

TENBY TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE TENBY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD 10th December 2013

PRESENT

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| Councillor Mrs Lane | Mayor |
| Councillor Mrs Rossiter | |
| Councillor Mrs Thomas | |
| Councillor W Rossiter | |
| Councillor Dr P Easy | |
| Councillor P Rapi | |
| Councillor T Hallett | |
| Councillor Mrs Putwain | |
| Councillor L Blackhall | |

ALSO PRESENT

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| Inspector Ross Evans | Dyfed-Powys Police |
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IN ATTENDANCE:

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| Mr A. Davies | Clerk to the Council/Financial Officer |
| Mrs L Hensman | Assistant Clerk |

The Mayor welcomed Inspector Ross Evans who delivered an update on local policing. He was pleased to report 'Operation Lion' i.e. the mobile police van in Tudor Square etc had been maintained during the autumn with positive feedback. In addition the unit is being made available for surgeries, however the provision of the unit in St George Street has been limited to when resources allow. Additional foot patrol officers have been secured for specific dates during December/January. He was pleased to report that providing a similar service during International Rugby matches had proved a success, in fact the extra officers' presence was so successful they were redeployed earlier to their original duties as no incidences occurred. He was pleased to say that two extra police officers and three student officers are starting locally, increasing manpower.

Councillor Mrs Putwain and Councillor L Blackhall joined the meeting.

The Inspector continued explaining that sadly two incidents had occurred, one in Saundersfoot and another in Tenby. He felt these were isolated incidents and he would continue to strive to reduce crime. As he had explained previously to the Clerk, although these incidents are terrible and unacceptable he gave reassurance that Tenby is not 'a no go area at weekends' and gave an invite for anyone concerned to accompany him out on patrol during a shift to witness at first hand how the town was being policed.

At present an avenue being researched by Dyfed –Powys police is to reduce street drinking by implementing a by law. The next step involved in the formal process is to undertake a local consultation hopefully before the summer. Councillor Rapi requested clarification on a street drinking by-law. The Inspector explained the by-law gives the police the power to confiscate open alcohol containers outside of designated areas, with the potential possibility of administering a fine. However, with the café culture situation timing and areas need to be discussed in great detail to accommodate local businesses and public houses. The overall view is to further reduce incidents of unsocial behaviour and the possibility of alcohol-induced violent crime.

Councillor W Rossiter asked if the by-law could be applied to the beaches. The Inspector felt policing the beaches would cause manpower difficulties; however policing the beach access routes would be more effective.

Councillor Mrs Rossiter asked the Inspector for his personal views in relation to the summer Harbour Spectaculars Events. He outlined there were 35 events in total in the town managed by the police and he encouraged events to take place to profile Tenby as a place to visit; however he had submitted a report to PCC on the Harbour events and attended meetings to discuss noise levels, litter and anti-social behaviour. Councillor Mrs Rossiter felt that the five charity spectacular events finish at 10pm and reminded all present that many streets cope with noise and anti-social behaviour 365 days of the year not just five. In addition the successful Round Table Senior Citizens meal provided free of charge is only possible through funds raised at these types of event. The Rotary and Lions donate money raised from these events to many local charities; they work hard for the benefit of others. The Inspector assured Councillors he is mindful of the charity events therefore he hoped the organisers would meet with the police and PCC licencing department to regulate and manage them in a safe and structured way, ultimately to reduce and prevent crime.

Councillor Mrs Putwain said as a harbour resident she was not against the five planned spectacular events, it is the sudden non planned events people are unprepared for. The Inspector felt the area is a fantastic venue for events as long as monitoring by licencing is maintained.

The Clerk took no part in discussions on the Tenby Harbour Spectacular Events.

Councillor Blackhall praised the police for the way they managed the events in Tenby this year, police presence was very evident and ensured many enjoyed the fantastic events staged. He felt the organisers are keen to work together with everyone from an early stage to ensure they can be managed to maintain these very important events in our town. In addition he asked if the by-law research could include consideration re management of street traders. The Inspector would look into the matter but it would depend on criteria as the by-law would be in place to prevent anti-social behaviour. He would consider the request but felt it may need to be a local authority led process rather than police led.

Councillor W Rossiter felt a by-law in relation to 'A' frames and litter should be considered as people could fall over the frames in some places. The Clerk informed Councillors this issue has been discussed previously and he is aware they are difficult to get a by-law for as other powers are in existence already to deal with 'A' frame issues.

The Clerk took the opportunity to thank the Inspector publically for the policing support during the Armistice Parade.

The Mayor thanked the Inspector for attending before he left the Chamber.

294. APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Councillor Mrs Brown and Councillor Mrs Durham.

295. DISCLOSURE OF PERSONAL INTERESTS

Councillor Dr Easy, Councillor Hallett, Councillor Blackhall, Councillor Mrs Rossiter, Councillor Mrs Brown and the Mayor declared a personal interest in item 10 De Valence.

296. ITEMS TO PRESS

Proposed by Councillor Blackhall, seconded by Councillor Hallett.

Resolved that items of Correspondence and Committee Minutes other than those items marked Not for Publication be given to members of the Press present.

297. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Resolved that the Minutes of the Tenby Town Council meeting held 26th November 2013 be confirmed and signed as accurate with the following amendment:

County Councillor M Williams referred to the 'Williams report' during his update, this item to be included in the minutes.

298. MATTERS ARISING

273 – Tenby Town Council Vacancy

The Clerk reported the vacancy had been declared on the 5th December 2013, therefore the public have 14 working days to respond to call for an election. In the event of no election required TTC will then have the powers to co-opt.

276 – County Councillor Report/Update

Councillor Mrs Thomas was very interested in the comment made by County Councillor M Williams in relation to the 'Williams report' that local Town Councils may gain more powers. The Clerk explained the report is looking into the restructure of unitary authorities, therefore if changes are made more powers could be delegated to local councils. TTC responded to the report stating we agree with changes and local councils having more powers within authorities on the proviso that these powers are suitably funded. The closing date for the review is December 2013, therefore the report should be available January/February 2014.

278 (238/221d) – Tenby Harbour Lighting

Councillor W Rossiter asked for clarification as to where the pontoon is as information received stated the lighting will be defused downwards towards the pontoon. The Clerk said this was the information received into the office and he presumed it referred to the boat area.

278 (258c)– Royal Playhouse site

The Clerk reported he had spoken to Mr Simon Fry and he would like to attend the TTC meeting on the 21st January 2014 to provide an update for Councillors on the Royal Playhouse site.

Resolved that TTC accept Mr S Fry offer to provide an update on Tenby Royal Playhouse site at TTC meeting on 21st January 2014.

278 (265) – Defibrillators

The Clerk reported he had received a list from the British Heart Foundation of premises in Pembrokeshire housing defibrillators. In Tenby it is Fecci's Ice Cream Parlour as previously stated and LNG are organising signage for the premises housing the defibrillators. The Mayor reported that although the premises house the equipment they are not trained to operate the defibrillator. Instructions are enclosed and the person using the machine takes full responsibility.

Councillor Mrs Rossiter felt it was a valuable piece of equipment and she expressed how pleased she was that premises were housing the machines; however perhaps premises that have longer opening hours should be considered. The Clerk reported that various locations had been suggested but it was up to the owners to agree and he was grateful to Fecci's who had.

282 Christmas Lighting

Councillor Mrs Thomas said she was aware the Christmas lighting was switched on but sadly without any ceremony, she wondered if something extra could be arranged for next year. The Clerk said Tenby Chamber of Trade and Tourism had expressed that they would like to hold a switching on event but unfortunately had been unable to organise one for this year. The Mayor proposed that the Christmas Lighting Committee meet and discuss these matters. Councillor Mrs Rossiter took the opportunity to congratulate the firm responsible for erecting and maintaining the Christmas Lights. Councillor Hallett added that one strip failed completely and they replaced the whole line efficiently without disruption to pedestrians or the traffic flow.

Councillor Blackhall felt that TTC should discuss the size and positioning of Tenby Christmas Tree again due to several general public comments.

286 – Good Neighbourhood Scheme

Councillor Mrs Thomas asked for an update on the Good Neighbourhood Scheme. The Clerk reported that every household in Tenby will be surveyed and they expect them all to be out by the middle of December. Mrs R Gibby the scheme co-ordinator has agreed to attend TTC meeting on 21st January 2014 to provide updated information following the survey. He was mindful that two speakers are attending the same meeting. Following discussion it was

Resolved that Mrs R Gibby PCC and Mr S Fry Tenby Royal Playhouse both be informed that they will be limited to a 20 minute presentation at the TTC meeting on 21st January 2014.

287 – PCC – Tenby Tourism Marketing Plans

Councillor Mrs Thomas asked if any information had been received from PCC in relation to their proposed tourism plans to market Tenby. The Clerk reported he had not received an acknowledgement for the letter he sent to Mr A Turner PCC.

299. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

a. NP/13/0569 – Mr Erik Arentz, 9 Merlin's Court, Tenby – Proposed velux over kitchen, 9 Merlin's Court, Tenby

Councillors viewed and discussed the planning application. Councillor Mrs Rossiter proposed approval as the proposal will improve the light amenity to the property without having an adverse effect on the neighbouring properties, seconded by Councillor Hallett.

RECOMMEND

Approval as the proposal will improve the light amenity to the property without having an adverse effect on the neighbouring properties.

300. CORRESPONDENCE

a. John Price PCC – Proposed 20 mph zone, Heywood Lane, Tenby

Councillors unanimously agreed this was excellent news at last that a 20 mph zone is proposed for Heywood Lane. It was

Resolved that a letter be sent to Mr J Price, Traffic Management, PCC expressing TTC delight and welcoming the long overdue proposal.

b. Pembroke Town Council – The Role of Alderman

Councillors requested confirmation of the duties of an Alderman from the Clerk. He explained that the name is a Saxon word for ‘Older man of the village’. They appointed someone onto the Council who had extensive knowledge of the village so the information would not be lost. They would be Senior Councillors in post for six years. In 1910 changes were made to remove voting rights. The position was abolished in 1972 but the unitary authority can still appoint Honorary Aldermen.

Councillor W Rossiter said the dictionary definition states the post gave honour and respect of long service to the town of village, second in command to the Mayor.

Councillor Mrs Putwain felt there seems to be no real point in reinstating the position and it is a waste of time.

The Mayor felt TTC should have the opportunity to appoint an Alderman even if they chose not to use it at present.

Councillor Mrs Rossiter felt TTC should support Pembroke Town Council, maintaining continuity and not letting these positions die. Councillor Hallett agreed we should support and not let the post go. Councillor Mrs Rossiter proposed TTC write to Pembroke Town Council and fully support the bid to restore the ability for town councils in Pembrokeshire to appoint Aldermen, seconded by Councillor Hallett.

Councillor Mrs Putwain proposed to not support to restore the appointment of Alderman. No Councillor seconded the proposal.

Vote taken on the first proposal, seven for, one against.

Resolved that TTC write Pembroke Town Council and fully support them in the bid to restore the ability for town councils in Pembrokeshire to appoint Aldermen.

c. One Voice Wales – Training modules 2014

The Clerk explained that One Voice Wales provide training courses for members and non-members with a different attendance fee. Therefore although we are not members they are asking for our preference on the courses offered. List was as follows:

- (1) Understanding the Law

- (2) Local Government Finance
- (3) The Council Meeting
- (4) Code of Conduct

Tenby Councillors discussed and nominated their preference as 4,3,2,1. It was

Resolved that the Clerk respond to One Voice Wales with TTC order of preference.

d. Ian Westley, PCC – Road closure, High Street/Tudor Square

The Clerk outlined the proposed road closure with two way traffic lights to be inserted at Crackwell Street on Saturday 14th December from 9-6pm for Tenby Winter Street Market. It was

Resolved that TTC note the information.

301. ACCOUNTS FOR NOVEMBER 2013

Councillors reviewed and discussed the accounts. Councillor Hallett proposed acceptance of the accounts for November 2013, seconded by Councillor Blackhall.

Resolved that the accounts for November 2013 be accepted.

302. DE VALENCE

Councillor Blackhall reported that the sales for New Year have not been as rapid as last year. He wished everyone to know it was a fabulous event and one not to be missed. He wished the event holder every success for another fabulous evening.

303. REPORTS BY COUNCILLORS ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Councillor Rapi reported he had attended the Official Museum Exhibition opening of work by Mr John Beck. It was a thoroughly enjoyable event and Mr Beck who is 99 years old is a remarkable man. He attended the Tenby Round Table Senior Citizens Christmas Meal that was also very enjoyable and thanked the Round Table members for all their hard work.

Councillor Dr P Easy reported he had attended the St Teilo's School Governors meeting discussing performance, statistics and approval of the financial budget for 2014/15.

Councillor Mrs Putwain reported she had attended the Tenby Charities Trustees meeting and they still have pensioner vacancies.

Councillor Mrs Thomas reported she attended the Tenby MIU nurses farewell tea on the 29th November. Although it was sad, she was glad to report that the fight for the unit continues with a few more irons in the fire. The Chairman of SEPCHN asked her to mention that locals are a little confused feeling that Tenby Cottage Hospital is closed as well as the MIU. She asked that the press could inform the general public that clinics and other services are still open.

The Mayor reported she has had a very busy but enjoyable time having attended the Tenby Round Table Senior Citizens Dinner, Greenhill School Christmas Concert, Tenby Fire Brigade Christmas Dinner and Tenby District Lions Christmas Dinner. She thanked all the organisations for their hard work throughout the year and for taking time to invite her.

The Clerk reported he had received a letter noting that Councillor P Rapi has been nominated and accepted as Additional Community Governor of Tenby Junior School.

304. MEDIA ITEMS

Councillor Mrs Rossiter wished to say following the lady's letter in the Tenby Observer that people must realise the dog waste bag dispensers are for emergencies only. She proposed to write to the lady and explain that the dispensers are filled twice a week and we are sorry she had run out of her own bags at the same time. The onus is on the dog owner to clean up after their pets. It was documented in the Daily Mail newspaper that Councillor W Evans is giving money out of his own pocket to people that report offenders.

Councillor W Rossiter said there is more dog mess around now than in the summer. People should be buying their own dog bags as well as using the top up service.

He felt the amount TTC is spending on dog bags we could be employing our own dog warden. Councillor Mrs Rossiter said people need to report offenders to the PCC Dog Wardens. It was

Resolved that the Dog Wardens' telephone number be placed on the Dog Dispenser boxes.

Councillor Dr Easy commented on the Tenby Market Hall press story relating to it being under threat of closure. He felt this is another occasion when TTC do not get the opportunity to discuss situations and then it is too late. The Clerk said PCC cabinet have agreed a scoping exercise for all four of its indoor markets with a raft of options: PCC maintain the markets themselves, private sector take over the running or close. Councillor Dr Easy felt TTC should set its stall early and get involved if PCC are not interested in maintaining the market in Tenby. Councillor Mrs Thomas felt TTC should liaise with the market traders. The Mayor felt we should find out first and as Councillor Adams PCC has invited local Councillors to attend a meeting on settlement and service delivery at County Hall perhaps TTC representatives will be able to find out additional information and report back at the next meeting. Unfortunately the Mayor and Councillor Mrs Brown who had been nominated to attend are now unable to go due to another engagement. Following discussion it was

Resolved that Councillor Blackhall and Councillor Hallett will attend the settlement and service delivery meeting at PCC.

The Clerk read out a letter received from Mr John Griffiths AM, Minister for Culture and Sport, Welsh Assembly, congratulating Councillor Mrs S Lane, the In Bloom Committee and all the volunteers on the excellent result obtained in the International Communities in Bloom Competition. He was pleased Tenby had put itself, Pembrokeshire and Wales on the map to encourage tourism in the area.

305. WIFI COVERAGE, DE VALENCE

Councillor Rapi felt that in this day of modern technology it would now be an advantage to have wifi coverage in the parlour. This would allow Councillors the ability to have meeting literature electronically on tablets and would also save paper costs. The Clerk reported that we have wifi in the building but have always had difficulty accessing a signal in the parlour; however he was aware of a router booster that is available to enhance the coverage in a building. The Mayor felt the booster would be worth trying first.

Councillor Rapi proposed TTC try to access wifi coverage down in the parlour, seconded by Councillor Dr Easy.

Resolved that TTC try to access wifi coverage down in the Mayor's Parlour.

306. STONES ON THE SOUTH BEACH

Councillor W Rossiter felt more and more stones are covering Tenby's golden sands and they are steadily approaching the end of South Beach. He was aware of the movement of sand according to the waves; however he wondered if there is a machine that could pick up the stones and put them back at the Giltar end of the beach to act as a breaker.

Councillor Hallett felt you cannot interfere with nature and the sand is taken away by the sea every year and returns every year. However stones have been under the sand for years, and as the sand is moving around to the North Beach they are more noticeable. The sand will come back for the summer.

Councillor Mrs Thomas felt the Environmental department can be accessed for advice and support and may even have grants funding to help the situation.

The Mayor explained that over the years several people have attended TTC meeting to give advice and support to this and similar issues. Perhaps the latest coastal erosion survey can be accessed.

Councillor W Rossiter said during the 60s, and 70s there was not as many stones present as now. Councillor Mrs Rossiter agreed that as a child the sand was golden and very little stone coverage was evident. She continued explaining that Professor Tony Thomas had researched extensively into the South Beach erosion and could be asked if he would attend a TTC meeting to explain his findings.

Councillor Rapi talked about the concrete breakers that were removed from the South Beach as he felt it has contributed to the sand movement and the increased presence of stones.

Councillor Mrs Rossiter proposed TTC write and ask Professor T Thomas if he would attend a TTC meeting to give his views on the increase in stones on South Beach, seconded by Councillor Hallett.

Resolved that TTC write and ask if Professor T Thomas could attend a council meeting to discuss and provide information following his research on the sand erosion on Tenby South Beach, to enable Councillors to have a better understanding.

307. FINANCIAL OFFICER/CLERK'S ITEMS

The Clerk informed Councillors they have been invited to a special performance of 'Much Ado About Nothing' at Greenhill School. The play will take place on Wednesday 18th December at 3.45pm, any Councillor able to attend please inform the Clerk so seats can be reserved.

The Clerk reported he had received a request from Mr L Fisher, Tenby House, asking if TTC would consider a donation towards the insurance costs for the fireworks on New Year's Eve. Following discussion, Councillor Hallett proposed TTC donate £250 towards the insurance costs for the fireworks on New Year's Eve, seconded by Councillor Rapi.

Resolved under Section 144 (LGA 72) to forward a cheque for £250 towards the insurance costs for the fireworks on New Years Eve.

Twelve months ago the Clerk reported that Mr John Morgan, St Mary's Verger and Tenby Mace Bearer had asked about refurbishing the Role of Honour book; however they could not access anyone to carry out the work. Since that time the Clerk has researched and found a company himself who are able to undertake the work; however it comes at a cost of approximately £1400. The work required includes individual names inscribed on vellum for local casualties of World War II and the recent conflict in Afghanistan and rebinding of the book. St Mary's Church previously asked if TTC would support them with a financial contribution towards the work and have resubmitted that request for Councillors to consider. If TTC are able to help financially they would like to dedicate the book during the anniversary of the outbreak of World War I next year. The Church and TTC felt there should be an opportunity to invite members of the public to forward donations towards the role of honour book refurbishment if they so wished.

Councillor Mrs Rossiter proposed TTC donate half the cost as we owe it to the people of Tenby who gave their lives, seconded by Councillor Hallett.

Councillor Mrs Putwain felt TTC could initially launch a public appeal with a donation of £500-£600 to kick start the project. This would lead the way for additional support.

Following discussion it was

Resolved that TTC liaise with St Mary's Church on the project, initially paying the 30% deposit to start the process of updating the Role of Honour Book.

The Clerk reported he had received a verbal request from the President of Tenby Lions about donating four beach wheelchairs for the town. He explained how the Mayor and office staff felt this was a wonderful idea and still do; however if TTC accept the chairs who is going to maintain them, operate the hiring at weekends and provide the insurance cover etc. Following discussion it was felt that questions required addressing before progress is taken any further by the Lions, therefore it was

Resolved that TTC write to Mr E Weldrake, President of Tenby Lions and request additional information before the wheelchairs are accepted.

308. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The Clerk explained that this was the last meeting before the New Year and requested if Councillors would agree to the Mayor and himself being delegated discretionary powers to make decisions on council matters requiring attention during the Christmas recess. Councillor Hallett proposed the Mayor and the Clerk be given discretionary powers during the Christmas recess, seconded by Councillor Mrs Thomas. It was

Resolved that the Mayor and the Clerk be delegated discretionary powers to consult on matters of council business and take the appropriate action during the Christmas recess.

Resolved that the next meeting will take place on Tuesday 7th January 2014 at 7.30pm.

309. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

Town Walls – Councillor Blackhall

Tenby Market – Councillor Dr Easy

Defibrillators Councillor Rossiter

310. PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

Resolved that the Council (or Committee) moves into private session under the Public Bodies (admission to Meeting) Act of 1960 by virtue of the business to be transacted would be prejudicial to members of the Public.

311. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Resolved that the Private and Confidential Minutes of Tenby Town Council Meeting held 26th November 2013 be confirmed and signed as accurate:

312. MATTERS ARISING

293 – (271) De Valence Rubbish

The Clerk reported that the rubbish issue is being dealt with effectively with good liaison taking place between TTC and PCC.

In relation to the bollards, these will be installed in the New Year following final confirmation of our curtilage.

313. CONFIRMATION OF FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Councillors read the recommendations made at the Finance Committee meeting. Following discussion it was proposed by Councillor Blackhall to accept all the recommendations of the Finance Committee without modification, seconded by Councillor Rapi.

Resolved that TTC accept the recommendations of the Finance Committee and set the budget for 2014/15 at £149,422.61, a Band D equivalent of £56.77.

Mayor _____

Town Clerk _____

Date _____