Minutes of a Meeting of the Public Works and Planning Committee

held at the Town Hall, Milford Haven

on Monday, 9th March, 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

273. APOLOGIES:

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

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

RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Meeting of

the Public Works and Planning Committee held

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

record and that they be signed by the Chairman.

275. INFORMATION FROM THE MAYOR:

Members were advised of the following engagement undertaken by the Mayor since the 23rd February, 2015:-

4th March - Attended launch of Dwr Cymru’s “Let’s Stop the Block” campaign (also attended by the Deputy Mayor).

276. CEMETERY:

(a) Report:

RESOLVED THAT the Cemetery Report, as

presented by the Clerk for the month of

February, 2015, be accepted.

(b) Risk Review 2015:

RESOLVED THAT:-

(i) the document be accepted and approved;

(ii) the Cemetery Land Acquisition and Maintenance

Group makes a site visit to Thornton Cemetery to

examine the footpaths and any other areas

of concern highlighted in the document.

(c) Application from the War Graves Commission to place “War Grave location”

signs at Cemetery:

Members gave consideration to an email from Mr. A. Knowlson, Regional Supervisor West, Commonwealth War Graves Commission, in which he sought permission to place ‘War Grave location’ signs on the gates at the entrance of the Cemetery.

The Chairman asked whether Mr. Knowlson had indicated on which gate he wished to place the signs. The Clerk replied that she had been informed by the Cemetery Supervisor that there is a gate at the Cemetery which is always closed and would be an ideal location for the signs to be placed.

The Clerk advised that the War Graves Commission had identified two further war graves in Milford Haven. The Mayor said that a Hubberston resident was interred in one of these graves, which had been identified as a war grave by Mr. J. Gale, a local historian.

RESOLVED THAT the Commonwealth War Graves

Commission be given permission to place ‘War

Grave location’ signs on the unused gate at the

entrance to Thornton Cemetery.

(d) Balance in Cemetery’s Building Maintenance Budget:

The Clerk said that she anticipated that there would be approximately £2,000 remaining in the Cemetery’s Building Maintenance Budget at the end of this financial year.

It was agreed to ask the Finance and General Purposes Committee if any balance in this budget could be carried over to the next financial year.

RESOLVED THAT the Public Works and Planning

Committee asks the Finance and General Purposes

Committee that any balance in the Building

Maintenance Budget be carried over to the

financial year 2015-2016.

277. 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 Page 1 of the attached report

(see Appendix B) be approved.

278. PLANNING INSPECTORATE APPEAL DECISION RE THE ERECTION OF A SINGLE 500 KW WIND TURBINE, ASSOCIATED TRANSFORMER ENCLOSURE AND ACCESS TRACK AT BARRETTS HILL, NEYLAND ROAD, STEYNTON, MILFORD HAVEN:

Members discussed a letter from the Planning Inspectorate in which he dismissed the appeal for the erection of a single 500 kW wind turbine, associated transformer enclosure, and access track at Barretts Hill, Neyland Road, Steynton, Milford Haven, as he considered that the proposed turbine would have a significant adverse effect on the character and appearance of the landscape.

Members welcomed the decision made by the Planning Inspector, which endorsed this Council’s opinions regarding the erection of wind turbines.

RESOLVED THAT a letter be written to the Head of

Planning, Pembrokeshire County Council, stating that

the decision made by the Planning Inspector to dismiss

the appeal for the erection of a single 500 kW wind

turbine, associated transformer enclosure, and

access track at Barretts Hill, Neyland Road, Steynton,

Milford Haven, is welcomed by this Council, and is an

indication that this area in terms of the presence of

wind turbines has reached saturation point.

279. “POSITIVE PLANNING: PLANNING FOR A BETTER FUTURE:”

Members discussed Planning Bulletin 7 from the Welsh Government which explained the progress of the Planning (Wales) Bill as it moves through the National Assembly for Wales’ legislative process.

The Bulletin stated that the Bill sets out a series of legislative changes to deliver reform of the planning system, to ensure that it is fair, resilient and enables development.

The Bill is now in Stage 2 of the four stages of scrutiny. If the Bill passes through all four stages, it is anticipated that it will receive Royal Assent in the summer of 2015.

RESOLVED THAT the document be received.

280. WALES IN BLOOM LAUNCH EVENTS 2015:

Members gave consideration to an email from the Secretary of the Wales in Bloom Launch Events in which she explained that Wales in Bloom is a very popular environmental campaign open to towns, villages and cities from across Wales. It is estimated to involve not only Local Authorities, but also thousands of volunteers, undertaking environmental and horticultural work, cleaning up and greening their local areas.

The main element of the campaign is the annual competition with marking centred around three main elements, Environmental Improvement and Responsibility, Community and Voluntary Participation, and Horticultural Excellence.

The Secretary advised that the South Wales Launch Event would take place on Friday, 27th March.

Members expressed their dismay at the manner in which the Pembrokeshire County Council is grassing over many of the flower beds in the Memorial Gardens, the Rath and Hamilton Terrace.

RESOLVED THAT:

(i) the email from the Secretary of the Wales in Bloom

be received;

(ii) a letter be sent to Mr. G. Codd, Manager of Area

Maintenance (South Team), Pembrokeshire County

Council, expressing Members’ concern that Milford

Haven’s flower beds are gradually being grassed over,

and Milford Haven is no longer looking as picturesque

as before when the flower beds were in bloom and

the town attracted a great deal of attention.

281. PEMBROKESHIRE COAST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY CAR PARKS:

An email was received from the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority which clarified that the Park Authority has no plans to increase car parking charges at present.

RESOLVED THAT the information be received.

282. DATE OF APRIL’S PUBLIC WORKS AND PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING:

The Chairman advised that the scheduled date of April’s Public Works and Planning Committee would be Easter Monday.

It was suggested that the meeting should be held the Monday after Easter Monday, which would be Monday, 13th April.

Members were reminded that Public Works and Planning Committee always take place prior to the Finance and General Purposes Committee and if the Finance and General Purposes Committee took place on 9th April, as scheduled, it would take place before the Public Works and Planning Committee on Monday, 13th April.

RESOLVED THAT:

(i) the date of April’s meeting of the Public Works and

Planning Committee is to be changed from Monday,

4th April to Monday, 13th April;

(ii) the Members of the Finance and General Purposes

Committee are to be asked whether they will consider

amending the date of their meeting to Thursday, 16th April.

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