

MILFORD HAVEN TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Milford Haven Town Council
held at the Torch Theatre, Milford Haven
on Monday 12th June 2023 at 7:00 pm

PRESENT

The Mayor (Councillor Mrs C. Stevens)
The Deputy Mayor (Councillor W. D. Elliott BA QTS)

Councillors: D. Abbott	K. Abbott
Mrs N. Beavis-Morrissey	Miss V. Brown
Miss K. F. Gray	B. Phillips
C. A. Sharp	D. R. Sinnett

Ms F. K. Galliford, Town Council Secretary

TO RECEIVE MS V. MOLLER, GRŴP RESILIENCE, AND REPRESENTATION FROM LOCAL MOTHERS AND YOUNG PEOPLE, REGARDING THE FUTURE OF THE LAND BEHIND THE MEADS

The Mayor of Milford Haven, Councillor Mrs C. Stevens, welcomed Ms Moller to the Meeting.

Ms Moller thanked the Mayor, and introduced Mr. T. Moses (CWBR Youth Coordinator) and Ms C. Jones (a local resident, who was present with her young daughter).

GrŴp Resilience is a Community Interest Company, founded in August 2020 (during the national Covid-19 lockdown) with the support of PAVS (Pembrokeshire Association of Voluntary Services). Five large online meetings set the direction of the group.

GrŴp Resilience has four major themes:

1. Community Growing Land (new sites: Parc Helyg in Haverfordwest, Parc Dezza in Monkton, Parc Cerrig in Goodwick, and Parc Grove in Milford Haven)
2. Local Produce (by courses for producers, by food festivals and by farm tours and talks)
3. Wellbeing Activities (such as traditional skills tasters and community building: gardening, cooking, games)
4. Climate Action (Exhibitions and Meetings to plan, green infrastructure investment, helping businesses create Zero carbon plans, meeting with Pembrokeshire County Council as a member of the West Wales Chamber of Commerce)

In relation to the first theme, Ms Moller spoke of the increasingly high demand for allotments in Pembrokeshire.

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Ms Jones advised that she had recently started a Group on Facebook regarding the matter of allotments/community gardens in the area, and she had been overwhelmed by the positive response.

Two members of the public entered the Meeting at 6:25 pm to add their voices to the presentation.

Theme three – Wellbeing Activities – highlights mental health support.

Ms Moller spoke about the importance of Climate Action and Zero carbon plans, a matter that had recently been vigorously challenged by a local County Councillor.

Ms Moller advised that she had been invited to submit a CAT (Community Asset Transfer) by the former Chief Property Officer at Pembrokeshire County Council for the land behind the Milford Haven 'Meads' Leisure Centre.

Ms Moller mentioned the various people and groups who currently use the land. The area is popular with many - from dog walkers to railway enthusiasts – and there is also a Youth Club in front of the land.

Ms Moller spoke fervently of her belief that people who live near the land should make the decisions. She highlighted a project called Deliberative Democracy – a Meads Assembly – which would involve a cross section of the people affected by the decisions/plans, giving them full information from all sides. This Assembly would give the people time to discuss and agree plans, decisions and priorities, with decision makers incorporating this input into their decisions.

Ms Moller requested the support of the Milford Haven Town Council.

A Member asked Ms Moller as to the timescale of these plans. Ms Moller advised of plans to hold an event on the land later this summer, calling for ideas and obtaining information.

Mr. T. Moses then addressed the Meeting.

Mr. Moses drew attention to Pembrokeshire County Council's Zero carbon action plan. He spoke of his desire to spread the word, mentioning that there would be a 'Zero carbon week' taking place at Pembrokeshire College in September.

Mr. Moses spoke warmly about Councillor Miss V. Brown's work as the Town Council's Link Councillor with CWBR Youth, reaching out to and galvanising the youth of the town. Mr. Moses highlighted a community youth project relating to eighteen graffiti boards located around the county. He emphasised the importance of strong youth representation, stating how local youth wish to be involved in matters that affect the environment and their futures.

A member of the public named Leoni brought up the case of an elderly lady in the community with Parkinson's Disease who had not eaten for five days. Leoni was frustrated and horrified at the lack of help available for this lady. Leoni felt that the community could come together to help individuals such as this lady: projects such as a community kitchen would provide food.

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A Councillor asked whether the producers of the Channel 4 television show "River Cottage" (where the presenter forages for wild food, grows his own produce and rears his own stock) could be contacted for assistance.

Councillor D. Abbott joined the Meeting at 6:45 pm.

It was agreed to put this matter on the Agenda for further discussion for the next Full Council Meeting on Monday 26th June. The Town Council Secretary, Ms F. K. Galliford, is also to contact Ms Moller with the names of any individuals that may assist with the progression of the group's project.

The Mayor, Councillor Mrs C. Stevens, thanked Ms Moller for her presentation. Ms Moller, Mr. Moses, Ms Jones (and her daughter) and the two members of the public (Leoni and a gentleman) then left the Meeting.

9. APOLOGIES:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors E. A. Davies DipSM FJOIFF (on holiday), T. J. Davies (work commitments), M. Jones (work commitments), Mrs Y. G. Southwell (unwell), G. Woodham MBA (Open) LL.B (Hons) (County Council Meeting commitments), M. Woodward (on holiday), and the Town Clerk, Mrs B. J. Fitzgerald (on holiday). Apologies for absence were not received from Councillor R. Williams.

10. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

- Councillor W. D. Elliott BA QTS declared a Personal Interest in Agenda Item 13 – *Venue for Council Meetings* – as he is the Volunteer Commanding Officer (until 30th June 2023) with the Milford Haven Sea Cadets and Royal Marines Cadets, whose venue is under consideration for future Council Meetings.
- Councillor C. A. Sharp declared a Personal Interest in Agenda Item 13 – *Venue for Council Meetings* – as he is the Chair of the Milford Haven Sea Cadets and Royal Marines Cadets, whose venue is under consideration for future Council Meetings.
- Councillor C. A. Sharp declared a Prejudicial Interest in Agenda Item 13 – *Venue for Council Meetings* – as he is the Deputy Front of House Manager at the Torch Theatre, which is presently hosting Council Meetings.
- Councillor D. R. Sinnett declared a Personal Interest in Agenda Item 13 – *Venue for Council Meetings* – as the Pembrokeshire County Council appointed Member on the board of the Torch Theatre, which is presently hosting Council Meetings. Councillor Sinnett indicated that he would take no part in any discussion on this matter or vote.
- Councillor D. Abbott declared a Personal Interest in Agenda Item 13 – *Venue for Council Meetings* – due to his heavy involvement with the Dyfed and Glamorgan Army Cadets, whose venue is under consideration for future Council Meetings.

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11. QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION WITH MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:

No questions had been received from members of the public.

12. NEWS FROM THE MAYOR:

Engagements

The Mayor, Councillor Mrs C. Stevens, indicated that she had attended a number of engagements – approximately eight or nine in total – since becoming Mayor of Milford Haven, including a visit to welcome the 'Azamara Pursuit' cruise ship earlier in the day.

New Councillor – Hubberston Ward

The Mayor advised that the election for the vacancy in Hubberston Ward had only received one nomination paper from Miss Thomasina Stevens, meaning that the election was uncontested.

As a result, Miss Stevens is the Council's newest Councillor, joining Councillors D. Abbott and Mrs N. Beavis-Morrissey in representing Hubberston Ward.

Miss Stevens will sign her Declaration of Acceptance of Office next week, upon the Town Clerk's return from annual leave.

13. QUESTIONS WITHOUT DEBATE PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER NO. 6:

No questions were received.

14. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FULL COUNCIL HELD ON 17TH APRIL 2023:

RESOLVED THAT: the Minutes of the Meeting of the Full Council held on 17th April 2023 be received and that they be signed by the Mayor as a true record.

15. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 15TH MAY 2023:

RESOLVED THAT: the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council held on 15th May 2023 be received and that they be signed by the Mayor as a true record.

16. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CEMETERY MAINTENANCE AND LAND ACQUISITION GROUP HELD ON 24TH APRIL 2023:

Councillor B. Phillips apologised unreservedly for missing the Meeting.

RESOLVED THAT: the Minutes of the Meeting of the Cemetery Maintenance and Land Acquisition Group held on 24th April 2023 be moved and adopted.

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17. MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE PUBLIC EVENTS SUB-COMMITTEE HELD ON 15TH MAY 2023:

Minute No. 359 – To Consider Nominations for Citizens’ Awards 2023

A Member stated that, while he did not mean to detract from any of this year’s award recipients in any way, he felt that the process needed clarity. He said that he had not nominated people to receive awards in the past because they were in paid employment, and it was his understanding that the awards were a recognition of voluntary endeavours.

The Member continued to emphasise that he did not want to detract from this year’s award recipients, who serve the community in the most exemplary fashion.

The Town Council Secretary, Ms F. K. Galliford, advised that this matter would be reviewed at an upcoming Meeting of the Public Events Sub-Committee.

RESOLVED THAT: the Citizens’ Awards nomination form be reviewed at an upcoming Meeting of the Public Events Sub-Committee, along with a review of this year’s Awards Ceremony which took place at the Pill Social Centre on Saturday 10th June.

FURTHER RESOLVED THAT: subject to the above, the Minutes of a Special Meeting of the Public Events Sub-Committee held on 15th May 2023 be moved and adopted.

18. CEMETERY REPORTS – APRIL AND MAY 2023:

RESOLVED THAT: the Cemetery Reports for April and May 2023 be received.

19. CIVILITY AND RESPECT PLEDGE:

Members considered a document relating to the Council’s commitment to treating Councillors, Clerks, Employees, members of the public, representatives of partner organisations, and volunteers with civility and respect in their role.

The National Association of Local Councils (NALC), the Society of Local Clerks (SLCC), and One Voice Wales (OVW), believe now is the time to put civility and respect at the top of the agenda and start a culture change for the local Council sector.

Civility means politeness and courtesy in behaviour, speech, and in the written word.

Examples of ways in which you can show respect are by listening and paying attention to others, having consideration for other people’s feelings, following protocols and rules, showing appreciation and thanks, and being kind.

A Member stated that he had thoroughly read the pledge, finding each of the statements very valid. He felt it important for the Council to take this into account, and to take this opportunity to look at all the Town Council’s policies.

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Another Member, who became a Councillor last year, also advised that she had thoroughly read the pledge, and found it clear. She said that she had completed her compulsory training upon becoming a Councillor and found the experience to be "sink or swim". She thanked Councillor W. D. Elliott BA QTS for assisting her through her journey as a new Councillor.

A further Member stated that she had struggled with the behaviour of a former Councillor. She had reported the issues to the Town Clerk, but felt that there was nowhere else for her to turn, causing her much distress: a situation she felt must be looked at as a priority.

A longstanding Member said that he had been advised to simply observe and listen to other Councillors at Meetings during his first six months in the role. There was no training available at that time: this would not be the case these days.

RESOLVED THAT:

- (i) the Civility and Respect Pledge be referred to a Meeting of the Establishment Committee;
- (ii) all official Town Council documents and policies be reviewed at this Meeting.

20. DIGNITY AT WORK POLICY:

RESOLVED THAT: following the discussion above relating to the Civility and Respect Pledge, the Dignity at Work Policy also be referred to a Meeting of the Establishment Committee.

21. MILFORD HAVEN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL – MINUTE BOOK 1942-1948:

Members considered a Report relating to a valuable historical Minute book from Milford Haven Urban District Council (1942-1948). Members were requested to indicate their choice of a permanent home for this historical record.

Following discussion, it was **RESOLVED THAT:**

- (i) the Minute Book be located at Milford Haven Museum, where it will be treated most respectfully and sensitively, and security cameras will be in place;
- (ii) the Curator of the Milford Haven Museum, Mr. G. Springer, is to be asked to contact Pembrokeshire Archives for storage advice.

22. VENUE FOR COUNCIL MEETINGS:

Members considered a Report regarding the finding of a venue for future Full Council Meetings. The Council's current agreement with the Torch Theatre concludes at the end of December 2023.

The Units used by Milford Haven Sea Cadets and Royal Marines Cadets, and Dyfed Glamorgan Army Cadet Force, have both been offered.

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A Member spoke fervently of her belief that the Council needs a permanent venue, suggesting a venue that may become available in the future.

Another Member suggested reconvening the Town Hall Group to review all options.

RESOLVED THAT:

- (i) the Town Hall Group be renamed the "Estates Group";
- (ii) a Meeting of the Estates Group is to take place imminently for this matter to be thoroughly discussed;
- (iii) a decision regarding this matter be made before the Council's Meeting to consider the Precept in January 2024.

23. LICENSING APPLICATIONS (for information only):

- CK Supermarket, Charles Street – *This application was recommended for approval*
- The Vibe, Charles Street – *This application was recommended for approval*

RESOLVED THAT: the information above be received.

24. APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE – PEMBROKESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL – SCHOOL BASED YOUTH WORK TEAM (SCHOOL BASED YOUTH WORKER AT MILFORD HAVEN SCHOOL) (deferred from the Meeting of the Full Council on 17th April 2023):

While full of praise for the work done at the School, Members felt that other funding avenues were more appropriate for the School to consider.

RESOLVED THAT: Regret, no donation.

Two Councillors voted against this decision.

CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

25. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PADDLING POOL WORKING GROUP HELD ON 17TH APRIL 2023:

RESOLVED THAT:

- (i) due to the time-critical nature of this matter, a Meeting of the Paddling Pool Working Group is to take place on Monday 19th June 2023;
- (ii) the following items are to be discussed at this Meeting:
 - Current Status
 - The Way Forward
 - Confirmation of Opening Date
 - Review of Safety Procedures (including signage)

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- (iii) Mr. Walters (Pembrokeshire Leisure) and Mr. Chandler (Valero Logistics) are to be invited to this Meeting;
- (iv) Councillor D. Abbott is to be invited to join this Group due to his involvement in the project.

FURTHER RESOLVED THAT: subject to the above, the minutes of the Meeting of the Paddling Pool Working Group held on 17th April 2023 be moved and adopted.
