Minutes of a Special Meeting of the

Public Works and Planning Committee

held at the Town Hall, Milford Haven

on Monday, 27th July, 2015 at 6:15 pm

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PRESENT

Councillors: E. R. Harries (Chairman) J. W. Cole

A. W. Eden M. P. Rickard

Councillors R. D. Evans, R. Gray and Mrs. Y. G. Southwell were also in attendance.

76. CHAIRMAN’S REMARKS:

The Chairman, Councillor E. R. Harries, welcomed Members to the meeting. He explained that he had called the meeting because he had been informed that the Council’s observations on Planning Application No. 15/0321/PA had to be forwarded to the Pembrokeshire County Council by 5th August.

The Chairman said that, although he had invited all Members of the Council to this meeting, in the event of a vote being taken only Members of the Public Works and Planning Committee will be allowed to vote. He advised that a report of the meeting would go to Full Council later this evening when everybody would have a further opportunity to express their feelings upon this particular issue.

77. APOLOGIES:

Apologies for absence were received from the Mayor, Councillor S. G. Joseph, the Deputy Mayor, Councillor W. D. Elliott BA, and Councillors C. A. Sharp and Mrs. C. Stevens. Apologies for absence were not received from Councillor Mrs. J. Hawkins.

78. TO DISCUSS PLANNING APPLICATION NO. 15/0321/PA – ERECTION OF A PRIMARY SCHOOL AND ASSOCIATED WORKS ON LAND OFF GELLISWICK ROAD, HAKIN, MILFORD HAVEN:

Councillor M. P. Rickard declared a personal interest in this issue as he is both a Coach and a member of the Milford Haven Rugby Club.

A Member said that he liked the plans for the school building but considered that the proposed location was unsuitable as it was near a busy road which raised health and safety concerns. The Member also highlighted a lack of nearby parking.

Members of the Committee endorsed these concerns, particularly the problems associated with parking.

Councillor Mrs. Y. G. Southwell, speaking as the Chairman of Hakin Community School, advised that following the two days of the plans being available at both Hakin Community and Hubberston V. C. Schools, the governing body and head teachers of both Schools had met with architects to discuss concerns, particularly regarding the

problems with parking and access. The results will be reported to another governing body meeting before the end of August. The planning application will be discussed by the County’s Planning Committee on 8th September.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Mrs. Y. G. Southwell for this information. He said that there should be a renewed planning application if further information is submitted.

The Chairman said that he was very concerned about other aspects of this application. Firstly, this particular recreational area is in the centre of one of the largest concentrations of population in the whole of Pembrokeshire and that leisure facility has provided a wonderful facility for many years. By restricting that area and fencing off the rugby pitch those facilities are going to be severely curtailed. Furthermore, the Chairman is historically very familiar with this particular area and what is called the Observatory Field was farmland grazed by many cattle. The Chairman believed that this land was ultimately endowed to Milford Haven Urban District Council as a recreational facility.

RESOLVED THAT the Public Works and Planning Committee

recommends to Full Council that Planning Application

15/0321/PA be refused on the following grounds:

(i) the play facilities are too limited;

(ii) car parking facilities are too limited and in an inappropriate

and insecure location;

(iii) the access to such parking is through a narrow lane leading

off Picton Road, which is also highly congested throughout the

day.

It was FURTHER RESOLVED THAT clarification be sought from

the Pembrokeshire County Council as to the ownership of the

land, which is believed to have been endowed to the Milford Haven

Urban District Council for leisure facilities only.

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