

MILFORD HAVEN TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Milford Haven Town Council
held in the Chamber, Town Hall
on Monday, 9th January 2023 at 7:00 pm

PRESENT

The Mayor (Councillor Miss K. F. Gray)

Councillors: D. Abbott	K. Abbott
M. T. Allen	Mrs N. Beavis-Morrissey
Miss V. Brown	E. A. Davies DipSM FJOIFF
T. J. Davies	W. D. Elliott BA QTS
B. Phillips	C. A. Sharp
D. R. Sinnett	G. Woodham MBA (Open) LL.B (Hons)
M. Woodward	

Mrs B. J. Fitzgerald, Town Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer

The Mayor of Milford Haven, Miss K. F. Gray, welcomed all to the meeting and wished everyone a Happy New Year.

198. APOLOGIES:

Apologies for absence were received from the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Mrs C. Stevens (unwell), and Councillors M. Jones (work commitments), Mrs Y. G. Southwell (chairing of Church Meeting) and R. Williams (family commitments).

199. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Councillor T. J. Davies declared a personal and prejudicial interest in financial matters regarding 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 W. D. Elliott BA QTS declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 5 – To consider the Council’s Precept Requirements for 2023/2024 – *Application for Financial Assistance from the Milford Haven Sea Cadets and Royal Marines Cadets* – as he is the Volunteer and Commanding Officer.

Councillor W. D. Elliott BA QTS declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 5 – To consider the Council’s Precept Requirements for 2023/2024 – *Application for Financial Assistance from the Milford Haven Town Band/Milford Haven Junior Town Band* – as he is the Hon. Vice President of the Band.

Councillor C. A. Sharp declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 5 – To consider the Council’s Precept Requirements for 2023/2024 – *Application for Financial*

MILFORD HAVEN TOWN COUNCIL

Assistance from the Milford Haven Museum Trust – as he is the Chairman and a Trustee at the Museum.

Councillor C. A. Sharp declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Agenda Item 5 – To consider the Council's Precept Requirements for 2023/2024 – *Application for Financial Assistance from the Torch Theatre* – as he is employed by the Torch Theatre. Councillor Sharp indicated he would leave the chamber while this matter was being discussed.

Councillor C. A. Sharp declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 5 - To consider the Council's Precept Requirements for 2023/2024 – *Application for Financial Assistance from the Milford Haven Sea Cadets and Royal Marines Cadets* – as he is an unpaid Trustee and Chair of the Unit. Councillor Sharp indicated that he would like to speak on this matter but he would not vote.

Councillor M. T. Allen declared a personal and prejudicial interest in matters of the Rath Paddling Pool as he is Chair of the Pembrokeshire Lido Group.

Councillor G. Woodham MBA (Open) LL.B (Hons) declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 5 – To consider the Council's Precept Requirements for 2023/2024 – *Application for Financial Assistance from the Milford Haven Town Band/Milford Haven Junior Town Band* – as he is the President of the Band. Councillor Woodham indicated that he would leave the Chamber while this matter was being discussed.

Councillor G. Woodham MBA (Open) LL.B (Hons) declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Agenda Item 5 – To consider the Council's Precept Requirements for 2023/2024 – *Application for Financial Assistance from the Torch Theatre* – as he is employed by the Torch Theatre as Senior Manager (Business). Councillor Woodham indicated he would leave the Chamber while this matter was being discussed.

Councillor G. Woodham MBA (Open) LL.B (Hons) declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Agenda Item 5 – To consider the Council's Precept Requirements for 2023/2024 - *Application for Financial Assistance from the Milford Haven Sea Cadets and Royal Marines Cadets* – as his husband is the Chair of the Unit and close friends with the Commanding Officer. Councillor Woodham indicated that he would not participate in any discussion on this matter.

Councillor D. R. Sinnett declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 5 - To consider the Council's Precept Requirements for 2023/2024 – *Application for Financial Assistance from the Torch Theatre* – as he is the Pembrokeshire County Council appointed Board Member. Councillor Sinnett indicated that he would leave the chamber while this matter was being discussed.

Councillor Mrs N. Beavis-Morrissey declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 5 – To consider the Council's Precept Requirements for 2023/2024 – Application for Financial Assistance from the Pembrokeshire Vikings as her husband is a player for the Vikings.

200. NEWS FROM THE MAYOR:

The Mayor updated Councillors on engagements conducted since the last Full Council meeting.

MILFORD HAVEN TOWN COUNCIL

Tuesday 29th/Wednesday 30th November 2022

Trip to Conwy (the Deputy Mayor, Cllr Mrs C. Stevens; Cllrs D. Abbott and M. Woodward, and the Town Council Secretary were also present)

Friday 2nd December 2022

Decorating Council Chamber for Visit of Father Christmas on Saturday 3rd December

Saturday 3rd December 2022

Christmas Lights Switch-On at the Town Hall

Sunday 4th December 2022

Packing up decks and clearing Council Chamber following Visit of Father Christmas

Tuesday 6th December 2022

Milford Haven Sea Cadets & Royal Marines Cadets Carol Service at St. Katharine & St. Peter's Church (presentation of Christmas Donation cheque)

(also attended by the Deputy Mayor)

Wednesday 7th December 2022

Christmas Party at Hubberston & Hakin Community Centre (presentation of Christmas Donation cheque) (also attended by the Deputy Mayor)

Thursday 8th December 2022

- i. Lunch at the Mount Community Centre (pm) (presentation of Christmas Donation cheque)*
- ii. Meeting of the Youth Council at the Council Chamber (also attended by the Deputy Mayor) (pm)*

Friday 9th December 2022

- i. Presentation of Christmas Donation cheque to the Milford Haven Yarn Club at the Council Chamber (also attended by the Deputy Mayor)*
- ii. Presentation of Christmas Donation cheque to the Salvation Army at the Council Chamber (also attended by the Deputy Mayor)*
- iii. Presentation of Christmas Donation cheque to the Friends of Havenhurst at the Council Chamber (also attended by the Deputy Mayor)*

Sunday 11th December 2022

- i. Presentation of Christmas Donation cheque to the Pembrokeshire Puffins Disability Swimming Squad at Phoenix Bowl, Milford Marina (pm)*
- ii. British Legion event at Milford Athletic Football Club (pm)*

Wednesday 14th December 2022

Presentation of Christmas Donation cheque to Milford Haven Community Primary School at the School

Sunday 18th December 2022

Reading at the Nine Lessons and Carols Service at St. Katharine & St. Peter's Church (also attended by the Deputy Mayor)

Monday 19th December 2022

Judging of festive shop window dressing competition with Visit Milford Haven

Saturday 24th December 2022

Reading at the Crib Service at St. Katharine & St. Peter's Church (the Deputy Mayor and Immediate Past Mayor also gave readings)

Sunday 25th December 2022

Presentation of Christmas Donation cheque to Christmas Together at the Pill Social Centre (also attended by the Deputy Mayor)

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

No Questions had been received.

MILFORD HAVEN TOWN COUNCIL

202. TO CONSIDER THE COUNCIL'S PRECEPT REQUIREMENTS FOR 2023/2024.

Members discussed the Council's precept requirements for 2023/2024.

(a) Cemetery

The budget for Building Maintenance (Cemetery House, Chapel, Workshop and Cemetery Wall) is to be removed at the present time and discussed at a later date. Prioritisation of projects at the Cemetery are to be discussed and the remaining wall may be a priority over the stained-glass windows. If necessary, the money will be taken out of reserves.

RESOLVED THAT: the budget for building maintenance be removed. Prioritisation of projects to be discussed at a later date.

(b) Cemetery Land

For the purpose of setting the budget the £14k possible loan cost will be removed. The cost will be taken out of reserves if the loan is required in financial year 2023/2024.

RESOLVED THAT: the loan budget be removed and if necessary, the cost will be taken from reserves for the financial year 2023/2024.

(c) Public Events

The budget for public events be set at £3,500 with any extra cost for the Coronation of King Charles III to be taken from reserves.

RESOLVED THAT: the public events budget to be £3,500 with any cost for the Coronation of King Charles III taken from reserves.

(d) Christmas Lights

If extra funds are required to make Christmas successful, money will be taken from reserves.

RESOLVED THAT: any extra funds will be taken from reserves if necessary.

(e) General Donations Budget

Any funds left in budget from financial year 2022/2023 is to be carried over to financial year 2023/2024.

RESOLVED THAT: any remaining budget in year 2022/2023 is to be carried over to financial year 2023/2024.

(f) Milford Haven Museum Trust (LGA 1972, s.137)

RESOLVED THAT: the Milford Haven Museum Trust's donation is to be £10,000 for the financial year 2023/2024. The Museum was applauded for all the unpaid work for the town and heritage. Councillor C. A. Sharp abstained from the vote on this matter.

MILFORD HAVEN TOWN COUNCIL

Councillor G. Woodham MBA (Open) LL.B (Hons) did not participate in any discussion of this item or vote.

(g) Milford Haven Round Table (LGA 1972, s.145)

£5,000 is to be donated. Clear costings are required on each event - £2,500 for the Carnival and £2,500 for the Fireworks display. It is to be ensured that Milford Haven Town Council is credited as financial supporters of these events. Evidence of costs must be shown before the grants are paid.

RESOLVED THAT: a total donation of £5,000 is to be released when costs for the Carnival event and the Fireworks display are submitted. Milford Haven Town Council are to be credited as financial supporters of both events.

(h) Milford Haven Sea Cadets and Royal Marines Cadets (LGA 1972, s.137)

Councillors W. D. Elliott BA QTS, C. A. Sharp and G. Woodham MBA (Open) LL.B (Hons) left the Meeting during the discussion of this item.

RESOLVED THAT: not to support on this occasion due to the amount held in reserves.

(i) Milford Haven Town Band/Milford Haven Junior Town Band (LGA 1972, s.145)

It was noted that 2024 will be the 50th anniversary for the Town Band. A proposal of £5,000 grant was recommended.

RESOLVED THAT: the Milford Haven Town Band/Milford Haven Junior Town Band are to receive a donation of £5,000 for the financial year 2023/2024.

Councillor G. Woodham MBA (Open) LL.B (Hons) and Councillor W. D. Elliott BA QTS did not participate in the debate or vote.

(j) Torch Theatre Company Limited (LGA 1972, s.145)

Councillors Sharp, Woodham and Sinnett left the Meeting during discussion of this item.

RESOLVED THAT: the Torch Theatre Company Limited is to receive a donation of £7,500 for the financial year 2023/2024.

Councillors Sharp, Woodham and Sinnett returned to the Meeting following discussion of this item.

MILFORD HAVEN TOWN COUNCIL

(k) Sweetshop Revolution

RESOLVED THAT: with regret, a donation is not to be made on this occasion. There were two abstentions.

(l) Pembrokeshire Vikings

A grant of £1,700 was proposed for the trailer only. It is a condition that Milford Haven Town Council are named as sponsors on the trailer. The decision was unanimous.

RESOLVED THAT: £1,700 grant be given for the purchase of the trailer. Milford Haven Town Council are to be named on the trailer as sponsors.

(m) Milford Haven Youth Matters

RESOLVED THAT: a grant of £5,000 be awarded for the financial year 2023/2024. There were two abstentions to this decision.

(n) 9pm - Standing Orders were suspended. Council unanimously voted.

RESOLVED THAT: Standing Orders be suspended.

(o) Precept

RESOLVED THAT: a Precept Requirement in the sum of **£178,596** be served on the Pembrokeshire County Council in respect of the financial year 2023/2024. This figure is equivalent to a charge of £32.86 per annum per Band "D" household, an increase of **£0.94p** per annum.

203. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CEMETERY FEES SUB-COMMITTEE HELD ON 21st NOVEMBER 2022:

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Cemetery Fees Sub-Committee held on 21st November 2022 were moved by the Chair of the Cemetery Maintenance and Land Acquisition Group, Councillor C. A. Sharp.

RESOLVED THAT: the Minutes of the Meeting of the Cemetery Fees Sub-Committee held on 21st November 2022 be approved and adopted.