Minutes of a Meeting of the Milford Haven Town Council

held at the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Milford Haven

on Monday, 30th March, 2015 at 7:00 pm

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PRESENT

The Mayor (Councillor E. R. Harries)

The Deputy Mayor (Councillor S. G. Joseph)

 Councillors: Mrs. M. Bedford J. W. Cole

 A. W. Eden W. D. Elliott

 M. H. George QGM Mrs. R. Gray

 M. J. Norman M. P. Rickard

 C. A. Sharp D. R. Sinnett

 Mrs. Y. G. Southwell Mrs. C. Stevens

 G. Woodham MBA (Open) LL.B (Hons)

 PRAYERS:

Prayers were led by the Mayor’s Chaplain, Father Harri Williams.

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299. APOLOGIES:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A. E. Byrne and A. H. Miles. Apologies for absence were not received by Councillor Mrs. J. Hawkins.

300. TO CONFIRM AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON THE 23RD FEBRUARY, 2015:

 RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Meeting of

 the Milford Haven Town Council held on the

 23rd February 2015, be accepted and that

 they be signed by the Mayor as a true record.

301. INFORMATION FROM THE MAYOR:

 (a) Mayor’s Engagement:

 Members were informed of the Mayor’s Engagement since 13th March, 2015:-

 26th March - Attended Senior Certificate Award Ceremony at Milford Haven

 School.

(b) Insufficient Postage:

The Mayor, Councillor E. R. Harries, said that although he did not experience it himself, he was given to understand that some Councillors had been faced with an excess postage charge in order to receive the Minutes for this evening’s Meeting.

The Mayor explained that the Clerk was going to take up this issue with the Post Office.

The Mayor asked if Members wished to be reimbursed for the monies that they had paid out and they indicated they did not wish to do so.

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REPORTS ON COMMITTEES

302. PUBLIC WORKS AND PLANNING COMMITTEE:

 The Minutes of the Meeting of the Public Works and Planning Committee held on the 9th March, 2015, were moved by the Chairman, Councillor M. P. Rickard.

 RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Meeting of

the Public Works and Planning Committee held

on the March, 2015, be approved and adopted.

303. FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE:

 The Minutes of the Meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on the 12th March, 2015, were moved by the Vice-Chairman, Councillor D. R. Sinnett.

 (a) Minute 287 (c) Milford Fish Festival 2015:

The Mayor advised that correspondence regarding the Milford Fish Festival had been received from the Port of Milford Haven. The writer stated that the event would take place on 27th June.

 RESOLVED THAT this matter be referred to the

 April’s Meeting of the Finance and General

 Purposes Committee.

 (b) Minute 289 – CCTV Cameras in Milford Haven:

 The Deputy Mayor, Councillor S. G. Joseph, joined the Meeting during the discussion on this issue.

The Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee, Councillor G. Woodham MBA (Open) LL.B (Hons) apologised for not being able to attend the Meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee. He said that he had spoken to the Vice-Chairman regarding this recommendation.

Councillor Woodham MBA (Open) LL.B (Hons) stated that he has no problems at all in funding effective CCTV cameras that will support crime prevention and crime detection. He said that he remained unconvinced that the five cameras funded by this Council were providing value for money. He considered that the presentation given by Chief Inspector Diggens of the Dyfed-Powys Police and Mr. R. Brown, Head of Environment and Civil Contingencies, Pembrokeshire County Council, was very general and did not focus particularly on these cameras. There was a request at that Meeting that a report be provided that they were in prime locations for crime detection and protection but this has not been provided.

Councillor Woodham MBA (Open) LL.B (Hons) said that in order to ensure that public money is well spent, he wished to establish a clear provision of information from Dyfed-Powys Police and the Pembrokeshire County Council that these cameras are supporting crime prevention and crime detection.

A Member said that this Council was assured by Mr. Brown that the cameras are examined frequently, and Chief Inspector Diggens could not have emphasised more strongly that the cameras are a bonus to the serving officers in the town.

Another Member stated that he had mixed feelings regarding the value of CCTV cameras after reading the Crime Commissioner’s report, but was reassured from the presentation given by Chief Inspector Diggens and Mr. R. Brown that the CCTV cameras were of primary importance in policing matters.

After some discussion it was agreed that the recommendations made by the Finance and General Purposes Committee be amended as follows:-

 RESOLVED THAT:

 (A) the following is to be added to recommendation (iii)

 which becomes recommendation (i)

 *……. and that an annual report must be provided every*

 *December detailing the effectiveness of these 5 CCTV*

 *cameras in crime prevention and crime detection in*

 *Milford Haven, and confirming that they are in full*

 *working order so that the Council can examine this*

 *report in detail before the January precept Meeting;*

 (B) recommendation (iv) becomes (ii)

 (C) recommendation (i) becomes (iii) with the following

 additional recommendation:

 *……. subject to a written assurance by April’s Full*

 *Council Meeting that these 5 CCTV cameras will be*

 *maintained in full working order;*

 (D) recommendation (ii) becomes (iv)

(c) Minute 297 (b) Applications for Financial Assistance – Milford Haven Business

 Circle:

 Councillor G. Woodham MBA (Open) LL.B (Hons) declared a personal interest in this matter as Treasurer of the Milford Haven Business Circle.

 Councillor Woodham explained that as he had represented the Milford Haven Business Circle at the Meeting held earlier this evening with a small group of Members from the Finance and General Purposes Committee he felt it appropriate to withdraw from this Meeting. Furthermore, the Torch Theatre is referenced as part of the costings and he has a pecuniary interest as a paid employee. Councillor Woodham then withdrew from the Council Chamber.

Councillor D. R. Sinnett explained that a small group of Councillors from the Finance and General Purposes Committee had met with representatives from the Milford Haven Business Circle earlier this evening. Their mission was to fact find on behalf of Council so that should there be any questions that Members have in respect of this funding application either he or his colleagues who were also at the Meeting would be would be able to answer them.

Members noted that there were two events listed under the heading “Milford Haven Founders’ Day Costings"– 6th June which would be Founders’ Day itself and, as part of the Founders’ Day celebrations, a concert at the Torch Theatre on 9th June.

A Member questioned why this Council has been asked to pay for the concert at the Torch Theatre.

The response was that the studio of the Torch Theatre has been hired at a commercial rate that would be offered to anyone who wishes to hire it. Representatives from the Milford Haven Business Circle were asked whether the Torch Theatre has been approached to reduce that rate. The response was not at this time, but the Torch Theatre could be approached to see whether they would be able to reduce this rate. Tickets would be sold for the concert at £10 per head.

 A Member asked what happens to the money raised by the sale of the tickets.

The response was that there would a number of ways in which that money can be used. Should the Milford Haven Business Circle be successful in obtaining the full grant funding from a number of sources other than the Town Council to cover the £2,500 for the cost of both events, then that money can go into the Business Circle’s account to fund next year’s celebrations because there is a proposal that Founders’ Day will be celebrated annually. If the members of the Milford Haven Business Circle are not able to secure the £2,500 then the money will be used to offset costs incurred in other parts of the budget.

A Member queried how much money the Milford Haven Business Circle is going to invest in these events.

The response was that the Milford Haven Business Circle has received £400 from donations from local businesses. As the Milford Haven Business Circle has a limited amount of funds available, its members could only contribute a small amount towards these costs. The Milford Haven Business Circle currently has twenty members, three of whom are organising the Founders’ Day celebrations.

Members were advised that the Milford Haven Business Circle had suggested that financial support would be sought from a range of sources, but no applications had as yet been submitted to the other main funding sources in the town.

The Milford Haven Business Circle had asked for the full amount of funding both events as their members were unsure of the amounts they would need. They would be pleased to receive any financial contribution from this Council.

Members were informed that the Milford Haven Business Circle would adjust the scale of the events according to the funding they received. There are costs that are necessary to ensure that the event takes place, such as road closure, first aid cover and Temporary Events Notices, but the event could be tailored as to the budget available.

 A proposal was made that the Milford Haven Town Council donates £1,500 towards the funding of this event.

Another Member said that this was potentially two separate events. He said he was very concerned that the small committee of three members of the Milford Haven Business Circle who were organising the events have a big task ahead of them, and if they do not get the full funding they will be scaling back, so it could become quite a small event with quite significant ground costs that have to be covered. He proposed the first amendment that the Town Council donates £709 to fund the event at the Torch Theatre.

Another Member proposed a second amendment – a donation of £1,791 (the total cost of the events as outlined on the breakdown of costs for the Founders’ Day event on 6th June) which would benefit not just the hundred people who purchase a ticket for the performance at the Torch Theatre on 9th June but the many hundreds in the town who would have the opportunity to make use of the facilities that would be made available on the day.

He also proposed that the fact that the event is funded this year does not give any indication that it will be funded on an annual basis. The Council would need an assurance that every one of those events listed on the breakdown of costs does take place, and the Milford Haven Business Circle has to provide detailed accounts as to how the donation was expended.

The Mayor advised that the second amendment would be voted on first. A vote was taken and eight Members voted for the second amendment, with three against. The Mayor explained that the second amendment is upheld, and the first amendment is fallen as it was apparent that the Members of this Council are in favour of the second amendment.

 A vote was then taken of those in favour of the second amendment as opposed to the original proposition. Nine were in favour of the second amendment with three against.

 RESOLVED THAT:

 (i) the Milford Haven Business Circle is to receive a

 donation of £1,791 to fund the events on Charles

 Street on 6th June, 2015;

 (ii) the Business Circle is to be advised that, although

 this event is funded by the Milford Haven

 Town Council this year, it does not indicate that

 this event will be funded by the Town Council

 on an annual basis;

 (iii) and the Council needs an assurance that every one of

 the events listed in the Milford Haven Business Circle’s

schedule of costings for Founders’ Day on 6th June

takes place, and detailed accounts need to be submitted

as to how the donation was expended;

 (iv) the donation is to be funded by £1,041 of the balance

 remaining in the General Donations budget and

 £750 in the Commemorative Plaques budget.

 *This donation is to be made in accordance with the Milford Haven Town Council’s powers under Section 144 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1972.*

 Councillor Woodham MBA (Open) LL.B (Hons) re-joined the Meeting at this point.

304. CIVIC AMENITY SITE CONSULTATION:

Members discussed a letter from the Pembrokeshire County Council which stated that the Pembrokeshire County Council currently owns and manages six civic amenity and recycling sites across the County.

As the Pembrokeshire County Council needs to make savings in order to balance its budget in the wake of Government spending cuts, it is proposed that every site moves to a five day a week operation. The Pembrokeshire County Council also proposed amending the opening hours of the sites.

A Member said that he considers that any curtailment of the facility in the civic amenity sites will lead to fly-tipping, which he believes will cost far more to remedy than the savings made by the closures.

Another Member stated that when he was at the civic amenity site depositing some waste material earlier today, he was approached by a young lady who asked what he thought the implications were of closing that amenity two days a week.

He had responded that he was of the opinion that such an exercise would increase fly-tipping. This Member had expressed the fear that if the civic amenity site is closed as indicated on Wednesdays and Thursdays, people who had forgotten the closure days might leave their waste outside the closed gates, and the massive task of clearing the dumped waste on a Friday morning would be a prospect.

A Member said that he hoped that people would be aware of what days the civic amenity sites are closed. He considered that people who use civic amenity sites are responsible people, who would be less inclined to fly-tip. His biggest concern was the impact that closing the civic amenity sites at 4 pm would have on people who work, who would be restricted to visiting the sites at weekends.

Another Member pointed out that civic amenity sites are utilised far more now since the introduction of the fortnightly collections of waste.

It was proposed that this Council writes to the Pembrokeshire County Council expressing its opposition to any changes to the opening arrangements at the civic amenity and recycling centres.

An amendment was made that this Council should express Members’ disappointment at the proposed cuts, although the reasons for the cutbacks is understood, and ask that the civic amenity sites stay open later.

A vote was taken with seven Members voting for the amendment and seven for the proposition.

The Mayor used his casting vote to vote for the proposition and it was RESOLVED THAT a letter be written to the Pembrokeshire County Council expressing its opposition to any changes to the opening arrangements at the civic amenity and recycling centres.

305. REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES:

 (a) Amendment to Trustees at Milford Haven Museum:

 Members discussed a letter from Councillor C. A. Sharp, Chairman of Milford Haven Museum, in which he gave an update on the progress concerning the proposed changes to the Board of Management of the Milford Haven Museum.

 The Chairman confirmed that the Museum’s Articles of Association had been updated, and one of the agreed changes is a reduction in the size of the Board from thirteen to seven and, in line with the reduction in overall numbers, the Town Council is requested to nominate two of the Trustees.

 RESOLVED THAT:

 (i) all seven Trustees appointed on the Milford Haven

 Museum by the Milford Haven Town Council be removed;

 (ii) if more than two Members indicate that they wish

 to be considered for nomination on to the Board of

Management of the Milford Haven Museum a vote will

 be taken;

The Clerk was asked whether she had received any representation from those Councillors who are not present this evening, but are currently this Council’s representatives on the Board of Management of the Milford Haven Museum as to whether they wish to be nominated as Trustees on the Board of Management of the Milford Haven Museum. The Clerk replied that she had not.

Councillors M. J. Norman and C. A. Sharp indicated that they wished to be nominated as Trustees on the Board of Management of the Milford Haven Museum.

 It was FURTHER RESOLVED THAT:

 (ii) Councillors M. J. Norman and C. A. Sharp be appointed

 as this Council’s Representatives on the Board of

 Management of the Milford Haven Museum.

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