

MILFORD HAVEN TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Milford Haven Town Council
held at the Torch Theatre, Milford Haven
on Monday 27th November 2023 at 7:00 pm

PRESENT

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

Councillors: K. Abbott	Mrs N. Beavis-Morrissey
L. J. Bridges	E. A. Davies DipSM FJOIFF
Miss K. F. Gray	N. Harteveld
C. A. Sharp	Mrs Y. G. Southwell
M. Woodward	

Mrs B. J. Fitzgerald, Town Clerk

Two members of the public were also present.

The Deputy Mayor, Cllr. W. D. Elliott BA QTS opened the meeting at 7pm. The Deputy Mayor explained the Mayor, Councillor Mrs C. Stevens, was absent that evening, as she was attending an event celebrating the 85th birthday of the 1st Hakin Brownie Unit on behalf of the Council.

230. APOLOGIES:

Apologies for absence were received from the Mayor, Councillor Mrs C. Stevens (attending an event celebrating the 85th birthday of the 1st Hakin Brownie Unit on behalf of the Council), and Councillors D. Abbott (ill health), Miss V. Brown (illness), C. Jones (illness), M. Jones (unable to connect to Zoom), D. R. Sinnett (family commitments) and G. Woodham MBA (Open) LL.B. (Hons). No apologies were received from Councillor Miss T. Stevens.

231. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Councillor N. Harteveld declared a personal and prejudicial interest in *Agenda Item 12 – Applications for Financial Assistance - (a) Megan’s Starr Foundation* – as she is the Founder and Trustee of the Foundation.

Councillor L. J. Bridges declared a personal and prejudicial interest in *Agenda Item 9 - Planning Matters - (a) Planning Applications* – application 23/0698/PA (Proposed Engineering Works to Provide External Dining Area in Retrospect at Masonic Hall, Hamilton Terrace, Milford Haven (Milford Central)) - as he is the owner of the Imperial Function Centre.

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Councillor L. J. Bridges also declared a personal interest in *Agenda Item 9 - Planning Matters - (a) Planning Applications* – application 23/0587/PA (Siting of a motorbike store shed to front garden parking area at 128 Haven Drive, Hakin, Milford Haven (Milford Hubberston)) - as he is related to the applicant.

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

No questions had been received from the public.

233. NEWS FROM THE MAYOR:

Flowers in Milford Haven

The Town Council had received information on the cost for the flowers within Milford Haven for the financial year 2024/2025. The information was received on 27th November with a quick response required.

Council discussed the cost which was around £300 more expensive than the financial year 2023/2024.

The flowers were agreed to be pleasing to residents and visitors alike and the decision was made to agree the cost of £4,243.00 & VAT for the financial year 2024/2025.

RESOLVED THAT: the cost for flowers for Milford Haven agreed at a cost of £4,243.00 for the financial year 2024/2025.

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

No questions without debate pursuant to Standing Order No. 6 were raised.

235. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FULL COUNCIL HELD ON 13th NOVEMBER 2023:

Presentation from Mr Cavanagh; Head of Cultural, Leisure, Tourism and Registration Services; Pembrokeshire County Council

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor W. D. Elliott BA QTS, raised the subject of the Library and the recent presentation by Mr M. Cavanagh.

Mr Cavanagh had asked Council for consideration of financial support to enable Milford Haven Library to be kept open for 1.5 days. Without this financial support, the Library will have to close for those 1.5 days.

Council debated the matter with the decision made that Council could not support the request. The Town Council has important financial pressures in the next budget which have to take precedence. One Councillor abstained from the vote.

RESOLVED THAT: the Town Clerk is to contact Mr Cavanagh to inform him that the Town Council is unable to support Milford Haven Library at this time.

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FURTHER RESOLVED THAT: subject to the above, the minutes of the Meeting of the Full Council held on 13th November 2023 be received and that they be signed by the Mayor as a true record.

236. TO RECEIVE REPORTS, RECOMMENDATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS OF THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES:

PADDLING POOL WORKING GROUP held on 20th November 2023

The minutes of the Meeting of the Paddling Pool Working Group held on 20th November 2023 were moved by the Chair, Councillor Miss K. F. Gray.

RESOLVED THAT: the minutes of the Meeting of the Paddling Pool Working Group held on 20th November 2023 be moved and adopted.

PUBLIC EVENTS SUB-COMMITTEE held on 23rd November 2023

The minutes of the Meeting of the Public Events Sub-Committee held on 23rd November 2023 were moved by the Chair, Councillor Miss K. F. Gray.

RESOLVED THAT: the minutes of the Meeting of the Public Events Sub-Committee held on 23rd November 2023 be moved and adopted.

237. MILFORD HAVEN COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL REQUEST:

Councillors considered the following email from Mrs C. Wood, a teacher at Milford Haven Community Primary School.

"To whomever this may concern,

We have begun holding Milford Senedd meetings this term. My name is Mrs Caroline Wood, and I work as a teacher at Milford Haven Community Primary School. We are members of the Community Crew at our school. We wanted to know whether it would be possible for a Town Council member to come to our school to talk about the job you do. The children would also like to discuss our goals for strengthening and promoting our ties to the community and to present our action plan.

Thank you in advance for your support.

*Many thanks,
Caroline Wood"*

Councillors L. J. Bridges and C. A. Sharp indicated that they were both willing to attend the school, dependent on their diary commitments.

RESOLVED THAT: the Clerk is to contact Mrs Wood to ascertain the times a Councillor would be required to attend the Senedd meetings.

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238. PLANNING MATTERS:

(a) Planning Applications (For Information Only)

23/0326/PA	Proposed Storage Building and Existing Storage Building in Retrospect at BDS Assets Limited, Hubberston, Milford Haven (Milford: Hubberston)	Recommended for Approval
23/0587/PA	Siting of a motorbike store shed to front garden parking area at 128 Haven Drive, Hakin, Milford Haven (Milford: Hakin)	Recommended for Approval, subject to no objections from neighbours
23/0698/PA	Proposed Engineering Works to Provide External Dining Area in Retrospect at Masonic Hall, Hamilton Terrace, Milford Haven (Milford: Central)	Recommended for Approval; however, concerns are expressed that this is a retrospective application on a fairly large scale

RESOLVED THAT: the recommendations listed above be received.

Councillor Bridges addressed Full Council to explain Planning Application 23/0698/PA was his application for the Imperial Function Centre, reiterating his personal and prejudicial interest. Councillor Bridges also did not vote on this matter.

Councillor Bridges explained that Pembrokeshire County Council had made him pay for a full application, and that the matter was not made in retrospect. Councillor Bridges spoke of a 'battle' he had experienced with the Trunk Road Agent over land which was owned by the Imperial Hall, and that this land had not been 'encroached'.

Councillor Bridges concluded by urging Councillors to talk to any applicant to be aware of the background behind the applications before making a decision on a planning application.

RESOLVED THAT: the information from Councillor Bridges be received.

(b) Planning Notifications (For Information Only)

RESOLVED THAT: this information be received.

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239. OUTSTANDING PLANNING APPLICATION
23/0613/PA – New front façade to the store at 55 – 57 Charles Street (Milford Central):

The Chair of the Planning, Policy and Community Committee, Councillor M. Woodward, explained his concerns relating to one front entrance (to Subway) and another entrance planned for C K Supermarket. Flats are also mentioned, but not included on the planning application.

Councillor Bridges suggested speaking to the owner of the business to find out the reasoning behind the change of entrances at the shop.

Councillor Sharp acknowledged that the Town Council are a 'voice' but not the deciders of the application: that decision would be for Pembrokeshire County Council.

It was agreed to keep a close eye on the matter as it goes through the planning process with Pembrokeshire County Council.

RESOLVED THAT: the Town Council will watch this planning application as it goes through the planning process.

240. OUTSTANDING LICENSING APPLICATION
McDONALD'S, HAVENS HEAD RETAIL PARK, MILFORD HAVEN:

An application has been made by McDonald's Restaurant Limited for a premises licence under Section 17 of the Licensing Act 2003. No alcohol will be sold though the premises could be open for 24 hours a day.

Councillor Sharp stated that he had visited the McDonald's restaurant in Haverfordwest and spoken with a staff member. The staff member explained that McDonald's had to cover every aspect, and that they are applying for a 24-hour opening as it is company policy to do so at this stage: the restaurant does not intend to open for 24 hours.

RESOLVED THAT: this licensing application be recommended for approval.

241. CEMETERY REPORT – OCTOBER 2023:

RESOLVED THAT: the Cemetery Report for October 2023 be accepted.

242. APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE (Deferred from the Meeting of the Full Council on 23rd October 2023):

(a) Megan's Starr Foundation

Councillor Harteveld reiterated her personal and prejudicial interest and left the room during discussion of this item.

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RESOLVED THAT: a donation of £300 be made in accordance with the Milford Haven Town Council's powers under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972.

Two Councillors abstained from this vote.

Councillor Harteveld returned to the room upon discussion of this item.

(b) Milford Haven Business Circle

RESOLVED THAT: a donation of £125 be made in line with other Christmas Donations agreed this year.

243. VOTE TO MOVE INTO PRIVATE SESSION:

It was agreed to move into private session to discuss confidential matters.

RESOLVED THAT: the press and public be excluded from the Meeting under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 due to legal privilege and disclosure of personal details.

The two members of the public left the Meeting.

244. TO RECEIVE REPORTS, RECOMMENDATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS OF THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES:

a) CEMETERY MAINTENANCE AND LAND ACQUISITION GROUP held on 20th November 2023

b) ESTATES GROUP held on 20th November 2023

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c) ESTABLISHMENT COMMITTEE held on 21st November 2023
