Minutes of a Meeting of the Milford Haven Town Council

held electronically via the Zoom software

on Monday 24th January 2022, at 6:15 pm

An Update from Milford Haven Port Authority

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PRESENT

The Mayor (Councillor Miss K. F. Gray)

Councillors: E. A. Davies DipSM FJOIFF B. Phillips

C. A. Sharp

Milford Haven Port Authority:

Mr. A. Jones, Chief Executive Officer

Mr. S. Edwards, Commercial Director

Ms A. Malloy, Stakeholder Engagement and Communications Manager

Mrs B. J. Fitzgerald, Town Clerk

Ms F. K. Galliford, Secretary

Father Andrew Johnson, Mayor’s Chaplain

Apologies were received from the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Mrs C. Stevens, and Councillors T. J. Davies, W. D. Elliott BA QTS, R. D. Gray, E. R. Harries, M. P. Rickard, D. R. Sinnett, Mrs Y. G. Southwell and G. Woodham MBA (Open) LL.B (Hons).

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PORT OF MILFORD HAVEN QUARTERLY UPDATE

The Mayor greeted all present and invited Mr. A. Jones to speak. Mr. Jones thanked everyone and conveyed disappointment that the meeting had to be held virtually. However, it was useful to get together and update on activities by Milford Haven Port Authority. Ms A. Malloy shared slides for the update at Mr. Jones request.

The Organisation is keen to make clear its purpose, what actually is a Trust Port. Building the Haven’s prosperity is not just an economic matter, it is a place where future learners can build careers; a positive impact on the environment which we live in and generally making our community stronger. These are all things that Milford Haven Port Authority would talk about as their purpose. The Port Authority are not just about moving ships on the Haven or providing services in the dock or at Pembroke Port. The luxury of not having any shareholders means the Port can decide where to spend the profits that are made and find the best way to deliver services. It says in the act, economic, social, cultural and environmental benefits to Pembrokeshire.

A Councillor commented that the Milford Haven Port Authority community work is beneficial with businesses and communities alike.

Mr. A. Jones clarified that creating jobs around the Haven is critical and to support the jobs created by others. The majority of jobs are through the terminals, the retailers etc. There are careers for future learners, great opportunities which mean you do not have to leave Pembrokeshire. To have everyone working collectively makes us all stronger, being part of the town is so important. We are the community, we live and work within it.

Mr Steve Edwards then gave an update on the Haven and projects.

Work on the hotel is progressing well. Celtic Collection Group will run the hotel using local businesses as suppliers. The hotel should open in March – April time.

Work on Quay Stores in underway; the roof will be replaced and the fabric of the building will be maintained. The intention is not to impact on traffic for long periods of time. Mr Edwards confirmed that there are currently no plans for Wards Yard.

A query was raised over parking issues.

Mr. Edwards confirmed there is a strategy for parking and toilets. Mackerel Quay will be resurfaced and 60 new spaces for the hotel and for local use. Electric charging points will also be available on site.

Mr. Edwards was asked if there were any plans for a boatyard on Wards Yard and he confirmed that there were no plans for a boatyard but would keep the Town Council updated on any developments.

Pembroke Dock Marine project, the hangar annexes are being developed and due to be completed by end of 2022. The slipway construction commences in March 2022 with a completion date of September 2023. Workboat pontoons work will commence in June 2022 with a proposed completion date of January 2023. Milford Haven Port Authority have moved from the talking stage on Pembroke Dock Marine and are now into the delivery phase.

There is the opportunity of floating offshore wind turbines, circa 40 kilometres off the coast in the Celtic Sea; the Government, Welsh Government and developers all say it’s a good place for the turbines to be. The first turbines could be in the water by 2026.

Mr. A. Jones finished the meeting. He will step down as Chief Executive in April and Mr. Tom Sawyer will be Mr. Jones’ successor. Therefore, this may be the last opportunity for Mr. Jones to meet up with the Town Council.

Councillors wished Mr. Jones the very best for his future.

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