Minutes of a Meeting of the Public Works and Planning Committee

held at the Town Hall, Milford Haven

on Monday, 13th April, 2015 at 6:00 pm

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PRESENT

The Mayor (Councillor E. R. Harries)

Councillors: M. P. Rickard (Chairman) J. W. Cole

A. W. Eden W. D. Elliott

M. H. George QGM Mrs. J. Hawkins

C. A. Sharp Mrs. C. Stevens

306. APOLOGIES:

Apologies for absence were not received from the Deputy Mayor, Councillor S. G. Joseph.

307. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PUBLIC WORKS AND PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD ON 9TH MARCH, 2015:

RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Meeting of

the Public Works and Planning Committee held

on 9th March, 2015, be approved as a correct

record and that they be signed by the Chairman.

308. INFORMATION FROM THE MAYOR:

Members were advised of the following engagement 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.

309. CEMETERY:

(a) Report:

RESOLVED THAT the Cemetery Report, as

presented by the Clerk for the month of

March, 2015, be accepted.

310. PLANS:

RESOLVED THAT the recommendations of

the Chairman of the Public Works and Planning

Committee (which have been made in consultation

with Members of the Public Works and Planning

Committee) in respect of the planning applications detailed on Pages 1 and 2 of the attached report

(see Appendix B) be approved.

311. MARBLE HALL CROSSROADS:

The Mayor, Councillor E. R. Harries, said that he had asked for this to be put on the Agenda.

He explained that some time ago, he believed in 2006, this Council pressed for traffic lights to be installed at the junction of Marble Hall Road, Steynton Road and Pill Road.

The Pembrokeshire County Council arranged a site visit, which coincided with a date in the middle of the summer holidays, so that particular site inspection was totally irrelevant and totally misleading because there were no children on that road as during school term time. The Milford Haven Town Council was bitterly disappointed that traffic lights were not approved at the Marble Hall Crossroads.

The Mayor said that he had used that junction very frequently over a number of years and considered that the situation has got progressively worse than it was at that time.

He advocated that this Council reapplies for traffic lights to be installed at that junction.

A Member said that when he was a County Councillor, even before that site visit in 2006, he had raised this issue with the Trunk Road Agency and the Traffic Department of the Pembrokeshire County Council. The Trunk Road Agency said that the road would have to be widened and that could not be achieved because of lampposts and underground cabling.

RESOLVED THAT the Public Works and Planning

Committee recommends to Full Council that a

further application is made to the appropriate

authorities to install traffic lights at the Marble

Hall Crossroads.

312. NEW TRAFFIC ORDER – PROPOSED WAITING RESTRICTIONS, MILFORD HAVEN:

Members gave consideration to a letter from Mr. B. Blake, Senior Traffic Engineer, Pembrokeshire County Council, in which he advised that the Pembrokeshire County Council will shortly be advertising various waiting restriction proposals as part of a County wide review which includes a scheme in Milford Haven. The proposal is the introduction of double yellow lines at Sandhurst Road to remove parking on the junction with Great North Road, which currently impedes visibility and turning movements.

Members asked for Father Harri Williams’ views on these proposals as to how they would impact on St Katharine and St Peter’s Church.

The Chairman said that he has been approached by Father Harri who wanted reassurances that blue badge holders would be able to park on the double yellow lines should they be unable to park at any other location, as he was concerned that anyone with a disability would need to have access if there was no parking close by to the double yellow lines. Father Harri also wanted this Council to confirm that this was the case before he responded to the proposals.

Councillor A. W. Eden said that he had contacted Pembrokeshire County Council who had confirmed that blue badge holders could park on double yellow lines for 3 hours.

RESOLVED THAT the Public Works and Planning

Committee has no objections to the proposals

regarding the proposed waiting restrictions at

Sandhurst Road, providing that the disabled are

accommodated and it will have no adverse effect

on the functioning of St. Katharine and St. Peter’s

Church, particularly at funerals and weddings;

313. REVIEW OF SECONDARY EDUCATION PROVISION IN THE MID AND NORTH WEST OF PEMBROKESHIRE:

A Member observed that the Consultation Document is full of wonderful ideas but has, in his view, forgotten some of the major issues about staffing, staffing contracts and salaries. If you downgrade a school, you downgrade finances, and if you downgrade finances you downgrade what is available to members of staff.

The Member said that this is a complex issue which would impact upon the whole of Pembrokeshire and suggested that the Senior Director of Children and Schools be invited to meet with Full Council to give a briefing and answer Members’ questions.

A Member said that the effect of the reorganisation varies from school to school and his interpretation was that it would have very little effect on Milford School other than to bolster its numbers.

Members were advised that a Consultation Meeting will be held at Milford School on 22nd April concerning secondary education. Councillor J. W. Cole was asked whether he would be representing this Council at that Meeting, and he replied that he would be attending that Meeting as an individual and not as a Councillor. It was suggested that Councillor Cole could report back to Full Council. Councillor Cole replied that he did not know if that would be an appropriate venue because the structure of the Meeting is unknown. It will be difficult to have an in depth discussion upon education provision in Pembrokeshire on the basis of an open Meeting.

The Chairman, Councillor M. P. Rickard, advised that he hoped to attend the Consultation Meeting as he is a Governor of Milford Junior School and sits on the Family of Schools for the Milford Haven Collective of Schools.

The Mayor said that as a result of an approach by the Chair of the Milford Governors, he has invited the Chair of Governors, the Head Teacher and Head Girl and Head Boy of Milford School to April’s Full Council Meeting as the School is most anxious to demonstrate that it is very much a part of this community and that it wants to play a full part in it.

Members were advised that there was an Extraordinary Meeting of the Pembrokeshire County Council the next day to discuss the Consultation. It was noted that the closing date for the Consultation had been extended to Tuesday, 5th May and there was a possibility that it would be extended further after that Meeting.

RESOLVED:

(i) the Education Department of the Pembrokeshire County

Council be asked for the closing date on the Review of

Secondary Education Provision to be extended as there

has been insufficient time for this Council to discuss

this matter in detail and Members have not had the

opportunity to raise pertinent question, therefore,

based on what might happen at the Extraordinary Meeting

of the Pembrokeshire County Council on Tuesday, 14th April,

it is this Council’s hope that the Pembrokeshire County

Council will extend the decision date for final consultation;

(ii) the Mayor said that he will undertake the responsibility

for submitting this request immediately.

314. GATEWAY SIGNS:

Members discussed an email from Mr. D. Rees BA (Hons) Dip La, Landscape Architect, Pembrokeshire County Council, in which he enclosed the first draft of artwork for the proposed “Welcome to Milford Haven” sign. Mr. Rees also attached the designs for other towns in Pembrokeshire to give an idea of some alternative colours.

RESOLVED THAT:

(i) Mr. Rees be advised that the Milford Haven Town

Council considers that “Welcome to” should appear on

the left of the sign as opposed to “Croeso i” which is

currently on the left and should be moved to the right;

(ii) the Milford Haven Town Council would prefer a blue

background colour.

315. UPDATES ON LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN LAND ALLOCATIONS AND LARGER DEVLOPMENT SITES IN THE NATIONAL PARK:

Members gave consideration to a letter from the Planning Officer (Park Direction) of the Pembrokeshire Coastal Park Authority in which she listed the 6-monthly updates on the larger residential sites in the National Park for March/April 2015.

RESOLVED THAT the letter be received.

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

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

The Chairman asked for Members to vote on whether they wish to retain the 6.00 pm start. 5 Members voted to continue with the 6.00 pm start for the Public Works and Planning Committee.

The Chairman then asked for Members to vote on whether they wish to revert to the 7.00 pm start. 4 Members voted to revert to the 7.00 pm start for the Public Works and Planning Committee.

RESOLVED THAT the meetings of the Public Works

and Planning Committee are to continue to start at

6.00 pm for a further 6 months of scheduled

meetings, i.e. June, July, September, October,

November and January 2016.

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