

TENBY TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE TENBY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD 30th October 2012

PRESENT

Councillor T Hallett Mayor
Councillor Mrs Rossiter
Councillor L Blackhall
Councillor Mrs Thomas
Councillor W Rossiter
Councillor Mrs Lane
Councillor M Evans

IN ATTENDANCE:

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

ALSO PRESENT

Mr C Osborne - Tenby Chamber of Trade and Tourism
Mr J Booth - Pembrokeshire College

The Mayor thanked Mr Osborne and Mr Booth for attending to provide information about the Smart Town Scheme. Mr Osborne commenced by giving an overview of the Digital opportunity available for Tenby, outlining the challenge, vision and solutions contained within the scheme.

Mr Booth explained mobile technology is everywhere we look and even if people are not personally using smart phones a family member will be. Statistics show 60% already own a smart phone and this number is only going to increase as on the move access to the internet improves. Tenby is known to have a weak digital connection, confirmed by a recent survey showing 67% of visitors to Pembrokeshire last year used their mobile phone to access the internet. However 70% highlighted connection problems, providing statistical evidence for the challenge ahead to increased mobile internet connection services. Tenby needs to move ahead to provide a more efficient service for locals and visitors.

To facilitate the challenge Mr Osborne provided a vision:

When a visitor arrives into Tenby their smart phone will activate to alert them to a downloadable Tenby App. The App will link direct to a website providing information on where to stay, eat, drink, attractions and events during their stay. This site could expand during the course of time to include a possible further link enabling event tickets to be purchased and sent to their mobile phone. Other options can then become available such as augmented reality showing Tenby Streets, like Tudor Square of St Julian Street as they would have looked in any given period of time.. Taking the app one step further the Tenby trail could be turned into a video game for children, providing the ability to collect bonuses at various sites of interest throughout the town, providing educational content during physical activity. Tenby in 3D would be another possibility once the site is established.

Mr Osborne explained how the Smart Town Scheme initiative was commenced. Pembrokeshire Coast National Parks Authority, Pembrokeshire County Council and Tenby Chamber of Trade and Tourism joined together and applied for grant funding to fund the commencement of a pilot scheme, providing evidence and interest for the digital opportunity available to Tenby initially and the whole of Pembrokeshire in the future. Following success in obtaining £15000 from Digital Tourism Wales, European funds, M J R Solutions were selected by tender to conduct the Smart pilot scheme. The pilot Smart Town Scheme commenced ten days ago and will run until 13th January 2013. After completion of the allocated period a formal report will be produced.

The new website tenbysmarttown.co.uk is already up and running. Visualisation events are planned and will consist of interviews with visitors, local businesses and hoteliers. This will provide evidence of skill levels Tenby already possesses and highlighting any skill gaps or additional resources to enhance the digitalisation needs.

The second phase will be implementation, included in this stage will be training needs if evident in the pilot scheme report.

The options for the future can include cataloguing of historical information, preserving local history and knowledge forever and making it easily accessible by visitors, locals and schools for educational purposes.

Councillor Blackhall agreed this scheme is needed following recent discussions with visitors who were finding mobile connections a recurring problem in Tenby. He asking if businesses in Tenby providing free WiFi access along with other interested local businesses had consider collectively join together to make Tenby an open zone. He also pointed out that funding that is available for people over 50 to increase their digital skills.

Councillor Mrs Lane stated businesses provide free WiFi to encourage customers into their premises. She wondered if the timing of the pilot scheme will provide accurate feedback.

Mr Booth said unfortunately funding is only available at selective times and you have to take the opportunity when it arises. However, he felt the feedback would be valuable to take the scheme onto the next phase.

Councillor Evans felt funding is the key issue to taking this project forward and felt PCNPA, PCC and Tenby Chamber of Trade and Tourism do not have the funds to produce a project of this magnitude. Mr Osborne explained that not all goals will be achieved in one hit, noting that other sources of funding can be sought. However, if Tenby is successful in piloting the scheme it could be rolled out to other areas of Pembrokeshire like St David's.

The support TTC can give is the possibility of providing an area to film/record the visualisation sessions; this ideally could be the De Valence cafe. Discussion continued on the availability of the café on already scheduled dates, it was decided that the Clerk liaise with Mr Osborne on the availability of dates required next week.

Councillor Blackhall felt that Tenby needed to be looking at providing and improving digital technology facilities as many cities have already undertaken similar projects to increase visitors to their towns/cities.

The Mayor thanked Mr Osborne and Mr Booth for the positive information and wished everyone involved in the project success, before they left the Chamber.

240. APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Councillor Mrs Durham, Councillor P Rapi, Councillor Dr P Easy and Councillor Mrs Putwain.

241. DISCLOSURE OF PERSONAL INTERESTS

None noted.

242. 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.

243. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Resolved that the Minutes of the Tenby Town Council held 16th October 2012 be confirmed and signed as accurate:

244. MATTERS ARISING

211 – Dog Beach Prohibition Signage

Councillor M Evans reported the dog prohibition sign down to Castle Beach is broken. The Clerk will inform the Beach Warden during the scheduled meeting to discuss signage on Wednesday 7th November 2012.

233 – Tenby Railway Station Documentation

The Clerk reported an e-mail from Arriva Wales has been received offering assistance to Tenby in Bloom to enhance the stations floral displays.

Resolved that the e-mail from Arriva Wales be passed to Councillor Mrs S Lane for further discussion.

232 – Hywel Dda Health Board - Tenby Minor Injuries Unit

The Clerk reported the on line petition had run concurrently with the written petition, however now the e-petition is closed the Welsh Assembly have offered the opportunity for the petition to be formally handed over to the Petitions Committee at the Senedd. They suggested two possible dates, the 21st or 28th November 2012. Following discussion by Councillors it was proposed by Councillor Evans that, the Mayor, Councillor Mrs Thomas and Mr Mansel Thomas formally present the petition at the Senedd on the 21st November 2012, seconded by Councillor Mrs Lane.

Resolved that the Clerk arranges for the Mayor, Councillor Mrs Thomas and Mr M Thomas SEPCHN Chairman to present the petition to the National Assembly for Wales on Wednesday 21st November 2012.

245. PLANNING APPLICATION

a. NP/12/0498 – Mr Barry Walters, Allt-y-Gaer, Dryslwyn, Carmarthen – Alterations and improvements to shop front and fenestration, raise existing roof and eaves and creation of two flats, Spinnaker Fish and Chip Bar, Upper Frog Street, Tenby.

Councillors discussed and viewed the planning application. Councillor Mrs Lane proposed approval as the application is in keeping with the area and will enhance the streetscape, seconded by Councillor Mrs Rossiter.

RECOMMEND

Approval as the application is in keeping with the area and will enhance the streetscape.

b. The Clerk said that following TTC's response to planning application NP/12/0481 - 2 Olive Buildings, St Mary's Street, Tenby, whereby it was felt the bay window was not in keeping with

properties in the area. Miss Caroline Phillips, PCNPA had contacted him to explain that Mr Rob Scourfield, Conservation Officer has viewed the application and felt it is a modern take on a bay window and will be fitting with existing properties in the street.

Councillor Blackhall commented on another past planning application, the Huf Haus at Northcliff remarking on how fantastic the property is looking and how quickly the building has been erected. The Mayor had informed Councillors previously that this is only the second house the German company had built in Wales.

246. **CORRESPONDENCE**

a. Mr Darren Thomas, PCC – Carbon Reduction Commitment – Partial Extinguishment of Street Lighting.

Councillor Mrs Lane felt strongly that not everyone sleeps during the hours the street lighting is extinguished for carbon reduction. Many people work till the early hours or start work in the early hours and they are struggling with the safety aspect of no street lighting.

Councillor Mrs Thomas wondered, as PCC state reduced lighting does not meet the relevant safety standard, how can total blackout meet this standard. It appears to be a somewhat strange argument.

Councillor Evans explained that a bank of information would need to be recorded as for every area of street lighting remaining on another street would have to be extinguished.

The Mayor felt that once the street lighting replacement scheme to LED lighting is completed, carbon reduction will be significantly higher.

b. West Wales Women’s Aid – Invitation to re-launch event, Cardigan.

Councillors noted the information.

Resolved that the information be noted.

c. Dr Steven Jones PCC – Copy of letter to PCC from Mr Bluck and Dr Jones’ response

Councillor Mrs Rossiter felt this critical letter was very upsetting, for a gentleman to think we are not on the case. We have been working on all these issues, however some problems take time to solve. Councillors noted Dr Steven Jones’ response.

d. Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales – Copy of letter sent to Mr Bryn Parry Jones, PCC relating to the Review of Electoral Arrangements for the County of Pembrokeshire (members considered this alongside Agenda item 14b).

The Clerk verbally précised his report relating to the meeting he attended on the Boundary Commission review of electoral arrangements for Pembrokeshire.

Councillor Evans explained this is only the start of the consultation that will run for 12 weeks, stating it is vital that we do something. Not all people are on the electoral role which was evident whilst canvassing for the recent election. Many only have the main householder registered to vote; this then reduces the numbers being represented by the County Councillor in the ward. People have the option to be registered to vote in their birthplace even though they do not live there. People who are not registered anywhere need to be encouraged to register their vote to be

represented locally. He felt TTC should think about the information provided relating to proportional representation and consider further reductions to perhaps reduce to 50 County Councillors for Pembrokeshire, this would then have a financial saving for Pembrokeshire County Council as well as supporting parity of votes.

Councillor Mrs Thomas proposed TTC write to PCC supporting the ideas proposed by Councillor Evans.

Councillor Blackhall felt multi ward elections give confusion to residents; they prefer to know who their specific County Councillor is, so he would prefer to keep the Tenby North /South divide. He suggested that joint Community Council meetings be considered perhaps once or twice a year to collectively discuss issues of shared community interest. This may provide more influence when individual communities feel ignored.

Councillor Mrs Lane explained several years ago joint community meeting were tried; even the whole county meetings were tried but little was achieved. Personally she felt keeping the North/South wards may not be a positive, as we are a town it is more positive to represent Tenby as a whole. Some areas of Tenby at present feel they miss out on representation.

Councillor Evans requested the Clerk prepare a response for PCC and provide feedback for discussion at the next TTC meeting.

Resolved that the Clerk prepare a response for PCC on the Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales and provide feedback for further discussion at the next TTC meeting.

247. GRANT APPLICATION

a. Shelter Cymru

Councillors discussed the grant application. Councillor Mrs Lane proposed rejection with regret as it is not within TTC remit, seconded by Councillor Mrs Thomas.

Resolved that a letter of rejection is sent to Shelter with regret as they do not fall within TTC remit.

248. DE VALENCE

The Clerk reported work is in progress to resolve the water and heating issues within the De Valence. The water tanks have been removed and replaced with mains supply to eradicate any need for legionnaire's disease testing in the future. The old heating systems are being removed from the boiler room serving the main hall, parlour and offices, along with cleaning of the ducting system which was completed prior to this meeting. The replacement heating systems will be connected on a rolling programme. Paintwork continues to be refreshed in the main foyer.

The Clerk provided an update on a booking for next year; May Bank Holiday Scooter Rally is now being advertised as the National Rally for Wales, returning this popular event to Tenby after a break of several years.

Councillor Blackhall expressed praise for how good the De Valence is looking. He reported information he had received in relation to the Trust constitution, noting minor changes require

addressing. In view of these amendments requiring attention Councillor Blackhall proposed a De Valence Trust meeting be held following the next scheduled TTC meeting, seconded by Councillor Mrs Thomas.

Resolved that De Valence Trust meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 13th November, following TTC meeting.

249. REPORTS BY COUNCILLORS ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Councillor Mrs Lane reported on the recent Britain in Bloom presentation awards ceremony. After working so hard this year Tenby received Silver Gilt for the third consecutive year. While it is good to be winners so much extra had been achieved this year to try to gain Gold award, and it was disheartening and disappointing not to achieve gold standard. She wondered where the town could go from here.

Councillor Mrs Thomas felt the team worked well for the town.

Councillor Evans said without Councillor Lane and the gardeners driving forward over the years the standard that has been achieved would not have happened. Cllr. Mrs Lane's work has benefitted the residents who live here and been enjoyed by visitors.

Councillor Blackhall expressed his support of the high standard achieved and getting tantalisingly close to the gold award should be recognised as a tribute.

250. MEDIA ITEMS

Councillor Mrs Rossiter was surprised to read in the Tenby Observer about the proposed move of the library and the provision of a low water landing station. She was concerned that information on both items has not come before TTC. Councillor Mrs Thomas felt we should be asking PCC for information on the two items. Councillor Blackhall commented that a cynic would wonder if there was a connection between the proposed closure of the MIU in Tenby and moving the library!

Councillor Evans reported that the pontoon information has been discussed and presentations received in Council on several occasions. He continued by clarifying the reasons why it is required mainly to improve disabled access facilities.

Councillor W Rossiter said the tractor on Castle beach is a disgrace and has been an accident waiting to happen for years.

251. ROYAL GATE HOUSE

Councillor Mrs Lane expressed how pleasing it is to see work commencing on the site; this is such a positive step for the town.

The Mayor noted the specific colours painted on the hoardings, significantly demonstrating the sections of the proposed units.

252. FINANCIAL OFFICER/CLERK'S ITEMS

a. Actions and updates from 16th October meeting

The Clerk clarified items documented within the list of actions and updates.

b. Report of Boundary Commission meeting, County Hall, Haverfordwest 18th October 2012.

Discussed earlier under correspondence.

c. South East Energy group – Wind turbines

The Clerk reported he had received correspondence from the South East Energy group asking if TTC would like them to provide an update on their progress since they last attended a TTC meeting. Councillor Mrs Lane felt their information was informative and worthwhile. It was

Resolved that the Clerk arrange a suitable date for the update to be provided.

d. Police Station Counter Services

The Clerk reported on the police press release issued in relation to the closure of station front counter services in Tenby. Mobile police van visits will be provided at two locations in Tenby on Tuesdays and Thursdays, between 10 – 2pm. Tenby Tourist Information Centre will provide an information point and a lost property service. In an emergency 999 should still be dialled with 101 dialled for non-emergency advice or information. An intercom will be available on the outside of the police station to communicate with police officers at the station.

Councillor Blackhall proposed TTC write to the two candidates for the post of Police Commissioner for Dyfed-Powys Police and ask for their views in relation to the closures of front desk counter services in Tenby, noting that their replies would be published locally before the election, seconded by Councillor Mrs Thomas.

Councillor Evans felt we now have more police available on the streets where we want them. The PCSOs are very evident walking around the streets especially during the summer months. At present they are looking into using bicycles for use around town. The data system has changed documentation no longer needs to be produced at the police station the next day following a vehicle being stopped by the police, now information can be accessed at the scene when the vehicle is stopped for any reason. Policing is being brought to the people and so we need to pay them credit for providing these services we have asked for over the years.

Councillor W Rossiter felt there is no set point to find the police now; we do not want to be going looking for them if we need them.

Resolved that letters be sent to Miss C Gwyther and Mr C Salmon, candidates for the post of Police Commissioner for Dyfed-Powys Police, requesting their views on the loss of counter services at Tenby Police Station.

253. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved that the next meeting will take place on Tuesday 13th November 2012 at 7.00 pm. Angela Watwood, Head of Community Health & Social Services, Pembrokeshire County Council and Hywel Dda Health Board will be in attendance.

254. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

None noted.

255. 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.

256. MINUTES

Resolved that the Private and Confidential Minutes of Tenby Town Council Meeting held 16th October 2012 be confirmed.

257. MATTERS ARISING

152 - De Valence Heating

The Clerk discussed final estimated costings for the replacement heating system for the De Valence main hall. Only one item will not be completed as documented in the Bullock report; this being the separate isolated heating system for the cafe. Work is progressing well, working around and accommodating functions already booked. The temporary hired mobile heating system has proved effective.

239 – Accounts for September 2012

The Clerk reported following sending a letter to the hirer requesting payment of the outstanding debt for Augustus Place, no response as yet has been received. It was

Resolved that the hirer should be given a little more time to pay the outstanding invoice.

258. MEDIA ITEMS

County Councillor Evans outlined information relating to the securing of a large investment for Tenby Leisure Centre. Several meetings have and will be taking place to utilise the Leisure Centre facilities to provide additional services for the benefit of local residents.

He continued explaining that Library services are no longer funded by the Welsh Assembly, however Pembrokeshire County Council is investing in Library Services for the future, looking to provide facilities for the wider community not just Tenby. However he felt present school building and resource centres have valuable facilities with availability to be utilised more providing the most effective usage for the community.

Councillor Mrs Thomas left the Chamber.

259. STAFFING

The Clerk updated Councillors on the ongoing insurance claim filed by a former TTC employee. No decisions have been formulated but the insurance company require confirmation that if required TTC are in agreement to settle the case on best terms. Any compensation award would be met through insurance and not the Council's finances. Councillors discussed information relating to this case provided by the Clerk. It was

Resolved that TTC are in agreement to settle the Insurance claim on best terms if required.

The Clerk reminded members that Employee 111 had been initially employed on a six month fixed term contract. This had subsequently been extended by six months and then again for a further 12 month fixed term contract. This 12 month contract was due to end on 17th November. He reminded councillors that they could only continue issuing fixed term contracts for up to four years. After that the employment was either made permanent or terminated.

Cllr. Mrs Lane proposed that Employee 111 be retained on a two year fixed term contract from 17th November 2012. The position could then be reviewed again at the appropriate time. She was seconded by Cllr. Mrs Rossiter.

Resolved that Employee 111 be retained on a two year fixed term contract from 17th November 2012.

Mayor _____

Town Clerk _____

Date _____