

MILFORD HAVEN TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Milford Haven Town Council
held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall
on Monday 13rd February 2023 at 7:00 pm

PRESENT

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

Councillors: D. Abbott	K. Abbott
M. T. Allen	Mrs N. Beavis-Morrissey
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
Miss F. K. Galliford, Town Council Secretary

6:30pm – Presentation from the Milford Athletic Football Club to present their Community Asset Transfer Expression of Interest.

The Mayor of Milford Haven, Councillor Miss K. F. Gray, welcomed Mr. Matthew Reynolds from Milford Athletic Football Club and his colleagues to the Meeting.

Mr. Reynolds read out the Club statement which outlines the Club's reason for submitting an Expression of Interest for the community assets. He explained the Club's vision to provide a facility for mini football up to the senior teams. They plan to provide a strong community supported by high standards from a local Welsh club. There are currently 80 female footballers with over 80 junior players, boys and girls.

Mr. Reynolds gave an outline of the Club from its inception in 1909 to the current date. He gave details of the growth in membership and how the pitches have had to expand in recent years.

In the last year 101 games were scheduled. 34 games had to be cancelled due to pitch assessments from referees after bad weather, with senior games taking priority over junior games. Players of 12 years and above are in a registered league.

Milford Athletic Football Club became interested in a Community Asset Transfer (CAT) in 2018 – 2019. They, with the managed area, are to be extended by three pitches. The Covid-19 pandemic interrupted their plans. Currently there are 4 pitches played on by 14 registered teams. 90% of the fields have been utilised. There is a 30% growth year on year. The Club is looking at FAW (Football Association Wales) accreditation for all areas of planned development and facilities.

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There is a 5 year plan in place. The Club will listen to the advice of consultants and will include the active users, the community, the bowling club and the allotments.

The club plan is to acquire the land in the CAT process during 2023 – 2024. The possible development of the land would happen between 2024 – 2025; the developments to include a 4G pitch, car parking and facilities.

Funding streams have been identified. Mr. Reynolds named organisations that support the ambitions of the club. Pill Field has hosted Milford Athletic Football Club since 1901; there are 24 volunteers helping the club operate; 893 hours of training has taken place this season from under 8's to seniors; with 305 matches played since lockdown over 14 teams.

During 2022 the club hosted the FanZone with the assistance of the Pill Social Club which was an extremely successful event.

Councillors D. Abbott, E. A. Davies DipSM FJOIFF, M. Woodward, and Ms Galliford (Town Council Secretary) joined the Meeting as the presentation was drawing to a conclusion.

The Mayor thanked Mr. Reynolds and his colleagues for their presentation. Mr. Reynolds and his colleagues left the Meeting shortly after 7:00 pm.

Councillor M. T. Allen joined the Meeting upon the conclusion of the presentation.

235. APOLOGIES:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Miss V. Brown (work commitments), M. Jones (work commitments), and Mrs Y. G. Southwell (chairing of Church meeting). Apologies for absence were not received from Councillor R. Williams.

236. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Councillor T. J. Davies declared a personal and prejudicial interest in all matters relating to 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 M. T. Allen declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Agenda Items 8 – *Paddling Pool on The Rath/Conwy Trip* and 9 – *Consideration of a letter of support for the Pembrokeshire Lido Project*, as he is Chair of the Pembrokeshire Lido Group. Councillor Allen left the Chamber during discussion of these items.

Councillor C. A. Sharp declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 11 – *Citizens' Awards Ceremony Venue* – as he is a Trustee at the Pill Social Centre, which is a prospective venue for the Ceremony.

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Councillor D. R. Sinnett declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 12 – *Draft Local Toilet Strategy* – as he is the Pembrokeshire County Council Cabinet Member for Residents’ Services.

237. QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION WITH MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

No questions had been submitted by members of the public.

238. NEWS FROM THE MAYOR

Milford Haven School

Hockey Teams

The Mayor advised that she and Councillor Mrs Beavis-Morrissey (Hubberston Ward) had recently visited Milford Haven School, where they learned of the outstanding success of the Year 9 Girls’ Hockey Team, who won a Shield for Wales. The Girls’ Hockey Teams from Years 7 and 8 were also given much acclaim for qualifying for the finals of this prestigious tournament.

Artwork – Pembrokeshire MIND

The Mayor further advised that the Town Council had been offered an art project – both framed and waterproof – from the School. This artwork would come with a plaque stating vital mental health telephone support numbers and could be situated in a location of the Town Council’s choosing.

Members came up with suggestions as to where to locate this valuable and much-appreciated artwork.

RESOLVED THAT: this matter be discussed at a future Meeting of the Council, when a decision will be made.

Birth of First Grandchild

The Mayor informed Members that she had become a grandmother for the first time. Her grandson, named Caleb, had been born earlier that afternoon (Monday 13th February), and both mother and baby were doing well.

The Mayor’s announcement was met with resounding applause from everyone at the Meeting.

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

No Questions had been received.

240. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FULL COUNCIL HELD ON 23rd JANUARY 2023

RESOLVED THAT: the Minutes of the Meeting of the Full Council held on 23rd January 2023 be received and that they be signed by the Mayor as a true record.

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241. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PUBLIC EVENTS SUB-COMMITTEE HELD ON 25th JANUARY 2023

Complaint made against the Town Council

Before the minutes were perused and inwardly digested, the Mayor advised that the Ombudsman had been contacted with an official complaint against the Council and one of the Town Councillors (who was not named at the Meeting) following a disagreement at the Town Council's festive event on Saturday 3rd December.

A Member noted that this situation appeared to have arisen through a lack of coordination between organisations on the day and stressed the importance of stringent measures going forward, emphasising that lessons must be learned.

Minute No. 227 – REVIEW OF EVENTS - (b) Remembrance Sunday Service 2022 (i) Silence at 11:00 am

It was noted that the minute wording was incorrect: the Two Minute Silence was not late but instead very early.

A Member stressed again the need for coordination, stating that there were other issues on the day. Although this is a Royal British Legion event (with Town Council input), the Member called for increased communication.

A further Member, who is heavily involved with the Royal British Legion, said that he understood the Remembrance Sunday Service to be a Town Council event with Royal British Legion input.

Discussion followed and it was agreed to look at the ownership of this event at the next Meeting of the Public Events Sub-Committee.

RESOLVED THAT:

- (i) the wording of minute No. 227 – Review of Events – (b) Remembrance Sunday 2022 – (i) Silence at 11:00 am - be changed to read "It was noted that the national Two Minute Silence, which should have been observed at 11:00 am, was very early in occurring";
- (ii) the ownership of the Remembrance Sunday event be discussed at the next Meeting of the Public Events Sub-Committee.

Minute No. 227 – REVIEW OF EVENTS - (c) Christmas 2022 – Visit of Santa to Milford Haven – 3rd December Pure West Radio

A Member asked for clarification as to the situation with Pure West Radio, asking why the radio station was precluded from interviewing the "Love Island" celebrity in the Town Hall on 3rd December as they had been paid by the Council to provide coverage of the Christmas event.

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Another Member stated that the issue was wide ranging and did not just relate to an interview that did not take place.

The Mayor advised that she and the Town Clerk had met with representatives from Pure West Radio to try and resolve the situation. The Mayor had also spoken with the Councillor who was involved in the disagreement on the day and who has since been reported to the Ombudsman.

Minute No. 229 – CHRISTMAS 2023

a. Crib Service

A Member spoke of his confusion upon reading this item, asking why it appeared that the Town Council was in a position of taking over this event.

RESOLVED THAT: ownership of this event be discussed at the next Meeting of the Public Events Sub-Committee.

b. Light Switch On iv. Lantern Parade

Councillor T. J. Davies proclaimed that he would be honoured to take over the management of the Lantern Parade for 2023. He stated, however, that he would have to become a Member of the Public Events Sub-Committee, and that he was unavailable to attend any Meetings of this Committee during the day due to his work commitments.

RESOLVED THAT:

- (i) Councillor T. J. Davies be requested to join the Public Events Sub-Committee;
- (ii) a list of dates/times for potential Meetings be circulated to Councillors in advance to ascertain their availability;
- (iii) a definitive 'Calendar of Events' be produced and circulated to Councillors.

Potential Fair in Milford Haven

Although this item was not on the Agenda, Councillor D. R. Sinnett craved the Mayor's indulgence and asked if this item could be discussed at this evening's Meeting.

Councillor Sinnett advised Members that he and Councillor T. J. Davies (in their capacities as County Councillors for the area) had been informed of plans for a potential fair in the area. This fair would take place around early to mid-April this year, lasting for five days, and sites for the fair were being considered.

Councillor Sinnett asked if Members had any comments. Members expressed concern at a couple of the sites mentioned. It was agreed for this item to be discussed at the next Meeting of the Full Council, when more information as to the fair will be apparent.

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RESOLVED THAT: this item be placed on the Agenda for the next Meeting of the Full Council, when further information will be available.

242. PADDLING POOL ON THE RATH/CONWY TRIP

Councillor M. T. Allen left the Chamber during discussion of both this item and the following Agenda item, "Consideration of a Letter of Support for the Pembrokeshire Lido Project".

Councillor G. Woodham MBA (Open) LL.B (Hons) addressed Members as Chair of the Project Working Group. Councillor Woodham advised that the minutes from the last Meeting of the Project Working Group (held on 6th February 2023) were not yet ready for the Council's perusal. He spoke most positively about ideas relating to the paddling pool, and photos gathered from the Conwy trip, that were exchanged at the Meeting.

RESOLVED THAT: this item be placed on the Agenda for the next Meeting of the Full Council, when the Minutes from the Meeting of the Project Working Group on 6th February 2023 will also be available.

243. CONSIDERATION OF A LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR THE PEMBROKESHIRE LIDO PROJECT

Members discussed this matter following the presentation from members of the Pembrokeshire Lido Project at the last Full Council Meeting on Monday 23rd January.

RESOLVED THAT: with regret, the Town Council cannot offer a letter of support to the Pembrokeshire Lido Project at this time.

244. MILFORD HAVEN FOUNDERS' DAY

Councillor M. T. Allen returned to the Meeting.

Members considered correspondence received from the Secretary of the Apollo Souls Community Team, indicating that the Team was keen to organise Founders' Day (an event traditionally organised by the Town Council) on Saturday 10th June.

Due to the time critical nature of the event, the Team was anxious to secure the support of the Town Council before proceeding. County Councillors T. J. Davies (Central Ward) and D. R. Sinnett (West Ward) had also been contacted by Apollo Souls Community Team with a request for their support.

RESOLVED THAT:

- (i) the Town Council is supportive of this objective, as such an event will provide benefit to the town;
- (ii) however, Apollo Souls is requested to use another name for the event, as the name 'Founders' Day' is strongly associated with the Town Council, and the Town Council may

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wish to organise this event again in the near future.

245. CITIZENS' AWARDS CEREMONY VENUE

Members considered a Report relating to plans for the Citizens' Awards Ceremony venue for 2023.

RESOLVED THAT:

- (i) the Clerk is to obtain prices for catering for the Ceremony;
- (ii) the Clerk is also to look at the pricing for items such as lecterns which will greatly enhance the Ceremony;
- (iii) a decision as to which venue the Ceremony will be held in 2023 be taken at the next Meeting of the Full Council on Monday 27th February.

246. DRAFT LOCAL TOILET STRATEGY

Members considered the Pembrokeshire County Council Draft Local Toilet Strategy dated May 2023.

RESOLVED THAT: this information be received.

247. PLANNING AND LICENSING MATTERS

The Chair of the Planning, Policy and Community Committee, Councillor B. Phillips, presented the following.

(i) Planning Applications and Notifications

(a) Outstanding Planning Applications

21/1068/PA – Proposed driving range shelter, concrete slab and associated netting (partly in retrospect) at Milford Haven Golf Club, Clay Lane, Hubberston, Milford Haven, SA73 3RX (Milford: Hubberston)

RESOLVED THAT: this application be recommended for approval.

22/0886/DC – Discharge of conditions 4 (Plan specification) and 6 (Biodiversity) of planning permission 22/0231/PA – Resurfacing of existing car park area, alterations to existing access/egress points and provision of disabled parking bays at Mackerel Quay Car Park, adjacent Barrallier House, Mackerel Quay, Milford Haven, SA73 3AA (Milford: Central)

RESOLVED THAT: this application be recommended for approval.

22/0889/PA – Dormer loft conversion and front porch at Rose Lodge, 1 Court Road, Liddeston, Milford Haven, SA73 3QD (Milford: Hubberston)

RESOLVED THAT: this application be recommended for approval.

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- (b) Planning Notifications
RESOLVED THAT: this information be received.

(ii) Retrospective Planning Applications

Members considered email correspondence between Councillor Phillips (in his role as Chair of the Planning, Policy and Community Committee) and Mr. D. Popplewell, Chief Planning Officer (Development Management), Pembrokeshire County Council, relating to clarification on the number of retrospective planning applications.

RESOLVED THAT: this information be received.

(iii) Pre-Application Consultation – Land South of the Dragon LNG Terminal, Waterston, Milford Haven

Members considered correspondence from M. Roberts, Planning Director, Stantec UK Limited, relating to Milford Energy Limited's plans to submit a planning application to the Welsh Ministers for a Development of National Significance comprising three new wind turbines on land located to the south of the Dragon LNG Terminal, Waterston.

RESOLVED THAT: this information be received.

(iv) Licensing: Coco's Restaurant, Milford Marina

RESOLVED THAT: the Milford Haven Town Council is fully supportive of the Pembrokeshire County Council Licensing Team in this matter.

(v) Licensing: Milford Haven Rugby Football Club

RESOLVED THAT: this licensing application be recommended for approval.

248. FINANCIAL MATTERS

Application for Financial Assistance: Clarby Warriors Pan Disability Football Squad being part of Clarboston Road AFC/Fishguard Thunderbolts Disability Multi-Sports Squad (Joint Application) (Deferred from the Meeting of the Full Council on 23rd January 2023)

RESOLVED THAT: a donation of £100 is to be made in accordance with the Milford Haven Town Council's powers under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972.

249. CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS - PRIVATE SESSION

The Councillors voted to go into private session.

RESOLVED THAT: the press and public be excluded from

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the Meeting under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 due to legal privilege and disclosure of personal details.

THE MEETING WENT IN TO PRIVATE SESSION

250. MEMBERSHIP OF THE PROJECT WORKING GROUP

As it was 9:00pm, it was proposed that the Town Council's Standing Orders be suspended so that the Meeting could continue.

RESOLVED THAT: the Town Council's Standing Orders be suspended for the Meeting to continue.

251. TOWN COUNCIL PREMISES