

MILFORD HAVEN TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Social Media Group
held at the Milford Haven Sea Cadets and Royal Marines Cadets Unit
on Monday 8th July 2024 at 6:15pm

PRESENT

The Mayor (Councillor W. D. Elliott BA QTS)
The Deputy Mayor (Councillor E. A. Davies DipSM FJOIFF)

Councillors: N. Hartevelde BSc (Hons) GMBPsS (Chair)

L. J. Bridges
Mrs C. Stevens

Observer: Councillor Mrs L. McSparron

Mrs B. J. Fitzgerald, Town Clerk/Financial Officer
Ms F. K. Galliford, Town Council Secretary

The Chair of the Social Media Group, Councillor N. Hartevelde BSc (Hons) GMBPsS welcomed everyone to the Meeting of the Social Media Group.

63. APOLOGIES:

Apologies for absence were not received from Councillors C. Jones and M. Woodward.

64. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

No declarations of interest were received.

65. TO FURTHER DISCUSS THE WEBSITE PROVIDER FOR THE MILFORD HAVEN TOWN COUNCIL WEBSITE:

The matter of a website provider for the Milford Haven Town Council website was last discussed at the Meeting of the Social Media Group on Monday 24th June 2024. At that Meeting, a recommendation was made for a decision regarding the website provider to be made at this evening's Meeting.

The Chair mentioned that she felt it was beneficial for the Town Council Secretary to be present at this evening's Meeting (having been absent from the last Meeting following a family bereavement) due to her input with the present Town Council website.

The Chair asked Members if they had a preference from the three local companies who had submitted their interest.

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The Chair then indicated a preference for one of the companies, speaking positively of their pricing proposals, and noting that this company is responsible for an existing local Town Council's website.

A Member asked if there was an urgency relating to this matter, asking whether national website providers could be consulted. The Member stated that national companies could provide a significant cost saving, stressing the importance of saving public money.

The Member also asked about the protection of the server domain if a company was to cease trading, citing a recent local example.

The Town Council Secretary endorsed the Member's sentiments, noting that she was aware of a situation that had once impacted upon the Town Council and a neighbouring Town Council. (This situation had long since been resolved.)

Another Member raised awareness as to the Council's precept, indicating that any decision should be made with the Council's budget in mind.

RECOMMENDED THAT:

- (i) the Town Council Secretary is to look at the national/global website providers GoDaddy and Wix;
- (ii) the Town Council Secretary is also to liaise with the Clerks of two local Councils regarding their website providers;
- (iii) the Town Council Secretary is to observe the websites of prominent local companies such as the Port of Milford Haven and Pembrokeshire County Council to gather information that will facilitate this matter going forward.

A Member noted the length of the 'milfordhaventowncouncil.co.uk' website address and accompanying email addresses. Another Member stated that they had recently encountered a problem with their Council email address which had been declined from an online registration process due to its length.

RECOMMENDED THAT: these concerns be noted.

66. SOCIAL MEDIA UPDATE:

Although this was not on the Agenda, the Chair asked for this item to be considered.

A Member asked if a post could be made on the Town Council's Facebook page asking if people could get in touch if they wished for the Council to 'share' any news/events that they/their organisations may have. They gave an example of a local business that had recently relocated in the town that could be shared.

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Another Member mentioned that they believed that there had previously been concerns with the sharing of information relating to businesses on the Town Council's Facebook page, but they understood that this was no longer an issue.

RECOMMENDED THAT: a post be made on the Town Council's Facebook page asking for people to get in touch with any Milford Haven related information they would like the Town Council to share.
