

TENBY TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE TENBY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD 13th October 2015

PRESENT

Councillor P Rapi	Mayor
Councillor Mrs Rossiter	
Councillor Mrs Durham	
Councillor Mrs Thomas	
Councillor Mrs Brown	
Councillor T Hallett	
Councillor W Rossiter	
Councillor L Blackhall	
Councillor Dr P Easy	
Councillor M Evans	

IN ATTENDANCE:

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

218. APOLOGIES

No apologies received.

219. DISCLOSURE OF PERSONAL INTERESTS

Councillor Mrs Brown declared a personal interest in Item 11a. Councillor Mrs Rossiter declared a personal interest in Item 24 and the Clerk declared an interest in Item 7a as the application site was near his own property.

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Resolved that items of Correspondence and Committee Minutes other than those items marked Not for Publication be given to members of the Press present.

221. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Resolved that the Minutes of the Tenby Town Council held 29th September 2015 be confirmed and signed as accurate.

222. MATTERS ARISING

158b – Planning Aid Wales

The Clerk reported he had been in contact with a member of staff from Planning Aid Wales and discussed the additional background information TTC would like before commencing work on a 'Place Plan'. The member of staff promised to get back to TTC following liaison with her line manager.

He continued explaining Mr I Westley had indicated PCC may also be able to assist with the development of place plans; however this would need to be discussed in more detail at a later date.

Councillor Mrs Brown reported the PCC meeting held on Monday 5th October was excellent and extremely informative. She proposed TTC write and thank Mr Westley for arranging the meeting

and request that further meetings following the same format be considered, seconded by Councillor Mrs Rossiter.

Resolved that TTC write to Mr I Westley, Chief Executive, PCC thanking him for arranging the meeting and requesting consideration be given to further meetings following the same format during the year.

189 – Dead House Steps

Councillor Hallett asked if any further correspondence had been received in relation to repairing Dead House Steps. The Clerk was aware the request had been passed to a different department at PCC following a county council restructuring exercise; therefore a response is now awaited from Mr W Lloyd, Highways Maintenance Department, PCC.

205c – Pembrokeshire South East Energy Group – Cyd Cymru/Wales Together

Councillor Mrs Thomas reported she had taken the initiative to discuss the possible benefits of this energy saving scheme with the Chairman of Augustus Place Residents Association. Interest was expressed and the residents association will contact TTC office for more details once they have established how many households would be interested.

The Clerk said he had looked into running a pilot scheme; however individual personal details relating to bills etc. needed to be supplied and he had no way of accessing these private details. He expressed he would be happy to support Augustus Place residents if they decide to trial the scheme as documentation on the website indicates the numbers of people who have already gained benefits from joining the scheme.

The Mayor asked for the item to be placed on the next agenda to be discussed further.

Resolved that Cyd Cymru/ Wales Together be placed on the next TTC agenda.

210a – Gateway signage – Mr D Rees

The Clerk reported he had expressed the views of TTC on the VMS signage to Mr Rees, PCC; however he was not directly in control of that system and would pass it on to his colleague. He did feel that perhaps it would be advisable for the colleague to arrange a meeting with councillors to discuss their concerns on the proposed VMS signage.

210e– PCC Cabinet Meeting– Brynhir Site

Councillor Evans reported PCC had resolved at a recent cabinet meeting that Brynhir be designated as surplus land and put on the open market. In light of this information he personally felt TTC should be discussing a council vision for the site before it goes out publically on the open market.

Councillor Mrs Durham asked if the roadway will be included in the planning consideration for Brynhir. Councillor Evans said it would form part of all the planning considerations.

Councillor Mrs Rossiter asked if access to the proposed site could be considered through Upper Hill Park.

The Clerk said there are two hammer points in Upper Hill Park that were designed to access the land; however no discussion has mentioned these areas as yet.

Councillor W Rossiter said he is personally against any houses being built on green fields and he would rather leave the area undeveloped. He felt it was unlikely the houses would be purchased or allocated to local people.

Councillor Mrs Brown said TTC has a responsibility to provide local housing for young people growing up in the town. She agreed TTC should start thinking about a vision for the future of Tenby and incorporate it with previous council discussions in relation to commencing a 'place plan'.

Councillor Mrs Thomas agreed discussion on the future vision for property in the town needed to commence; however she felt it should be thought about carefully. She proposed councillors go away and bring ideas back to the table at a later date.

The Mayor felt it is vitally important for councillors to work together on the matter before making any definite stance on a particular subject or scheme. TTC had always supported building on the Brynhir site if the land became available. He explained secondary school pupil numbers are falling as people have to live further and further out of town. The number of properties required are not available for sale or rent within the town of Tenby at present and therefore it needs to be a priority concern for the future.

Councillor Blackhall agreed time should be spent thinking about the development of Brynhir as it is a very large site. In addition he felt how second homes are taxed needs to be considered as this may have an effect on more homes becoming available for local people. He explained previously he suggested TTC consider purchasing the Old Cottage Hospital site and proposed the question of whether it would be worth TTC considering purchasing the Brynhir site at the right price.

Councillor Evans clarified for the records all councillors float personal opinions on all matters until TTC makes an official stance. Once the stance has been made all councillors should support the final decision whether they agree or not with the proposal.

The Clerk explained the new Welsh Government bill outlines sustainability planning for the future and therefore a vision for Brynhir can be considered in a 'place plan'. He added the social benefits of families living locally is a huge advantage as presently the social support network is being lost due to families being allocated houses a considerable distance out of the area.

223. CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES NOTES

Councillors discussed the ideas outlined in the Christmas Festivities notes and corrected the car parking consideration, it should read 'if PPC are planning on giving free car parking during December'.

The Mayor said he would be attending the next festivities meeting and will report any updates following the meeting.

224. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

a. NP/15/0514/FUL – Mr Mark Thompson, 6 Lady Park, Tenby – New two storey side extension to replace existing garage to provide additional accommodation – 6 Lady Park, Tenby.

The Clerk left the chamber.

Councillor discussed and viewed the planning application. The assistant clerk pointed out an error on the location plans and explained that PCNPA were aware and felt it had no bearing on discussion of the application as the main site plan outline in red denotes the correct property under discussion.

Councillor Hallett proposed approval of the planning application; however a note should be added highlighting the location plan error in the hope it would be rectified, seconded by Councillor Mrs Thomas.

RECOMMEND

Approval although members noted there was an error on the location plan showing the proposed development in relation to the neighbouring properties. It was hoped this error would be rectified.

The Clerk returned to the Chamber.

b. NP/15/0551/FUL – Mr Joe Taylor, 11 Ragged Staff, Saundersfoot – change of use of redundant first floor café/restaurant to 3 bedroom holiday accommodation – North Beach Café, North Walk, The Croft, Tenby.

Councillors discussed and reviewed the planning application.

Councillor Hallett proposed approval of the planning application, seconded by Councillor Mrs Brown.

RECOMMEND

Approval.

225. PLANNING CORRESPONDENCE

a. Mr Phil Barlow, PCNPA – Evidence Base Local Development Plan for the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park – Further information

The Clerk explained the additional information had been received following a request by TTC to clarify the evidence base LDP, in relation to amenities in Tenby.

Councillor Evans proposed the Clerk goes through the documentation and clarifies the various numbers of amenities over the next few weeks, seconded by Councillor Mrs Durham.

Resolved that the Clerk goes through the PCNPA Evidence Base Local Development Plan documentation and clarifies the numbers of amenities in Tenby.

b. PCNPA – Tree works, trees 1-8 TPO 57 (W2) Marsh Road Garage, The Green, Tenby.

Councillor Hallett, as TTC tree warden, had spoken to PCNPA officers and was aware the trees are diseased and require topping off. Therefore he proposed approval of the tree works, seconded by Councillor Evans.

Recommend approval of proposed tree works.

226. CORRESPONDENCE

a. Tenby chamber of Trade and Tourism – September minutes

Councillors reviewed the information received. It was

Resolved to note the information.

b. Hywel Dda University Health Board – New Mental Health Project Group

Councillor Mrs Rossiter said the members of the Hywel Dda Mental Health Project had suggested they were willing to come and meet with TTC to outline the work they are doing in our town.

Councillor Blackhall agreed with his fellow councillor and felt we should as a council be aware of the work health professionals are providing for members of the community.

Councillor Mrs Rossiter proposed TTC invite a member of the Mental Health Project Group to attend a TTC meeting to provide additional information on the services they provide, seconded by Councillor Blackhall.

Resolved that TTC write to Hywel Dda New Mental Health Project Group and invite them to attend a TTC meeting to provide additional information on the services they provide.

c. Jonathan Mills, Danfo – Public toilets

The Clerk reported the feedback from Danfo stating they had concerns any coin change machine would be liable to vandalism.

Councillor Evans did not agree with the comments of Danfo as they have machines holding the same amount of money anyway; therefore he felt they could put a change machine in with only £20 of 20p coins to help people.

Councillors discussed the matter in detail.

Councillor Evans proposed TTC ask Danfo to attend a site meeting to discuss the possibility of coin change machines for some toilet blocks, seconded by Councillor Hallett.

Resolved that TTC request a site meeting with Danfo to discuss the possibility of housing coin changing machines in some Tenby toilet blocks.

d. Pembrokeshire County Council – Consultation on draft Charter between the county council and town and community councils

The Clerk explained PCC have prepared a draft charter outlining how PCC can work with town and community councils and vice versa. Some county councils have already set up charters; however Pembrokeshire never got around to setting one up previously but now feel there is a need. The deadline for comments is the 30th November; therefore if any councillor wishes to provide feedback they can inform the office before that date.

e. Mid and West Wales Fire Brigade – Draft annual improvements plan

Councillors reviewed the information received. It was

Resolved to note the information.

227. ACCOUNTS SEPTEMBER 2015

The Clerk presented the accounts for September 2015 which included scheduled payments, un-presented cheques, receipts, account balances, budget monitoring to date and bank reconciliations. The Mayor gave time for councillors to view the accounts.

Councillor Mrs Brown highlighted the temporary additional staffing costs incurred during the summer months and asked for clarification of the end of the contract.

Councillor Blackhall said it would be helpful if the Clerk could provide a feedback report on the projects that have been achieved by the TTC staff during the summer season before TTC make a decision on staffing for the 2016 season.

Councillor Mrs Brown proposed TTC end the temporary seasonal contract on 1st November 2015 as originally outlined at a previous meeting, seconded by Councillor Mrs Durham.

Resolved that the Clerk inform the member of staff by letter of the termination date of the temporary contact on 1st November 2015.

Councillor Hallett proposed acceptance of the TTC Accounts for September 2015, seconded by Councillor Dr Easy.

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

228. GRANTS

a. Tenby Aces – Ironman World Championships

Councillors discussed all views relating to the grant application from Tenby Aces.

Councillor Blackhall praised the fantastic work Tenby Aces has done and proposed £100 be donated, seconded by Councillor Hallett.

Resolved that under Section 19a, Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 TTC donate £100 to the Tenby Aces.

229. REPORTS BY COUNCILLORS ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Councillor Blackhall reported on a very successful Beer Festival held in the De Valence and noted several events coming up including:

- Coastguard Celebration Evening
- Tenby Blues Festival
- Hunt Ball

He noted some of the events will be extremely busy requiring quick hall turn arounds so if anyone is able to help, the De Valence Committee would be very grateful.

Councillor Mrs Rossiter reported she had attended the very informative PCC meeting last week, noting how approachable the Chief Executive Mr Westley was to everyone present.

The Mayor reported he had attended the very enjoyable Pembroke Fair and felt it would be lovely to see an annual fair taking place in Tenby again.

He continued thanking the three councillors and the seven Mayors that attended his Civic Service. He expressed that he felt a little embarrassed by the poor council turn out when people asked how many councillors Tenby has. However the Service was special and enjoyed by all those who attended. In addition he thanked everyone for attending his Quarterly celebration held in the Mayor's Parlour the same week.

Finally the Mayor reported on the Tenby Museum exhibition he had the pleasure of attending.

230. MEDIA

None noted.

231. EUROPEAN WALLED TOWNS

Councillor Hallett reported he attended the European Town Walls AGM at short notice and was pleased to say they have re-formed the organisation and elected new officers.

In light of the information he received he paid TTC membership for the next year; however he understood if councillors did not want to re-pay him as he just thought it was important to belong to the organisation that started in Tenby and has the Five Arches as its emblem.

Councillors expressed their views about why TTC should not re new the membership as nothing seems to be gained from joining and following meetings with PCC talking about cutbacks they felt Tenby needed to spend money on maintenance services that are vital to the town.

All councillors understood how passionate Councillor Hallett is about the history of the town walls and the importance of belonging to such an organisation; however TTC needed to think very carefully about future spending allocation. Councillor Mrs Brown and Councillor Mrs Thomas both suggested TTC ask other organisation with an interest in Tenby Heritage to become involved with the European Walled Towns and perhaps collectively more could be achieved with gaining grant funding etc, as it is well known councils cannot access grants.

The Clerk felt few town people remember the EWT conference being held in Tenby and have not embraced the ethos of it as readily as the memories have faded.

Councillor Mrs Thomas proposed TTC write to the Tenby Civic Society and Tenby Historical Society and explain the situation with membership and ascertain if they would like to be involved in the organisation, seconded by Councillor Hallett.

Resolved that TTC write to the Tenby Civic Society and Tenby Historical Society and explain the situation with membership and ascertain if they would like to be involved in the organisation.

Councillor Evans felt Councillor Hallett acted in good faith by paying the European Walled Towns Membership from his own pocket and therefore proposed TTC reimburse the fee paid, seconded by Councillor Mrs Thomas.

Resolved that under Section 144, Local Government Act 1972 TTC reimburse Councillor Hallett the 105 euro membership fee paid to the European Walled Towns.

Councillor Mrs Brown and Councillor Mrs Rossiter abstained from the vote.

The Mayor requested the European Walled Towns is put back on TTC agenda in one month to gain feedback from any organisations or members of the public interested in being part of the EWT.

Resolved that the European Walled Towns is put back on TTC agenda in one month to gain feedback from anyone interested in the organisation.

232. PEDESTRIANISATION RESPONSE

The Clerk asked for councillors to work through the pedestrianisation questionnaire and he would collate a collective TTC response.

Councillors answered all the question before it was

Resolved that the Clerk send the TTC Pedestrianisation questionnaire response to PCC.

233. TOWN CRIER

The Mayor felt it was time to review the responses from the public interested in fulfilling the Tenby Town Crier role.

Councillors discussed the plan of action for the interview process with the Mayor, Councillor Mrs Thomas, Councillor W Rossiter and the Clerk elected to sit on the interview panel. It was

Resolved that the Clerk arrange a suitable day for the Tenby Town Crier interviews and invite the candidates to undertake an audition previously prepared by TTC.

234. SUMMER SPECTACULARS

The Mayor explained he had attended the majority of Summer Spectaculars on the harbour this year and felt they are a very special part of the summer activities for tourism in Tenby. However he was saddened by the lack of support given by PCC as the charities have to pay for the harbour electricity, water and are responsible for all the clearing up.

Councillor Mrs Brown felt there are enough members in each organisation and they have historically had to clean up after the events.

Councillor Evans as an ex-table member felt it is a travesty all the hoops the charity organisations have to jump through now to hold the events. These people give their time and effort freely for the benefit of others who enjoy the events and the charities that gain from the money raised. Therefore TTC should be behind the organisations all the way and help with any support we can to preserve these events in Tenby for now and the future.

Councillor W Rossiter said he fully supported the events; however he would like them to stop the sonic boom fireworks and return to the amazing firework displays they used to have.

The Clerk said many members of the organisations, while understanding the need for regulation, are becoming extremely disheartened with the situation. They are starting to wonder whether it is worth continuing to hold the events in Tenby as the escalating cost brought about by the new rules for using the harbour was reducing the amount of money raised for charity.

Councillor Rapi proposed TTC write and congratulate all the organisations on the tremendous work they do during the summer and all year round for the benefit of others, seconded by Councillor Mrs Brown.

Councillor Evans added to the proposition TTC are here to help the organisations and not undermine their efforts.

Resolved that TTC write and congratulate all the organisations on the tremendous work they do during the summer and all year round for the benefit of others. TTC are here to help in any way and not undermine their efforts.

Councillor Mrs Thomas left the chamber.

235. FINANCIAL OFFICER/CLERK'S ITEMS

a. Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales – Proposed changes in the remuneration of members of community and town councils.

The Clerk outlined the information held within the proposed changes to the remuneration of members of town and community councils. They now expect discussion to take place each year and a submission of the category councils fall into be submitted annually.

Following discussion TTC agreed to not make any changes to the remuneration undertaken over previous years; therefore it was

Resolved that the Clerk submit to the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales that TTC will only adopt Category 3 ‘To ensure costs of holding civic office are catered for.’

b. Hywel Dda Out Patients Contact Centre

The Clerk reported he had received notification of a new generic telephone number for all Hywel Dda outpatient departments being 03003039642. This is a free call back service for anyone needing to check or change an out-patient appointment.

c. Chairman Pembrokeshire County Council Reception

The Clerk reminded councillors of the invite by Councillor W Evans to the Chairman’s reception at County Hall on Monday 26th October and asked for confirmation of attendance to reply on councillors behalf.

The Mayor and Councillor Blackhall gave their apologies for the forthcoming event.

Councillor Mrs Rossiter, Councillor Evans, Councillor Mrs Brown, Councillor Hallett and the Clerk confirmed attendance.

The Clerk said he would also confirm numbers of Tenby in Bloom attendees from Councillor Mrs Lane before submitting the final numbers.

236. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved that the next meeting will take place on Tuesday 27th October 2015 at 7.30pm.

237. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

European Town Walls – All Councillors

Brynhir – All Councillors

Cyd Cymru/Wales Together –All Councillors

238. PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

Proposed by Councillor Mrs Brown, seconded by Councillor Mrs Rossiter.

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.

239. MINUTES

Resolved that the Private and Confidential Minutes of Tenby Town Council Meeting held 29th September 2015 be confirmed and signed as accurate.

240. MATTERS ARISING

216 – Tenby Leisure Centre

The Clerk reported he had received a letter from Mr C Payne head of Leisure Services, PCC explaining why the re-shuffle of management in Leisure Centres had occurred. He felt the full potential of Tenby Leisure Centre would be achieved on completion of the building enhancement scheme and suggested that the new manager Mr Darren Bowen would be more than happy to introduce himself to TTC and provide information on the proposed future of the leisure facilities in Tenby.

217 – Tenby Town Council Vacancy

Councillor Mrs Rossiter asked whether the Tenby Town Council vacancy had been advertised. The Clerk explained the south ward vacancy had been declared and now a period of 14 working days needed to be given for people living in the south ward to petition PCC if they wanted the vacancy filled via election. Following the 14 day period which ends on the 23rd October 2015 TTC office will be informed if there is to be an election or not. If no election is called the casual vacancy for TTC will be advertised in the press and TTC will then be permitted to co-opt a member of the public to join the council.

241. ENFORCEMENT ISSUES

The Clerk reported on the reply he had received from Mr D Thomas PCC in response to the Street Enforcement issues TTC had concerns over specifically during the summer season.

Councillors discussed the letter and its content in detail expressing disappointment at the main issues of enforcement causing concern still remaining unanswered.

Councillor Blackhall said TTC has noted the perpetual problem and yet nothing seems to be done about the various areas of concern except constant talking and letter writing.

Mayor _____

Town Clerk _____

Date _____