MILFORD HAVEN TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Milford Haven Town Council
held at the Town Hall, Milford Haven
on Monday 28th February 2022 at 7:00 pm

PRESENT

The Mayor (Councillor Miss K. F. Gray)

Councillors:	E. A. Davies DipSM FJOIFF	T. J. Davies
	B. Phillips	M. P. Rickard
	C. A. Sharp	Mrs L. E. Turner

Mrs B. J. Fitzgerald, Town Clerk / Responsible Financial Officer
Ms. F. K. Galliford, Secretary to the Town Council

Reverend Father A. Johnson, Mayor's Chaplain

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

Ms. C. Lafferty, Pembrokeshire Herald Reporter

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TO RECEIVE MS N. HARTEVELD, MEGAN'S STARR FOUNDATION, TO DISCUSS THE WORK OF THE FOUNDATION

The Mayor of Milford Haven, Councillor Miss K. F. Gray, welcomed Ms. N. Harteveld from Megan's Starr Foundation. Ms. Harteveld was accompanied by a volunteer from the Foundation named Mike.

A series of documents were circulated detailing the objectives of the award-winning Foundation.

Ms. Harteveld lost her 14-year-old daughter Megan to suicide in 2017. Megan, a bright and vivacious teenager, had been cyberbullied. Following this tragedy, Ms. Harteveld vowed that she would not let any other young person feel that they had no choice other than to end their life.

Megan's Starr Foundation concentrates on providing help, advice and support to young people and parents from a wide range of social backgrounds who are struggling with their mental health.

Megan's Starr Foundation works in a unique and diverse way in an attempt to break the stigma to accessing support, and to bridge the gap to statutory services.

Megan's Starr Foundation offers Peer Support – *Being a safe, non-judgemental space for parents and young people to talk, connect and help to combat loneliness and isolation. Offering advice, support or to just be a listening ear when it's needed*; Professional Counselling – *Access to a BACP certified professional counsellor to support young people*; Interpersonal Support – *Providing training and workshops for young people to help build self-confidence, resilience, and inter-personal development.*

When a young person is referred to the Foundation the cost of a minimum of six counselling sessions must be ringfenced. This comes at a cost of £210 per young person.

Without the parental, social and interpersonal support £5000 will fund twenty-three young people over a twelve-month period.

All peer, social and interpersonal support is provided by volunteers. Megan's Starr Foundation is a non-for-profit charity and does not employ, meaning that there are no staff wages. Every penny is put directly back into the community. Volunteer training, workshop fees and other overheads are funded by the Foundation's own fundraising initiatives.

The Foundation will hopefully be opening a café in Charles Street next month. Every young person that receives support, or who volunteers, will have the opportunity to become barista trained.

Ms. Harteveld stressed that there would be a confidential area in the café for young people to chat. The café will predominantly be operating as a takeaway. There will be four tables inside the building, and there is also disabled access to the building.

The café will contain a comment box, where young people can leave their thoughts.

A Member asked how long the Foundation has been operating.

Ms. Harteveld advised that Megan's Starr Foundation has been operating since 2019. The Foundation has so far provided approximately 1100 hours in support – both peer and professional support – and provided counselling for about seventy-five young people.

Ms. Harteveld spoke of the impact the Covid-19 pandemic had had on young people. Ms. Harteveld also spoke of the menace of drugs, including drugs such as heroin. Ms. Harteveld advised of plans for there to be a police presence at the café to advise upon drug/alcohol related issues.

Megan's Starr Foundation presently has ten Committee members, three Trustees and about twenty volunteers, located all over Pembrokeshire.

Two of the Committee members are in that position only; the remaining members are also volunteers.

Another Member asked if the Foundation had been in touch with other organisations in relation to funding.

Ms. Harteveld advised that Neyland Town Council has been very supportive. A number of the Foundation's volunteers are from Neyland. Several other Town Councils in Pembrokeshire are to be approached.

The Mayor thanked Ms. Harteveld and Mike for their presentation. Ms. Harteveld and Mike then left the Meeting.

Councillors E. A. Davies DipSM FJOIFF and M. P. Rickard joined the Meeting. Reverend Father A. Johnson, J. Riley and Ms C. Lafferty also joined the Meeting.

PRAYERS

The Mayor's Chaplain, Reverend Father A. Johnson, led prayers at 6.55pm.

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223. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Mrs C. Stevens, and Councillors A. E. Byrne, P. Coe, W. D. Elliott BA QTS, R. D. Gray, E. R. Harries, Mrs Y. G. Southwell, R. Williams and G. Woodham MBA (Open) LL.B (Hons).
Apologies for absence were not received from Councillors A. H. Miles and D. R. Sinnett.

224. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor T. J. Davies declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Agenda Item 8 - *Cemetery House – Ongoing Work* – and in any matters relating to the Milford Haven Cemetery - as he is employed by a local funeral director. Councillor Davies has received dispensation from the Monitoring Officer to speak but not vote on this issue at Meetings.

Councillor M. P. Rickard declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Agenda Item 6 – *Special Meeting of the Public Events Sub-Committee* – as he may be involved in any events to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee as a result of his work with Pure West Radio.

225. NEWS, CORRESPONDENCE AND MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

(i) War in Ukraine

The Mayor asked Councillor C. A. Sharp, as this Council's Representative on the Milford Haven Twinning Committee, to address the Chamber.

Councillor Sharp spoke movingly about his personal connection to Uman, the city located in Cherkasy Oblast in central Ukraine, which is twinned with Milford Haven.

Councillor Sharp and Councillor G. Woodham MBA (Open) LL.B (Hons) had the honour of visiting Uman in 2012 when Councillor Woodham was Mayor of Milford Haven, and Councillor Sharp spoke of the warm reception and the hospitality he and Councillor Woodham received.

Councillor Sharp advised that he was in contact with a friend in Uman. Councillor Sharp's friend reported that a relative of hers had been killed as a result of the conflict, and that Uman had just been attacked by Russian forces.

The Mayor read a letter to be sent to the Mayor of Uman, expressing this Council's solidarity and sympathy during this unspeakably tragic time.

Another Councillor spoke of a family member who was trapped in Ukraine following the Russian invasion.

Members spoke of their sorrow and pledged to stand with Uman and Ukraine.

RESOLVED THAT:

(a) the Mayor of Uman is to be contacted with a letter of unstinting

support from the Mayor, Town Council and people of Milford Haven;

(b) £3000 is to be donated from this Council to Ukrainian relief funds;

(c) this is money that would have been precepted for the Milford Haven Twinning Association, which has not received financial support from the Town Council for the last three years.

(ii) St. David's Lodge

The Mayor read out a letter from Mr. Hicks of St. David's Lodge in Milford Haven, inviting the Mayor, Councillors and office staff to join them in celebrating their 200th anniversary.

(iii) Pembrokeshire Vikings – Rugby

The Mayor read out a letter from Mr. A. Meddings, Pembrokeshire Vikings (a mixed ability rugby team), enquiring as to financial assistance possibilities, and indicating club patronage opportunities.

RESOLVED THAT:

(a) the club is to be contacted regarding applying for Council funding;

(b) the club is also to be advised that PAVS – Pembrokeshire Association of Voluntary Services – may be able to assist with applying for available funding;

(c) the Mayor may personally become a patron – cost of £30 – of the club.

(iv) Glyn Edwards Office Equipment Limited

The Mayor read out an email, addressed to the Town Clerk, from Mr. M. Edwards of Glyn Edwards Office Equipment Limited, in which disappointment was expressed at the Town Council electing to use another provider. Mr. Edwards had requested the email to be read out in full at a Full Council Meeting. It was agreed by all Councillors that due diligence had taken place.

(v) Mayoral Tenure

The Mayor advised Members that she wished to seek a one-year extension to her Mayoral term, which had been sorely impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. The Mayor said that she had spoken to the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Mrs C. Stevens, who was not present at this evening's Meeting, about her wishes.

RESOLVED THAT:

(a) all Councillors be contacted via email to ascertain their

opinions on this matter;

(b) this matter be put on the Agenda for discussion at the Full Council Meeting on Monday 28th March.

226. QUESTIONS WITHOUT DEBATE PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER NO. 6.

No items were raised.

227. MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE FULL COUNCIL HELD ON 24TH JANUARY 2022

RESOLVED THAT the minutes be received as a true record.

- PORT OF MILFORD HAVEN QUARTERLY UPDATE HELD ON 24TH JANUARY 2022

A Member asked whether Mr. A. Jones, who will be stepping down as Chief Executive at the Port of Milford Haven in April 2022, could be contacted by this Council with a letter wishing him the best for his future endeavours.

RESOLVED THAT Mr. Jones be contacted with a letter wishing him the best with his future endeavours.

RESOLVED THAT the minutes be received as a true record.

228. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PLANNING, POLICY AND COMMUNITY COMMITTEE HELD ON 10th FEBRUARY 2022

In the absence of the Chairman of the Planning, Policy and Community Committee, Councillor R. Williams, and as the Vice Chair of the Committee, Councillor C. A. Sharp, was not present at this Meeting, the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning, Policy and Community Committee held on 10th February 2022 were moved by Councillor T. J. Davies.

RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning, Policy and Community Committee held on 10th February 2022 be approved and adopted.

229. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE, GOVERNANCE AND PROJECTS COMMITTEE HELD ON 14th FEBRUARY 2022

In the absence of the Chairman of the Finance, Governance and Projects Committee, Councillor W. D. Elliott BA QTS, and as the Vice Chair of the Committee, Councillor E. A. Davies DipSM FJOIFF, was not present at this Meeting, the Minutes of the Meeting of the Finance, Governance and Projects Committee held on 14th February 2022 were moved by the Mayor, Councillor Miss K. F. Gray.

RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Meeting of the Finance, Governance and Projects Committee held on 14th February 2022 be approved and adopted.

230. MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE PUBLIC EVENTS SUB-COMMITTEE HELD ON 22nd FEBRUARY 2022

In the absence of the Chair of the Public Events Sub-Committee, Councillor Mrs C. Stevens, the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Public Events Sub-Committee held on 22nd February were moved by the Mayor, Councillor Miss K. F. Gray.

A Member asked whether preparations for The Queen's Jubilee celebrations could be discussed at the Meeting of the Full Council on 28th March 2022.

The Town Clerk, Mrs B. J. Fitzgerald, advised that this would be too late, due to various time constraints.

Councillors E. A. Davies DipSM FJOIFF and T. J. Davies indicated that they would join the small group of Councillors needed to progress matters before the Full Council Meeting on 28th March 2022.

RESOLVED THAT, subject to the above, the Minutes of a Special Meeting of the Public Events Sub-Committee held on 22nd February 2022 be approved and adopted.

231. PLANNING APPLICATION 21/0950/PA – CHANGE OF USE A1-A3. ALTERATIONS TO CAR PARKING AREA (REMOVAL OF 4 SPACES AND CREATION OF SEATING AREA) DIRECTLY IN FRONT OF UNIT B2 FOR PROPOSED GREGGS PLC – UNIT B, HAVENS HEAD RETAIL PARK. (PREVIOUSLY DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING OF THE PLANNING, POLICY AND COMMUNITY COMMITTEE ON 10TH FEBRUARY 2022.)

Councillors C. A. Sharp and M. P. Rickard gave their apologies again for missing this Meeting due to unavoidable work commitments.

Members were advised that, since the Planning, Policy and Community Committee Meeting on 10th February 2022, the Secretary, Ms F. K. Galliford, had received confirmation that Greggs would be moving from its current location in Charles Street.

Members once more expressed their concerns relating to the safety of the proposed new environment at the Retail Park, with particular concerns expressed about disabled parking access.

RESOLVED THAT the Secretary is to make further enquiries relating to safety concerns at the proposed development.

232. CEMETERY HOUSE – ONGOING WORK QUOTE

The Chairman of the Cemetery Maintenance and Land Acquisition Group, Councillor C. A. Sharp, apprised Members of the volume of the work that was taking place at the Cemetery and Cemetery House. He urged any interested Member to go and take a look at the many improvements, and indicated that Cemetery House may one day be a viable workplace setting for the office staff.

A Member commented most favourably on the high standard of the work that had been carried out.

RESOLVED THAT:

(a) a quote from J. Mayhew, Neyland, regarding internal works to Cemetery House be accepted;

(b) the Town Clerk be congratulated for her hard work;

(c) the Town Clerk's husband, Mr. M. Fitzgerald, be thanked for his hard work at Cemetery House.

Councillor M. P. Rickard left the Meeting.

233. DONATION BY MARA PURL, AMERICAN AUTHOR OF NOVEL/NOVELLAS CALLED MILFORD-HAVEN

Members considered a report which detailed that Ms. Purl is visiting Milford Haven in May 2022 along with her husband and that they wish to donate a sum of £5000 to the Town Council for Historical Preservation or Environmental Protection use.

RESOLVED THAT:

(a) Ms. Purl's kind donation be generously accepted;

(b) Ms. Purl be thanked most profusely for her offer;

(c) the donation is to be used in the most suitable way, either for Historical Preservation or Environmental Protection as stipulated.

234. MILFORD HAVEN TOWN COUNCIL MEETING STRUCTURE

Members considered a report relating to this Council's current Meeting structure. They were asked for their opinions as to this structure.

A Member stated that they were not initially enamoured with the current structure, which was instituted in February 2021, but they were now more supportive as long as the Committee Meetings were quorate.

Another Member brought up the delay with decision making, indicating that they had a preference for the previous structure of two Full Council Meetings each month.

A further Member said that the start time of 6:00 pm for the smaller Committee Meetings was difficult for him because of his work commitments.

RESOLVED THAT:

(a) all Councillors be emailed to ascertain their thoughts on this matter;

(b) this matter be returned to Full Council on 28th March 2022.

235. MILFORD HAVEN AND NEYLAND MULTI AGENCY WORKING GROUP (MAWG)

Members considered a report and documentation relating to the newly instituted Milford Haven and Neyland Multi Agency Working Group (MAWG).

A Member stated that he was pleased to see that the Town Clerk was involved with this Group, and that this was a good organisation.

RESOLVED THAT this matter be received.

236. LOCAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2022

The Mayor read out an update from the Town Clerk relating to the upcoming local Council elections.

RESOLVED THAT this matter be received.