Minutes of a Meeting of the Milford Haven Town Council

held at the Town Hall, Milford Haven

on Monday 22nd November, 2021 at 6.00 pm

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PRESENT

The Mayor (Councillor Miss K. F. Gray)

The Deputy Mayor (Councillor Mrs C. Stevens)

Councillors: E. A. Davies DipSM FJOIFF

W. D. Elliott BA QTS

B. Phillips C. A. Sharp

D. R. Sinnett

Observers: County Councillor Mrs V. Stoddart

Mr Jack Riley (Western Telegraph)

Mrs B. J. Fitzgerald, Town Clerk

Ms F. Galliford, Secretary

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6.00pm

**Pembrokeshire Energy Workforce – Councillor J Davies (Chair) and Ms J. James (Trustee) – Chevron Memorial on The Rath.**

The Mayor, Miss K. F. Gray welcomed Cllr J. Davies and Ms. J. James. Councillor J. Davies thanked the Town Council for the opportunity to speak. Ms J. James is the Corporate Advisor for Chevron.

Chevron established a small charity in 2014 to oversee the care of the sculptures situated at the Mill Pond, Pembroke and The Rath, Milford Haven. The time has come to hand over the sculptures to the people of Pembrokeshire and there is financial assistance to aid this process.

The Sculptures are to reflect the workers of the energy industry and those who lost their lives. Pembrokeshire County Council helped until dedication in 2013. Initial funding from Chevron has reached £12k now. There is a yearly insurance cost of £325 which covers both sculptures. This cost will be covered by the Investment Fund (growth capital).

The proposal is to have 1 Councillor from Pembroke and 3 Councillors from Milford Haven; Milford Haven Town Council would be the Trustees, the appointed body. Pembroke has the ‘lesser’ sculpture as a bench whilst the larger sculpture is within Milford Haven.

Councillor Rhys Sinnett commented that is seems appropriate to take on this sculpture and bench and asked if there had been any cost over the last ten years for damage.

Ms J. James confirmed there had been no cost for damage at all. The cleaning of the sculptures takes place twice yearly and to date Valero has done this.

Councillor C. Sharp confirmed that it would be January Full Council before a decision could be agreed. Councillor J. Davies was content to present to the Council this evening and had not expected a decision tonight.

Councillor Sinnett asked whether the legal aspect would be straightforward. Councillor J. Davies stated it should be seamless and the fees to effect and register the transfer would be met by Chevron. Milford Haven Town Council would become the appointing body instead of Chevron; Guardians of the trust. The sculptures are currently insured until December 2022.

Councillor Sharp requested copies of the Constitution and bank balance to show funds. Cllr J. Davies agreed to this request.

The Mayor asked about any Memorial Service. Ms J. James stated that there had been memorials for the first few years but the date is not marked now. Families do visit the memorials themselves. Councillor C. Sharp commented that if Milford Haven Town Council took on the memorials the Council could choose to hold memorials if they so wished.

The Town Council thanked Councillor J. Davies and Ms. J. James for presenting. This matter will be raised at Full Council in January 2022.

18:30

**Superintendent Anthony Evans, Dyfed-Powys Police, regarding Policing in Milford Haven.**

The Mayor greeted Supt. Evans and welcomed him to the Chamber.

Supt. Evans thanked the Town Council for allowing him to speak to them. Supt. Evans explained he was a Pembrokeshire boy and had worked in Milford Haven since 2020.

Currently response officers are dealing with 999 calls, priority calls, criminal investigations etc. The force have looked at ways to address timing problems. There is a need for more skilful police officers out on the streets. As of 7th November a dedicated Investigation Unit – Local Investigation Unit, will be in place. It will be under review to ensure it is working successfully. This will allow Police Officers to be out and about, not in the office on a computer. The will not be more officers, but they will be visible. Dyfed-Powys has the lowest crime rate in England and Wales.

Councillor Sharp said that it sounded an excellent idea, it would be specialised training, and asked if more people are being brought in. Supt. Evans confirmed that existing resources are to be used. Currently there are 1200 Police Officers in Dyfed-Powys covering the four counties. Recruiting has started and in the next 12 months there will be another 20 Police Officers within Pembrokeshire.

Nationally the Police find themselves with very young officers who have less than three years service. This will continue to be the case going forward for the next 3, 4 and 5 years. The idea of the Investigation Unit is that the officers will not be tied up with paperwork, they will be far more visible.

Councillor Sinnett asked if the unit would be dealing with abuse, sexual offences, serious assaults.

Supt Evans confirmed that the Unit would be dealing with a lesser level of assault. Whereas all assaults are serious, the more serious assaults would not be dealt with by the Investigation Unit. Mental Health issues is still a big concern as officers are going well beyond their expertise before handing over to the Health Service. 18% of Police work is crime, 82% is other work.

Cllr B. Phillips asked where the Armed Response team come in. Supt. Evans explained that the primary objective of the Armed Response team is to be within 10 to 15 minutes away from the energy sites. Being based in Thornton we are blessed with an Armed Response team in Pembrokeshire.

The Mayor thanked Supt. Evans for presenting to the Council.

PRAYERS:

Father Andrew Johnson led prayers at 7pm.

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171. APOLOGIES:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A. E. Byrne, P. Coe, T. J. Davies, R. D. Gray, E. R. Harries, M. P. Rickard, Mrs Y. G. Southwell, Mrs L. E. Turner, R. Williams and G. Woodham MBA (Open) LL.B (Hons).

No apologies were received from Councillor A. Miles.

172. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest

173. NEWS FROM THE MAYOR

The Mayor had attended the Remembrance Sunday service which was very well attended and a wonderful service.

174. Questions without debate pursuant to Standing Order No. 6.

No items were raised.

175. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FULL COUNCIL HELD ON 25TH OCTOBER 2021

**RESOLVED THAT** the minutes be received.

176. TO RECEIVE REPORTS, RECOMMENDATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS OF THE FINANCE, GOVERNANCE AND PROJECTS COMMITTEEE HELD ON 8TH NOVEMBER 2021

**RESOLVED THAT** the minutes be received.

177. CEMETERY AND PLANNING MATTERS

1. Cemetery Wall

Councillor C. Sharp explained the situation with the wall at the cemetery. The wall had now been cut down to half height and found to be unstable. A quote has been received from the Builder who recommends removal of the wall and a rebuild with footings. Councillor W. Elliott met with the builder on site and agreed with the state of the wall and was surprised that the wall had stood safely for so long. The best case scenario would be to rebuild and place the railings on the wall as originally planned. The Town Council would be investing in a wall to last in excess of 60 years. There is over 80 metres of wall to be rebuilt.

**RESOLVED THAT** the additional funding required comes from Reserves.

1. Cemetery Report – October 2021.

**RESOLVED THAT** the report be received.

1. Cunjic to Hakin Point

Not one organisation is taking responsibility for this path. A meeting is to be requested with representatives from Pembrokeshire County Council, Welsh Water and Milford Haven Port Authority to meet with the Town Council.

**RESOLVED THAT** All bodies concerned are contacted to facilitate a meeting.

1. Manger on the Memorial Garden

There has been a minimal cost of £40 to repair the Manger. The Manger should last a few years and then will need replacing. Costs will be covered by the Town Council and thanks will be sent to Hakin & Hubberston Men’s Shed.

**RESOLVED THAT** A letter of thanks to be sent to Hakin & Hubberston Men’s Shed and all costs will be funded by the Town Council. A thank you on Social Media and give advice to the Men’s Shed of the small grants that are available through the Town Council.

1. Verbal Update from Councillors C. A. Sharp and B. Phillips following a Meeting of the Pembrokeshire County Council Licensing Committee on 20th October 2021.

The application for the Imperial Hall was declined. However, their licence allows for food and drink to be purchased inside and taken outside to be consumed. This is allowed until midnight. The footpath at the Imperial Hall was not discussed but the matter is understood to still be ongoing.

178. PRE PLANNING CONSULTATION – PEMBROKESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL ECO PARK

County Councillor V. Stoddart attended the meeting as an observer. Cllr Stoddart was asked to give her views on the ECO Park and consultation. Cllr Stoddart received the email from PCC on Friday and forwarded to the Town Council on the following Monday. Appointments were available to view plans for the ECO park on the Wednesday following; not giving appropriate time for appointments to be made. The Eco Park is a waste transfer station. Winsel Recycling Centre will close.

Cllr R. Sinnett was able to view the documents online and there are questions to be raised. There should have been more effort to engage with the locals most impacted. The Town Council should ask local Councillors to be involved and have the relevant people in to discuss the Eco Park. Cllr Stoddart felt the process had been rushed.

Cllr C. Sharp commented that the park could be a good thing with the housing developments in Milford Haven, however the Town Council needs to keep a close eye on the development of this facility. There are still many questions to be answered.

**RESOLVED THAT:**The Clerk is to write to Capita, Pembrokeshire County Council and the Cabinet Member expressing concern at the short timeline. Ask when the planning date deadline will be and invite to a meeting of the Town Council to give a presentation.

County Councillor V. Stoddart, Father Andrew Johnson and Jack Riley left the meeting.

179. CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

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