

MILFORD HAVEN TOWN COUNCIL

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

PRESENT

The Mayor (Councillor Miss K. F. Gray)
The Deputy Mayor (Councillor Mrs C. Stevens)

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| Councillors: | D. Abbott | K. Abbott |
| | M. T. Allen | E. A. Davies DipSM FJOIFF |
| | B. Phillips | C. A. Sharp |
| | M. Woodward | |

County Councillor Mrs V. Stoddart (Milford Hubberston Ward)

Mrs B. J. Fitzgerald, Town Clerk and Financial Officer
Ms F. K. Galliford, Town Council Secretary

5:45pm:

TO RECEIVE MR. C. STUCKI, BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER FOR H2ENERGY; MR. K. REES, MANAGER FOR PUMA ENERGY; AND MR. J. RUGHANI, HYDROGEN BUSINESS DEVELOPER, TRAFIGURA GROUP – REGARDING THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN ELECTROLYTIC HYDROGEN PROJECT AT PUMA ENERGY’S PREMISES IN MILFORD HAVEN.

The Mayor, Councillor Miss K. F. Gray, welcomed Mr. Stucki, Mr. Rees and Mr. Rhugani to the Meeting.

Mr. Rhugani explained the strategy behind the joint project. There will be excellent infrastructure in place with re-purposing of skills for a landmark project. Mr. Rees explained Puma Energy who have a lower incident rate at the present time than ever before. They have an excellent COMAH site. Mr Stucki explained H2Energy – a green energy company with renewable sources from off shore wind. The largest site in development is in Denmark. The goal is to help the UK become energy independent with the supply of carbon-neutral heat to more than 40,000 households. The plant could supply clean hydrogen from South Wales to industrial clusters in Milford Haven, Port Talbot and other areas.

Planning for the project is scheduled to start early in 2023 with work planned for later in 2023 with the plant working by 2025. Due to Milford Haven’s long history of oil, gas and renewable energy it is a key location for building a new energy infrastructure to meet the decarbonisation goals of both Wales and the UK as a whole. The region is an obvious place to locate a hydrogen plant.

Questions were invited from Councillors. Brochures were given out at the meeting.

The Mayor thanked the gentlemen for attending. Mr. Stucki and Mr. Rhugani stayed to listen to the presentation by Milford Haven Port Authority.

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6:20 pm

TO RECEIVE A PRESENTATION FROM MR. T. SAWYER, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, PORT OF MILFORD HAVEN, WITH AN UPDATE ON THE WORK OF THE PORT OF MILFORD HAVEN

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Mrs C. Stevens, joined the Meeting during this presentation.

The Mayor welcomed Mr. Sawyer; Mr. S. Edwards, Commercial Director, Port of Milford Haven; and Ms A. Malloy, PR & Communications Manager, Port of Milford Haven, to the meeting.

Mr. Sawyer explained the Freeport Bid. It is a collaboration between Milford Haven and Neath Port Talbot. The goal is to decarbonise Milford Haven and Port Talbot, if this cannot be done then Wales cannot be decarbonised. The project would make a major contribution of Wales' net zero carbon emissions and enhance security of supply. 16,000 new jobs could be provided.

Currently Pembrokeshire has a poverty rate of around 34%; the Freeport could bring in £5.5 billion in new investment. Milford Haven Port Authority have been on the Freeport journey for twelve months. The Freeport policy is to deliver innovation, investment and net zero emissions. There are 8 port areas within the UK.

Mr. S. Edwards greeted the Councillors stating how nice it was to be able to present in person.

In Wales 600 hectares have been identified; 335 in Neath Port Talbot with 265 in Pembrokeshire. Both Carmarthenshire and Swansea agree with the collaboration between the Port Authority and Neath Port Talbot.

The Freeport will make tax zones to encourage investors. The plan is to have 266 turbines floating offshore by 2035. This energy policy is shared by both the Welsh Government and the UK Government. Welsh Government and the UK Government are the decision makers for the Celtic Freeport Bid. Ministers Crabb and Kinnock are both on board with the plans.

Business rates will be reinvested within a Freeport project. Local manufacturing would be used and manufacturing would be encouraged to return to Pembrokeshire.

Mr. Sawyer then gave an update of the Port Authority plans.

There will be no dilution of activity around the waterway. An increase in water traffic will have to be accommodated. None of the Freeport encroaches onto the National Park, it is all outside of that area.

There are ambitious plans for Pembrokeshire with a National Gallery for Wales in the plans. Heritage, culture, education – Milford Haven Port Authority are interested in developing all of them. There is also a five-year plan for the marina. There is currently a waiting list for over 200 berths; the Marina will have to be expanded. There are also investments to be made in Pembroke Dock.

The Mayor thanked Mr. Sawyer, Mr. Edwards and Ms Malloy for attending.

Mr. Sawyer, Mr. Edwards, Ms Malloy; Mr. Stucki, Mr. Rughani and County Councillor Mrs Stoddart all left the Meeting.

Councillors K. Abbott and M. Woodward joined the Meeting.

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184. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs Beavis-Morrissey (unwell), Miss V. Brown (unwell), T. J. Davies (work commitments), W. D. Elliott BA QTS, M. Jones (work commitments), D. R. Sinnett (away), Mrs Y. G. Southwell (family illness), R. Williams (away) and G. Woodham MBA (Open) LL.B (Hons) (family commitment).

185. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None declared.

186. QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION WITH MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no questions from members of the public.

187. NEWS FROM THE MAYOR

Housing Conference

The Mayor had recently attended a housing conference and explained that all landlords have to submit new contracts for all tenants which comes into effect in December. All accommodation must be fit for purpose.

Christmas Drinks

The Mayor offered for any Councillor who wished to meet for a Christmas drink to please liaise with the Secretary who would arrange a suitable date.

Mayor's Engagements and Meetings – November 2022

- Monday 14th November - Meeting of the Full Council (with guest speakers from 5:30pm)
- Tuesday 15th-17th November - Housing conference at Llandrindod Wells
- Monday 21st November - 1pm Meeting with Mr. B. Evens (Town Hall landlord)
- Monday 21st November - 1:30-2pm Establishment Meeting
- Monday 21st November - 2pm Cemetery Fees Sub-Committee Meeting

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

No items were raised.

189. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FULL COUNCIL HELD ON 14TH NOVEMBER 2022

The matter raised at Council on 24th October on the comment on Minute 131 b) that if any new information arises on a decision of leaving the Town Hall the matter could be brought back to a future meeting of the Full Council. A Member requested that this be clarified.

The exact wording in Standing Orders under Item 11 – Rescission of Previous Resolutions are:

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- (a) A resolution (whether affirmative or negative) of the Council shall not be reversed within 6 months except either by a special motion, the written notice whereof bears the names of at least 5 Councillors of the Council, or by a motion moved in pursuance of the report or recommendation of a Committee.
- (b) When a special motion or any other motion moved pursuant to Standing Order 11(a) has been disposed of, no similar motion may be moved within a further 6 months.
- (c) This Standing Order shall not apply to resolutions moved in pursuance of the report or recommendation of a Committee.

RESOLVED THAT: subject to the above, the Minutes of the Meeting of the Milford Haven Town Council held on 12th November 2022 be accepted and that they be signed by the Mayor as a true record.

190. PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

The Chair of the Planning, Policy and Community Committee, Councillor B. Phillips, addressed the Council.

- (a) Outstanding Planning Applications

22/0681/PA – Amendments to layout of business units approved under 20/0910/PA at Coast to Coast Caravans Ltd, Main Road, Waterston. (Milford East)

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

22/0726/PA – Change of use of ground floor offices to residential flat at 22A Hamilton Terrace, Milford Haven (former Barlow House premises). (Milford Central)

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

RESOLVED THAT: the above planning applications be recommended for approval.

- (b) Planning Notifications (for information only)

RESOLVED THAT: this information be received.

191. STANDING ORDERS:

Members considered the following Report relating to clarification of the wording of Minute 165 – 2. Ordinary Council Meetings (vi) – “To answer questions from Councillors” which had been raised as a concern at the Meeting of the Full Council on 14th November.

RESOLVED THAT: the Report containing the clarification be received.

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192. MILFORD HAVEN TOWN COUNCIL NEEDS ANALYSIS FOR PREMISES

The Mayor explained that during a recent meeting with Mr. B. Evens, owner of the Town Hall, he had agreed to come back to the Mayor with a cost for hiring the Chamber on an evening basis. Mr. Evens was also agreeable with the Town Council hiring the balcony for events for special events. Mr. Evens will endeavour to give costings in December 2022 before the precept takes place.

RESOLVED THAT: the information given by the Mayor is accepted.

193. SCHEDULE OF ACCOUNTS – OCTOBER 2022

RESOLVED THAT: the Schedule of Accounts, as presented by the Clerk for the month of October 2022 in the sum of £15,775.95, be accepted and approved for payment.

194. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS - OCTOBER 2022

RESOLVED THAT: the Statement of Accounts for October 2022 be received.

195. VOTE TO MOVE INTO PRIVATE SESSION

RESOLVED THAT: Council agreed to move into private session.

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

ESTABLISHMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 21ST NOVEMBER 2022

RESOLVED THAT: the Minutes of a Meeting of the Establishment Committee held on 21st November 2022 be approved and adopted.
