

TENBY TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE TENBY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD 14th April 2015

PRESENT

Councillor Mrs Lane	Mayor
Councillor Mrs Rossiter	
Councillor Mrs Durham	
Councillor Dr P Easy	
Councillor Mrs Thomas	
Councillor W Rossiter	
Councillor H Johns	
Councillor T Hallett	
Councillor Mrs Brown	
Councillor Mrs Putwain	
Councillor L Blackhall	

IN ATTENDANCE:

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

The Clerk reported Councillor P Rapi had sustained a fracture to his leg and is now home on bed rest for two weeks following surgery. Councillor Rapi has expressed his full commitment to his duties as Tenby Mayor Elect; however he asked if any councillors would be able to offer lifts to Civic Functions for the eight weeks he is in a cast. Councillor Mrs Rossiter said she was able to offer transport to all day time events.

439. APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Councillor P Rapi.

440. DISCLOSURE OF PERSONAL INTERESTS

None noted.

441. ITEMS TO PRESS

Proposed by Councillor Hallett, seconded by Councillor Mrs Rossiter.

Resolved that items of Correspondence and Committee Minutes other than those items marked Not for Publication be given to members of the Press present.

442. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Resolved that the Minutes of the Tenby Town Council held 31st March 2015 be confirmed and signed as accurate.

443. MATTERS ARISING

409c – Planning Application NP/15/0125/LBA –Poundland signage

Councillor Hallett asked if any further information had been received in relation to Poundland signage. The Clerk reported he had received no further correspondence.

Councillor Blackhall joined the meeting.

427c. Mr John Griffiths – Response to PCC letter on Parking Charges (for information)

Councillors asked if any response had been received from Mr D Thomas in relation to the health and safety concerns raised when exiting the multi-storey short stay car park; specifically when a bus is parked in the designated coach bay. The Clerk reported he had received no response on the matter as yet.

430 – Media – Delphi Project/War Memorial Bench Land

The Clerk reported he had discussed with PCC the ownership of the land where a bench was sited adjacent to the War Memorial railings. They clarified land is not owned by the developer and the bench can be re-sited once work is complete. The developer of the site in question confirmed they do not own the piece of land where the bench was sited.

432 – ‘A’ Frame Obstructions

Councillor W Rossiter thanked his fellow councillors for noting the ‘A’ Frame agenda item in his absence. However he felt PCC needed to be aware that Carmarthenshire County Council are taking ‘A’ frame concerns seriously following a member of the public sustaining an injury after falling over an ‘A’ frame.

The Mayor explained she declares an interest on ‘A’ Frame issues. She personally felt only some ‘A’ frames are in the way and the majority are positioned outside businesses paying high rates. However she expressed strong views over the amount of ‘fly posting’ happening in and around the town that looks very unsightly and un-necessary.

Councillor Mrs Putwain agreed about ‘fly posting’ but felt the ‘A’ Frame situation was getting out of hand and therefore both needed to be addressed. She asked why the ‘A’ Frame item was noted as it was usual TTC practice to defer an item if the Councillor was not present to discuss their agenda item. The Clerk clarified the process of events that led to the information being noted.

Following discussion Councillor W Rossiter proposed the newspaper article relating to an ‘A’ Frame injury claim be sent to Mr M Owen, Street Care, PCC, for his information, seconded by Councillor Mrs Putwain.

The Mayor took a vote resulting in five votes for, two against. Three councillors abstained from the vote.

Resolved that the ‘A’ Frame newspaper article be forwarded to Mr M Owen, Street Care, PCC for information.

444. NOTES FROM PCNPA LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN LAND ALLOCATION

Councillor Blackhall reported that the meeting with PCNPA about the Local Development Plan land was extremely positive and the outcome will come to fruition when PCNPA prepare their future LDP reflecting land with real development prospects.

445. TENBY REGENERATION TEAM MINUTES

The Clerk reported Ms Sinead Henahan had requested a follow up meeting with Councillor Mrs Lane about Battery Gardens. The Mayor was happy for the Clerk to arrange a meeting any day next week.

Resolved that the Clerk arrange a follow up meeting with Ms S Henahan, Regeneration Department, PCC and Councillor Mrs Lane about Tenby Battery Gardens.

Councillor Hallett reported the North Walk used to be free of boats; however due to more boating events taking place, more vessels need to be stored and sometimes these are housed on the lower walkway, impeding the width of pathway. He was pleased to see the harbour events increasing people coming to Tenby but felt the walkway needed to be accessible at all times for safety purposes and to accommodate wheelchair users.

Councillor Blackhall said storage on the harbour is at a minimum; however the Regeneration Team has discussed information provided by the Harbour Users about a racking system that will house more boats, and ease any access problems. This ultimately will give the opportunity to encourage and stage more race events in Tenby Harbour.

The Clerk said he had been discussing the Harbour Users ideas with Mr McKay and they are only at present applying for funding to complete a feasibility study, for increased storage on the upper boat walk way. The Clerk outlined the proposed idea will cost thousands and will need to be a much larger multiple grant application; therefore they are assessing if the ideas are feasible first.

Councillor Blackhall asked if Tenby Harbour Users could feedback to TTC when they have any new information on the feasibility study or additional boat storage information.

Councillor Mrs Rossiter did not think it would be a good idea to disturb the cliff face at all in any way. She felt her previous idea of consideration to a temporary cover over the sluice like Saundersfoot are doing would increase storage, provide a family sitting area and improve safety issues. The sluice over the years has always been a place for a serious accident to happen, due to the narrow walkway.

Councillor Mrs Putwain said nothing has happened in relation to the sluice over the last 100 years.

Councillor W Rossiter said there is always something blocking the steps to the north walk from the harbour, like lobster pots or boats.

The Mayor summed up the discussion and felt the ideas relating to the harbour should be taken to the next town regeneration team meeting.

444. PLANNING APPLICATION

a. NP//15/0183/FUL – Mr Gordon Williams, Trafalgar Stores, Trafalgar Road, Tenby – Proposed conversion of upper floors from one to two apartments and erection of a new storage/staff room/office on flat roof to rear – Trafalgar Stores, Trafalgar Road, Tenby.

Councillors viewed and discussed the planning application. Councillor Mrs Rossiter proposed approval, seconded by Councillor W Rossiter.

Councillor Blackhall gave advice as he felt building on the flat roof may affect lighting to neighbours; however he took no part in the vote.

Councillor Mrs Putwain said TTC are aware that residents have longer to respond on a planning application than statutory consultees; therefore she proposed an amendment to the proposition to include approval on the proviso it does not adversely affect the light to neighbouring properties.

RECOMMEND

Approval on the proviso that it does not adversely affect natural light to neighbouring properties.

b. NP/15/0190/FUL – Mr Miguel Gongalez-Lopez, Woodfield, The Burrows, Tenby – Proposed first floor extension to existing bungalow – Woodfield, The Burrows, Tenby.

RECOMMEND

Councillors viewed and discussed the planning application. Councillor Mrs Rossiter proposed approval as the proposal will enhance the property with no adverse effect to neighbours, seconded by Councillor W Rossiter.

Approval as the proposal will enhance the property with no adverse effect to neighbours.

445. PLANNING CORRESPONDENCE

a. Mr R Scourfield, PCNPA – Article 4(2) Directions – Tenby Conservation Area

The Clerk clarified with the new building regulations, some building rights will be automatically granted; however PCNPA feel that these rights should be removed for buildings within the conservation area. Therefore Mr Scourfield is requesting TTC views on this matter.

Councillor Mrs Rossiter remarked on the planning appeal outcome of the development in Crackwell Street. She asked if the Welsh Assembly Planning Inspector had actually visited the site to view the narrowness of the road or just reviewed drawings. The concept of the area is completely different when you actually view the area. During the site meeting between TTC and PCNPA officers, both parties agreed that the turning access to the property was extremely tight and could prove a danger to pedestrians. However the application has now been passed and she felt that TTC local knowledge and concerns for the future of a development were being passed over.

Councillor Mrs Putwain said the PCNPA officer at the site meeting agreed with TTC that the access appeared narrower than the drawings; however sadly the roadway was not measured at the site inspection.

The Mayor returned the discussion to the PCNPA proposal to withdraw certain 'permitted development rights' within Tenby Conservation Area, it was

Resolved that TTC accept PCNPA proposal to withdraw certain 'permitted development rights' within Tenby Conservation Area with respect to windows, doors, hardstandings and walls/gates/fences.

446. CORRESPONDENCE

a. Pembrokeshire South East Energy Group – Invitation to May meeting

The Mayor asked if any councillor was free to attend the South East Pembrokeshire Energy Group meeting. Councillor Hallett said he would try to attend the meeting to represent TTC.

Resolved that Councillor Hallett attend the South East Pembrokeshire Energy Group meeting.

b. Mr B Blake, PCC – Tenby Pedestrianisation – Consultation on Proposed Extension of Scheme

Councillor Mrs Putwain said she had read the report on the recent proposed extension to pedestrianisation consultation in detail. She felt further breakdown of statistics would have been helpful and would give a more accurate representation.

- It stated 50 responses were received from outside of the town, were these respondents' people with moorings? They would be in favour as they would have a shortcut to the harbour and guaranteed parking.
- It reported approximately 500 forms were distributed with a low return response. Many town properties are second home owners. The forms were sent out in February/March when many holiday home owners are not in residence. Therefore the return date would have passed by the time they visited their properties.
- 46 responses were outside the town walls, or no postcode. Therefore a breakdown on results based on postcode would be valuable. If all these 46 responses had been in favour of 9-2 that would leave 65 bonafide residents against and 60 in favour. Reversing the results 52% to 48%.

During pedestrianisation some practicalities are not fully addressed. A gentleman in a mobility scooter was trying to get to John Francis Estate Agents, tables and chairs were outside businesses as permitted; however the tables and chairs were with permission across the drop kerb access, preventing the gentleman accessing the drop kerbs to the shop he required.

The Mayor reported several businesses purchased ramps to allow people additional access during pedestrianisation; however for some health and safety reason they were refused permission to use them.

Councillor Mrs Putwain proposed TTC respond to Mr B Blake stating the comments made following the report, seconded by Councillor Mrs Thomas.

Resolved that TTC inform Mr B Blake, PCC of the comments highlighted during discussion on the pedestrianisation consultation report.

c. Mr D Thomas, PCC – Bus and Coach Stop, South Parade, Tenby.

Councillor Mrs Durham felt it would be lovely to see the coach stop bay in action. However she offered 'good luck' to the enforcement officers trying to keep it clear of other vehicles as they are presently having great difficulty keeping the taxi rank in the area free of non-permitted vehicles.

Councillor W Rossiter said he had discussed the need for a crossing from the War Memorial to the Parade during a meeting with PCC officers; however they sidestepped the issue and yet it is desperately needed.

The Clerk reported PCC will not consider a crossing from the War Memorial to South Parade as there is already one in place by St John's Church at the top end of South Parade.

Councillor Mrs Durham proposed TTC write to Mr M Owen, Street Care, PCC and request enforcement offices monitor the new coach stop bay and taxi rank to ensure access is kept clear for designated use, seconded by Councillor Mrs Thomas.

Resolved that TTC write to Mr M Owen, Street Care, PCC and request enforcement offices monitor the new coach stop bay and taxi rank to ensure access is kept clear for designated use.

d. Mr B Blake, PCC – New Traffic Order – Proposed Waiting Restrictions, Tenby.

Councillor Blackhall felt most of the residential parking at the top end of the Croft is covered by Croft Court. Many people park in this specific area to access North Beach and by the time they have arrived and set up their two hour limit would have expired. Therefore the two hour wait would be too restrictive for users in this area.

The Mayor felt the area in question is too far out of town to warrant a two hour waiting limit. It would not be practical for someone to use the bays when visiting town for the bank or a quick lunch; therefore she felt it should return to its original status of free unrestricted parking.

The Clerk outlined that Mr Blake had been asked to allocate residential parking for the area on the Croft; however it appeared to have minimal usage. Therefore he had come up with a compromise being the shared option alternative.

The Mayor proposed PCC consider returning parking at the Croft to the status quo option of free parking at all times, seconded by Councillor Blackhall.

Resolved that TTC write to Mr Blake PCC and suggest The Croft parking bays return to free parking at all times.

447. MARCH ACCOUNTS

Councillor Blackhall proposed acceptance of the accounts for March 2015, seconded by Councillor Mrs Putwain.

Resolved that the accounts for March 2015 be accepted.

Councillor Hallett thanked the Clerk for his efficient book keeping.

448. REPORTS BY COUNCILLORS ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Councillor Hallett reported he attended the parade of standards at the War Memorial by the Pembroke Women's Royal Air Corps.

Councillor Mrs Thomas reported she attended a health meeting called by Mrs B Rees, Chairman, Hywel Dda Health Board Trust. Her reason for the meeting was to set up a new group to address the

issues of the lack of communication within the community. The title of the group is ‘Tenby Community and Primary Service Development Project Group. The ultimate aim is for all services to work collectively for the benefit of the patients, enabling them to have access to services on the day they require an appointment.

The experimental project ‘Triage and Treat Scheme’ will run at Tenby Surgery for three months. It will be staffed by a Doctor, Nurse Practitioners and a Qualified Paramedic. When a patient telephones the surgery the staff will decide who they need to see and the patient will then be allocated to a specific list. The scheme has successfully run for one week and the health board are welcoming any feedback about the scheme. Councillor Mrs Thomas was happy for any feedback to be passed to her.

The Red Cross service will be running for the summer period, in line with last year’s service times and days. In addition the Health Board is studying other models in operation for ‘Out of Medical Hours Services’ with the aim to try and improve our present service.

Councillor Mrs Thomas said a copy of the Community Health Council’s report on the same meeting is available in TTC office for anyone requiring further information.

The Mayor reported on the recent Gardens, Maintenance and General Purpose Committee meeting. It highlighted the degree of fly posting and the work required to clean all street furniture. Further discussion on the basic cleaning needs will be discussed as an agenda item at the next full Town Council meeting under private business.

449. MEDIA ITEMS

The Clerk reported BBC Wales had telephoned to ask if a TTC member would be willing to speak live on air, following the PCNPA planning decision on St Catherine’s Island Project taking place on 15th April 2015. The Clerk outlined the proposed recommendations being put forward by PCNPA.

The Mayor proposed Councillor Blackhall if available speaks on behalf of TTC, outlining the council’s views on the decision, seconded by Councillor Mrs Brown.

Councillor Blackhall said he was happy to report the views of TTC; however he would like to add that once the decision has been made, and any proposed conditions are determined, TTC would suggest that statutory consultees are consulted on the recommendations before planning permission is granted.

Resolved that Councillor Blackhall be contacted by TTC office to provide councillors views on PCNPA planning decision on St Catherine’s Island, for the BBC news channel.

The Mayor outlined that once a planning application has been passed it is too late for the decision to be changed; therefore TTC take each application seriously and looks at the application for the present and the future. No application should be changed once it has been granted; however it appears that some people feel they can bend the rules to suit their needs, while other applicants adhere to all the rules.

The Clerk outlined TTC are at present in discussion with PCNPA officers about one property that appears to be raising a lot of local concerns in relation to their planning permission.

Councillor Blackhall said it is very important when discussing planning applications that it is thought about in detail. It is a very important step as planning permission is permanent; therefore TTC want to make sure it is the right decision for each individual property. Planning categories are extremely broad and once passed it could allow someone to change the initial idea within the allocated permission; therefore specifics need to be included in detail as and when possible. TTC needs to ensure PCNPA document the permission correctly for the future.

Councillor Mrs Brown said in relation to retrospective planning permission, people build and then ask for permission. If they do this she personally felt PCNPA should fine these people who try to do something without permission. She continued saying TTC do not have all the answers to planning applications, yet they are part of a group of consultees who try to ensure the applications are mindful of neighbours and cannot be altered without a further application being submitted.

450. TENBY GUEST HOUSES

Councillor Blackhall requested to withdraw the Tenby Guest Houses agenda item.

451. FINANCIAL OFFICER/CLERK'S ITEMS

a. Mrs Rachel Gibby - Tenby Luncheon Club

The Clerk reported he had received further information relating to procedures and policies required to be in place before luncheon club funding can be granted. Councillors requested the Clerk discuss the additional information with Tenby De Valence Trust members and the Augustus Place Residents Association.

Resolved that the Clerk discuss the additional information with Tenby De Valence Trust members and the Augustus Place Residents Association.

b. Mr Laurence Harding – Registration of Births and Deaths

The Clerk reported he had received further information from Mr Harding following the consultation process for the removal of out post registrars in South Pembrokeshire.

Mr Harding felt PCC would be willing to consider the option of TTC operating an outstation for registration of births and deaths, but at no cost to PCC. In addition specific criteria and systems would need to be adhered to, including sufficient training and accuracy to ensure the high level of service having been set by the present PCC staff is maintained.

Councillor Blackhall welcomed the communication from PCC and said he had no hesitation in saying the TTC office staff could efficiently and competently run the service. However he felt discussion needed to be undertaken in relation to the running costs that would be incurred by the service.

Councillors discussed various aspects of the information received, including the question from Councillor Hallett if there are any fees paid by the people registering their births or deaths.

Councillor Blackhall proposed TTC contact Mr L Harding and suggest that a meeting is arranged to discuss further details of the possibility of an outstation for registration of Births and Deaths being considered in the Tenby area, seconded by Councillor Hallett.

Resolved that TTC contact Mr L Harding and suggest that a meeting is arranged to discuss further details of the possibilities of an outstation for registration of Births and Deaths in the Tenby area.

452. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved that the next meeting will take place on Tuesday 28th April 2015 at 6.00pm. This will be the Spring Quarterly with business to be concluded by 8pm.

The Mayor explained the meeting would commence at 6pm to enable the Spring Quarterly to take place at a more accessible time for people attending; however if any councillor had difficulty arriving she would be happy for them to arrive late.

453. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

Staffing in Private – Councillor Blackhall.

Blind Lane – Councillor Mrs Rossiter.

454. PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

Proposed by Councillor Hallett, seconded by Councillor Blackhall.

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.

455. MINUTES

Resolved that the Private and Confidential Minutes of Tenby Town Council Meeting held 31st March 2015 be confirmed and signed as accurate.

456. MATTERS ARISING

None noted.

Mayor _____

Town Clerk _____

Date _____