Minutes of a Meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee

held at the Town Hall, Milford Haven

on Thursday, 9th July, 2015 at 6:00 pm

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PRESENT

The Mayor (Councillor S. G. Joseph)

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

Councillors: Mrs. Y. G. Southwell R. D. Evans

Mrs. R. Gray A. H. Miles

M. J. Norman

60. APOLOGIES:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A. E. Byrne, who was attending the South Hook Liaison Group Meeting, D. R. Sinnett, and G. Woodham MBA (Open) LL.B (Hons).

61. MAYOR’S REMARKS:

The Mayor, Councillor S. G. Joseph, said that he would have to leave the meeting early as he was attending the Radio Pembrokeshire Business Awards at the Torch Theatre. He explained that he had some background information regarding one of the applications for financial assistance and asked whether this could be considered before he left the meeting.

The Mayor then welcomed Councillor R. D. Evans to his first meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

62. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN:

Councillors Mrs. Y. G. Southwell and M. J. Norman expressed an interest in becoming Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Sub-Committee.

The Mayor asked Councillor A. H. Miles whether he wished to be considered as Chairman. Councillor Miles replied that he wished to be considered as Vice-Chairman. The Mayor advised that this would be discussed as the next Agenda item.

Councillor Mrs. Y. G. Southwell received a proposer and a seconder. Councillor M. J. Norman did not receive a proposer. A vote was taken and it was RESOLVED THAT Councillor Mrs. Y. G. Southwell be appointed as Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee for the ensuing year.

63. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN:

Councillor Mrs. R. Gray and Councillor M. J. Norman indicated that they were interested in becoming Vice-Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee. The

Mayor asked Councillor A. H. Miles whether he was interested in becoming Vice Chairman. Councillor Miles said that he was not as it was “fixed”, and he later went on to say that it was a “rigged election” and that the result had “clearly been decided weeks ago”.

Members appeared perplexed at these comments.

The Chairman asked Councillor Miles whether he was happy with the procedures thus far and he replied that he had no problem with her as Chairman but would not wish to be in her position either.

Councillor Mrs. R. Gray received a proposer and seconder. Councillor M. J. Norman did not receive a proposer. A vote was taken and it was RESOLVED THAT Councillor Mrs. R. Gray be appointed as Vice-Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee for the ensuing year.

64. ORDER OF BUSINESS:

As the Mayor would have to leave the meeting shortly, it was RESOLVED THAT the Order of Business be amended so that he could provide background information on one of the applications for financial assistance.

65. APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE:

(a) FM/ME/CFS Support and Carers Group – West Wales:

The Mayor declared a personal interest in this matter as this Group meets at the

Nantucket Church.

The Mayor commended the gentleman who runs this Group for all his hard work.

The Mayor explained that the Group does not pay rental for the room at the moment but if they receive funding they would, as any rental includes utility services.

The Chairman thanked the Mayor for this information and he left the meeting at this point.

66. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON 11TH JUNE, 2015:

RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Meeting of

the Finance and General Purposes Committee held

on 11th June, 2015, be approved as a correct

record and that they be signed by the Chairman.

67. INFORMATION FROM THE MAYOR:

(a) Mayor’s Engagements:

Members were advised of the following engagements undertaken by the Mayor since the 30th June, 2015:-

4th July - Milford Haven Carnival

5th July (am) - Haverfordwest Civic Service (attended by the Deputy

Mayor)

5th July (pm) - Mayor of Milford Haven’s Civic Service

6th July - Bingo with the Haven Club at the Manchester Club

6th July - Festivities Week Bingo at the Pill Community Centre

8th July - Open Blind Pair Darts Tournament at the

Manchester Club

9th July - Draw at FBM Estate Agents

9th July - Bingo with the National Federation of Retirement

Pensioners’ Association at the Manchester Club,

Milford Haven.

9th July - Radio Pembrokeshire Business Awards.

9th July - Festivities Week Quiz Night at the Pill Community

Centre (attended by the Deputy Mayor).

68. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM MONDAY EVENING’S MEETING OF THE PUBLIC WORKS AND PLANNING COMMITTEE:

(a) Cemetery House Roof and Associated Works:

The Clerk said that the Members of the Public Works and Planning Committee asked the Finance and General Purposes Committee to support their recommendation that the lowest tender received from RED Building Services, Milford Haven, be accepted in the sum of £13,602.89 plus VAT.

RESOLVED THAT the Finance and General Purposes

Committee supports the Public Works and Planning

Committee’s recommendation that this tender be

accepted.

(b) Hakin Community School:

The Clerk advised the Chairman of the Public Works and Planning Committee, Councillor E. R. Harries, had asked her to bring to Members’ attention that a planning application had been received that afternoon for the new Hakin Community School.

69. DISCUSSION ON FUNDS FORMERLY INVESTED IN THE NATIONWIDE BUILDING SOCIETY:

The Clerk advised that she had checked with the Council’s Bankers and the limit for compensation by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme for all the funds in the Council’s accounts is £85,000.

The Clerk said that she had been investigating Business Savings Accounts. There is an online bank called Aldermore that was started in 2009 and appears to have a good interest rate for short term savings. She said that, if possible, she would prefer to deal with banks or building societies that were accessible in case there were difficulties and she could visit the branch.

The Clerk asked whether this issue could be deferred until September’s meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee in order that she could continue with her investigations. She suggested that other Clerks in Pembrokeshire could be asked how their Councils invest their funds.

RESOLVED THAT:-

(i) this matter is to be deferred until the September

meeting of the Finance and General Purposes

Committee to enable the Clerk to continue with

her investigations regarding appropriate Business

Saving Accounts;

(ii) the Clerk is also to make enquiries from other

Clerks in Pembrokeshire as to how their Councils

invest their funds.

70. ONE VOICE WALES PEMBROKESHIRE AREA COMMITTEE

(a) Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Pembrokeshire Area Committee held on Tuesday, 15th July, 2014:

Members gave consideration to the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

of the Pembrokeshire Area Committee held on Tuesday, 15th July, 2014.

The Clerk advised that she had informed One Voice Wales of Councillors A. E. Byrne and M. J. Norman’s contact details.

RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Annual

General Meeting of the Pembrokeshire Area

Committee held on Tuesday, 15th July, 2014,

be received.

(b) Minutes of the Pembrokeshire Area Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, 21st April, 2015:

Members gave consideration to the Minutes of the Meeting of the Pembrokeshire Area Committee held on Tuesday, 21st, April, 2015.

RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Meeting of

the Pembrokeshire Area Committee held on

on Tuesday, 21st April, 2015, be received.

71. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE:

(i) Acknowledgement of Donations:

The Clerk advised that letters of thanks had been received from Cruse Bereavement Care (Pembrokeshie Branch), Milford Haven Darby and Joan Club, Milford Haven Heritage and Maritime Museum, Milford Haven Operatic Society,

Milford Haven Sea Cadets and Royal Marine Cadets, Milford Haven Town and Junior Bands, Milford Haven Twinning Association, Neyland Ladies’ Choir and St. Katharine and St. Peter’s Church.

(ii) Applications for Financial Assistance:

RESOLVED THAT the following decisions be made

in relation to the applications for financial

assistance:-

(a) FM/ME/CFS Support and Carers Group - £240 for the hire of the hall.

*This donation is to be made in accordance with the Milford Haven Town Council’s powers under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1973.*

The Vice-Chairman, Councillor Mrs. R. Gray declared a personal interest in this issue as she is a member of the Nantucket Church.

(b) Rotary Club of Milford Haven - £250, with the request that Councillors are able to

participate in the children’s

next visit to Folly Farm.

*This donation is to be made in accordance with the Milford Haven Town Council’s powers under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1973.*

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs. Y. G. Southwell, declared a personal interest in this issue as the Chairman of the Community and Vocational Committee of the

Rotary Club of Milford Haven is a distant relative.

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor W. D. Elliott BA, declared a personal interest as he

is a Governor of the Milford Haven Junior School.

(c) Milford Haven Music Festival - £250

*This donation is to be made in accordance with the Milford Haven Town Council’s*

*powers under Section 145 of the Local Government Act 1973.*

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs. Y. G. Southwell, declared a personal interest in this issue as she is on the Committee for the Milford Haven Music Festival.

(d) Milford Haven Sea Cadets and - £468.59

Royal Marine Cadets

*This donation is to be made in accordance with the Milford Haven Town Council’s powers under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1973.*

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor W. D. Elliott BA, declared a personal interest in this issue as he is an Adult Instructor for the Unit.

(e) Hubberston AFC - £200

*This donation is to be made in accordance with the Milford Haven Town Council’s powers under Section 19 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.*

(f) Herbrandston Cricket Club - Discussion on this application

is to be deferred until Full

Council, in order that the

Clerk can seek information

as to how many people from the town of Milford Haven

utilise this Club.

72. SCHEDULE OF ACCOUNTS:

RESOLVED THAT the Schedule of Accounts as

presented by the Clerk for the month of

June, 2015, in £11,868.32 be accepted

and approved for payment.

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