

TENBY TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE TENBY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD 27th October 2015

PRESENT

Councillor Mrs Lane	Deputy Mayor
Councillor Mrs Rossiter	
Councillor Mrs Thomas	
Councillor L Blackhall	
Councillor T Hallett	
Councillor W Rossiter	
Councillor Dr P Easy	

IN ATTENDANCE:

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

The Clerk reported the Mayor was away on holiday and asked Councillors to propose someone to chair the meeting.

Councillor Hallett proposed Deputy Mayor Councillor Mrs Lane take the chair, seconded by Councillor Mrs Thomas.

Resolved that Deputy Mayor Councillor Mrs Lane chair TTC meeting.

242. APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Councillor P Rapi and Councillor Mrs Durham.

Councillor Mrs Lane reported a letter of resignation had been received from Councillor Mrs Putwain and the Mayor had accepted the resignation with immediate effect on the 20th October 2015.

Councillors read and noted the letter before Councillor Mrs Lane proposed TTC send a letter to Mrs Putwain thanking her for her service on Tenby Town Council, seconded by Councillor Hallett.

Resolved that TTC accept the resignation of South Ward Councillor Mrs Putwain and send a letter thanking her for her service on the town council. The Town Clerk to commence proceedings to advertise for a Casual Vacancy on Tenby Town Council.

The Clerk reported this is the second Tenby South Ward vacancy. The two week declaration period for residents to petition PCC if they wanted the vacancy filled via election had passed, however he had not received any confirmation if there is to be an election. He was aware the second vacancy would have to be declared and follow the same process; however if no election is called TTC can advertise and co-opt the vacancies together.

Councillor W Rossiter requested confirmation of when the next Town and Community Council elections will take place. The Clerk confirmed the next Town and Community election will take place in 2017.

243. DISCLOSURE OF PERSONAL INTERESTS

Councillor Dr Easy declared a personal interest in Item 13. Councillor Hallett asked for clarification from the Clerk, if by discussing Brynhir site, could councillors be accused of pre-judging the site prior to any officially submitted applications. The Clerk said all councillors needed to be mindful of their comments; however under the new Welsh Government rules on planning,

developers of large scale developments are being encouraged to present their proposals to councils for discussion before submitting the planning application so 'prejudging' would not be an issue.

244. ITEMS TO PRESS

Proposed by Councillor Hallett, seconded by Councillor Blackhall.

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

245. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Resolved that the Minutes of the Tenby Town Council held 13th October 2015 be confirmed and signed as accurate.

The Clerk reported he had received the additional documentation relating to Item 9d as indicated on the agenda and an updated e-mail relating to Item 9b, which he distributed to all present.

246. MATTERS ARISING

189 – Dead House Steps

Councillor Mrs Thomas asked for an update on Dead House Steps. The Clerk reported he had spoken to Mr W Lloyd, Highways Maintenance, PCC who stated they filled in the dangerous pot holes with slow set to improve the safety of the pathway. A long term solution is being discussed between the property and maintenance sections at PCC and further clarification will be sent in due course.

Councillor Mrs Rossiter expressed her thanks to PCC for the new replacement doors on Brother Thomas Garden, saying how lovely they look. The Clerk said they are presently locked and he was aware of the key location if anyone required access before they are fully operational.

223 – Christmas Festivities 2015

The Clerk responded on behalf of the Mayor in his absence and circulated the updated plan of action for the Christmas Festivities in Tenby. He brought the finances of the events to councillors' attention for discussion.

Councillor Hallett asked if there was sufficient funds in TTC budget to support the events with the same donation figure as last year. The Clerk confirmed there was funds available for this year's festive events.

Councillor Blackhall said in light of Tenby Chamber of Trade and Tourism agreeing to contribute £500 towards the costs, he proposed TTC donate £500, seconded by Councillor Hallett.

Resolved that, under Section 144 of the LGA 1972, £500 be made available from the TTC Promoting Tenby budget to help fund the town's Christmas Festivities.

226c. Tenby Public Conveniences – Danfo

The Clerk reported he had received a letter of response from Mr Mills, Danfo, expressing his sadness at TTC not being happy with his previous response; however he stood by his word that they would be against coin change machines in light of experiences that have occurred in other towns. He did say he would be still willing to meet with councillors if they felt there was a need.

The Clerk continued saying he was aware the Tourist Information Centre was providing people with change for the toilets. The opening hours for the TIC are Monday to Friday, 9am till 5pm and Saturday 10am – 5pm.

Councillor Mrs Rossiter felt it was no good having change for the toilets in the TIC if people are using Butts Field Car Park.

Councillor Hallett said Tenby does not stop after 5pm and people still need to use the facilities.

Councillor Mrs Lane personally felt most people carry change and if not they ask someone in the vicinity for change; therefore we need to accept the information from Danfo, as some comments might be seen as being petty.

228a. Grants - Tenby Aces – Ironman World Championships

The Clerk said he had received a thank you from Tenby Aces for the grant donation to their club. They expressed how proud they are to have had approximately one hundred members enter Ironman Wales. In addition members have been good role models for advertising Tenby when wearing the Aces kit at various competition venues in Britain and abroad. It was

Resolved that the letter be noted.

233 – Town Crier

Councillor Mrs Thomas reported on the recent Town Crier interview where the applicant was given some of Mr John Thomas' cries to recite. He was also given a task, to write and present one of his own from the top of the town walls. This the applicant did very well and all those present were very impressed.

Councillor W Rossiter expressed how clear and effective the gentleman's town cry was, whilst battling the wind and traffic. He was extremely clear from an effective distance.

Councillor Mrs Thomas proposed TTC offer Mr T Powell the position of Tenby Town Crier, seconded by Councillor W Rossiter.

Resolved that TTC write to Mr T Powell and offer him the position of Tenby Town Crier.

Councillors and the Clerk remarked on the family connection Mr Powell had with the Town Council, his Grandfather having been a former Mayor of Tenby and one of his ancestors having held the Town Crier position.

Councillor Mrs Thomas felt the present town crier uniform would be unlikely to fit Mr Powell and this would need to be discussed in more detail in due course.

247. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

a. NP/15/0588/FUL & NP/15/0589/LBA - Mr Robert Willis, Seascope Holidays Ltd, Gernant, Rhiwbina, Cardiff – Ground floor extension to the rear of the property to create open plan living space and shower room – Battersea House, St Marys Street, Tenby.

Councillor discussed and viewed the planning application.

Councillor Mrs Rossiter proposed approval as it will create more ground floor living space and in keeping with similar extensions in the area, seconded by Councillor Hallett.

RECOMMEND

Approval as it will create more ground floor living space and is in keeping with similar extensions in the area.

248. PLANNING CORRESPONDENCE

a. Community Facilities in Tenby – Evidence Base Local Development Plan for the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park – Clerk’s assessment

The Clerk explained he had clarified and amended the PCNPA Evidence Base Local Development Plan documentation and felt the number of amenities were now more accurate. He had created a list for councillors’ approval before submitting the document.

Councillor Mrs Thomas asked if the school halls and scout and guide hall could be included to recreational hire venues.

The Clerk asked if councillors felt the Sailing Club should be included under public houses. It was felt that now the premises was open to the general public until a certain hour it should be included.

Resolved that the Clerk submit the PCNPA Evidence Base Local Development Plan clarification documentation with the additional amendments.

The Clerk reported he had received two Tree Works Application, one of which needed a decision before the next full council meeting. Councillors discussed taking both applications it was

Resolved that TTC review and comment on Tree Works application T22/15/MH and C29/15.

b. Tree Works – T22/15/MH – Raise canopy on beach side – trim height to 6-8 metres, tree between Esplanade and adj. zig-zag path, North Walk, Tenby

Councillor Hallett, as TTC tree warden, proposed approval of the tree works, seconded by Councillor W Rossiter.

Recommend approval of proposed tree works.

c. Tree Works – C29/15 – T1 and T2 Sycamore. Selective branch reductions to alleviate unbalanced asymmetrical crown, Ivy Cottages, Tenby

Councillor Hallett, as TTC tree warden, proposed approval of the tree works, seconded by Councillor W Rossiter.

Recommend approval of proposed tree works.

249. CORRESPONDENCE

a.PCC – Active Travel consultation

Councillor W Rossiter felt that Tenby has clear cycle and walking paths; therefore there was no need for further discussion.

Councillor Hallett felt more footpath signage on the periphery of the town was needed.

The Clerk felt the document was asking for comments on access routes to school or work rather than recreational walks.

Following discussion it was

Resolved that Councillor Hallett and the Clerk be designated to complete the Active Travel consultation document.

b. Jim Warr, PCC – Tenby Flood Warning Signs

The Clerk outlined the updated e-mail received on the VMS signage for Tenby from Mr K Lowther, PCC, following a meeting with Councillor Evans.

Councillors noted the information; however they still felt strongly about the historical wording been placed on the welcome to Tenby signage. Over the centuries the wording has had significant meaning: people can relax because of the sea and all Tenby has to offer. They felt the wording was more important than a state of the art flooding sign when previously the removable signage has adequately served the purpose for years on the odd occasion when Gumfreston road has flooded.

The Clerk re-capped on all the discussions that have been held over recent months, clarifying the reasoning why this flood warning signage has been funded and allocated by the Environment Agency and not PCC.

Councillors felt they would rather keep the present signage than have the welcome to Tenby on a VMS flood warning sign. They continued to discuss the matter in great detail.

Councillor Mrs Thomas proposed TTC write and support the original option for two separate signs on Bells corner (the VMS flood warning sign and the welcome to Tenby with specific wording in Welsh and English) and a single VMS and welcome to Tenby sign along Marsh Road, seconded by Councillor Dr Easy.

Resolved that TTC write to Mr K Lowther, PCC in support of the previous concept for the welcome to Tenby sign on the VMS board at Marsh Road and two separate signs on Bells Corner site.

c. Tenby Civic Society – Alternative Management, Uses and Funding of Greenhill, Tenby – a proposal document for discussion.

Councillor Mrs Thomas felt the proposal was an intelligent, well written document with multiple ideas; however she had concerns over who could take such a proposal forward. She wondered if a group could be formed to work on such a large project.

Councillor Dr Easy was aware the same document was being presented at the next Development Trust meeting for their consideration.

Councillor Blackhall felt one or two of the lines that were referenced too were inaccurate and although he supported the ideas in principle he felt these needed to be addressed as they were giving the wrong impression.

He outlined a few misleading inaccuracies:

- The De Valence is not struggling in fact it is drawing more events than it has previously
- He welcomed the provision for a lunchtime recreational area; however he was unaware of any unruly behaviour by Greenhill School pupils and felt we should support the work and behaviour of the school and its pupils.

He continued stating the facilities is not solely used by Tenby residents, it is used by local town and villages as well, like Penally and New Hedges; therefore it would need contributions and support from the other local communities.

Councillors felt the document was well worth considering in principle; however it needed to be worked on by a collective partnership of people to take it forward following amendment of the inaccuracies.

Councillor Mrs Thomas proposed TTC write to Tenby Civic Society stating the council's views and pointing out a few inaccuracies, seconded by Councillor Blackhall.

Resolved that TTC write to Tenby Civic Society outlining they supported the document as it was well worth considering in principle; however they felt it needed to be worked on by a collective partnership of people to take it forward and that there were inaccuracies that required amending.

d. Mr Mark Elliott, Public Protection, PCC – Pilot Smoke Free Beach in Tenby (additional information on the table)

Councillors reviewed the additional information received. The Clerk said Mr Elliott, PCC had suggested Tenby be one of the pilot beaches. This idea is due to Tenby having four beaches and people would be able to access an alternative beach if they chose to not be part of the pilot scheme.

Councillor W Rossiter felt this was dictating to people what they can and cannot do and should we as a tourist area be doing this.

Councillor Blackhall felt that a smoke free zone in a children's play area was an entirely different matter.

Councillor Mrs Lane said perhaps we should be putting up advice notices saying smokers be aware there are children playing in this area.

Councillor W Rossiter felt Tenby had quite enough signs already and therefore we should not consider adding any more.

Councillor Mrs Lane proposed write to Mr M Elliott as TTC do not feel Tenby is a suitable site to be used for a pilot smoke free beach scheme in Pembrokeshire, seconded by Councillor Mrs Rossiter.

Resolved that TTC write to Mr M Elliott stating TTC do not feel a Tenby beach is a suitable site for the pilot smoke free beach scheme.

250. GRANTS

a. PATCH

Councillors discussed the PATCH project; however they felt this scheme was better supported by individual councillors and members of the general public.

Councillor Blackhall suggested TTC could contact PATCH and offer the TTC building as a place for dropping off or storage of the donated items. It was

Resolved that TTC write to PATCH explaining they would not be able to make a donation; however councillors or the general public would be encouraged to donate and the council offices were available as a place for dropping off or storage of the items donated as needed.

251. REPORTS BY COUNCILLORS ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Councillor Blackhall reported on future events planned for the De Valence including an Ironman Party and the Blues Festival. He made a request for any volunteers who are willing to help during these event to please let him know. He would like daytime volunteers for the hall change around as well as glass collectors etc on the evenings. In addition he reported the café refurbishment work was proceeding well and once completed the premises would be launching as a Health Food café.

Councillor Mrs Lane reported she had attended her first Wales in Bloom committee meeting in Llandrindod Wells. She was pleased to report Tenby had been entered into Britain in Bloom 2016.

252. MEDIA

Councillor Mrs Rossiter reported on the recent letter from County Councillor Mrs Sue Perkins in answer to a previous letter in the Tenby Observer. She personally felt Councillor Mrs Perkins had shot herself in the foot and contradicted herself with her responses.

Councillor W Rossiter pointed out he felt there are two inaccuracies on a recent section of an ordinance survey map. It refers to Table Rock and he felt it should be documented as Bowman's Rock. It was

Resolved that the Clerk would check the ordinance survey map and inform the company of the inaccuracy.

Councillor Dr Easy reported on the book he was reading, The Road to Little Dribbling: More Notes from a Small Island, by Bill Bryson. The following quote from the book referred to when he spent time in Wales, specifically Tenby.

‘Seventeen miles around Carmarthen Bay from Laugharne is the old resort of Tenby. I had heard that it is a charming place, but in fact it is exquisite –full of pastel-coloured houses, sweet-looking hotels and guesthouses, characterful pubs and cafés, glorious beaches and gorgeous views. It is everything you could want in a coastal retreat. How had this escaped me for so long? Tenby stands on a steep-sided promontory high above its many beaches, which are reached by fetching zigzag paths, and seems bounded everywhere by water. The beaches are long and broad and, at the time of my visit, quite empty. I am not a beach person, as I think we have established, but these beckoned even for me. The artist Augustus John was born in Tenby and spent a miserable childhood in a house on Victoria Street, just off the clifftop Esplanade. John's mother died of rheumatic gout when he was just six (I have gout; nobody ever told me it was lethal) and he grew up in a house that was silent and gloomy, presided over by a grieving and unfeeling father. It is said that the young Augustus never showed any talent for art until at the age of seventeen while diving off some rocks at Tenby he smashed his head and emerged from the water ‘a bloody genius’. That seems a little improbable –I have hit my head a lot and it has never improved anything –but in any case he cultivated drawing from that point and became so skilled that John Singer Sargent declared him the best draughtsman since the Renaissance. I walked up and down practically every street in Tenby and I don't think I passed a house or cottage that I wouldn't have been happy to own. I strolled along the beaches and admired the boats in its harbour and the views to Caldey Island, two miles offshore.’

Councillors felt this was a very special quote and one that should be kept in TTC office for future reference.

Councillor Blackhall reported on a social media video on Saundersfoot beach, filming someone challenging a dog owner for not cleaning up after his dog. He felt it was worth noting that anyone can challenge an offender and taking photographic evidence can assist the dog wardens when following up a referral. However he did not want to encourage people to get into confrontational situations when challenging offenders.

The Clerk reported on two e-mails he had received, one from a local and the other from a holiday maker referring to the dog fouling problems they had experienced in Tenby. One area highlighted was the footpath from Kiln Park, along past the golf course, where people have been known to pick up the excrement and hang the bag in the trees.

One of the e-mails asked if TTC can shame the offender; however the Clerk was aware the dog warden has been investigating this specific case; therefore he felt the matter should be left in their hands.

Councillor W Rossiter said there appears to be an increase in the amount of dog owners but personally he felt the dog mess problem was not as bad as people are making out.

Councillor Mrs Lane said both Wales in Bloom and Britain in Bloom judges have commented on how clean Tenby streets are and our dog mess problem does not seem as bad as other towns.

Councillor Blackhall failed to understand why a dog owner goes to the trouble of picking up the dog excrement and then hanging it in the trees. He did however feel perhaps the footpath in question by the golf course should be considered as a site for a rubbish bin.

The Clerk reported that since the beach refuse bins have been removed the pile of dog waste bags has started appearing at the base of the beach ramp walkways again.

Councillor Mrs Lane said TTC had discussed the matter of beach bins and perhaps now was the time to re-think the need for this service to maintain the cleanliness of the town and beaches during the winter as well as the summer.

253. BRYNHIR

The Clerk reported as Councillor Evans was not present he had previously suggested TTC start to discuss their vision for the Brynhir site before it is sold on the open market. He continued explaining he was aware there is a social media campaign to save the green space area; however it has been designated as housing development land in the LDP for 40 years and had never been challenged before. He explained there is a clause in situ stating any developer needs to undertake a report of the natural flora and fauna on the site.

Councillors discussed whether a condition should be included to create a balance of affordable housing or if it should be the occupiers' main residence. Ultimately the outcome of the vision is to have the best development for the people of Tenby.

Councillor Mrs Rossiter proposed Brynhir be discussed further in private matters, seconded by Councillor Mrs Thomas.

Resolved that Brynhir be discussed further in private matters.

254. CYD CYMRU

The Clerk reported he had not received any communication from Augustus Place residents in relation to the pilot energy saving scheme; therefore he was unsure if they still were interest in the scheme.

Councillor Mrs Thomas felt the Chairman of the Augustus Residents Association was waiting for the Clerk to contact them.

Following further discussion it was

Resolved that the Clerk contact the Chairman of Augustus Place Residents Association.

255. FINANCIAL OFFICER/CLERK'S ITEMS

a. Dan Shaw, PCC – Corporate Planning Manager – Welsh Government – Grant funding

The Clerk reported the Welsh Government are conducting a review into its grant funding for town and community councils and are planning to meet with representatives of Town and Community Councils on the 16th November 2015 at County Hall. They asked for one representative only from every council who are members of One Voice Wales to attend the meeting.

Councillor Hallett proposed the Town Clerk attend on behalf of TTC, seconded by Councillor Mrs Thomas.

Resolved that the Clerk attend the Welsh Assembly grant funding review meeting on the 16th November 2015 at PCC.

b. Ben Blake, Senior Traffic Engineer, PCC – Narberth Road Pedestrian Crossing Proposal

The Clerk reported PCC had successfully achieved road safety grant funding for a new road layout and crossing at the Narberth Road junction. The design had been created with any future works that may be needed in mind. PCC anticipate work will commence in the New Year and take approximately 4-6 weeks to complete. Mr Blake informed the Clerk North Ward County Councillor M Williams is in agreement with the plans; however they would still like the views of TTC.

Councillors viewed and discussed Narberth Road junction's proposed new road layout design.

Councillor Mrs Rossiter proposed TTC welcome the new safety road layout and thank PCC for their hard work in achieving the grant funding, seconded by Councillor Hallett.

Resolved that TTC write to Mr B Blake stating councillors welcome the new safety road layout for Narberth Road Junction and thank PCC for their hard work in achieving the grant funding.

256. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved that the next meeting will take place on Tuesday 10th November 2015 at 7.30pm.

257. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

Brynhir – All Councillors

258. PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

Proposed by Councillor Hallett, 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.

259. MINUTES

Resolved that the Private and Confidential Minutes of Tenby Town Council Meeting held 13th October 2015 be confirmed and signed as accurate.

260. MATTERS ARISING

None noted

261. FUTURE FUNDING OF MAINTENANCE COMMITMENTS

Councillor Mrs Lane said following all the recent meetings outlining PCC proposed budget saving cuts that will be inevitable, she felt TTC needed to be proactive and be prepared for these cuts when setting the town budget. She felt it was likely there will be no funding for street furniture maintenance or floral enhancements. Therefore as tourism is the main source of income for Tenby she outlined it is vital our town looks vibrant and welcoming for all. Unfortunately funding cuts are not likely to be finalised and known until March 2016, making this date too late to order and plant up the flower displays for the 2016 season. Funding needs to be allocated now to pay for the flowers and ways of providing the funding can then be discussed in due course.

She continued explaining Tenby in Bloom is looking at several ideas including sponsorship of beds, replacing flowers with shrubs and the gardeners have saved as many of the plants from this year as possible to plant them for next year.

Councillor Blackhall proposed TTC be prepared and commit £10,000 from TTC budget; however this amount might not be spent and other ways of funding may be accessed, seconded by Councillor Mrs Rossiter.

Councillor Mrs Lane said she is holding a Tenby in Bloom sponsor thank you evening shortly and further details will be announced in due course.

Resolved that TCC commit £10,000 from TTC budget and look into alternative ways of accessing funding for the floral displays.

Councillor Mrs Lane said TTC needs to seriously address the general public concerns relating to no waste bins being present at the entrances to the beaches during winter months. Councillors discussed the problem in detail and gave various views on solving the matter.

Councillor Mrs Thomas left the chamber.

262. BRYNHIR

Councillor Mrs Rossiter said TTC should look into the viability of TTC purchasing part of the Brynhir land.

Councillors discussed and reiterated the points discussed earlier including whether a covenant should be put on the land stating properties must be the main permanent residence.

Councillors discussed Councillor Mrs Rossiters idea of purchasing the land, it was

Resolved that the Clerk look into the viability of a Public Works Loan to purchase some of the land at Brynhir.

Mayor _____

Town Clerk _____

Date _____