

TENBY TOWN COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF THE TENBY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2012

## PRESENT

Councillor T Hallett  
Councillor Mrs Lane  
Councillor D Morgan  
Councillor Mrs Brown  
Councillor Mrs Thomas  
Councillor Mrs Evans  
Councillor P Rapi  
Councillor Mrs Putwain

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Mr A. Davies  
Mrs L Hensman

## Clerk to the Council/Financial Officer Assistant Clerk

The Mayor wished all present a Happy Healthy New Year for 2012.

Prior to the meeting the Mayor asked Dr John Kay, who was in the public gallery if he would like to present the questions he wished Councillors to consider if applicable to the agenda this evening.

Dr John Kay explained he was a former non-executive director of a NHS Trust in England and had concerns relating to the following issues:

- Firstly closing of the Minor Injuries Unit in Tenby is the opposite action to the Government's thinking and planning to take treatment closer to the patient in the community. He felt the Council should take every action to reverse the decision to close the Tenby MIU and was willing to give advice as needed to the people leading the campaign.
  - Secondly as a resident living in Trafalgar Road where parking is an issue, he welcomed the opening of the Rectory Car Park over the Christmas period as it eased some of the parking problems but wondered if a request could be made for it to remain open longer.
  - Thirdly in relation to the former Cottage Hospital Site, as nothing has happened to the area for some time could an arrangement be made to allow temporary car parking for 20-30 cars until a decision is made on the future of this site?

Councillor Mrs Lane proposed the Clerk to answer points 2 and 3, seconded by Councillor Mrs Brown.

The Clerk informed Dr Kay the Old Tenby Cottage Hospital site has been earmarked for housing in the PCNPA local development plan and PCC stated the site would be marketed by September 2011, but as nothing has happened, TTC sent a letter to PCC before Christmas asking them to consider a freehold purchase or long term lease of the site. A response is still awaited, but may be delayed in the post due to the Christmas break.

In relation to the Rectory Car Park the Clerk outlined that he had liaised with Reverend Andrew Davies who also felt it would be of benefit to open the Car Park for a longer season but he needed to discuss the matter with the Parochial Church Council, as they are governed by planning on how many days they are allowed to open and there may be financial implications to staff the car park for a longer season. The Clerk said he would feed back any further information after the Church Council have met.

Councillor Mrs Thomas responded to the closure of Tenby MIU. Recently a public meeting was held with our local MP Rt Hon Simon Hart, Local Health Board representatives and Mr J Skone Social Services PCC in attendance.

It was stated by a Hywel Dda Consultant present that the decision taken was an Operational decision and not a Strategic decision, so no public consultation was required.

They still maintained it was a temporary closure and Mr Skone refused to guarantee it would be reopening.

The general public present felt it was a decision made in panic, with poor planning and after discussion decided on a plan of action, which included the following:-

- Petition to be collated and presented to Mr Purt Chief Executive and Mr Martin Chairman of Hywel Dda Health Board.
- Encourage as many people as possible to write individual letters with their own points of view to the Hywel Dda Health Board representatives.
- Inform and request support from all local Community Councils.
- A list of questions was collated and sent to the Health Board for their response as soon as possible.
- There was a call for Judicial Review but the SEPCHN is not a charity and has no funds to pursue this avenue.

Discussion continued between Councillors requesting for clarification by the Hywel Dda executives as to who made the decision on the closure and who was present at the meeting when the decision was made. These questions needed to be answered.

The Deputy Mayor Councillor Mrs Thomas thanked Dr Kay for his questions of concern and asked if he would join the SEPCHN group to support the fight to turn around the decision to close the MIU.

### **339. APOLOGIES**

Apologies received from Councillor Mrs Rossiter and Councillor L Blackhall.

### **340. DISCLOSURE OF PERSONAL INTERESTS**

None disclosed.

### **341. ITEMS TO PRESS**

Proposed by Councillor Mrs Brown, seconded by Councillor Mrs Evans.

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

### **342. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

**Resolved that the Minutes of the Tenby Town Council held 13<sup>th</sup> December 2011 be confirmed and signed as accurate.**

### **343. MATTERS ARISING**

#### 324d – Grit Bins

The Clerk reported he is still awaiting a reply from Mr Hunt in relation to the request for a community volunteer to open the grit bin as and when required. Information obtained from TTC insurance company and PCC legal department stated there is no town council liability if a volunteer is only responsible for unlocking the grit bin when needed and not responsible for the actual distribution of the salt. The Clerk also confirmed that each bin costs £120, which includes two refills per year.

#### 325 – Annual New Years Eve Firework Display

Councillor Mrs Lane wished to congratulate Mrs Fisher, Tenby House Hotel on the activities organised again this year on New Years Eve in Tudor Square Tenby, enjoyed by many locals and visitors. It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Lane to send a letter of thanks to Mrs Fisher, seconded by Councillor Mrs Putwain.

**Resolved that a letter is sent to Mrs Fisher, Tenby House Hotel to thank her for organising the very successful New Years Eve celebrations in Tudor Square.**

#### 326 – De Valence

Councillor Mrs Evans asked why there is a vacancy on the De Valence Pavilion Tenby Trust after Councillor Mrs Thomas' resignation, proposing that the vacancy be left open as 8 Councillors still remain on the Trust. Councillor Mrs Lane agreed it should be left unfilled and the Clerk clarified the resolution made on the appointment of 9 Councillors and 4 Members of the Public to the Trust. Councillor Mrs Evans felt it was very difficult to discuss De Valence issues when only 3 Councillors are non Trust members, it makes decisions unbalanced. Councillor Mrs Lane said Councillors felt it was of benefit to the Town Council to reduce the expenditure for the De Valence by forming the new Trust and seconded the proposal not to fill the De Valence Tenby Trust vacancy.

**Resolved that the vacancy on the De Valence Tenby Trust remain unfilled.**

### **344. CORRESPONDENCE**

#### a. Tenby Sailing Club – Dog Control Orders

Councillor Mrs Putwain expressed her views in relation to the dog fouling letter received from Tenby Sailing Club. There is an acknowledged problem with dog fouling for which we have 2 Dog Wardens for the whole of Pembrokeshire. She felt it was a bit naive of the Sailing Club to think that their request for a dog ban on the dinghy park on the North Walk are achievable.

Councillor Mrs Thomas felt the opposite as she had witnessed many owners letting their dogs walk freely in this area allowing them to defecate anywhere.

Councillor Mrs Lane explained that dogs were to be on leads all year round within the Walled Town area and felt that the North Walk came under this rule. Councillor Rapi felt the dog fouling problem was all over Tenby having witnessed it himself and it needs to be addressed and stopped as it is a public health hazard especially to children.

Councillor Morgan explained this particular area is used by dog owners as it is a grassed area.

Councillor Mrs Lane proposed TTC write to PCC explaining a letter has been received in relation to dog fouling on the North Walk, Tenby and it is the view of the council that this area should be in keeping with the town walls so dogs should remain on a lead 12 months of the year, seconded by Councillor Mrs Brown.

**Resolved that the Clerk write to PCC stating a letter has been received concerning dog fouling on the North Walk, it is the view of TTC that this area should be in keeping with the walled town and that dogs should be kept on a lead for 12 months of the year.**

b. National Assembly – Consultation on Local Government Bylaws (Wales) Bill

Councillor Mrs Evans felt this consultation document on Local Government Bylaws could be beneficial in relation to trading in Tenby. Councillor Mrs Lane also highlighted sections TTC would agree with. It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Evans for Councillors to forward their comments and any points they wished to make in relation to this document, to the Clerk before the next Council Meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2012, seconded by Councillor Mrs Lane.

**Resolved that Councillors forward their comments and points they wish to highlight in relation to the Consultation Document on Local Government Bylaws to the Clerk before the next Council Meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2012.**

c. PCC – Tudor Square Enhancement Works and Gas Utility Work

Councillors discussed their concerns and were fully aware that disruption was inevitable during the proposed enhancement and gas pipe replacement work. Councillor Mrs Brown highlighted that the closure duration had been reduced and so all parties are trying to reduce the disruption as much as possible. The Mayor reminded Councillors that West Wales Utilities hold a weekly drop in centre at the De Valence Café, If any residents express concerns during the planned scheme of works; there would be a representative present to deal with them.

**Resolved that the information be noted.**

d. Mr Marc Owen, PCC – Footway Obstruction Forum

Discussion took place relating to the nomination of a Councillor to attend the meeting being organised by Mr Marc Owen PCC in relation to Footway Obstructions. Councillor Mrs Brown volunteered to attend this meeting to represent TTC. It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Lane, seconded by Councillor Morgan for Councillor Mrs Brown to attend as Tenby Town Council representative.

**Resolved that Councillor Mrs Brown will attend the open discussion Footway Obstruction Meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2012 as Tenby Town Council representative.**

e. Rt Hon Simon Hart, MP – Business Rates

Councillor Mrs Brown informed Councillors that the Chamber of Trade is spending a lot of time working hard on the Business Rates matter. TTC had resolved at an earlier meeting to support the Chamber of Trade, so it was

**Resolved that a copy of the letter from Rt Hon Simon Hart be forwarded to the Chamber of Trade and Tourism.**

f. Hywel Dda Health Board – Minor Injuries Units

Councillor Mrs Thomas re-affirmed the plan of action following the public meeting as noted earlier in the meeting, adding that the group will continue to fight to turn the closure decision around, with support also offered from well known local actor Mr Charles Dale. Councillors continued discussion viewing the questions forwarded to Hywel Dda by SEPCHN and felt they needed answers to these questions as well as adding one from TTC; that a copy of the minutes of the meeting when the decision was made to close the MIU be accessed if possible. It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Evans, seconded by Councillor Mrs Lane to write to Hywel Dda Health Board and add the question, requesting clarification of who was present at the health board meeting when the decision was made to close the Tenby MIU? The Clerk to obtain a copy of the minutes, of the meeting when the decision was made to close the MIU for review by TTC.

**Resolved that the Clerk write to Hywel Dda Health Board stating that TTC have read the questions forwarded to the board by SEPCHN and would like to add the question, who was present at the Health Board Meeting when the decision was made to close the Tenby MIU and that a copy of the minutes from that meeting be supplied to TTC.**

g. Tenby Civic Society – Play Park/Town Walls

Councillor Mrs Thomas declared an interest and took no part in discussion or vote.

Councillor Mrs Lane had no objections to the Civic Society having access to the Town Walls at the back of the De Valence; proposing the access is during office hours when someone would be present for security reasons, seconded by Councillor Morgan.

Councillor Mrs Brown was pleased to note the offer of a contribution to the Jubilee Play Park.

**Resolved that a letter is sent to Tenby Civic Society stating that TTC have no objections to them accessing the Town Walls at the back of the De Valence but access would be permitted during office hours when a member of staff is on site.**

Councillor Mrs Thomas rejoined the meeting.

h. PCC – Loading Bays, Tenby

Councillors discussed the proposed changes to the loading bays. A compromise was proposed by Councillor Mrs Thomas, in White Lion Street, 2 spaces for 30 minute parking, 1 disabled space and the remaining space for loading, with a similar compromise at the South Parade loading bay, seconded by Councillor Mrs Brown.

**Resolved that a letter be sent to Mr Darren Thomas PCC suggesting a compromise to the loading bays changes. Proposal to include half the spaces for loading and half allocated for 30 minute parking, maintaining the disabled spaces at present.**

i. Angela Burns AM – Minor Injuries Units

**Resolved that the information be noted as discussed earlier in the Council Meeting.**

j. Rt Hon Simon Hart MP – Minor Injuries Units

**Resolved that the information be noted as discussed earlier in the Council Meeting.**

**345. DE VALENCE**

Councillor Mrs Lane informed Councillors she would be calling a De Valence Tenby Trust meeting within the next week.

Councillor Mrs Brown updated Councillors on the recent events held prior to Christmas and outlined the plans for the fund raising event scheduled for the 4<sup>th</sup> January to raise funds for the Jubilee Play Park.

The Mayor thanked all who helped prepare the venue to allow these events to take place.

**346. REPORTS BY COUNCILLORS ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

a. SEPCHN Public Meeting – Cllr Mrs C Thomas

Report delivered earlier in the meeting. Councillor Mrs Putwain thanked Councillor Mrs Thomas for all her hard work co-ordinating and organising the actions of the SEPCHN group in their fight to turn around the closure decision of the MIU, seconded by Councillor Mrs Lane.

Councillor Mrs Lane informed Councillors she will be attending the Britain in Bloom seminar shortly. Following the seminar a meeting of Tenby in Bloom committee will be organised to take proposed ideas forward. The Mayor thanked Councillor Mrs Lane and the Tenby in Bloom Committee for all their hard work last year.

**347. MEDIA ITEMS**

None noted.

**348. JUBILEE FAMILY PLAY PARK**

The Clerk informed Councillors that the Friends of the Jubilee Play Park now have a bank account and so the CASC status application has been sent for approval. Unfortunately he reported that the Awards for All funding bid by the town council had failed due to insufficient funding being available to ensure completion of the project within the twelve month period, but fortunately the Friends of Jubilee Play Park can reapply themselves with the added advantage to their bid of the increase in allocated funding from TTC.

Councillor Mrs Evans requested an update on the PCC funding bid. The Clerk reported the closure date for this funding decision is 6<sup>th</sup> January 2012. One item of evidence is awaited from Ms Jane Gibson PCNPA and will be forwarded to Ms Sinead Henehan at PCC when it is available. He had been assured that this information would be forthcoming before the closing date for the application.

Discussion took place on the finances of the Jubilee Play Park with the possibility of an interest free loan being sourced if all the funding is not secured by March 2012 when the order needs to be placed for the equipment to ensure instillation by May 2012.

The next meeting of the Jubilee Play Park will be at the end of January, Councillor Mrs Brown praised the small but very keen committee members who are working hard and will be launching their 'Buy a Bolt Scheme' this month.

**349. ROYAL GATE HOUSE**

The Clerk reported he has received no new updates.

**350. CLOSURE OF BUSINESSES IN TENBY**

Councillor Morgan informed Councillors that several businesses in Tenby are closing this month and he requested if anyone is aware of the present situation in relation to the business rate reduction attempt by local shop owners. Councillor Mrs Brown said that our local County Councillors were now involved helping the local shop owners. The next meeting of Chamber of Trade is in two weeks time when she will report back any updates to TTC.

**Resolved that Councillor Mrs Brown will report any further developments to TTC in two weeks after the next Chamber of Trade and Tourism meeting.**

**351. FINANCIAL OFFICER/CLERK'S ITEMS**

**a. Actions and updates from 13<sup>th</sup> December 2011**

The Clerk outlined the updates as documented. Information received in the post Christmas mail was as follows:

- PCNPA - Information for Councillors related to application NP/11/475 – 76, The Glebe Tenby, This application has been cancelled due to the area being highlighted wrongly on the map.
- BDO – Annual Audit Final Completion has been received with no issues highlighted and so it is ready for presentation to Councillors for the 4<sup>th</sup> time. Proposed acceptance of the Annual Audit of Accounts 2010/11, by Councillor Mrs Lane, seconded by Councillor Morgan.

**Resolved that the Annual Audit of Accounts for 2010/11 be accepted.**

**352. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

**Resolved that the next meeting of Full Council will be on Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> January 2012 at 7.00 pm. There will be a presentation from Ms Hambridge PCC Housing Commissioning.**

**353. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA**

None noted.

**354. PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL**

Proposed by Councillor Mrs Lane, seconded by Councillor Morgan.

**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.**

**355. MINUTES**

**Resolved that the Private and Confidential Minutes of the Tenby Town Council Meeting held 13<sup>th</sup> December 2011 be confirmed and signed as accurate.**

**356. MATTERS ARISING**

337 – De Valence

The Clerk reported that the pest control company had made a follow up visit to the De Valence and also a check was made at Augustus Place. To maintain regular checks and documentation records a contract with the company was proposed for both premises which would be cheaper than call out fees. Discussion took place between Councillors it was

**Resolved that an annual contract for Pest Control be accepted for the De Valence and Augustus Place for 2012.**

Unfortunately the main hall heating in the De Valence is still not working. The Clerk reported he had requested and was awaiting a visit from an engineer to discuss a Bio Mass Boiler System, recommended by Pembrokeshire Coast National Parks as they are being installed in all their buildings. Update information from Mr Criddle in relation to the Solar Panel Government Scheme for the De Valence roof promised for the New Year is still awaited.

338 – Christmas Lighting

The Clerk reported the contractors disconnected the Christmas lighting display Seasons Greetings Tenby as it was impossible to get the unit repaired during the Christmas period. The Christmas lighting contractors would be reporting back once all the displays are taken down, with a full report available for the next meeting.

Mayor \_\_\_\_\_

Town Clerk \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_