Minutes of the

Public Events Sub-Committee

held at the Town Hall, Milford Haven

on Monday 26th September 2022 at 6:15pm

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PRESENT

The Mayor and Chair (Councillor Miss K. F. Gray)

The Deputy Mayor (Councillor Mrs C. Stevens)

Councillors: D. Abbott E. A. Davies DipSM FJOIFF Mrs Y. G. Southwell

Mrs B. J. Fitzgerald, Town Clerk

Miss F. K. Galliford, Secretary

85. APOLOGIES:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Miss V. Brown, W. D. Elliott BA QTS and C. A. Sharp.

86. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

There were no declarations of interest received.

87. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PUBLIC EVENTS SUB-COMMITTEE HELD ON 13th JULY 2022:

**RESOLVED THAT:** the Minutes of the Meeting of the

Public Events Sub-Committee held on 13th July 2022 be accepted and that they be signed by the Chair as a true record.

88. MATTERS ARISING

a) Minute No. 54: b) Christmas Lights

A Member noted that a total of three Christmas trees are to be ordered for Milford Haven this year. He asked whether one of these trees would be allocated for Steynton, to which the Town Clerk replied in the affirmative.

Following this query, the Town Clerk advised that she had received information from this Council’s Christmas tree providers earlier in the day. The 3 trees, which cost £265 each in 2021, have increased in price, now costing £475 each.

The Town Clerk informed Members of a cheaper option – Norwegian fir trees – which will cost around £340 each.

It was **RECOMMENDED THAT:** three Norwegian fir trees be ordered for Milford Haven this year at a cost of around £340 each.

89. CITIZENS’ AWARDS 2023:

The Town Clerk read out information that had been received from Haverfordwest Town Council and Narberth Town Council relating to their town’s awards of merit.

Haverfordwest Town Council advised that they have an Award of Merit and a Young Laurel Award. Haverfordwest Town Council advertises for nominations from members of the public and Councillors. At a Full Council Meeting in March or April, Haverfordwest Town Councillors consider the nominees and who should receive an award. It has been known for Haverfordwest Town Council to give more than one award under each category. The awards (in certificate form) are presented at Haverfordwest Town Council’s Annual Meeting.

Narberth Town Council has an annual Person of the Year award. Nominations are invited from the public by letter/email to the Town Clerk and the Town Council decides upon the recipient of the award. The Person of the Year is invited to Narberth’s Civic Luncheon in July where they are presented with a shield. The recipient of this award does not know of their success in advance.

Discussion then followed.

Members felt it imperative to keep the prestige of the event. They felt that the Council Chamber was the most appropriate venue for the Ceremony to take place, and they also felt that the Town Councillors should keep voting for the recipients of the Citizens’ Awards.

It was **RECOMMENDED THAT:**

(a) the nomination process and venue for the Citizens’

Awards Ceremony be unchanged;

(b) a smaller and more concise Ceremony be encouraged;

(c) the Mayor will continue to present the Awards, ably

assisted by the Deputy Mayor;

(d) the prestige of the event is to be inherent in all

communications and Councillor decisions when deciding upon the recipients of the Awards;

(e) the event is to be published as widely as possible.

90. REMEMBERING STOKEY LEWIS VC:

The Town Clerk advised that she had received correspondence from a local County Councillor whose constituent was passionate about Hubert “Stokey” Lewis (1896-1977), a Victoria Cross winner from Milford Haven. The County Councillor’s constituent had asked whether a tribute such as a road sign – e.g. “Milford Haven: Home of Stokey Lewis” – could be erected.

Stokey Lewis is the only Pembrokeshire man to ever receive the Victoria Cross. The Victoria Cross is the very highest and most prestigious award for gallantry in the face of the enemy that can be awarded to British and Commonwealth forces. Stokey was also awarded the Médaille militaire by France.

There is a Memorial plaque and sundial dedicated to Stokey Lewis VC in the Memorial Gardens.

A Service was held in the Memorial Gardens on 22nd October 2016 to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of Stokey Lewis receiving the Victoria Cross for his outstanding valour in the face of the enemy.

It was **RECOMMENDED THAT:**

(a) a book – “The Story of Stokey Lewis VC 100 Year Anniversary Edition” by Walter Ireland MBE and George

Springer (Hon Curator at Milford Haven Museum) – copies

of which had been received by the Town Council from

Milford Haven Museum in 2016 – be sent to the County

Councillor’s constituent;

(b) the Milford Haven Museum be contacted regarding the

interest shown by the County Councillor’s constituent to

identify new ways of honouring Stokey’s memory.

91. CORONATION OF KING CHARLES III:

The Mayor and Chair, Councillor Miss K. F. Gray, read a Report put together by the Town Clerk, Mrs B. J. Fitzgerald, following the passing of Queen Elizabeth II.

The Report noted that the Coronation of King Charles III is likely to take place in Spring or Summer of 2022. It is possible that the Coronation would be a scaled down event from the one that took place for Queen Elizabeth II in June 1953.

It was **RECOMMENDED THAT:** a sum of money for the Coronation of King Charles III, incorporating such events as school services and street parties, be precepted by the Town

Council at the Full Council Meeting to consider the precept

in January 2023.

92. UPCOMING EVENTS:

(a) Baby Loss Awareness Memorial Service

The Secretary confirmed that this Service will be taking place at Milford Haven Cemetery on Tuesday 11th October at 11:00 am.

**RECOMMENDED THAT:** this information be received.

(b) Remembrance Sunday

**RECOMMENDED THAT:** a number of signs be

laminated and placed on specially situated chairs

on Remembrance Sunday for those less able to

stand.

(c) Christmas/Visit of Santa to Milford Haven on 3rd December 2022

(i) Lantern Parade

**RECOMMENDED THAT:** Mr. M. Rickard, a former Town Councillor who has coordinated and conducted the Lantern Parade with aplomb over many years, be asked to conduct the role again this year following his generous offer of help.

(ii) Christmas Competition

**RECOMMENDED THAT:** local schools be contacted inviting

children to submit a festive picture to be used on the Mayor’s

official Christmas Cards for 2022.

Although this was not on the Agenda, a Member asked whether a Carol Service held by St. Katharine and St. Peter’s Church on the last Saturday before Christmas could become a Civic event. The Member stressed that no financial cost would be incurred by the Town Council.

**RECOMMENDED THAT:** the Member behind this request is to further liaise with the office staff.

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