

TENBY TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE TENBY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD 24th June 2014

PRESENT

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

ALSO PRESENT

Mrs L Hambidge	Head of Housing, Pembrokeshire County Council
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IN ATTENDANCE:

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

The Mayor welcomed Mrs L Hambidge, Head of Housing, PCC, who attended to provide information on Pembrokeshire Social Housing allocation policy.

Councillor Mrs Brown explained that local residents in Augustus Place, Jones Terrace and Hamilton Court said the properties were built over 50 years ago for local residents aged over 60 years of age; however recently fourteen of the units have been allocated to non-local tenants, meaning they are not former residents or have family in Tenby. Several examples were given but individuals not discussed due to confidentiality. It had been observed for seven months no properties in this specific area have been advertised via the bidding process, yet properties have been allocated. It is strongly felt by locals that people with disabilities or assessed by the Occupational Therapist get priority allocation, reducing the option for local elderly residents to even try for allocation into sheltered housing.

She continued asking for clarification of what criteria constitutes a disabled adapted property. Is it just providing a walk in shower, as all have these but many entrances are accessed by steps? In light of all the local concerns Councillor Mrs Brown requested if the allocation for these specific properties could return to the original allocation process, 'local properties for local residents'. Some older generation locals wish to be housed in this specific sheltered housing area, which in turn could release three bedroom houses for allocation to a family. These residents would still have a local family network of care, saving money for social services.

Mrs Hambidge worked through all the questions expressed. A document was circulated outlining the social housing stock within Tenby, clarifying the breakdown of the current housing register and the allocation rate for 2013/14.

She explained that housing allocation has to follow the legal requirements, set out in the 1996 Housing Act. In addition the local authority publishes their own allocation policy which contains the local connection extracts. County Councillor Evans has been the driving force behind the local allocation scheme, initially fighting for allocation of 1 in 10 to local people and when this was achieved he campaigned and provided debate for 1 in 3 which is the policy at present. The criteria are reviewed annually in March, as regulation of allocation is governed by the state of the housing market. When

there is a down turn in the market many more houses are offered for private rental, whereas when there is a property boom more Housing Association and PCC houses are required.

Changes in criteria, like the bedroom tax, welfare benefit amendments and the proposed new homeless policy, also have an impact on social housing allocation.

The Mayor explained that it is very sad for local families who live with older family members, sometimes in one room to keep a roof over their heads, rather than declaring themselves homeless, and yet they are penalised for it. When someone declares they are homeless, inevitably they seem to be housed as a priority. Mrs Hambidge explained that cases have to be merited on the information provided and taken at face value; therefore balancing the list is extremely difficult.

The Mayor said with the local health services being reduced in Tenby at present was it fair to be adapting more sheltered housing for the disabled.

Mrs Hambidge said clarification of the local allocation element is unlikely to ever be achieved as she has been in post and trying for the past 23 years, however progress has been made in certain areas and healthy debate with County Councillors and other services will continue work through problems and concerns. Changes are inevitable over 55s are the new over 60s with more people having chronic diseases that require sheltered housing facilities.

Statistics for providing adaptations to properties were highlighted and why the process of fitting the tenant to the property is much more practical than reversing adaptation. This is the reason some adapted properties are not advertised to save changing the adaptations. She continued explaining that every person has the right to an assessment, for adaptations to their property, if there is a need. PCC is then obligated to carry out the work. Every effort is taken to encourage a person to move to a more suitable premise, however many do not want to move areas and therefore adaptations to multiple bedroom properties occurs. People are very aware of their rights and express them verbally when needed.

Councillor Blackhall explained that the strong community support network in Augustus Place is being fragmented by the policy and eventually it will breakdown; therefore the desire to keep the allocation to local residents is one with the aim of maintain the community support framework, and ultimately save money for social services by the way the care is provided.

Councillor Mrs Brown asked as there is presently one property on the bidding list, if a local person was to bid against a person with an Occupational Therapist assessment, would the second person be more likely to be allocated the property. Mrs Hambidge was unable to comment as it would depend on the information and type of property up for allocation.

Councillor Johns stated that once a property is adapted, the adapted property list will increase and reduce the housing stock for ordinary houses. Mrs Hambidge agreed as there has been an increase in the need for disabled properties as more people are being looked after in their own homes rather than going into residential care. It is well documented people are less likely to want to move or change their way of living.

Councillor Hallett asked about the issues relating to long term empty properties and their use to aid the housing shortage. Mrs Hambidge explained that there is a PCC loan scheme available for people to apply for up to £25,000, to get a property to a standard for letting. However, apart from this option PCC has very little control over these types of properties, as many are owned by someone who chooses to leave the property empty.

Councillor Blackhall asked how many affordable houses have been built in Tenby since the PCNPA affordable housing scheme came in to operation. Mrs Hambidge explained that sadly none have been built; however she explained communication between PCC and PCNPA is ongoing as the policy appears to not be working and requires serious review. On a positive note she explained one affordable housing program is presently in the pipeline for Tenby.

Councillor Evans said the Housing Policy is a living breathing document and it is up to Councillors to bring suggestions to the table; however the policy has to be legal and lawful.

Councillor Mrs Brown thanked Mrs Hambidge for answering her questions, before the Mayor expressed her thanks on behalf of TTC. Mrs Hambidge thanked Councillors for the opportunity to provide information before she left the chamber.

88. APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Councillor P Rapi.

89. DISCLOSURE OF PERSONAL INTERESTS

None noted

90. ITEMS TO PRESS

Proposed by Councillor Hallett, seconded by Councillor Mrs Putwain.

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

91. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Resolved that the Minutes of the Tenby Town Council held 10th June 2014 be confirmed and signed as accurate with the following amended sentence:

Accounts for May 2014 – Tenby Sea Cadets – Donation for War Graves Maintenance

Councillor Mrs Putwain took no part in the discussion or vote.

92. MATTERS ARISING

49 – (33) – South Pembrokeshire Hunt meet

Councillor Mrs Putwain asked if the Clerk had made enquiries in relation to costs for Insurance and road closures that would be incurred, by inviting the Pembrokeshire Hunt meet into Tudor Square, Tenby. The Clerk responded by saying that he was not aware that he had been required to do this as TTC resolution only asked if the Clerk could contact Mr Tom Hayes, PCC for clarification of the timings when the dogs on leads bye-law is effective for specific areas in Tenby. When he had clarified that the by-law runs concurrently with the beach ban, May to September and not, as he thought for 12 months, he had e-mailed all councillors immediately, apologising for his error.

Councillor Mrs Putwain challenged the Clerk as to why he had originally stated that the dogs on leads byelaw was for 12 months of the year. She had personally contacted Mr Hayes and was

now aware many Tenby streets are included in the seasonal dogs on leads by-law; however she commented on the distinct lack of signage stating this ban.

The Clerk commented that as far as he had always been aware the dogs on leads requirement was for the whole year and had Cllr. Blackhall not queried this, he would still have been of the same opinion. However, he now had now clarified the matter and again apologised for his error. Councillor Mrs Thomas agreed with the Clerk stating that she had also been under the same impression that the dog ban was for 12 months as a ‘cordon sanitaire’ had been introduced in the Dyfed Act. The Mayor said that PCNPA would not sanction dog ban signage throughout the town and therefore they are placed strategically at access points within the town.

Councillor Hallett said no one has all the answers and everyone has the ability and right to ring PCC to clarify information.

76a Welsh Government – Public Health White Paper consultation

The Clerk said he had confirmation that TTC responses to Chapter 5 and 6 of the public health white paper consultation proposals to place a duty on each County Council to develop a strategy on the provision of, and access to, toilets for public use in their area and supporting the establishment of a National Special Procedures Register to cover cosmetic piercing, tattooing, semi-permanent skin colouring, acupuncture and electrolysis, had been received.

76d – Jane Gibson, PCNPA (via e-mail) – Consultation period

The Clerk reported that Jane Gibson had responded to TTC concerns about consultation timings for statutory consultees and the general public; however PCNPA are bound by legislation and therefore their hands are tied preventing amendment to the present arrangements.

Councillor Mrs Putwain felt it would be helpful if PCNPA informed the general public on their letters that statutory consultees like TTC, have a duty to respond before the date they have to respond. This would then give them time to discuss any concerns with other bodies like TTC. Councillor Blackhall agreed that PCNPA could inform residents by letter that they can liaise with statutory consultees before a specified date.

Discussion took place in relation to a list of Statutory consultees on planning applications, before Councillor Evans proposed TTC request a list of statutory consultees for planning applications within the town walls from PCNPA, seconded by Councillor Hallett.

Resolved that TTC contact PCNPA and ask if residents can be made aware of the different response date for statutory consultees and if TTC can have a list of statutory consultees for planning applications within the town walls.

76f – Chris Martin – Hywel Dda University Health Board – Tenby Surgery

Councillor Mrs Thomas asked if any response had been received from the Director or Chairman of Hywel Dda Health Board in relation to the problems being experienced by residents of Tenby Surgery. The Clerk said he had received no response from Mr T Purt.

76i – Street Trading Licence

The Clerk reminded Councillors of the meeting with Mr Marc Owen, Street Care, PCC on Wednesday 25th June 2014 at 3.30pm, to discuss ‘A’ boards, street trading and parking issues. For information he reported in relation to Mr Chiffi’s request for support following his street trading license refusal, there is no appeal process.

Councillor Dr Easy requested clarification if Mr Chiffi can re apply for a licence instead of an appeal process. The Clerk felt Mr Chiffi could submit another application; however he suggested members discuss the matter with Mr Owen at the scheduled meeting.

The Mayor gave her apologies for the meeting with Mr M Owen.

81 – Financial Officer/Clerk’s Items

The Clerk reported he had received responses to TTC letters this morning from Mr M Drakeford, Minister for Health, Welsh Assembly and County Councillor J Adams, chairman of PCC; therefore they will be included in the next agenda.

Councillor Mrs Rossiter asked following the meeting with Councillor J Adams, PCC if any of the unanswered correspondence from the list had been acknowledged. The Clerk had received communication from Mr I Westley that the question presented to him had been taken to Cabinet and therefore the response could be accessed from the minutes on the internet. In relation to the new Primary School provision letter PCC forwarded a response that did not answer the original question and therefore the matter was just noted.

Councillor Hallett felt that PCC should acknowledge and respond when a question is sent to them by a Council or any individual. He felt stating that a response can be found on the internet is not an answer as not everyone can or has the knowhow to access the information off the internet.

93. PLANNING APPLICATION

a.NP/14/0291 – McCarthy and Stone Retirement Life styles Ltd., Homelife House, 26-23 Oxford Road, Bournemouth – Proposed 4 no. air source heat pumps together with associated acoustic equipment and additional landscaping (par retrospective) – Royal Playhouse Cinema, White Lion Street, Tenby.

Councillors discussed and viewed the planning application. The Clerk brought the letter in correspondence from Tenby Civic Society to Councillors attention adding that the Civic Society Chairman had since visited the site to view the heat pumps and reported the units are completely enclosed, therefore they were now satisfied the noise would be contained. Councillor Evans proposed approval, with concern that following completion of the whole development the air source heat pumps sound proofing needed to be adequate to prevent a sound tunnel being formed in the direction of properties along The Norton, Tenby, seconded by Councillor Hallett.

RECOMMEND

Approval with concern that following completion of the whole development the air source heat pumps sound proofing needed to be adequate to prevent a sound tunnel being formed in the direction of properties along The Norton, Tenby.

94. PLANNING CORRESPONDENCE

a. Tenby Civic Society planning sub-committee – Application NP/14/0291

Discussed under Planning Application NP/14/0291.

95. CORRESPONDENCE

a. Chamber of Trade and Tourism – May minutes

Councillors viewed the information, it was

Resolved that the information be noted.

b. Josephine Perkins – South Pembs. Hunt meet

Councillors viewed the information, it was

Resolved that the information be noted.

c. Cllr. Michael Williams (via e-mail) – Ironman 2014

Councillors viewed the information, it was

Resolved that the information be noted.

d. Kelly Morris, PCC – Tourist Directional Signs – Celtic Haven, Lydstep

Councillor Mrs Rossiter felt signage would cause no problems and therefore had no objections.

Councillor W Rossiter proposed objection as he felt this signage was advertising for the holiday destination and we could end up with multiple signs all along the main road from Kilgetty. As people have sat navigation equipment and maps to find their way to the establishment he felt additional signage was unnecessary.

Following further discussion Councillor W Rossiter proposed objection to the signage as it was additional advertising and not needed when people have the ability to find their own way to a destination, seconded by Councillor Blackhall.

Councillor Mrs Rossiter added a second proposal, no objection to the tourist directional signage, seconded by Councillor Mrs Thomas.

The Mayor took a vote on the second proposal, resulting in two votes for; then she took a vote on the first proposal, resulting in 5 votes for. It was therefore

Resolved that TTC object to the tourist directional signage for Celtic Haven, Lydstep.

e. Leon Jardine (via e-mail) – Tenby holiday

Councillor Hallett felt that several of the issues raised in the letter from Mr Jardine should be forwarded to PCC for their views, specifically the access officer in relation to the dropped kerb concerns.

Councillor Mrs Rossiter felt that if you wish to have a quiet holiday you refrain from staying in the centre of any town.

Following further discussion it was

Resolved that the letter be forwarded to PCC for their views on the concerns expressed within Mr Jardine's letter.

Councillor Mrs Rossiter proposed that TTC send a letter to Mr Jardine informing him that his letter will be forwarded to PCC for their views, seconded by Councillor Hallett.

Resolved that TTC send a letter to Mr Jardine informing him that his letter has been forwarded to PCC for their views.

f. Mr Derek Masson, Director of Delivery, MAWWFRS (via e-mail) – Control Centre merger

The Clerk explained why Mr Masson had written to outline the discussions and reasons why the Control Centre merger is being undertaken. Councillor Evans felt the positive information to come out of this letter is the assurance that Tenby Fire Station is secure and will be here to stay. It was

Resolved that the information be noted.

g. Hywel Dda University Health Board – Meeting to explain changes to maternity, neonatal, paediatric and gynaecology services at Withybush and Glangwili Hospitals, 6.30 pm Thursday 3rd July 2014 at the Queen’s Hall, Narberth.

Councillor Mrs Thomas put her name forward and would try to attend the meeting.

Resolved that Councillor Mrs Thomas would try to attend the meeting.

h. Jason Avallone, Sunday Telegraph – Logo licence

Councillors discussed the information. Councillor Mrs Brown proposed TTC forward the information to Tenby Chamber of Trade and Tourism for their attention, seconded by Councillor Hallett.

Resolved that the information from Jason Avallone, Sunday Telegraph – Logo licence information to Tenby Chamber of Trade and Tourism.

i. Lisa Davies, PCC – Changes in the way people register to vote

Councillors viewed and discussed the information, it was

Resolved that the information be noted.

96. REPORTS BY COUNCILLORS ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Councillor Johns reported he had attended the Tenby Market Hall meeting. The main aim is to collate and forward a proposal to send to Mr B Cooke, PCC. Councillor Dr Easy added that a draft proposal is being prepared and will be circulated to all four organisations involved in the market hall meetings prior to formally being presented to PCC.

Councillor Blackhall gave an update on the De Valence saying he had met with Activity Wales and everyone was looking forward to, and was ready for, the preparation needed for the Long Course Weekend Event. A Youth Drama Group will be commencing with taster sessions in July and August and the Bingo evening continues to go from strength to strength.

Councillor Mrs Brown reported she had attended the recent SEPCHN meeting where one lady mentioned that the MIU façade and building grounds needs attention and if any groups are able to assist and join a working party to attend to this area could they contact Mrs Mary Watts to offer their help.

Councillor W Rossiter reported on the recent Labour meeting where it was speculated that importing of Tar Sand Oil may be considered for our area. They were aware Bilboa Refinery in Spain is already taking in the oil therefore it is very important to keep abreast of the information.

Councillor Mrs Thomas said she had minuted the recent SEPCHN meeting and they will be available by e-mail to anyone who wishes a copy. However, she did say people are angry,

bewildered and frustrated at all that is happening at Tenby Doctors Surgery and with the Hywel Dda Health Board. Joyce Watson AM and Simon Thomas AM were both in attendance and said they will continue to fight the cause and take question to the minister. One general public member present said in light of all the health changes and closures in Pembrokeshire please note 'Wales does not end at Carmarthen'. The outcome of the SEPCHN meeting was people will continue to push forward and fight for health services in Pembrokeshire.

Councillor Evans reported he attended an Economy meeting about Super Fast Broadband that will benefit businesses and home users alike. It will be rolled out on a scheduled program like a road map, the main towns first and then the subsidiaries. Tenby will follow the major towns and at present is scheduled for 2016. An internet site is accessible to show the plan and progress with a site to register an interest at no cost (www.superfastcymru.com), therefore as many people as possible should register an interest to show we are very keen to have the facility live in Tenby as soon as possible.

The Mayor reported dates for judging of forthcoming competitions, Tenby in Bloom 9th July, Britain in Bloom is on 30th July and Wales in Bloom is still to be announced. She continued expressing how grateful the TIB committee are for the community support that has been received this year along with many financial donations. Every person or organisation that has donated will receive a personal thank you from the committee. The beautification team works hard and their efforts are really appreciated and if any additional people wish to help it would mean two teams could cover several areas at once. Everyone is welcome to help and can contact TTC office or Councillor Mrs Lane direct.

97. MEDIA ITEMS

The Clerk noted the Sunday Telegraph media item previously discussed earlier in the meeting.

98. FOOTPATH PROVISION AT THE CLICKETTS

Councillor Rapi was not present; therefore the item will be placed on the next agenda.

99. TENBY FUNERAL BIER

Councillor Hallett felt it was a shame the Tenby Funeral Bier was not displayed in a more prominent position; however it is stored in the Mayor's parlour. He felt it now requires some maintenance including a coat of paint and then perhaps people can be made aware of its storage place and history. He asked if anyone wished to help that they contact the TTC office.

100. TOURISM

The Mayor asked if any Councillors had met or knew the name of PCC Tourism Officer, as sadly she had been a Councillor for 28 years and was yet to meet one. She continued explaining that Tenby was doing its own promotion; firstly following the achievement of five blooms in the International Communities in Bloom Tenby has been displayed in 10,000 brochures all over the world.

Tenby has been documented as the best beach in Europe.

The Mail on line featured Tenby.

On Google Tenby is featured in 30 secret small towns to visit that look like fairy tales, this item had received 88,000 shares already.

She felt all these ways of promoting tourism in Tenby should be enhanced as Tenby promotes Pembrokeshire and Wales and PCC needs to come on board and visit Tenby. She proposed TTC invite Mr Alan Turner, Tourism Officer, PCC to a council meeting, seconded by Councillor Mrs Rossiter.

The Clerk reported he had previously invited Mr Turner to a meeting; however at that time he was unsure of his PCC budget so declined.

Councillor Mrs Rossiter explained that at a previous meeting she talked about the busy M5 corridor to the West Country and how the M4 corridor was as easily accessible but sadly underused; therefore Pembrokeshire should be doing more to encourage visitors to our towns.

Councillor Evans explained that PCC tourism budget has been cut by two thirds this year and therefore highlights the fact it is a nice to have service rather than a must have service. However, he added that Tenby will be the only TIC left in Pembrokeshire so we need to embrace and use that fact.

Councillor W Rossiter talked about the webcams previously discussed at a TTC meeting stating that this would be a relatively cheap way of promoting Tenby beaches live.

The Mayor added that in Canada Tenby was allocated a table for promotion however despite contacting various organisations no assistance materialised so the opportunity was missed.

The Clerk added that County Councillor Adams, during his visit, explained that in his view Tourism would be better handled by an independent group.

Following discussion it was

Resolved that TTC invite Mr Alan Turner, Tourism Officer, PCC and Mrs M Hughes, Pembrokeshire Tourism Association to a council meeting to discuss the future advertising of Tenby and Pembrokeshire.

101. FINANCIAL OFFICER/CLERK'S ITEMS

a. Civic Service – Sunday 29th June 2014 at Holyrood and St. Teilo's Church.

The Clerk reminded Councillors of the Civic Service this Sunday and asked if Councillors could meet at the De Valence at 2pm to walk to the Church.

Councillor Mrs Putwain gave her apologies for the Civic Service in advance.

b. Planning Application NP/14/205 - Astoria, Serpentine Road, Tenby

The Clerk reported for councillors' information planning application NP/14/205 had been withdrawn.

c. Tenby Fire Brigade Carnival

The Clerk reported Tenby Fire Brigade had asked for permission from TTC to hold their annual carnival this year and if the Mayor would attend to parade and present prizes. It was

Resolved that TTC fully supported Tenby Fireman's Carnival.

d. Dyfed Powys Police Commissioners on-line survey

The Clerk brought to Councillors attention the details of on line survey being carried out by the Police Commissioner in relation to ranking the choice of punishment delivered to offenders by victims of minor crimes e.g. vandalism. The general public can individually go on the site and rank the 12 choices listed.

102. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved that the next meeting will take place on Tuesday 8th July 2014 at 7.00pm, Representatives of Capita Symonds and Pembrokeshire County Council will be in attendance to discuss the next phase of the multi-storey enhancement.

103. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

Traffic Calming – Marsh Road and Serpentine Road, The Maudlins junction.

Speeding Signage - Newell Hill.

104. PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

Proposed by Councillor Evans seconded by Councillor Hallett.

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.

105. MINUTES

Resolved that the Private and Confidential Minutes of Tenby Town Council Meeting held 10th June 2014 be confirmed and signed as accurate.

106. MATTERS ARISING

86 – Tenby Garden Storage

The Clerk reported no new information had been received in relation to the Nursery Gardens.

87 – Tenby Notice Board

Councillor Evans reported he has organised several gentlemen to assist in the moving of the Notice Board to it new home at Tenby Rugby Ground, Heywood Lane, Tenby.

107. FINANCIAL OFFICER/CLERK’S ITEMS

David Cochlin – John Francis

An inquiry was made if the De Valence Pavilion was still available for consideration for sale on the open market. Councillor Mrs Lane proposed that the building is not for sale, seconded by Councillor Mrs Brown.

Resolved that the Clerk inform Mr David Cochlin that the De Valence Pavilion is not for sale.

Mayor _____

Town Clerk _____

Date _____