

TENBY TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE TENBY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD 10th November 2015

PRESENT

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

Mayor

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr A. Davies
Mrs L Hensman

Clerk to the Council/Financial Officer
Assistant Clerk

263. APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Councillor Mrs Durham, Councillor Mrs Brown and Councillor Evans.

264. DISCLOSURE OF PERSONAL INTERESTS

Councillor Dr Easy declared a personal interest in Item 12.

265. ITEMS TO PRESS

Proposed by Councillor Hallett, seconded by Councillor Mrs Thomas.

Resolved that items of Correspondence and Committee Minutes other than those items marked Not for Publication be given to members of the Press present.

266. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Resolved that the Minutes of the Tenby Town Council held 27th October 2015 be confirmed and signed as accurate.

267. MATTERS ARISING

242 – TTC Casual Vacancy for South Ward

The Clerk reported the two week declaration period for the second south ward council vacancy expires on the 17th November 2015. Following the passing of the declaration period, if no election is called, PCC will advise TTC they can commence the co-option process.

189 – Dead House Steps

Councillor Hallett asked if any further information had been received in relation to dead house steps repairs. The Clerk said he had received no further information other than that reported at the last meeting.

233 – Town Crier Robes

Councillor Hallett asked if there was any news on the robes for the Town Crier. Councillor Mrs Thomas said she had been discussing the robes with the Town Clerk and Town Crier and provisional enquiries had been made.

223 – Christmas Festivities 2015

The Clerk circulated the Christmas Festivities meeting report for councillors to be aware of the event arrangements.

Councillor Mrs Lane reported the owners of Country Kitchen had donated £65.00 to the Christmas Festivities events. This money was raised from the 5p carrier bag charges during the last year. She felt this was a very positive way for local businesses to support the event as it could mean it becomes self-funding.

Councillors involved with the festivities events reported on the plan of action that has been successfully sorted.

Councillor Mrs Lane proposed TTC send a thank you letter to Country Kitchen owners Alison and Debbie and that a letter to Tenby Chamber of Trade and Tourism supporting the idea of 5p carrier bag charges being considered for donation to Christmas Festivities, seconded by Councillor Hallett.

Councillor Blackhall proposed TTC inform the Tenby Observer as they are not present to note the donation from Country Kitchens towards the Christmas Festivities Event, seconded by Councillor Hallett.

Resolved that TTC send a thank you letter to Country Kitchen owners and a letter to Tenby Chamber of Trade and Tourism supporting the idea of 5p carrier bag charges being considered for donation to Tenby Christmas Festivities events.

Resolved that TTC inform the Tenby Observer of the £65.00 donation from Country Kitchens towards Christmas Festivities Events from their 5p carrier bag charges all year.

249b – Tenby Flood Warning – VMS signs

The Clerk reported he had attended a site meeting with Councillor M Evans and Mr Lowther PCC to discuss the Welcome to Tenby and VMS signage. Following the meeting it was agreed to have two separate signs at the North entrance to town. The Greek motto for the Gateway to Tenby sign will have translations in Welsh and English and be placed on Bells Corner. The VMS information warning sign will be sited behind the flower beds, on the grassed area by the Lady Park entrance.

252 – Media – Tenby Ordinance Survey

Councillor W Rossiter asked if the Ordinance Survey Authority had responded to the query about Bowman's Rock. The Clerk said the names have been the same on the maps since the 1930s; however they are re-vamping the maps at the moment so will look into the query.

Councillor Hallett said he was aware local Tenby residents have different names for places to the official names.

268. REPORT OF TENBY REGENERATION MEETING

Councillor Mrs Lane asked several questions relating to the WiFi and for clarification as to who will be responsible for the ongoing costs outlined in the notes.

The Clerk explained PCC has agreed funding to pay the capital costs for the WiFi installation in Pembrokeshire Towns; however the ongoing costs for Tenby area were going to be met by Tenby

Chamber of Trade and TTC. Unfortunately the Chamber of Trade has minimal funds at present due to the withdrawal of the street market, which was the intended funding for the WiFi running costs. He was aware the figures proposed for on-going costs looks scary; however the contractor did explain to the regeneration committee these were the optimum charge if all the access points needed total set-up; however it was anticipated the running costs would be much less.

There would be a meeting of the WiFi providers with all the town regeneration teams at PCC on the 24th November 2015. Discussion and clarification would highlight more accurate ongoing costs, plus the Chamber of Trade would have had time to look at alternative ways of funding their part of the commitment to the scheme.

Councillor Mrs Lane felt TTC were being railroaded into having to pick up all the shortfall spending costs for this and expressed how unfair it is when TTC only agreed in principle to support the project, at no time were figures proposed.

The Clerk re-iterated that TTC did agree to support the WiFi proposal initially outlined by Mr C Osborne before PCC took on this larger project to supply WiFi to towns in Pembrokeshire. He was aware of a few minor blackspot areas on the map like the railway station; however this could be discussed with other local businesses willing to site the service points on their premises to increase the WiFi coverage.

Councillor Hallett felt the new super-fast broadband cabinets had been installed to include the free WiFi scheme and expressed his personal worries of people being able to hack personal accounts etc.

Councillor Blackhall reassured councillors of the safety and security aspects of the WiFi systems. He explained that discussions on the financial costs of the WiFi were ongoing and it was very unlikely the running costs would be as high as predicted following the conversation at meetings he had attended. Some of the costs could be transferred into the capital costings and TTC need to be listening to the support Tenby Chamber of Trade are looking into, as these proposals could reduce costs even further. He personally felt it would be sad for TTC to opt out at this stage until figures are fully sorted, as WiFi is an important way forward for the future in Tenby.

The Mayor agreed the costings are high for the town to take on and he felt some smaller towns would struggle to meet the same level of costs.

The Clerk and Councillor Blackhall both expressed again these figures are the worst case scenario and some towns may not take on the WiFi; therefore PCC would have more money to spread across the towns accepting the WiFi scheme.

The Clerk continued explaining TTC needed to decide very soon on the level of financial support they are giving so it can be included in the budget for 2016/17.

Councillor Mrs Lane suggested TTC set a cap on the figure they are prepared to pay for ongoing WiFi costs.

Councillor Mrs Thomas suggested TTC wait until after the scheduled PCC meeting before making any decisions as to financial commitment.

The Clerk said the date of the regeneration meeting is the 24th November; however he had no time as yet.

Councillor Mrs Thomas proposed TTC change the date and time of its council meeting to allow for representatives to attend the regeneration meeting, seconded by the Mayor.

Resolved that the Clerk schedule the TTC meeting for either Tuesday 24th November or Wednesday 25th November at 7pm, depending on the time of the Regeneration meeting.

269. PLANNING CORRESPONDENCE

a. PCNPA – Tree work at Tenby multi-storey car park

The Clerk outlined the tree work proposed is to reduce the spread of the trees at the multi-storey car park. Mr Higgins PCNP had previously arranged a site meeting to review the trees, which he attended along with Councillor Hallett.

He continued explaining a member of the general public living in Trafalgar Road had expressed concern in writing and verbally about the rate of growth of the trees further along from the ones mentioned, which are now reducing the natural light into their property. The Clerk did explain the lady needed to contact Mr Higgins to express her concerns and the possibility of the roots undermining her boundary wall. Unfortunately TTC could not comment on these trees as they were not included in this tree works application.

Councillor Hallett said a schedule of works program had been set up several years ago but sadly the work has not been maintained and now the trees are in need of pruning.

The Clerk said according to Mr Higgins the trees along this section of the multi storey were designed to be a sound buffer and soften the visual impact of the concrete multi storey car park.

Councillor Hallett proposed approval of the proposed tree works, seconded by Councillor Mrs Lane.

Recommend approval of proposed tree works.

Councillor Mrs Rossiter proposed TTC ask PCC if they would consider painting the alleyway between the car park and Sainsbury's as it is in desperate need of maintenance, seconded by Councillor Hallett.

Resolved that TTC ask PCC to consider painting the alleyway between the multi storey car park and Sainsbury's.

270. CORRESPONDENCE

a. Welsh Government – Consultation: Alternative delivery models in public service delivery

Councillor Mrs Thomas said following reading the consultation document relating to alternative delivery models in public service delivery, it left here with many unanswered questions including:

- What services will be cut?
- How will they be financed?
- How many services do PCC presently provide?
- If they give services back to the community, will they give the assets back as well?

Councillor Dr Easy felt the questions posed by Councillor Mrs Thomas were the answers required for the consultation document. He proposed Councillor Mrs Thomas and the Clerk work on the consultation response on behalf of TTC, seconded by Councillor Mrs Lane.

Resolved that Councillor Mrs Thomas and the Clerk complete the alternative delivery models in public service delivery consultation response on behalf of TTC.

Councillor Blackhall felt more and more services will be looked at and delivered locally in the community over the coming months and years, which he ultimately felt is a positive move. Local people having control over the way services are delivered in their town is a winning goal for the future.

Councillor Mrs Lane said previously it had been said people can do without town councils but now the questions are being posed do PCC need several officers being paid £100,000 a year, whilst town and community councillors are working for nothing.

Councillor Mrs Thomas said she has been on the town council since the power was taken away for Tenby and yet since PCC took back the power nothing has happened, except for increases in rates.

Councillor W Rossiter felt control of the towns would not work like before as they transferred the power to get rid of local government.

Councillor Hallett said PCC are not managing the level of services needed with funding; therefore town and community councils cannot manage extra services without additional funding.

b. National Assembly for Wales – Consultation on the draft Public Services Ombudsman (Wales) Bill

Councillor Dr Easy proposed he was willing to read and work with the Clerk on the Public Services Ombudsman (Wales) bill consultation, seconded by Councillor Mrs Thomas.

Resolved that Councillor Dr Easy and the Town Clerk work on the Public Services Ombudsman (Wales) bill consultation.

c. Tenby Chamber of Trade and Tourism – October meeting minutes

Councillor Mrs Rossiter said she was disheartened to read the item in the minutes relating to improving Street Trading as surely the chamber are aware TTC has been working and trying to control the problem for years.

The Clerk felt their concerns like TTC's are focusing on trying to control the service providers issues.

d. PCC – Installation of charging mechanisms, Tenby South Beach toilets

Councillor Mrs Lane felt the information about charging at Tenby South Beach toilets should be noted as they were telling the council and not asking for TTC opinion on the proposed charges.

Councillor Blackhall said he felt strongly that money taken at Tenby toilet facilities will be spent elsewhere in the county and not solely on improving our toilet facilities. He noted that charging is only occurring in Tenby and Whitesands two high tourist areas. He requested confirmation of any other towns that are going to have charging mechanisms installed.

Councillor Mrs Thomas reported that she was aware that most places you go around in the country have toilet charges.

Councillor Blackhall responded stating he was not against toilet charges just the fact Tenby is the main town being targeted for charging.

Councillor Mrs Lane felt they should propose charges for all public conveniences in Pembrokeshire.

Following discussion it was

Resolved that the Clerk enquire if any other towns are to be considered for charging at their toilet facilities.

e. Hywel Dda University Health Board – Transforming Mental Health Services

Councillor Mrs Rossiter said TTC asked for someone from the Mental Health Services department to come and talk to councillors about the facilities they have to offer local people.

The Clerk reported the Mental Health Team had asked to attend the 9th December 2015 council meeting to provide information on new services accessible in the Tenby area. It was

Resolved that the Hywel Dda Mental Health Team attend the TTC meeting on 9th December 2015 to provide information on new services being provided locally.

271. ACCOUNTS OCTOBER 2015

The Clerk and Councillors discussed various aspects about the October 2015 accounts which included scheduled payments, un-presented cheques, receipts, account balances, budget monitoring to date and bank reconciliations.

Councillor Hallett proposed acceptance of the October 2015 accounts, seconded by Councillor Dr Easy.

Resolved that the accounts for October 2015 including scheduled payments, un-presented cheques, receipts, account balances, budget monitoring to date and bank reconciliations be accepted.

272. REPORTS BY COUNCILLORS ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Councillor Blackhall reported on the recent events that had taken place in the De Valence including the Chairman of Pembrokeshire County Council's Ironman thank you party. Information was given that Pembrokeshire will host the event for 2016 and discussions are ongoing at present in relation to hosting the event in the future.

He continued explaining the De Valence was used to provide refreshment for those who attended Mrs Pauline Allen's funeral. He was proud that this was such a valuable use of a community building.

Finally he reported on the forthcoming Blues Festival and Hunt Ball, requesting if anyone is able to help in any way, please can they let him know as soon as possible.

Councillor Mrs Lane suggested the De Valence committee contact the catering department at Pembrokeshire College to see if they would be interested in work experience placements.

The Mayor reported he had attended the Temporary Welsh Primary School Governors meeting. At this meeting it was decided the Head teacher post would be advertised and a Personnel Committee was formulated for the interview process.

He continued thanking Councillors for supported the Remembrance Service at the War Memorial last weekend that was extremely well attended.

Councillor Mrs Lane expressed disappointment that the parade did not wait for the Mayor before setting off.

The Clerk said the matter of the March had been discussed and would be address at all future parades.

273. MEDIA

Councillor Hallett reported on article in the Wester Mail about Robert Recorde following the recent successful event held at Tenby Museum.

274. BRYNHIR

The Clerk reported Councillor Evans had requested this item to commence discussion on TTC's vision for Brynhir site; however he had given his apologies for the meeting.

Councillor Mrs Lane proposed the item be placed on the next agenda in the absence of Councillor Evans, seconded by Councillor Mrs Rossiter.

Resolved that Brynhir be placed on the next TTC meeting agenda.

275. FINANCIAL OFFICER/CLERK'S ITEMS

a. Welsh Government update for Community and Town Councils – October 2015

The Clerk reported he had received an update from the Welsh Government on various White Paper Good Practice Guides affecting councils. The document is available in the TTC office for anyone wishing to read the updates.

b. PCNP – Local Development Plan – Six Monthly Progress Report

The Clerk said he had received the six monthly progress report on the LDP for Tenby. He proceeded to read out the report and explained a copy will be kept in TTC office for anyone wishing to read the document in more detail.

c. Elly's Pembrokeshire Flag – Ward 10 Fundraising

The Clerk reported he had received an e-mail requesting a letter of support from TTC for Elly's Pembrokeshire Flag fundraising to improve cancer services in Pembrokeshire.

Councillor Hallett proposed TTC send a letter of support to Elly's Pembrokeshire Flag fundraising scheme to improve cancer services in Pembrokeshire, seconded by Councillor Mrs Thomas.

Resolved that TTC send a letter of support to Elly's Pembrokeshire Flag fundraising scheme to improve cancer services in Pembrokeshire.

276. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved that the next meeting will take place on Tuesday 24th November 2015 or Wednesday 25th November 2015 at 7.00pm, depending on the time of the Regeneration meeting at County Hall on the 24th November. Carten representatives will be attending this meeting to talk about their next event.

277. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

Brynhir – All Councillors
WiFi – Councillor Hallett

278. PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

Proposed by Councillor Hallett, seconded by Councillor Mrs Thomas.

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.

279. MINUTES

Resolved that the Private and Confidential Minutes of Tenby Town Council Meeting held 27th October 2015 be confirmed and signed as accurate.

280. MATTERS ARISING

259 – Maintenance

Councillor Mrs Lane reported that she had recently had a meeting with the Clerk, Councillor Evans and Mr Marc Wright, Head Gardener, PCC. During this meeting financial allocation of flowers for each specific board or bed in Tenby was discussed, promoting the best scenario for each garden. The invoice will not be processed until the new financial year, allowing for it to be paid from the TTC budget 2016/17.

Councillor Mrs Lane reported she had given £1500 from Tenby in Bloom fund raising for shrubs to be purchased to reduce the bed sizes to mean less bedding plants will be needed in the future. In addition she outlined her sponsorship of a bed scheme and was pleased to report two local businesses had already verbally agreed to sponsor a specific Tenby garden bed. It is hoped several other businesses will follow suit once they are aware of the cost. Appropriate signage showing sponsorship of various gardens would also be provided.

261 – Brynhir

Councillor Mrs Rossiter asked if the Clerk had been able to look into the possibility of a Public Works Loans Board loan to purchase some of the land.

The Clerk reported that all borrowing by town councils had to be approved by the Welsh Government. For loans over £50,000, councils need to submit a copy of their financial appraisal and a Business Plan for the loan usage. While there may be a case to be made to acquire some of the land to extend the cemetery in the future, it would be difficult to present a business case to

purchase land that could lay dormant for 50 years. Also PCC appeared to be moving very quickly over the proposed sale, giving little time to work up a business case, seek loan approval and secure the loan in time. Further when TTC had previously had a works loan for £15,000 for refurbishment of the De Valance this had only been granted for a 10 year term. This appeared to be the normal PWLB repayment period and, as the asking price on the land was in the region of £500,000 per acre, this could make for substantial repayment figures with no projected income stream from the land.

In addition the Clerk personally felt it was very unlikely PCC would sell off the land at Brynhir in smaller portions.

Mayor _____

Town Clerk _____

Date _____