Minutes of a Special Meeting of the Town Regeneration

Environmental Action Team (TREAT)

held at the Town Hall, Milford Haven

on Monday, 14th September, 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: E. R. Harries

(Chairman – Public Works and Planning Committee)

R. D. Evans M. P. Rickard

C. A. Sharp Mrs. C. T. Williams

Councillor G. Woodham MBA (Open) LL.B (Hons)

The Council’s Secretary, Ms. F. K. Galliford, was also in attendance.

117. APOLOGIES:

Apologies for absence were received from the Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee, Councillor Mrs. Y. G. Southwell, and Councillors A. E. Byrne, A. W. Eden, R. Gray, and A. H. Miles.

118. TO MEET WITH MR. B. JENKINS, CHAIRMAN, AND MR. K. PARR, SECRETARY, OF MILFORD HAVEN BUSINESS CIRCLE, TO DISCUSS THEIR EXPERIENCES REGARDING MILFORD MARKET:

 The Mayor, Councillor S. G. Joseph, welcomed Mr. B. Jenkins, Chairman, Milford Haven Business Circle, and Mr. K. Parr, Secretary, Milford Haven Business Circle, to the meeting.

Councillor G. Woodham MBA (Open) LL.B (Hons) declared a personal interest as Treasurer of the Milford Haven Business Circle and his involvement with the Milford Market.

Councillor G. Woodham MBA (Open) LL.B (Hons) said that he was aware that both Mr. Jenkins and Mr. Parr were the main people involved in trying to attract new traders and in organising events to promote the market so that it would be attractive to customers. Mr. Jenkins and Mr. Parr run their own businesses, and on a Saturday, when the market was being held, they were not able to focus on those businesses because the market was so time consuming. Councillor G. Woodham MBA (Open) LL.B (Hons) understood that the market was effectively paused because that situation could not carry on, relying on just two volunteers and occasional help from some others to source traders, put up and take down stalls and manage the market on a Saturday.

A Member said that this Council has used public money to invest in the market. The Council has also set aside funding to help, where possible, to regenerate the town. It is incumbent upon Members to ensure that money is not wasted but used wisely. The Member stated that the reason for inviting Messrs Jenkins and Parr this evening was to seek their opinion on whether or not a market can be successfully re-established and to impart suggestions which will help to make that situation more sustainable.

The representatives made the following points:

\* There was no general support for the market.

\* Saturday is the wrong day for a market in Milford Haven as other markets in Pembrokeshire are generally held on Saturdays.

\* The market was in an unsuitable location with the gazebos being unfit for purpose. Mr. Jenkins said that if someone was driving down Charles Street, they would see the market and would drive past as there was nowhere to park. In addition, Charles Street is exposed to inclement weather which resulted in the market having to be closed on occasions.

\* There were insufficient funds available to publicise the market.

\* Traders need a permanent shelter or inside venue. An indoor market, such as the former Select shop in Charles Street, would be a handy platform for the traders.

Mr. Jenkins was asked whether he thought it would be better to hold a fortnightly or a monthly market rather than a weekly market. He replied that a fortnightly market would confuse customers more than traders.

Mr. Jenkins was asked whether he thought the market run by volunteers gives it stability. He replied in the negative.

Mr. Jenkins was asked his opinion as to whether it would be beneficial to appoint a funded position for someone to be the market manager.

Mr. Jenkins replied a market manager would earn between £10 and £17 per hour for a 35 hour week for an established market and more hours would be needed in Milford Haven to set the market up. Even if the funding was available to appoint a market manager, there would need to be more than one person available as the stalls need to be put up in the morning and taken down in the evening. This would result in a further cost implication.

A Member said that the main objective is to establish a facility which would draw people in from outside the area with the resulting spin off that people attending the market would visit the shops in Charles Street and provide extra trade.

Mr. Jenkins was asked whether he thought that there is a need for a market to be located in Milford Haven.

He replied “for an outdoor market no” but “for an indoor market, I would say yes”.

A Member asked Mr. Jenkins whether his advice to this Committee would be that the Council should no longer invest in an outdoor market in Charles Street, to which Mr. Jenkins replied in the affirmative.

Mr. Parr was then asked whether he was of the same opinion.

Mr. Parr indicated that he was, given the time that the market had to be cancelled because of the inclement weather. He said that the only way to combat this would be to put some sort of permanent shelter in Charles Street.

A Member stated that the clear opinion and advice from Messrs Jenkins and Parr was that an outdoor market in Milford Haven has no future. It would be inappropriate to investigate an alternative this evening.

A Member said that this Council’s primary objective is to see if a future can be ensured for what is historically the hub of shopping in the town – Charles Street.

The Mayor thanked Mr. B. Jenkins and Mr. K. Parr for attending the meeting and they left the meeting at this point.

 RESOLVED THAT TREAT is to obtain information

from the Pembrokeshire County Council regarding

the future of the area covered by those Pembrokeshire

County Council properties that are in a disgraceful state

of repair in Charles Street.

119. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AT THE OCTOBER TREAT MEETING:

Members considered the Agenda items for discussion at the October meeting of TREAT which will take place on Monday, 12th October, 2015.

 RESOLVED THAT the Agenda items be as follows:

 (i) Further investigations as to the possibility of a market in Charles Street.

 (ii) Review of the grant made to Milford Haven Business Circle for the

 Milford Market.

 (iii) Item(s) for discussion at the November TREAT Meeting.

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