

TENBY TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE TENBY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD 11th December 2012

PRESENT

Councillor T Hallett Mayor
Councillor Mrs Lane
Councillor Mrs Durham
Councillor Mrs Brown
Councillor Mrs Thomas
Councillor Blackhall
Councillor W Rossiter

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr A. Davies Clerk to the Council/Financial Officer
 Mrs L Hensman Assistant Clerk

298. APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Councillor Dr P Easy, Councillor Mrs Rossiter, Councillor P Rapi, Councillor Mrs Putwain and Councillor A Brown.

The Clerk read a letter received from Councillor Mrs Putwain explaining that she has not been able to attend TTC meetings over several months due to post operative pain and mobility difficulties following surgery to her knee. She was aware that this meant that she could be disqualified from being a councillor under the terms of the Local Government Act 1972 but requested that the councillors accept her sincere apologies, and mitigating circumstances, for not attending. She hoped to be able to resume her duties as a Councillor following the Christmas recess.

Councillors discussed the request; it was proposed by Councillor Mrs Lane to accept the reasons for non attendance, seconded by Councillor Blackhall.

Resolved that reasons for Councillor Mrs Putwain's non attendance at TTC meetings over the last months be accepted and that she not be disqualified under the terms of the Local Government Act 1972.

Councillor Mrs Brown abstained from the vote.

299. DISCLOSURE OF PERSONAL INTERESTS

None noted.

300. ITEMS TO PRESS

Proposed by Councillor Mrs Brown seconded by Councillor Mrs Durham.

Resolved that items of Correspondence and Committee Minutes other than those items marked Not for Publication be given to members of the Press present.

301. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Resolved that the Minutes of the Tenby Town Council held 27th November 2012 be confirmed and signed as accurate.

302. MATTERS ARISING

285a –Review of Residents Parking Schemes

Councillor W Rossiter asked if any further correspondence had been received in relation to the resident parking schemes. The Clerk reported nothing had been received.

303. CORRESPONDENCE

a. National Assembly for Wales – Consultation on the Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Bill

Councillor Blackhall felt in relation to Access of Information (Town and Community Councils section) TTC is ahead of requirements with Council minutes accessible on the website and communication with the Clerk available by e-mail.

Resolved that TTC are successfully meeting information criteria.

304. ACCOUNTS FOR NOVEMBER 2012

Councillors discussed the accounts, proposed acceptance of the accounts for November 2012, by Councillor Mrs Lane, seconded by Councillor Mrs Brown.

Resolved that the accounts for November 2012 be accepted.

305. DE VALENCE

Councillors Mrs Brown asked if the heating in the main hall would be running by New Years Eve. The Clerk explained that the boiler had arrived and has been craned over the Town Walls. The unit will be installed by the manufacturing company and not our local contractor, however our local contractor is pressurising the company to complete the work as soon as possible.

Councillor Mrs Brown asked if any Councillors are available to help the office staff run the De Valence during the Saundersfoot Footlights booking as she is away. The Mayor and Councillor Blackhall volunteered to be responsible for the building on Saturday 15th December 2012.

Councillor Blackhall highlighted a concern for the New Years Eve event in the De Valence, requesting that when people leave the De Valence to walk to Tudor Square they be defused in alternative directions rather than all walking down Upper Frog Street. Councillor Mrs Brown explained the organiser had discussed and has a plan of action for all eventualities on the night of the event.

Although not related to the De Valence, Councillor Blackhall also felt that, in relation to New Years Eve, consideration needed to be given to the protection of the Dyster Fountain as scaffolding is in close proximity at present and will be in situ during New Year. Councillors discussed the concerns in detail, it was proposed by Councillor Mrs Lane for the Clerk to discuss the concerns of TTC with the Scaffolding Company ensuring the Dyster Fountain is protected during New Year festivities, seconded by Councillor Mrs Brown.

Councillor W Rossiter felt that police and PCSOs would be present in Tudor Square monitoring the area during this event and perhaps we should inform them of TTC concerns.

Resolved that the Clerk discuss protection of the Dyster Fountain initially with Merry Bros Scaffolding Company to ensure adequate measures will be in place for New Years Eve.

306. JUBILEE PLAY PARK

The Clerk reported he is still awaiting the visit of Mr Widdas, Urban Recreation to try various chemicals on the rubber matting graffiti. Matching paint for the main wall has been ordered and is ready for collection.

307. REPORTS BY COUNCILLORS ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Councillor Mrs Lane reported she had attended a meeting at PCC along with the Clerk. The meeting was with Dr Jones and Mr I Westley to discuss the proposed plans to enter the International Community in Bloom Competition. Various avenues of help were discussed including access to policy documents required for inclusion in the portfolio. Both senior managers felt that Tenby should go ahead with this venture and they would support where and however they can, requesting to be kept informed with all information as it becomes available. She continued explaining that the Clerk had spoken to the Chairman of Lytham in Bloom who had provided positive information that Tenby in Bloom are on the right track with thoughts of what is involved when entering this competition. At present letters are being drafted asking businesses for support on specific projects in close proximity to their premises or related to their company. Entering this International in Bloom competition is looking very positive for advertising Tenby to many countries.

The Mayor reported he has attended various Christmas function held by local organisations. He expressed his thanks to all the organisations for their input and support in Tenby.

308. MEDIA ITEMS

None noted.

309. GOOD NEIGHBOURHOOD SCHEME

Deferred to the next agenda as Councillor Evans not in attendance of this meeting.

310. FINANCIAL OFFICER/CLERK'S ITEMS

a. Update on outstanding matters from the 27th November meeting

The Clerk reported that the update was self explanatory.

b. Meeting with Mr M White and Councillor David Pugh PCC and Chamber of Trade and Tourism, 6pm 17th December.

The Clerk handed a copy of the e-mail highlighting a meeting arranged for Monday 17th December in the De Valence café to discuss getting Tenby back on track with regeneration of the town.

Councillor Mrs Lane said we are not marketing Tenby very well at all. She recalled as to how the town was marketed by the late Councillor Denzil Griffiths, he worked extremely hard at all times and at every opportunity to promote Tenby. Councillor Mrs Brown agreed saying we used to have the Welsh Tourist Board who pushed Tenby as a family holiday destination. The Chamber of Trade and Tourism have been trying very hard to get business rates reduced to

encourage more shops to open and generate the economy; however it has proved an uphill struggle.

Councillor Mrs Lane said if we do not encourage the people to come to the area the shops will not prosper and so marketing Tenby is the key objective. We need tourists and day trippers to spend to boost the economy.

Councillor Mrs Thomas said following pedestrianisation local people from surrounding villages stopped coming and found alternative places to go, sadly the majority still go elsewhere.

Councillor W Rossiter felt that Tudor Square enhancement is lovely but the town needed to go a little further by improving the shop frontages making them more attractive and unique as well as improving access roads like Warren Street from the railway station. Empty second homes are not generating local income; we need to people living in these houses to regenerate the area.

Councillor Mrs Lane felt that Tenby is an exceptional area compared to many other towns that have not been able to preserve the quiet unspoilt landscape; we need to enhance the unique nature of our town.

Councillor Blackhall reported additional funding will be available for seaside development in due course, as will lottery funding.

Councillors continued discussing various ideas that can enhance Tenby and boost the economy, unanimously agreeing that marketing needs to increase to raise Tenby's profile.

Councillor Mrs Lane felt modern technology like Facebook can be used to market Tenby, while Councillor W Rossiter suggested different marketing efforts could be used for example discovering famous or important celebrities who have Pembrokeshire roots.

Councillor Blackhall said Narberth town have addressed their shop frontages along with other incentives which reflects the same united shared vision. However he felt Tenby is consistently let down by PCNPA on planning issues.

Councillor Mrs Durham suggested that all Councillors attending the meeting take positive ideas to move Tenby forward. TTC need to work together to create a think tank of ideas and plans to bring Tenby back on the regeneration track.

Councillor Mrs Brown gave her apologies as she is unable to attend the meeting on Monday 17th December at 6pm in the De Valence cafe.

c. PCNPA – TPO 80 – Tree Works – St David's Close, Tenby

The Clerk outlined the Tree works requiring consideration as the tree has significant structural defects. The owner has agreed to replant a suitable replacement tree. The Mayor explained as tree warden he had visited the site and concurred with removal. It was

Resolved that the tree works be carried out for health and safety reasons.

311. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved that the next meeting will take place on Tuesday 8th January 2013 at 7.00 pm.

The Clerk reported that the meeting will start at 7pm due to an update being provided by Pembrokeshire South East Energy Group.

312. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

International Community in Bloom – Councillor Mrs Lane.

313. 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.

314. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Resolved that the Private and Confidential Minutes of Tenby Town Council Meeting held 27th November 2012 be confirmed and signed as accurate.

315. MATTERS ARISING

None noted.

316. CONFIRMATION OF FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Resolved that the Private and Confidential Minutes of Tenby Town Council Finance Committee Meeting held 6th December 2012 be confirmed and signed as accurate.

The Clerk reported he had now received the Council Tax Base for 2013/14 which sees a reduction of some 17 properties on last year's base. If members accepted the budget as proposed, the Band D equivalent will be therefore £56.77, an increase of £1.13 per year.

Councillors discussed all the positive achievements of the year including refurbishment of the Dyster Fountain, installation of the equipment at the Jubilee Play Park/Skate Plaza, along with replacement shelters and the on-going replacement of heating systems in the De Valence. Following discussion it was proposed by Councillor Mrs Durham to accept all the recommendations of the Finance Committee without modification, seconded by Councillor Blackhall.

Resolved that TTC accept the recommendations of the Finance Committee and set the budget for 2013/14 at £153,468.00.

Mayor _____

Town Clerk _____

Date _____