Minutes of a Meeting of the

Finance and General Purposes Committee

held at the Town Hall, Milford Haven

on Thursday, 16th April, 2015 at 6.00 pm

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PRESENT

The Deputy Mayor (Councillor S. G. Joseph)

Councillors: G. Woodham MBA (Open) LL.B (Hons) (Chairman)

Mrs. R. Gray A. H. Miles

M. J. Norman Mrs. Y. G. Southwell

Ms. L. James, Marketing Manager, and Ms. A. Malloy, PR and Communications Manager, Port of Milford Haven, were also in attendance.

317. APOLOGIES:

Apologies for absence were received from the Mayor, Councillor E. R. Harries, and Councillor A. E. Byrne, who were attending the South Hook Liaison Group Meeting, and Councillor D. R. Sinnett.

318. ORDER OF BUSINESS:

As there were two representatives present from the Port of Milford Haven, it was RESOLVED THAT Agenda Item 11 ‘Sponsorship Opportunities – Milford Fish Festival’ be taken as the next item on the Agenda.

319. SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES – MILFORD FISH FESTIVAL:

The Chairman, Councillor G. Woodham MBA (Open) LL.B (Hons) reminded Members that £750 had been set aside in this year’s Precept for the opening day of Pembrokeshire Fish Week.

Members scrutinised the list of Sponsorship Opportunities for 2015, and asked the representatives from the Port of Milford Haven pertinent questions, including further information regarding workshops.

After a discussion, during which mention was made of the Port of Milford Haven’s decision to hold the Fish Festival so that businesses in the town do not lose out on the massive increase in tourism revenue that is generated by the thousands of people who normally attend the opening of Pembrokeshire Fish Week, it was RESOLVED THAT the Finance and General Purposes Committee recommends that the Milford Haven Town Council should sponsor the following:-

(i) a workshop at a cost of £1,500;

(ii) Event crew clothing at a cost of £1,000;

(iii) Park and Ride transport at a cost of £300;

(iv) the sponsorship is to be funded partly from the

£750 allocated for the opening day of Pembrokeshire

Fish Week, with the balance of £2,050 taken

from Reserves;

(v) entry bands included in the sponsorship

packages are to be forwarded to local schools.

*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.*

Ms. L. James and Ms. A. Malloy left the Meeting.

320. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON THE 12TH MARCH, 2015:

RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Meeting of

the Finance and General Purposes Committee

held on 12th March, 2015, be approved as

a correct record and that they be signed by the

Chairman.

321. INFORMATION FROM THE MAYOR:

(a) Mayor’s Engagements:

Members were advised of the following engagements undertaken by the Mayor since the 31st March, 2015:-

9th April, 2015 - Met with representatives from SAVEeasy Credit Union

in the Murray Suite.

9th April, 2015 - Inspection at the Milford Haven Sea Cadets’ Unit

at Haven’s Head.

14th April, 2015 - PACT (Partnerships and Communities Together)

Meeting at Cedar Court, Milford Haven.

16th April, 2015 - Meeting with South Hook LNG Liaison Group.

(b) Register of Members’ Interests:

The Chairman reminded Members of the previous discussion at the Finance and General Purposes Committee regarding the Register of Members’ Interests.

The Chairman then read out an email from the Democracy, Diversity and Remuneration Team, Welsh Government, which states that with effect from 1st May, 2015, the duty to establish and maintain the Register of Members’ Interests transfers from the Monitoring Officer to the Proper Officer of the Community or Town Council.

In addition to being available for public inspection, the Register of Interests must also be published electronically, i.e. on the Authority’s website.

The Chairman advised that the Register of Members’ Interests for County Councillors was on the Pembrokeshire County Council website.

RESOLVED THAT:

(i) the Clerk produces a Register of Interests’ form,

using the Pembrokeshire County Council’s form as

a template, which will be circulated with the Agendas

for the April’s Full Council Meeting;

(ii) Members will be asked to complete the Register of

Interests’ form and hand it to the Clerk at April’s Full

Council Meeting.

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

The Clerk advised that there were no financial recommendations made at Monday evening’s Meeting of the Public Works and Planning Committee.

323. DISCUSSION REGARDING THE BALANCE IN NATIONWIDE BUSINESS SAVER ACCOUNT:

Members discussed a letter from the Nationwide Building Society which listed the available options for reinvesting the Business Saver Bond when it matures on 27th April, 2015.

The Chairman advised that although the 6 month and 1 year Business Saver Fixed Rate accounts drew higher interest rates – gross 0.90% and 1.20% respectively – there can be no withdrawal of funds during the term of the investment as the funds have to remain in the accounts until maturity.

The other accounts available are a Business Saver (instant access) account with an annual interest rate of 0.80% and a 95 Day Business Saver Account with an annual interest rate of 0.90%.

RESOLVED THAT:

(i) the Finance and General Purposes Committee recommends

that the Nationwide Business Saver Bond be closed

on maturity and the funds transferred to the Council’s

Business Account;

(ii) an item be placed on the Agenda of June’s Finance and

General Purposes Committee to discuss reinvesting the funds

when there might be further information regarding interest

rates following the General Election in May.

324. CORRESPONDENCE FROM MS. MARA PURL:

Councillor G. Woodham MBA (Open) LL.B (Hons) declared a personal interest in this item as he is an employee of the Torch Theatre.

Councillor Mr. Y. G. Southwell declared a personal interest in this item as she has been appointed by this Council as its representative on the Torch Theatre Management Committee.

Members gave consideration to correspondence from Ms. Mara Purl, who had created a radio drama entitled “Milford-Haven USA” about a fictional American town located on California’s Central Coast. Her radio drama became the first American radio serial event broadcast by the BBC. She was honoured in 1992 by the town of Milford Haven by a series of special events.

Ms. Purl said that she would like to stage a performance of a play “Sea Marks” in Milford Haven if she could obtain sponsorship.

RESOLVED THAT:-

(i) Ms. Purl be thanked for her email and it be

suggested that she may be better in making

an enquiry to the Torch Theatre;

(ii) the Council is to wish Ms. Purl success and

Ms. Purl is to be informed to advise the Council

if she does stage her play in Milford Haven

325. ONE VOICE WALES LARGER COUNCILS COMMITTEE:

Members discussed the Minutes of the One Voice Wales Larger Councils Committee

which were held in Builth Wells on 25th February, 2015.

RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the One Voice

Wales Larger Councils Committee be received.

326. VARIATION TO THE TIME OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

In October, 2014, it was agreed that the Finance and General Purposes Committee and the Public Works and Planning Committee were to commence at 6.00 pm for a trial period until the end of this civic year.

RESOLVED THAT:

(i) the Meetings of the Finance and General Purposes

Committee are to continue with the start time of 6 pm

until the end of the next municipal year 2016;

(ii) discussion on the time of the Finance and General

Purposes Committee Meetings is to be placed on the

Agenda for April 2016’s Meeting.

327. STATEMENT OF INCOME:

RESOLVED THAT the statement of income for the

financial year 2014-2015 be received.

328. SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURE:

RESOLVED THAT:

(i) the summary of expenditure of the Milford Haven Town

Council for the financial year 2014-2015 be received;

(ii) Public Conveniences at The Rath –

the Clerk said that she had received an invoice

from the Pembrokeshire County Council for a re-charge of water of £585.08 from 1st October until 31st December.

She had queried this amount and was waiting for a

response from the officer at that Authority.

RESOLVED THAT the Clerk is to continue to endeavour

to obtain an answer to her query.

(iii) CCTV Cameras –

a Member advised that two cameras were out of action.

He was unsure whether they were two of the cameras

with line rental funded by this Town Council.

RESOLVED THAT the Clerk is authorised to obtain further

information on this issue by Full Council.

329. APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE:

(a) Acknowledgement of Donations:

The Clerk advised a letter of thanks had been received from Relate Cymru.

(b) Financial Assistance from General Donations Budget:

RESOLVED THAT the following decisions be

made in relation to the applications for

financial assistance:-

(i) Milford Haven Town Choir - a grant of £465 to cover the

– Nantucket Wailers specific items as listed, with the

recommendation that the Choir contacts Pembrokeshire College in connection

with the logo design, which may be available free of charge.

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor S. G. Joseph, and Councillor Mrs. R Gray declared a prejudicial interest in this issue as they are members of the Choir and withdrew from the Committee Room during the discussion of this item.

*This donation is to be made in accordance with the Milford Haven Town Council’s powers under Section 145 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1972.*

(ii) Milford Haven Youth - Regret no donation, as the Milford

Choir Haven Town Council does not have the

statutory power to fund individuals. Members would, however, consider an application for the benefit of the Choir as a whole.

The Chairman, Councillor G. Woodham MBA (Open) LL.B (Hons) and Councillor Mrs. Y. G. Southwell declared a personal interest in this issue as

it is affiliated with St. Katharine and St. Peter’s Church.

(iii) Milford Youth Matters - Regret no donation, as the Milford Haven Town Council does not have the statutory

power to fund individuals and staff development does benefit individuals. Members would, however, consider an application for the benefit of the Group as a whole.

(iv) St. Katharine and St. - £200

Peter’s Church

The Chairman, Councillor G. Woodham MBA (Open) LL.B (Hons) and

Councillor Mrs. Y. G. Southwell declared a prejudicial interest in this issue

as they are members of this Church and specific reference is made in the

application to the congregation and the members of the Church raising funds.

*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.*

(v) All Pembrokeshire Cruse - £100

*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.*

330. SCHEDULE OF ACCOUNTS:

RESOLVED THAT the Schedule of Accounts,

as presented by the Clerk for the month of

March, 2015, in the sum of £15,152.49

be accepted and approved for payment.

331. THANKS TO CHAIRMAN:

The Chairman, Councillor G. Woodham MBA (Open) LL.B (Hons), said that he had Chaired his last Meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee as he had served his two year period of office. Members wished to record their thanks to Councillor G. Woodham MBA (Open) LL.B (Hons) for the accomplished way in which he carried out his duties as Chair.

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