Minutes of a Meeting of the Milford Haven Town Council

held at the Town Hall, Milford Haven

on Monday 10th October 2022 at 6.15 pm

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PRESENT

The Mayor (Councillor Miss K. F. Gray)

The Deputy Mayor (Councillor Mrs C. Stevens)

Councillors: D. Abbott K. Abbott

M. T. Allen Miss V. Brown

B. Phillips D. R. Sinnett

R. Williams M. Woodward

Mrs B. J. Fitzgerald, Town Clerk

Ms F. K. Galliford, Town Secretary

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TO RECEIVE MR. D. BAKER, CHAIRPERSON, PEMBROKESHIRE PRIDE

The Mayor, Councillor Miss K. F. Gray, welcomed Mr. Baker to the Meeting, before apologising for the small number of Councillors present.

Mr. Baker introduced himself to Members.

Mr. Baker is not originally from Pembrokeshire, though his family has resided in the county for twenty years.

Pembrokeshire Pride started in 2022 and its first festival was held in Milford Haven earlier this year. Until then there had been no visible Pride/LGBTQ+ community movement in Pembrokeshire, a situation that Mr. Baker found surprising. Mr. Baker had consulted with PAVS (Pembrokeshire Association of Voluntary Services) to enquire further: if young people had concerns relating to their sexuality, where urgent assistance may be required; to whom could they turn? Where could they go?

Mr. Baker advised that there had previously been an LGBTQ+ support group named Pembs Plus but this group had been inactive for nearly three years following the death of a group figurehead and issues resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic. This group has been taken over by Pembrokeshire Pride.

Pembrokeshire Pride is a fully constituted group offering support across the county.

Councillors D. Abbott, M. T. Allen, R. Williams and M. Woodward joined the presentation at this point.

Mr. Baker advised that over 400 people had attended the Pride event in Milford Haven earlier this year. One particular young person, who is transitioning, had been severely bullied in school and had not attended in the last two years. The meeting of people at the festival made all the difference to both this young person and his mother, being happier within just a few hours.

Pembrokeshire Pride is presently holding monthly meetings in Haverfordwest. The group is looking at appointing a Diversity and Inclusion Officer.

Mr. Baker advised that the group had received funding from the Police and Crime Commissioner for a new website with the mechanism for integrated community chat and support, and the opportunity to report hate crimes. Pembrokeshire Pride also has an active Facebook presence.

The Mayor asked Members if they had any questions.

A Member stated that they had attended a major Pride event in Amsterdam which they had thoroughly enjoyed. The Member asked whether such an event would be an opportunity for the town of Milford Haven.

Mr. Baker replied that the organisation is set up to cover Pembrokeshire in its entirety but spoke positively of the future for Pride in Milford Haven, stating that a prominent local organisation was hugely interested in possible future events.

Another Member asked whether Pembrokeshire Pride had professionals on the team. Mr. Baker said that the group is signposting people at this moment – helping hundreds of people within the communities - but they would love to have a designated counsellor (or counsellors) one day. Growth and finance are required to expand and pay for this resource.

A further Member spoke effusively about the project, stating how much they would have appreciated having access to such an organisation as a youngster.

Mr. Baker said that there is still a big gap in schools, and that education is still paramount, referencing a recent case of homophobia shown by a teacher at a Pembrokeshire school. Mr. Baker spoke of the importance of speaking to young people, and how much he would like to see a Youth Pride Committee.

The Mayor asked for updates from the group and stated that a financial grant application from Pembrokeshire Pride would be considered.

The Mayor thanked Mr. Baker for attending and Mr. Baker then left the Meeting.

Councillors K. Abbott and B. Phillips joined the Meeting.

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113. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs N. Beavis-Morrissey,

E. A. Davies DipSM FJOIFF, T. J. Davies, W. D. Elliott BA QTS, M. Jones, C. A. Sharp, Mrs Y. G. Southwell and G. Woodham MBA (Open) LL.B (Hons).

114. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor K. Abbott declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Agenda Item 13 - Castlemartin Firing Range - as he is employed in the area.

Councillor D. Abbott declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 16 – Confidential Matters -

115. QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION WITH MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

No items were raised.

116. NEWS FROM THE MAYOR

The Mayor had visited the Mosque in Charles Street on 28th September and attended the opening of PATCH Charity shop in Charles Street on 3rd October. The Mayor was to attend the Baby Loss Awareness Memorial Service being held on Tuesday 11th October in the Chapel of Milford Haven Cemetery.

117. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FULL COUNCIL HELD ON 26TH SEPTEMBER 2022

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

Full Council held on 26th September 2022 be accepted and that they be signed by the Mayor

as a true record.

118. FLOWERS IN MILFORD HAVEN

Councillor D. Abbott met with Mr. G. Lawlor and Mr. N. McCarthy of Pembrokeshire County Council to discuss the flower displays within Milford Haven. Councillor Abbott explained that the flowers on the Memorial Gardens for the Royal Artillery are to be removed as they are ineffective; the Archway which is used for weddings on the Memorial Gardens will be surrounded by flowers which last from April to October giving a much better effect. The flowers outside the Town Hall will be mixed new flowers to give a visible impact. At the Cenotaph the cross is to be given kerb stones to form the cross and the bed will be raised by 4 inches. Red flowers only will be used in this display.

Work on the flowers will start early spring 2023. A quote will first be provided by Pembrokeshire County Council to be agreed by the Town Council.

**RESOLVED THAT:**

1. that the proposals put forward by Pembrokeshire County Council be accepted;
2. a quote to first be provided and agreed upon by Full Council.

119. REMEMBRANCE DAY 2022

Councillor B. Phillips explained that he had been in discussion with Mr. Powles of Pembrokeshire County Council in relation to a Poppy Walk from the Royal British Legion to the Cenotaph and possibly beyond. The poppy wreaths would be tied with cable ties to the railings, which are symmetrical, the day after the Remembrance Service. It is planned for a youth group to undertake this work and Councillor D. Abbott, on behalf of the British Legion, will liaise with Councillor Phillips for the work to be carried out. A letter would be sent to the Secretary of the British Legion to gain their views. There would be no cost for this work to the Town Council.

**RESOLVED THAT:**

1. a youth group will attach the poppy wreaths the day after the Remembrance Service;
2. this will depend on agreement being reached with the British Legion.

120. TO RECEIVE REPORTS, RECOMMENDATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS OF THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEE

PUBLIC EVENTS SUB-COMMITTEE held on 26th September 2022

*Minute number 89: Citizens’ Awards 2023*

Discussion took place on whether members of community groups should be involved in the voting process, whether past winners should have some say in choosing the winners, or whether one or two notable people could consider the nominations and choose the award recipients: Councillor Dr. Simon Hancock was named as a possibility.

**RESOLVED THAT:** this matter be referred back

to the Public Events Sub-Committee for further discussion.

*Minute number 90: Remembering Stokey Lewis VC*

Stokey Lewis – the portrait of Stokey Lewis which currently hangs in the committee room is to be donated to the Milford Haven Museum who hold other items relating to Mr. Lewis.

**RESOLVED THAT:** the portrait of Stokey Lewis VC, which presently hangs in the Committee Room, is to be donated to the Milford Haven Museum which holds other items relating to

Mr. Lewis.

Subject to the above, it was **RESOLVED THAT** the Minutes of the Meeting of the Public Events Sub-Committee held on 26th September 2022 be approved and adopted.

121. PLANNING

1. Outstanding Planning Applications

The Chair of the Planning, Policy and Community Committee, Councillor B. Phillips, read out each outstanding planning application.

22/0421/PA – Office and Welfare Accommodation with associated storage in retrospect (temporary use for 3 year period) at Plot 8, Priory Park, Thornton (Milford North)

**RESOLVED THAT:** this application be recommended for approval.

22/0468/PA – Change of use of first and second floors into 1 no. one bedroom apartment, 3 no. two bedroom apartments and 1 no. three bedroom apartment at 16 Hamilton Terrace (Milford Central)

**RESOLVED THAT:** this application be recommended for approval.

22/0487/LB – Variation of condition 2 of listed building consent 19/0945/LB at Quay Stores, Victoria Road (Milford Central/Milford West)

**RESOLVED THAT:** this application be recommended for approval.

22/0508/TF – Tree surgery at 15 Blackbridge Drive, Blackbridge (Milford East)

**RESOLVED THAT:** this application be recommended for approval.

22/0512/PA – 2 storey extension and alterations in retrospect at 33 Sheffield Drive, Steynton (Milford North)

**RESOLVED THAT:** this application be recommended for approval.

1. Planning Notification from Pembrokeshire County Council (for information only) – 21/1261/PA – Development and use of two warehouses and siting of storage containers (in retrospect) at Unit 6, Priory Park, Thornton (Milford North) – *Application Withdrawn.*

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

122.CEMETERY REPORT – SEPTEMBER 2022

Members considered the Cemetery Report from September 2022.

**RESOLVED THAT:** the Cemetery Report for September

2022 be received.

123. LOCAL DEMOCRACY & BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR WALES – COMMUNITY REVIEW GUIDANCE

Members considered the updated Community Review Guidance from the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales.

**RESOLVED THAT:** the information be received.

124. CASTLEMARTIN FIRING RANGE

Councillor K. Abbott reiterated his personal and prejudicial interest and left the room during discussion of this item.

Members considered a monitoring report received from representatives of the Castlemartin Range Action Group.

**RESOLVED THAT:**

1. the Group is to be asked to keep Milford Haven Town Council informed of their actions;

(ii) the monitoring report be received.

Councillor K. Abbott returned to the Meeting.

125. REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODY: MILFORD HAVEN SCHOOL

**RESOLVED THAT:** the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Mrs C. Stevens, accepts the nomination of a Community Governor for Milford Haven School.

126. VOTE TO MOVE INTO PRIVATE SESSION

**RESOLVED THAT:** the Meeting enter private session.

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