

MINUTES OF THE TENBY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD 24th April 2012

PRESENT

Councillor T Hallett Mayor
Councillor L Blackhall
Councillor Mrs Rossiter
Councillor Mrs Thomas
Councillor Mrs Lane
Councillor P Rapi
Councillor Mrs Brown
Councillor Mrs Evans
Councillor Mrs Williams
Councillor M Evans
Councillor Mrs Putwain

IN ATTENDANCE:

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

ALSO PRESENT

Mr Graham Longster Director of Education PCC

The Mayor welcomed Mr Longster who had agreed to attend to provide information on the Preliminary Consultation review arrangements, for Primary and Welsh medium provision in Tenby VC and Tenby Junior School.

Mr Longster introduced himself and presented a handout with information that has been delivered to School Governors, Teaching Staff and Parents of the Schools concerned. He explained that the teaching is strong in both units but the education department is constantly planning, discussing and transforming provisions within Pembrokeshire for the future. The 21st Century Schools project funding of £150 million, allocated for Pembrokeshire during the next 10 years, is £75 million from Welsh Government and £75 million from PCC. Forward planning for school development and progression needs to be undertaken now due to the timing of this funding.

He clarified that this is a consultation process and no strategy decision has been made, a formal report will be presented in June 2012 on the outcome of the consultation process and feelings expressed by all concerned.

The next stage will be a proposal, followed by further discussion, before the way forward will be agreed. He confirmed no decision has been made yet, this is the time to listen to the feelings expressed by the community as a whole and he was here to answer as many questions as possible. The feelings expressed tonight would be taken into consideration along with all the ones already expressed.

The Mayor invited questions from the Councillors which Mr Longster answered included the following:

1). We have a well publicised traffic problem at the moment in Heywood Lane with the three schools in close proximity. Extra pupils attending a Welsh medium school from out of the Tenby will obviously increase this problem with extra cars, how will this be address to prevent further problems?

The traffic problem needs addressing and plans are in the pipeline including speed cushions to reduce the speed issues. Traffic is always raised at meetings and will continue to do so. If the proposal goes ahead there would be a section of funding available for Highways to consult on to access this section of funding and address the issues of traffic congestion further. Tenby family of schools already have children coming into the Welsh unti from outside the town, there would be an increase but the numbers envisaged were not huge.

2). If as predicted the English Medium School would have approximately 500 pupils this seems very large and children may lose their identity.

All school number are varied, there is no optimum school numbers. The average in the county is 160 pupils but there are far larger schools, e.g. Pembroke Dock.

3). As Pentlepoir School is empty, why not use this as the Welsh Medium School and leave Tenby Infant and Juniors unchanged?

It is a vacant site but the building is in poor condition and the roof is in a poor state. It would cost so much to improve while the Tenby Schools are solid buildings. The Junior School has had substantial improvements recently.

4). Agreeing that Welsh medium schools are the way forward and provided in Tenby, what happens when it comes to secondary schools, will they still all have to be transported to Preseli? Is there provision being considered for Secondary Education through the medium of Welsh?

Teaching through the medium of Welsh is popular and growing. Stage 2 would be to increase the secondary school Welsh provision. This may be an outreach school controlled from Preseli School initially as 400/500 pupils would be needed to warrant new provision of a Welsh medium secondary school in the south of the county.

5). There is a tendency for the Welsh medium schools to ‘cream off’ the more academic pupils as well. This seems unfair to hand pick the pupils as statistics will show excellent results.

Free school meal numbers are used to look at deprivation statistics. Statistics show at the same level throughout Wales, Welsh medium schools perform better than English medium schools.

6). Mr Longster was asked for his personal views on the benefits of combing primary provision.

He explained that there is a different ethos in Infants schools compared to Juniors Schools. The infants have a strong ethos on caring and uniqueness exists. Junior schools bridge the gap to secondary school so they are curriculum driven. Staff have different qualities and skills because of the age range they teach and not due to the school. Twelve amalgamations have occurred in

Pembrokeshire and none of the schools, or pupils, have suffered from change. The bridge from infants to juniors is reduced in primary schools.

7). When a Head is appointed following combining two schools to form a primary facility, statistics show that the Junior Head is not always but usually appointed. Was this the case in other primary mergers in Pembrokeshire, as it has been felt in other counties that the infant caring ethos of learning can diminish and sometimes be lost?

In recent years on amalgamation it has usually been the case that one of the two Head teachers has retired so it has not been a problem. In the majority of recent mergers he felt it was probably the Junior School Head who was appointed to manage the school but not in all cases.

8). The Welsh language is obviously growing and pupils will, and do, benefit from a Welsh Medium Schools facility, however there is a concern about segregation, as pupils benefit from mixing when Welsh units interact with the rest of the school. If every school had a Welsh unit all pupils have the opportunity of first language Welsh within their own school and it would encourage interaction between all pupils to develop second language Welsh. Is the funding only available for setting up a Welsh school?

Both schools in Tenby have strong Welsh units, but as, Welsh medium school grows, the risk of segregation needs to be monitored and staff need to maintain awareness. The Welsh Government are looking for transformation and change, they like discussion, consultation and forward planning, no funding will be available for replacing like with like. English Medium Schools in Pembrokeshire presently have good provision for second language Welsh education.

9).The Welsh Medium School would have a capacity of 200 pupils, could children be refused entry if more than 200 apply?

At present there are 82 pupils across the two sites being taught through the medium of Welsh. Prediction tables suggest 120 pupils by 2016. A larger influx may occur as there was no choice previously, however based on these statistics there is still capacity for significant growth.

10). What provision is planned for teachers if pupils move schools and their school numbers fall significantly?

As head of education Mr .Longster said it was his role to respond to change, sadly schools have to close if their numbers fall significantly.

11). The negative effect could happen if the provision is not provided here in Tenby and goes elsewhere, our local pupils could move away from the area reducing pupil intake locally. At present pupils are transported to Preseli, we need to look to encouraging secondary Welsh education facility locally for the future.

Welsh teaching as a second language is growing and developing within the English Medium schools at present, but we need to move forward looking at a provision for a nearer facility providing secondary teaching through the medium of Welsh.

12). The Church link with Tenby VC is strong and they do not wish to lose this, discussions have taken place to consider proposing making the English Medium Primary School the VC school but ideally both schools would have Church involvement.

13). Parents would be more excited and pleased about the amalgamation if they were having a new well equipped infant facility like they have now.

The Tenby Junior site would require additional areas to be built to accommodate the early year's foundation stage facilities required.

14). Welsh Medium Teachers are in short supply.

It is a known fact that Welsh Medium Teachers are in short supply. Bursaries are available for Welsh teachers at present; this will increase the amount of teachers providing education through the medium of Welsh in the future.

15). Present Nursery provision within the Infant schools has its own entrance and segregated area. Would this still be possible?

High staff ratio for foundation phase will continue, along with separate play times and a secure entrance for early years.

16). Welsh Units have smaller classes and possibly would still have, could this be provided in the English medium school as well?

Funding is provided the same way for each child in both Welsh and English Medium education. It is up to the Head teacher how they allocate funding within their school budget. Examples of class numbers options were discussed.

17). It is the parents who make the choices. What advice and support would be available if they are not Welsh speaking to make the right choice for their child?

Parents who are not Welsh speaking are already choosing Welsh units. They are encouraged and supported by local Welsh play groups; however their decision is usually instinctive.

18). Teachers in English Medium School have made great efforts to increase the teaching of Welsh as a second language to provide for their pupils.

Teaching of Welsh as a second language will continue to have a high profile as it is a compulsory requirement of the curriculum in Wales.

In conclusion Mr Longster said there are many stages to go after the report is submitted. The option of no change is still possible but the funding in Pembrokeshire could then be allocated to another area as there are 9 or 10 other projects that the funding could be used on.

The Mayor thanked Mr Longster for attending and answering the concerns of his fellow Councillors, before Mr Longster left the Chamber.

Members felt that the meeting with Mr. Longster was very comprehensive and informative. They would submit a report of the meeting to Mr. Longster as points for consideration on initial consultation and make a more formal response when, and if, a more detailed consultation was carried out. Members were also free to submit individual comments to Mr. Longster if they so wished, but these were not to be considered to be the view of the council as a body.

Councillor M Evans gave his apologies and left the Chamber.

508. APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Councillor D Morgan.

509. DISCLOSURE OF PERSONAL INTERESTS

Councillor Mrs Rossiter and Councillor Mrs Lane declared an interest on item 11a. Councillor Blackhall, Councillor Mrs Putwain, Councillor Mrs Lane and Councillor Hallett declared a personal but not prejudicial interest on item 12 De Valence.

510. ITEMS TO PRESS

Proposed by Councillor Mrs Lane, 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.

511. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Resolved that the Minutes of the Tenby Town Council held 11th April 2012 be confirmed and signed as accurate.

512. MATTERS ARISING

475b – War Graves – Tenby Old Cemetery

The Clerk distributed and outlined a letter received from Canon Andrew Davies, St Mary's Church on their maintenance project of the Cemetery. Discussion took place with positive and negative comments and it was proposed by Councillor Mrs Lane to arrange the meeting with Mr C Webb requesting him to explain to TTC the biodiversity project in progress so all will have a clearer understanding. A discussion on the War Graves was to be included during this meeting and Lt (SCC) Roy Broxham RNR of Tenby Sea Cadets would also be invited to attend, seconded by Councillor Mrs Thomas.

Proposed that a date be arranged with Mr C Webb requesting him to show and explain to TTC the biodiversity project in progress within Tenby Old Cemetery, including discussion on the War Graves Maintenance. Lt (SCC) Roy Broxham RNR Tenby Sea Cadets to be invited to attend this site visit.

486b.c – Planning Application NP/12/0143 & NP/12/0145

The Clerk reported Caroline Phillips PCNPA, telephoned with additional information, following a site meeting with the applicant of NP/12/0143 & NP/12/0145 planning applications. Stating no actual building will take place, it involves a replacement window and a balcony on the existing flat roof; they feel it is in keeping with the existing properties. Following discussion it was proposed by Councillor Rossiter, seconded by Councillor Mrs Lane, to recommend approval of the application as PCNPA feel their concerns have been addressed.

Vote taken 6 for, 3 against.

Resolved that following further information from PCNPA, TTC felt their concerns had been addressed and recommend approval.

488a – Grit Bin - Scotsborough View.

The Clerk reported the grit bin has been ordered and will be delivered in due course.

501d – Dyster Fountain, Tudor Square

Councillor Mrs Putwain asked while awaiting the completion of the restoration of the Dyster Fountain could we request the wire fencing be reduced in size maintaining Health and Safety standards. Proposed by Councillor Mrs Lane to request a floral display on the stonework until the Dyster Fountain is ready to be sited, seconded by Councillor Mrs Putwain.

Resolved that the Clerk enquires if a floral display can be sited on the stonework to enhance the area until the project is completed.

513. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

a. NP/12/0108 – Mr D Thomas, 6 Harding Villas, Harding Street, Tenby – Loft conversion with rear dormer windows, Chaside, 6 Harding Villas, Harding Street, Tenby.

Councillors discussed and viewed the planning application. Approval proposed by Councillor Mrs Williams, seconded by Councillor Mrs Lane, as it will improve and enhance the property.

RECOMMEND

Approval as it will improve and enhance the property.

b. NP/12/0162 – Mr Davies/Mr Ennis 4/5 (Delfryn/Innesfree) Old Narberth Road, Tenby – Change of use of land to garden, Delfryn, Old Narberth Road, Tenby.

Councillors discussed and viewed the planning application. the Mayor outlined the re-positioning of the public footpath. Approval proposed by Councillor Mrs Brown, seconded by Councillor Blackhall.

RECOMMEND

Approval

c. NP/12/0182 – Mr David Jones, Coach House, St Mary’s Hill, Tenby – Build new stone wall to delineate curtilage of dwelling and include gated access, Coach House, St. Mary’s Hill.

Councillors discussed and viewed the planning application. Approval proposed by Councillor Rapi, seconded by Councillor Mrs Rossiter.

RECOMMEND

Approval

d. NP/12/0183 – Listed Building – Mr David Jones, Coach House, St Mary’s Hill, Tenby – Build new stone wall to delineate curtilage of dwelling and include gated access, Coach House, St. Mary’s Hill.

Councillors discussed and viewed the planning application. Approval proposed by Councillor Rapi, seconded by Councillor Mrs Rossiter.

RECOMMEND

Approval

514. PLANNING CORRESPONDENCE

a. Welsh Government – Delivery of planning services in statutory designated landscapes.

Councillors discussed and felt all their individual comments should be expressed. It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Lane, seconded by Councillor Mrs Evans that all Councillors return their questionnaires to the Clerk to be collated and formulate a TTC collective response.

Resolved that Councillors return questionnaires to the Clerk to be collated and formulate a TTC collective response.

515. CORRESPONDENCE

a. Chamber of Trade and Tourism – March minutes

Councillor Mrs Putwain highlighted from the minutes that the Cinema is now being market. It was

Resolved that the minutes be noted.

b. PCC – Additional Community Governor, Tenby VC Infants School – Review of Nomination.

Discussion took place noting that following Councillor Morgan choosing not to stand for re-election there would be no TTC representative for Tenby Infant School. In view of this it was proposed by Councillor Mrs Lane, seconded by Councillor Mrs Brown that Councillor Blackhall be nominated. Councillor Blackhall accepted the nomination as TTC representative for Tenby Infant School.

Resolved that Councillor Blackhall be nominated as TTC Governor Representative for Tenby Infant School.

c. Mr Harding, PCC – Community Council representation on the Standards Committee.

Councillor Mrs Thomas felt it would be positive to have a TTC representative put forward to represent the community on the Standards Committee. Proposed by Councillor Mrs Lane that the Clerk requests additional information on this vacancy, seconded by Councillor Blackhall.

Resolved that the Clerk requests additional information for this position of Community Council representative.

516. GRANT APPLICATION

a. Dyfed-Powys Police – Bobby Van scheme.

Councillor Mrs Evans felt the Bobby Van is a valuable scheme and deserved to be support, she proposed a donation of £100, seconded by Councillor Mrs Brown.

Resolved under Section 31 Local Government & Rating Act 1997 to donate £100 to Dyfed Powys Police – Bobby Van scheme.

Councillor Mrs Lane and Councillor Mrs Rossiter took no part in discussions on the following item.

517. LICENSING

a. Mr & Mrs Martin – Licence Application N/0549, Waters Edge, South Beach, Tenby.

The Clerk outlined that the deadline for submission to the committee had passed but was included for Councillors information as requested by the author of the letter.

Resolved that the information be noted.

Councillor Mrs Lane and Councillor Mrs Rossiter rejoined the meeting.

518. DE VALENCE

a. 1st June 2012 – Mrs Hains – Boxing night

b. 5th and 6th July 2013 – Mr Steve Hamer/Mr Andrew Samuel – Scooter rally

Discussion took place clarifying TTC representative who will be present to support each event. It was proposed acceptance of the events by Councillor Mrs Brown, seconded by Councillor Mrs Lane.

Resolved that the event dates be accepted.

The Clerk reported due to Saundersfoot Regency Hall being refurbished/rebuilt, Saundersfoot Footlights have no venue for their twice weekly rehearsals and performances. They were wondering if the De Valence could be used during this period and requested a price package to cover this period of time. He suggested a sub committee be formed to discuss and decide on the package the De Valence can offer. Proposed by Councillor Mrs Thomas, seconded by Councillor Mrs Brown for a sub committee to be formed to discuss a hiring package of the De Valence for Saundersfoot Footlights.

Resolved that a sub committee to be formed to discuss a hiring package of the De Valence for Saundersfoot Footlights.

The Clerk informed Councillors the main building front doors are problematic and he has requested quotes for repair or renewal. Councillor Mrs Brown felt this needed addressing as it is a Safety issue. It was

Resolved that once the quotes have been received for repairs to the front doors the matter will be discussed further.

Councillor Mrs Brown felt that, for Britain in Bloom, the front of the building paintwork is looking tired and flaking. She requested to obtain quotes for painting this area, along with placing 4 floral baskets on the columns this year. The Mayor also reported that the General Public are having difficulty finding the De Valence as the signage is high and not clear. It was

Resolved that quotes to paint the front of the building be sort and the floral baskets for the columns be discussed at the Tenby in Bloom meeting.

519. ELECT MAYOR 2012/13

The Clerk clarified with Mr L Harding PCC that if no Town Council Election is required a Mayor can be elected.

The Mayor asked each Councillor in turn if they wished to be considered to stand for Mayor. No Councillor declared to stand so the present Mayor Councillor Hallett put himself forward. Councillor Blackhall proposed Councillor Hallett be elected Mayor for 2012/13, seconded by Councillor Mrs Brown.

Resolved that Cllr. Hallett be elected as Mayor for 2012/13.

Councillor Mrs Brown congratulated Councillor. Hallett on his second year as Mayor and looked forward to him continuing to be a positive Ambassador for Tenby.

Councillor Hallett thanked Councillors for their support and promised to do his best for the forthcoming year.

520. REPORTS BY COUNCILLORS ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Councillor Mrs Lane reported she had approached and personally visited the 12 schools in the Tenby Family of Schools that feed into Greenhill School, to involve them in Tenby in Bloom. The idea was to encourage their involvement prior to moving to Secondary school in Tenby, developing their knowledge and increasing education collectively on Flowers, Environmental issues and Community issues.

Greenhill School are in the process of designing a Tenby in Bloom logo and Web site. The Schools would be involved in the poster competition and this year creating floral hanging baskets for the town. Two schools are already involved with their own Community in Bloom which is very pleasing and the remaining schools visited were very interested, giving positive feedback in becoming involved. Tenby in Bloom community meeting will be arranged and advertised in the Tenby Observer this week, local groups like the ATC and the Army Cadets will be invited to attend as they have offered their services in the past to paint and weed.

Councillor Mrs Thomas asked if the painting of the street furniture could be included in the Community Issues as she had been approached by a member of the public volunteering his services to paint the benches if supplied with the paint. Councillor Mrs Lane will discuss this matter at the next meeting with Mr G Codd PCC.

Councillor Mrs Putwain suggested that when we correspond with people within the County Council and they repeatedly do not reply, perhaps we should include the following sentence:

'Can we presume if we do not hear from you it is ok to go ahead?' We may then receive prompt responses.

Councillor Mrs Thomas left the Chamber.

521. MEDIA ITEMS

None noted.

522. JUBILEE FAMILY PLAY PARK

Councillor Mrs Brown reported the next Friends of Jubilee Play Park meeting will be this Friday 27th April 2012. This week they launched the appeal to local shops that have not yet decided which charity they are donating their 5p carrier bag fund to, requesting them to consider the Jubilee Play Park; two shops have already donated their fund and thanks were due to Clarice Toy Shop and Suburban.

The Mayor will be arranging to collect a cheque from Tenby Infant School as a result of their fundraising for the Park in the next week.

523. ROYAL GATE HOUSE

The Clerk circulated a copy of the report from the recent joint meeting held with representatives from TTC, Mr M White PCC and Mrs J Gibson PCNPA.

Following the report one of the actions has taken place with Mr White PCC arranging for the Building Control Officer to assess the site. His report states that at this time no gaps in the hoarding would permit access onto the site and no action was needed.

Councillor Mrs Brown felt that the report did not portray the heartfelt concerns as strongly and passionately as they were expressed. She was grateful for the meeting but wished it to go further and make the matter a public concern as progress needs to be made on this site.

Councillor Mrs Rossiter felt at the recent meeting no answers were given to the questions and concerns expressed by TTC and so we should now be asking our MP and AMs for their help.

Councillor Blackhall felt we need to keep pushing the issues as this is blight on our landscape. He asked previously for regular meetings with the relative bodies to be arranged, could we request the first for 4-6 weeks time and nominate TTC representative now. He reported someone claimed they saw a rat on the site, he expressed concern at this and we need to report these incidents. The member of the public was advised to report their concern.

524. TENBY HARBOUR AND SLUICE

Councillor Blackhall requested to defer this item until the next agenda.

525. CELEBRATION OF THE OLYMPICS

Councillor Blackhall requested to defer this item until the next agenda.

526. COUNCILLORS NOT STANDING FOR RE-ELECTION

Councillor Mrs Lane took the opportunity on behalf of her fellow Councillors to thank the Councillors who were not standing for re-election Councillor Mrs Evans, Councillor Mrs Williams and Councillor D Morgan for their commitment and hard work for the town, especially to Councillor Mrs Evans during the year she was Mayor and Councillor Mrs Williams was Deputy Mayor.

Councillor Mrs Evans responded by thanking Councillors for the wonderful opportunity of being Mayor, a year she will never forget and will always remember. She also thanked Councillor Mrs Williams for her support that year as Deputy Mayor.

The Mayor expressed his thanks, saying they will be difficult to replace and hoping the incoming Councillors will have the same passion for Tenby, their town.

527. FINANCIAL OFFICER/CLERK'S ITEMS

a.Actions and updates from 11th April meeting

The Clerk discussed information provided in his report requested in relation to the auction and borrowing of money if TTC considered purchasing the Former Cottage Hospital site.

Highlighting that the process required would make it difficult to proceed and access the funds in the short time scale available. Councillor Mrs Lane said it was a nice idea but could not be done in the time scale available.

Proposed by Councillor Mrs Brown to wait and see if it is not sold at auction and then look at possibilities of purchase, seconded by Councillor Blackhall.

Resolved that TTC wait and review the situation if the Former Cottage Hospital site is not sold at auction.

The Clerk reported following a telephone call conversation with the Soroptimists after TTC refused their grant application, they requested he clarify that the project was started by the Soroptimists but run by the Youth club to try and address the problems of the youths on the streets on a Friday evening and that was why they were requesting funding to keep the project running for a further year. It was

Resolved that unfortunately this would still mean giving funds to an organisation to forward it to another group and this is against TTC policy.

528. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved that the next meeting will take place on Tuesday 8th May 2012 at 7.30pm.

529. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

None noted.

530. 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.

531. MINUTES

Resolved that the Private and Confidential Minutes of Tenby Town Council Meeting held 11th April 2012 be confirmed.

532. MATTERS ARISING

507 – Royal Gate House

The Clerk reported he had been informed that 4 local businesses were interested in providing advertising hoardings for the Royal Gate House site. Following discussion it was

Resolved that this is a private business matter and to be dealt directly with the owner/developer of the site.

Mayor _____

Town Clerk _____

Date _____