Minutes of the

Public Events Sub-Committee

held remotely by Zoom

on Tuesday 23rd January 2024 at 3:45pm

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

PRESENT

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

Councillors: Miss K. F. Gray (Chair)

Mrs N. Beavis-Morrissey E. A. Davies DipSM FJOIFF Mrs Y. G. Southwell

B. Jones, Town Council Electrician

N. McCarthy, Environmental Services, Pembrokeshire County Council

Miss F. K. Galliford, Town Council Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

274. APOLOGIES:

Apologies for absence were received from the Mayor, Councillor Mrs C. Stevens (unwell), Councillor D. Abbott (unwell), and Councillor C. A. Sharp (work commitments).

275. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

No Declarations of Interest were declared.

276. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PUBLIC EVENTS SUB-COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY 23RD NOVEMBER 2023:

**RESOLVED THAT:**  the Minutes of the Meeting of the Public Events Sub-Committee held on Thursday 23rd November 2023 be received as a true record.

277. MATTERS ARISING:

*Minute No. 227 – Matters Arising (PA System)*

A Member asked for an update on the purchase of the PA System.

The Town Council Secretary advised that the PA System had been purchased.

278. REVIEW OF CHRISTMAS 2023:

A Member stated that he felt last year’s Visit of Father Christmas/light switch-on event to be an outstanding success, with Mr Sayers from the St Katharine’s Stratford Players a superb compère.

Disappointment was however expressed at the small number of Councillors who were present on the day.

Another Member noted that the food stalls had run out of food, leaving just popcorn available. There was also an issue with a lack of drinking water.

**RECOMMENDED THAT:**

1. £100 be donated to the four organisations (Gelliswick Community Choir, St Katharine’s Stratford Players, Dyfed and Glamorgan Army Cadets and Milford Haven Sea Cadets and Royal Marines Cadets) who gave their time at the Visit of Father Christmas/light switch-on event on Saturday 2nd December 2023;

(ii) news of these donations is to be widely publicised;

(iii) the situation/s with the food stalls be looked into before the event on Saturday 7th December 2024;

(iv) plentiful bottled water be made available for future events.

Councillor Mrs Y. G. Southwell joined the Meeting at 3:50pm.

279. CHRISTMAS 2024:

1. Christmas Lights 2024

The Town Council’s electrician, Mr B. Jones, updated Members on the situation regarding the Council’s Christmas Lights.

Mr Jones advised that he had almost completed an inventory which he would send to the Town Clerk upon completion.

Mr Jones further advised that the Town Council presently owns most of the Christmas lights. He proposed that the Council continues to use the services of LITE Limited, also stating that the Council has one more year in contract with LITE.

A Member asked for clarification on the situation with the Town Hall’s landlord, Mr B. Evans, regarding the display of the lights on the Town Hall.

Mr Jones advised that Mr Evens likes the light fittings, but he understood that Mr Evens would prefer something more permanent in place.

Mr Jones expressed that the Council might require rubber matting as a Health and Safety requirement.

A Member asked Mr Jones if he could share all of this information with the Town Council staff, to which Mr Jones agreed.

Mr Jones asked if any Councillors would like to accompany him while he works.

A Member expressed personal gratitude to Mr Jones for his commitment and excellent service.

Mr Jones then left the Meeting.

1. Potential Generation of Income at Visit of Father Christmas event on Saturday 7th December 2024

A Member stated that, while feeling this to be good idea, he felt the ethos of a free family event to be paramount.

**RECOMMENDED THAT:**

(i) this item be deferred to the next Meeting of the Public Events Sub-Committee;

(ii) the Member who raised this issue at the Full Council Meeting on Monday 8th January 2024 be invited to the next Meeting of the Public Events Sub-Committee to discuss any ideas she may have.

280. FLORAL DISPLAYS IN THE TOWN:

Mr McCarthy introduced himself to Members, apologising for technical problems resulting in his computer camera feed being unavailable.

Mr McCarthy advised that this year’s flower costs were £4243.00 – an increase of £130.40 from 2023.

Mr McCarthy advised that begonias – described as a ‘hardy’ flower - had been used for the first time.

Mr McCarthy had met Councillor D. Abbott in 2023 regarding floral displays in Milford Haven.

It was felt that the majority of floral displays in the town are working well. Compliments were paid to the Pembrokeshire County Council gardener Mr A. Reade and his colleagues for their dedicated hard work.

281. TRIBUTE TO MR ERIC HARRIES:

Members discussed the best way to honour the memory of Mr Harries: a five-time Mayor of Milford Haven and a public servant of the very highest repute.

The Town Council Secretary mentioned that she had previously contacted Mr McCarthy with memorial bench queries.

A Member spoke of how Mr Harries would go to read his newspaper at The Rath/Gelliswick. Mr McCarthy indicated that he would favour The Rath as a location for a memorial bench, and that he could work on an ideal spot for a bench.

**RECOMMENDED THAT:** the Town Council Secretary

and Mr McCarthy liaise further regarding the possibility of

a memorial bench for Mr Harries on The Rath.

Mr McCarthy then left the Meeting.

282. REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY ATTENDANCE IN 2023:

**RECOMMENDED THAT:** Pembrokeshire County Council be contacted in advance of Remembrance Sunday 2024 to be reminded of their wreath-laying responsibility, with the name of the wreath-layer also appreciated.

A Member asked whether a letter could be written to Mr Walters, Manager, Milford Haven Leisure Centre, thanking him for use of the consideration chairs, and requesting that the chairs can be used again in 2024.

**RECOMMENDED THAT:** Mr Walters is to be contacted, thanking him for his cooperation, and again requesting his kind cooperation this year.

283. UPCOMING EVENTS:

1. In Memory of those Fishermen who lost their lives at Sea (February 2024)

The Town Council Secretary advised that she had been trying to contact the Mayor’s Chaplain to ascertain his availability.

A Member stated that the Mayor’s Chaplain had been away.

If the Town Council Secretary continues to be unsuccessful in contacting the Chaplain, an alternative Chaplain is to be found, as the Service is to be publicised as soon as possible.

Another Member stated that 14th February may not be suitable to hold the Service as this day is Ash Wednesday.

1. Landing Craft 15 & 16 and HMS Rosemary Service (April 2024)

The Town Council Secretary confirmed that this Service would be going ahead this year.

**RECOMMENDED THAT:** this information be received.

284. LIST OF ROYAL BRITISH LEGION SERVICES 2024:

The Chair of the Public Events Sub-Committee, Councillor Miss K. F. Gray, read out a list of the Royal British Legion Services for 2024.

* ANZAC Remembrance Service – Hamilton Terrace – 28th April 2024 at 11:00am
* D-Day Landing 80 Year Anniversary Service – The Rath - 6th June 2024 at 11:00am
* Armed Forces Day – 29th June 2024
* Memorial Service for the Mine Layers – The Rath – 8th September 2024 at 11:00 am

The Town Cenotaph will also be 100 years old on 26th April 2024.

A Member said that he intended to attend the next meeting of the Royal British Legion (Milford Haven) and he would advise of any information following that meeting.

A Member noted that the Cenotaph was in a state of untidiness and disrepair. The Town Council Secretary advised that she had been made aware of these concerns, and that County Councillor T. Davies (Central Ward) had provided useful maintenance information that had been conveyed to the Royal British Legion.

**RECOMMENDED THAT:** the list of Royal British Legion Services for 2024 be circulated to local organisations for their information.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_