

Another Member shared the concerns regarding the transparency of the donations, as a number of Councillors are involved with these organisations.

A Member urged caution over advertising, stating that a rush of applicants may have a counterproductive effect. The Member said that several of the organisations currently receiving funding from the Council were heavily reliant upon these grants. This was echoed by a further Member, who said

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that one of these organisations had recently lost a significant source of funding.

Another Member carefully explained the situation with the consideration of donations at the precept Meeting.

Members spoke of the importance of keeping the town's precept at a controllable level and of their responsibilities to ratepayers in Milford Haven.

RESOLVED THAT this matter be considered at a later date.

(b) Acknowledgement of Donations

Acknowledgement was received from the Hubberston and Hakin Community Fridge.

(c) Application for Financial Assistance – Milford Haven Sea Scout Group

RESOLVED THAT £478.52 be awarded to the Milford Haven Sea Scout Group in accordance with Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972.

120. SCHEDULE OF ACCOUNTS – SEPTEMBER 2021

The Schedule of Accounts for September 2021 was received.

Although this was not listed on the Agenda, a Member questioned funding for the Milford Haven Cemetery, urging Members to "look outside the box".

RESOLVED THAT this matter be looked at in further detail at a future Meeting of the Cemetery Maintenance and Land Acquisition Group.

RESOLVED THAT the Schedule of Accounts, as presented by the Clerk for the month of September 2021 in the sum of £21,155.35 be accepted and approved for payment.

121. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS – SEPTEMBER 2021

The Statement of Accounts for September 2021 was received.

RESOLVED THAT the Statement of Accounts, as presented by the Clerk for the month of September 2021 be accepted.

122. SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURE – APRIL TO SEPTEMBER 2021

The Summary of Expenditure for April to September 2021 was received.

RESOLVED THAT the Summary of Expenditure,

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as presented by the Clerk for the months of April to
September 2021, be accepted.
