

MILFORD HAVEN TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the
Public Events Sub-Committee
held at the Town Hall, Milford Haven
on Wednesday 25th January 2023 at 11:00 am

PRESENT

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

Councillors: D. Abbott

W. D. Elliott BA QTS

Mrs B. J. Fitzgerald, Town Clerk/Financial Officer
Miss F. K. Galliford, Town Council Secretary

223. APOLOGIES:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Miss V. Brown (work commitments), C. A. Sharp (on holiday abroad) and Mrs Y. G. Southwell (family bereavement). No apologies were received from E. A. Davies DipSM FJOIFF.

224. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Councillor W. D. Elliott BA QTS declared a personal interest through his work with the Milford Haven Sea Cadets and Royal Marines Cadets, who are heavily involved in proceedings for Remembrance Sunday and other events during the year.

Councillor D. Abbott declared a personal interest through his work with the Dyfed and Glamorgan Army Cadet Force, who are heavily involved in proceedings for Remembrance Sunday and other events during the year.

225. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PUBLIC EVENTS SUB-COMMITTEE ON 3RD NOVEMBER 2022:

RESOLVED THAT: the Minutes of the Meeting of the Public Events Sub-Committee held on 3rd November 2022 be accepted and that they be signed by the Chair as a true record.

226. MATTERS ARISING

No matters were raised.

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227. REVIEW OF EVENTS

(a) Baby Loss Awareness Service – 11th October 2022

It was observed that nobody attended this Service in 2022. This Service had been very well represented in 2021.

RECOMMENDED THAT: the Baby Loss Awareness Memorial Service be heavily promoted in 2023.

(b) Remembrance Sunday Service 2022

i. Silence at 11:00am

It was noted that the national Two Minute Silence, which should have been observed at 11:00 am, was slightly late in occurring.

RECOMMENDED THAT: the utmost care be taken to adhere to the 11:00am start of the Service for 2023.

ii. Phonetic Welsh National Anthem

Members considered a report suggesting that numerous members of the public may not feel comfortable singing “Mae Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau” due to a lack of confidence or a lack of proficiency with the Welsh language. A phonetic version of the anthem was shown to Councillors.

RECOMMENDED THAT: a phonetic version of “Mae Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau” be published alongside the Welsh wording.

iii. List of Wreath Layers

RECOMMENDED THAT:

- (A) a comprehensive list of wreath layers be prepared ahead of the Service;
- (B) the Mayor’s Cadet is to collect the wreaths for both the Mayor and the Deputy Mayor to lay on the day of the Service.

Other suggestions were made for Remembrance Sunday 2023, and it was further **RECOMMENDED THAT:**

- (A) the Parade start from the Town Hall at a slightly later time;
- (B) Councillor W. D. Elliott BA QTS will provide a list of organisations to meet before the event to organise the schedule;

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- (C) a request for folding chairs – “Consideration Chairs” – will once again be made, with the request that the chairs are not fabric but waterproof if possible;
- (D) the Town Clerk is to source costs for a PA system for the Town Council to purchase.

(c) Christmas 2022

Visit of Santa to Milford Haven – 3rd December

Members observed a lack of support on the day. Councillor D. Abbott’s family had to marshal due to the absence of Cadets.

A Member asked whether there was an option for the Visit of Santa to take place on a Saturday other than the traditional first Saturday of December.

RECOMMENDED THAT:

- (A) the Town Clerk is to liaise with the Clerks from other Town Councils in Pembrokeshire to ascertain the dates of their Christmas events, exploring the possibility of a different date and ensuring that the dates do not clash;
- (B) organisations such as the Rotary Club and Milford Haven’s Men’s Shed are to be contacted to see if they could assist with marshalling in 2023 and beyond.

Pure West Radio

It was noted that Pure West Radio had arranged an interview with a “Love Island” star and a representative from Vision Arts to take place in the Town Hall on 3rd December; however, this had not been agreed by the Town Council, and disappointment was expressed.

RECOMMENDED THAT: consideration for a compère or guest speaker for Christmas 2023 be made, with the purchase of a PA system integral to such plans.

228. UPCOMING EVENTS

a) In Memory of Those Fishermen Who Lost Their Lives at Sea – 14th February 2023

The Town Council Secretary advised that there had been some disquiet on social media following the publicising of this Service, with members of the public asking why the names of various trawlers were not included with the publicity.

A Report had been circulated in advance of the Meeting, along with a Western Telegraph article from the advent of the Service in 2003, when

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two trawlers were commemorated – Richard Crofts and Milford Viscount. Trawlers have been added to the Service over the years: most recently Gordon Richards (2018) and Charmouth (2022).

Councillors were reminded of the Fishermen’s Tribute Service that takes place on The Rath every September and is all encompassing.

RECOMMENDED THAT:

- (A) this event be concentrated on trawlers where the whole ship and all hands were lost within Milford Haven waters;
- (B) remaining trawlers are recognised and commemorated at the Fishermen’s Tribute Service in September.

b) Citizens’ Awards 2023

It was agreed in 2022 that the Town Hall Chamber was too small for the Citizens’ Awards Ceremony to be held there in the future.

RECOMMENDED THAT:

- (A) the Town Clerk is to contact venues to acquire prices for the hire of a hall for the event to take place;
- (B) a Master of Ceremonies is to host the event;
- (C) this matter to be considered further at the next Meeting of the Public Events Sub-Committee.

c) Coronation of King Charles – Saturday 6th May 2023

RECOMMENDED THAT:

- (A) the Town Clerk is to gather costs for the possible production of a calendar, or a time capsule in the Memorial Gardens, to mark the occasion;
- (B) local schoolchildren will be invited to participate by submitting drawings for the calendar;
- (C) £4000 be taken from Council’s Reserves (based on 20 applications for the Queen’s Jubilee celebrations in 2022) for donations to schools and for street parties in the town.

229. CHRISTMAS 2023

a. Crib Service

Members were advised that the Town Council had assisted with the Crib Service (an event organised by St. Katharine and St. Peter’s Church and a local media personality) for the first time in 2022.

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The Crib figurines are not in optimal condition and there are strict stipulations on how they should be used and transported.

Members were made aware that, if this is to be taken forward as a Town Council event, it would be dependent on the Mayor's Chaplain being from St. Katharine and St. Peter's Church, which will not always be the case. The Town Council would have agency on other aspects of the Service.

RECOMMENDED THAT:

- (A) the ownership of the Crib figurines be investigated;
- (B) this matter be deferred to the next Meeting of the Public Events Sub-Committee.

b. Light Switch On

- i. Presence of competition winner from 2022

RECOMMENDED THAT: one of the Christmas competition winners from 2022, who missed the Light Switch On due to circumstances beyond her family's control, be invited to attend the Light Switch On for 2023, if another event does not take place to allow her to attend on an earlier date.

- ii. Presence of Cadets on the day

The lack of helpers within the Town Hall and marshals for the 2022 event was highlighted.

RECOMMENDED THAT: Cadet and marshal availability be secured before 2023's event, although consideration to change the usual date (first Saturday in December) may have to occur.

- iii. Police presence on the day

RECOMMENDED THAT: the Police be asked to make their presence more visible following two incidents at the Light Switch On in December 2022.

- iv. Lantern Parade

RECOMMENDED THAT:

- (A) Councillor T. J. Davies be requested to lead this event for 2023;
- (B) Marshals also be sought to aid this event.

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c. Children's Competition

RECOMMENDED THAT: all applications be received by the first week of November to give time for a winner/s to be decided with families advised well in advance of the Light Switch On.

d. Christmas Trees

RECOMMENDED THAT: a cost be sought on the purchase of living permanent Christmas Trees to be planted outside the Town Hall and at Steynton. These trees will be used for years to come. Members also enthused about the environmental benefits of such a move.

The matter of a choir for the Christmas event was raised.

RECOMMENDED THAT: this matter be discussed at the next Meeting of the Public Events Sub-Committee.