

MILFORD HAVEN TOWN COUNCIL

- 9th July – Gelliswick School Summer Community Fête (attended by the Deputy Mayor as the Mayor had Covid)
- 10th July – Tenby Civic Service (attended by Deputy Mayor as the Mayor had Covid)
- 13th July – Afternoon tea and Achievement Awards at Milford Haven School
- 15th July – Beating of the Bounds in Haverfordwest
- 24th July – Narberth Civic Service

(all events were attended with the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Mrs C. Stevens)

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

No items were raised.

78. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FULL COUNCIL HELD ON 27th JUNE 2022

RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Meeting of the Full Council held on 27th June 2022 be accepted and that they be signed by the Mayor as a true record.

79. TO RECEIVE REPORTS, RECOMMENDATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS OF THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES

FINANCE, GOVERNANCE AND PROJECTS COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Finance, Governance and Projects Committee held on 11th July 2022 were moved by the Chair of the Committee, Councillor W. D. Elliott BA QTS.

RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Meeting of the Finance, Governance and Projects Committee held on 11th July 2022 be approved and adopted.

PUBLIC EVENTS SUB-COMMITTEE

- a) Minute no. 53a
The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations – Thursday 2nd June 2022

Members noted that Mr. M. Rickard had offered his services to lead the Christmas Lantern Parade this year. Whilst greatly appreciative of this offer, and most aware of Mr. Rickard's years of knowledge and experience in the role, Members were mindful that Mr. Rickard is no longer a Town Councillor, having stepped down during the May elections this year, and the Lantern Parade is a Town Council event.

RESOLVED THAT this matter be placed on the Agenda for the next Meeting of the Public Events Sub-Committee (date to be arranged).

- b) Minute no. 53b
Citizens' Awards Ceremony – Friday 9th June 2022

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A Member expressed concern over the wording of a proposal relating to an appointment of a Select Committee – comprising out of area residents - who would consider the applications and decide upon the recipients of the Citizens' Awards, thus removing the Town Council of this involvement.

Another Member spoke of conflict of interest issues, and stated his belief that an independent panel would add a layer of transparency.

RESOLVED THAT the structure of the Citizens' Awards, including the membership of an independent panel, be Discussed at a Meeting of the Town Council in January 2023.

Subject to the above, it was **RESOLVED THAT** the Minutes of the Meeting of the Public Events Sub-Committee held on 13th July 2022 be approved and adopted.

PLANNING, POLICY AND COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning, Policy and Community Committee held on 14th July 2022 were moved by the Chair of the Committee, Councillor B. Phillips.

Minute no. 62 Parking Restrictions in Central Ward

Councillor T. J. Davies, in his role as County Councillor for the Central Ward, updated Members on this topic. He advised that the matter had been referred to Pembrokeshire County Council who acknowledged that the current arrangement had been proposed by a previous elected Member and that a change of times for parking will be revisited.

RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning, Policy and Community Committee held on 14th July 2022 be approved and adopted.

CEMETERY MAINTENANCE AND LAND ACQUISITION GROUP

a) Minute no. 70 Update on Remaining Area of Cemetery Land

The Chair of the Cemetery Maintenance and Land Acquisition Group, Councillor C. A. Sharp, updated the Meeting on the land situation. Councillor Sharp advised that the landowner had been apprised of the ongoing site work.

b) Minute no. 72(c) Defibrillator at Cemetery

Members were informed that one member of staff at the Cemetery has received training in defibrillator use and that other staff members will receive training.

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RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Cemetery Maintenance and Land Acquisition Group held on 15th July 2022 be approved and adopted.

80. CHRISTMAS LIGHTS IN MILFORD HAVEN

Members considered a Report and attached email correspondence, including pictures, relating to the Christmas Lights in Milford Haven for 2022.

The Town Council electrician, Mr. B. Jones, had explained the costs for refurbished lights.

RESOLVED THAT:

- (i) string lights be purchased from the Festive Lighting Company Limited at the very earliest convenience;
- (ii) plenary powers be given to the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, and the Chairs of the Finance and Planning Committees, to meet as a matter of urgency to decide upon purchase of Christmas lights for 2022.

81. REVIEW OF COUNCIL'S MEETING STRUCTURE

A thorough debate took place over the current structure, with one formal Full Council Meeting at the end of each month with Finance and Planning Committee Meetings taking place earlier in each month. Unless a Councillor raises an issue over recommendations made at Finance and Planning Meetings all recommendations are accepted. Under the present system nine Councillors are allocated to each Committee, and with two Full Council meetings a month all Councillors will have a view. Chairs for both the Finance and Planning Committees will remain in place.

It was noted that in the past the smaller Committees and sub-Committees have not always been quorate and it was suggested that two monthly Full Council Meetings should encourage Councillors to attend to debate and vote. This process will also facilitate and expedite debate.

RESOLVED THAT:

- (i) the proposal for two Full Council Meetings per month is adopted;
- (ii) this structure will start from September 2022;
- (iii) Agendas will be prioritised: urgent items will be heard at the first Meeting of the month with less urgent items considered at the second Meeting of the month;
- (iv) Agendas and Meeting papers will continue to be released to Councillors three working days in advance;

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- (v) Planning matters can be viewed online through the Pembrokeshire County Council portal in advance of Meetings.

Three Councillors voted against this proposal. There were no abstentions.

a) Opening Prayers before Full Council Meetings

Members observed that contact had been made with One Voice Wales regarding this matter, and that One Voice Wales had responded with a copy letter that they had sent to the Petitions Committee at the National Assembly for Wales/Senedd Cymru. In this letter it was stated that "s.111 of the 1972 Act does not give a Town Council (community) council the power to:

- Hold prayers as part of a council meeting or
- Summons councillors to attend a council meeting at which prayers are on the agenda or
- Include prayers in the summons to councillors or in the agenda.

Before a council meeting, it would not be unlawful for councillors, if they so wish, to get together for quiet reflection or saying prayers or other religious worship."

A Member had contacted the Roman Catholic diocese for clarification of the ruling and was awaiting a response. It was suggested that prayers continue until a response is received.

Another Member indicated that Councillors could have five minutes of contemplation before a Meeting, during which time they could pray if they wished.

RESOLVED THAT:

- (i) an email be sent to all Councillors advising that prayers will take place at 6:30 pm in the meeting room/Council Chamber or Mayor's Parlour for those who wish to attend;
- (ii) the invitation for Councillors to join the Mayor for prayers at 6:55 pm before the commencement of the Full Council Meeting at 7:00 pm be removed from future Agendas.

b) Public Participation at Meetings

Members considered a Report written by the Town Clerk relating to Public Participation at future Council Meetings.

RESOLVED THAT:

- (i) public participation at Council Meetings is welcomed;
- (ii) this matter is to be written into the Town Council's Standing Orders.

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c) Zoom Meetings

Members considered a Report from the Town Clerk regarding the future of Town Council/Zoom Meetings.

RESOLVED THAT:

- (i) subject to public health grounds, Full Council Meetings will only take place in person;
- (ii) smaller Meetings, such as Task and Finish Group Meetings, can take place via Zoom.

d) Training for Councillors

Members evaluated a Report put together by the Town Clerk highlighting training opportunities for Councillors.

RESOLVED THAT:

- (i) the Report be received;
- (ii) a plan detailing training provision be published by 5th November 2022.

82. PEMBROKESHIRE PRIDE POST EVENT STATEMENT

Members noted a statement from the newly formed Pembrokeshire Pride organisation, following their successful Pride event held in Milford Haven on 14th to 16th July.

RESOLVED THAT the statement be received.

83. MILFORD HAVEN MULTI AGENCY WORKING GROUP

a) Areas of Concern

b) Minutes of a meeting of the Milford Haven Multi-Agency Working Group held on 11th June 2022

RESOLVED THAT the Areas of Concern notes and the minutes of a meeting of the Milford Haven Multi-Agency Working Group (MAWG) held on 11th June 2022 be received.

84. REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES

(deferred from the Meeting of the Full Council on 27th June 2022)

- One Voice Wales Pembroke Area Committee

RESOLVED THAT Councillor M. Woodward be put forward as this Council's Representative on the One Voice Wales Pembroke Area Committee.

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- Pembroke Power Station Local Liaison Committee

RESOLVED THAT the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Mrs C. Stevens, be put forward as this Council's Representative on the Pembroke Power Station Local Liaison Committee.

- Pembroke Energy Workforce / Chevron

RESOLVED THAT Councillor C. A. Sharp fill this vacancy.

- Working Better Together Group

RESOLVED THAT Councillor M. Woodward is to represent the Town Council on the Pembrokeshire County Council Working Better Together Group.
