Minutes of a Meeting of the Milford Haven Town Council

held electronically via the Zoom software

on Monday, 10th January, 2022 at 7:00 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

 R. D. Gray E. R. Harries

 B. Phillips C. A. Sharp

 D. R. Sinnett Mrs Y. G. Southwell

 Mrs L. E. Turner

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

Mrs B. J. Fitzgerald, Town Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer

Ms F. K. Galliford, Secretary to the Town Council

J. Riley, Western Telegraph Reporter (Milford Haven/Neyland correspondent)

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185. APOLOGIES:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A. E. Byrne, P. Coe, T. J. Davies, M. P. Rickard and R. Williams. Apologies for absence were not received from Councillor A. H. Miles.

186. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Councillor W. D. Elliott BA QTS declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Agenda Item 5 – To consider the Council’s Precept Requirements for 2022/2023 – *Application for Financial Assistance from the Milford Haven Sea Cadets and Royal Marines Cadets* – as he is the Volunteer and Business Support Manager – South West Area at Marine Society and Sea Cadets.

Councillor W. D. Elliott BA QTS declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 5 – To consider the Council’s Precept Requirements for 2022/2023 – *Application for Financial Assistance from the Milford Haven Town Band/Milford Haven Junior Town Band* – as he is the Vice President of the Band.

Councillor C. A. Sharp declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Agenda Item 5 – To consider the Council’s Precept Requirements for 2022/2023 – *Application for Financial Assistance from the Torch Theatre* – as he is employed by the Torch Theatre as Deputy Front of House Manager.

Councillor C. A. Sharp declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 5 – To consider the Council’s Precept Requirements for 2022/2023 – *Application for Financial Assistance from the Milford Haven Museum Trust* – as he is the Chairman and a Trustee at the Museum.

Councillor C. A. Sharp declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 5 - To consider the Council’s Precept Requirements for 2022/2023 – *Application for Financial Assistance from the Milford Haven Sea Cadets and Royal Marines Cadets –* as he is Chair of the Unit. Councillor Sharp indicated that he would like to speak on this matter but he would not vote.

Councillor D. R. Sinnett declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Agenda Item 5 - To consider the Council’s Precept Requirements for 2022/2023 – *Application for Financial Assistance from the Torch Theatre* – as he is the Pembrokeshire County Council appointed Board Member. Councillor Sinnett indicated that he would not speak or vote on this matter.

Councillor Mrs Y. G. Southwell declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 5 – To consider the Council’s Precept Requirements for 2022/2023 – *Application for Financial Assistance from the Torch Theatre* – as she is the Town Council’s Representative on the Board.

Councillor G. Woodham MBA (Open) LL.B (Hons) declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Agenda Item 5 – To consider the Council’s Precept Requirements for 2022/2023 – *Application for Financial Assistance from the Torch Theatre* – as he is employed by the Torch Theatre as Senior Manager (Business).

Councillor G. Woodham MBA (Open) LL.B (Hons) declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 5 – To consider the Council’s Precept Requirements for 2022/2023 - *Application for Financial Assistance from the Milford Haven Sea Cadets and Royal Marines Cadets* – as his husband is the Chair of the Unit. Councillor Woodham indicated that he would not participate in any discussion on this matter.

Councillor G. Woodham MBA (Open) LL.B (Hons) declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 5 – To consider the Council’s Precept Requirements for 2022/2023 – *Application for Financial Assistance from the Milford Haven Town Band/Milford Haven Junior Town Band* – as he is the President of the Band. Councillor Woodham indicated that he would not participate in any discussion on this matter.

187. COUNCILLOR HARRIES:

Councillor Sinnett expressed his delight at the presence of Councillor Harries at the Meeting following his recent absence as a result of unforeseen circumstances. These sentiments were warmly endorsed by fellow Members.

188. TO CONSIDER THE COUNCIL’S PRECEPT REQUIREMENTS FOR 2022/2023:

Prior to discussion, a Member made several considered and pertinent observations. The Member emphasised the Council’s responsibility to the ratepayers of Milford Haven.

The Member’s observations were welcomed, and it was suggested that these observations be officially proposed. The Member was agreeable to this suggestion.

It was RESOLVED THAT the following funds be ring-fenced from the Council’s Reserves:

* £5000 for Cemetery Expenditure shortfall if required
* £12000 for Christmas Lights provision
* £5000 for Town Council elections
* £2000 for the Milford Haven Round Table, to be used towards the Milford Haven Carnival in 2022
* £5000 for Elections if required.
* £25000 for Cemetery House building work, as and when required.
* Any additional fund required for the Platinum Jubilee to be taken out of reserves. (Currently £3500 in the Public Events budget).

The Member spoke of his concern relating to the paucity of land available for new interments at the Milford Haven Cemetery. He stressed that urgent action was needed.

Members then discussed the Council’s precept requirements for 2022/2023.

 (a) Christmas Donations Budget

 RESOLVED THAT the budget of £2000 is to remain

 unchanged.

 (b) Milford Haven Museum Trust (LGA 1972, s. 137)

 RESOLVED THAT the Milford Haven Museum

 Trust’s donation is to remain at £10000 for

 the financial year 2022/2023.

Councillor G. Woodham MBA (Open) LL.B (Hons) did not participate in any discussion of this item or vote.

 (c) Milford Haven Round Table (LGA 1972, s.145)

 RESOLVED THAT:

(i) a donation of £2000 is to be released when events take place, £1500 for the Fireworks Display and £500 for the Santa Run.

(ii) a donation of £2000 will be released from Reserves for the Milford Haven Carnival if it takes place.

 (d) Milford Haven Sea Cadets and Royal Marines Cadets (LGA 1972, s.137)

Councillor W. D. Elliott BA QTS reiterated his personal and prejudicial interest and he left the Meeting during the discussion of this item.

 RESOLVED THAT the Milford Haven Sea Cadets

 and Royal Marine Cadets are to receive a donation

 of £1800 for the financial year 2022/2023.

Councillor G. Woodham MBA (Open) LL.B (Hons) did not participate in any discussion of this item or vote.

 Councillor C. A. Sharp abstained from voting on this item.

Councillor W. D. Elliott BA QTS returned to the Meeting following discussion of this item.

(e) Milford Haven Town Band/Milford Haven Junior Town Band (LGA 1972, s.145)

RESOLVED THAT the Milford Haven Town Band/Milford Haven Junior Town Band are to receive a donation of £2500 for the financial year 2022/2023.

Cllr G Woodham MBA (Open) LL.B (Hons) did not participate in the debate or vote.

 (f) Torch Theatre Company Limited (LGA 1972, s.145)

Councillors C. A. Sharp and G. Woodham MBA (Open) LL.B (Hons) reiterated their personal and prejudicial interests. Councillor D. R. Sinnett also reiterated his prejudicial interest. Councillors Sharp, Woodham and Sinnett left the Meeting during discussion of this item.

 RESOLVED THAT the Torch Theatre Company

 Limited is to receive a donation of £7000 for the

financial year 2022/2023.

Councillors Sharp, Woodham and Sinnett returned to the Meeting following discussion of this item.

 (g) Dyfed and Glamorgan Army Cadet Force (Milford Haven Troop)

 RESOLVED THAT the Dyfed and Glamorgan Army Cadet

 Force (Milford Haven Troop) is to receive a donation of

 £1210 for the financial year 2022/2023.

 (h) Megan’s Starr Foundation

 RESOLVED THAT:

 (i) this application be deferred to a later date,

 (ii) a representative from Megan’s Starr Foundation

 be invited to address the Council in the near

 future.

 (i) Paul Sartori Hospice at Home

 RESOLVED THAT with much regret, a donation

 not be made on this occasion.

Councillor G. Woodham MBA (Open) LL.B (Hons) wished it recorded that he voted against this decision. The Mayor, Councillor Miss K. F. Gray and Councillor R. D. Gray also voted against the recommendation.

 (j) Precept

 RESOLVED THAT a Precept Requirement in the sum of

 **£174,284** be served on the Pembrokeshire County

 Council in respect of the financial year 2022/2023.

 This figure is equivalent to a charge of £31.92 per

 annum per Band “D” household, a decrease

 of £**4.04p** per annum.

189. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CEMETERY FEES SUB-COMMITTEE HELD ON 16th NOVEMBER 2021:

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Cemetery Fees Sub-Committee held on 16th November 2021 were moved by the Chair of the Cemetery Maintenance and Land Acquisition Group, Councillor C. A. Sharp.

 RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Meeting of the

 Cemetery Fees Sub-Committee held on 16th November 2021

be approved and adopted.

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