

TENBY TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE TENBY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD 5th January 2016

PRESENT

Councillor P Rapi
Councillor Mrs Lane
Councillor Mrs Thomas
Councillor T Hallett
Councillor Mrs Rossiter
Councillor Dr P Easy
Councillor L Blackhall
Councillor Mrs Brown
Councillor W Rossiter
Councillor M Evans
Councillor Mrs Durham

Mayor

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr A. Davies
Mrs L Hensman

Clerk to the Council/Financial Officer
Assistant Clerk

The Mayor welcomed all Councillors back from the Christmas recess and wished everyone a Happy New Year.

320. APOLOGIES

None, all councillors present.

321. DISCLOSURE OF PERSONAL INTERESTS

Councillor Mrs Lane declared a personal interest in Item 10a.

322. ITEMS TO PRESS

Proposed by Councillor Hallett, seconded by Councillor Mrs Thomas.

Resolved that items of Correspondence and Committee Minutes other than those items marked Not for Publication be given to members of the Press present.

323 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Resolved that the Minutes of the Tenby Town Council held 8th December 2015 be confirmed and signed as accurate.

324. MATTERS ARISING

233 – Town Crier Robes

Councillor Mrs Lane asked if a letter had been sent to Greenhill School asking if they would like to design the Town Crier's robes. The Clerk reported the letter had been sent; however no response had been received as yet.

293 b. Welsh Government Consultation – Draft Local Government (Wales) Bill

The Clerk reported he had been informed of a joint meeting between the SLCC and the Welsh Government on the 2nd February to discuss the draft Local Government (Wales) Bill; therefore he asked if TTC sub-committee formed to look at the bill would be able to meet and formulate TTC's response on the consultation document before February.

Councillor Hallett proposed TTC arrange a sub-committee meeting as soon as possible to discuss the draft Local Government (Wales) Bill, seconded by Councillor Blackhall.

Resolved that the Clerk arrange a TTC sub-committee meeting to discuss and formulate a response on the draft Local Government (Wales) Bill as soon as possible.

Councillor Blackhall called a point of order noting that County Councillor Michael Williams was present in the public gallery. He felt he should be invited to the table, and offered the opportunity for him to speak to provide additional county information of local importance. The Mayor offered the opportunity for TTC to suspend business to allow Councillor Williams the opportunity to speak; however Councillor Williams declined the offer and requested to just observe the meeting.

325. TENBY REGENERATION TEAM MINUTES

Councillors received the Tenby regeneration team minutes.

326. MATTERS ARISING

Councillor Mrs Brown requested clarification on the regeneration team event support canopy for Tudor Square and if there is a need for this type of equipment. She personally felt it would be more beneficial to bring back the weekly market stalls.

Councillor Mrs Rossiter expressed concern as a canopy would incur the same weather implications as it did the smaller gazebo canopies.

Councillor M Evans joined the meeting.

Councillor Blackhall, as TTC regeneration representative, said the committee are looking at small scale practical projects that are achievable. However in addition the committee have expressed a few larger scale ideas of which the canopy is one. The larger scale ideas are being discussed in the New Year, when in depth discussions would follow before any ideas are put forward for grant funding.

Councillor Mrs Lane, as TTC regeneration representative, explained the main idea discussed was for a movable stage that could benefit the harbour events as well as the rest of the town. It was felt movable staging could replace the six weeks summer marquee on the harbour and therefore not be an intrusion on the harbour car parking spaces.

The Clerk explained the regeneration committee had requested TTC's input on two ongoing funding matters. Firstly the 'Battery Gardens Project' - PCC still has funding available for this approved project and as TTC is now the only organisation to offer match funding support, they feel clarification is required as to how much financial support TTC can offer at this time in light of financial cutback implications.

Councillor Mrs Lane said she floated the Bluestone idea seven years ago as part of a Tenby in Bloom suggestion to improve the gardens, providing a low to no maintenance solution. The gardens are PCC owned and they were paying very little attention to this area. Tenby in Bloom volunteers with the aid of a local school and Chevron employees introduced a small scale sensory planting area. Now she felt in light of financial cutbacks the area requires to just be tidied up and utilised for locals and holiday makers to take advantage of the fabulous views from the garden.

Councillor W Rossiter said discussion at TTC level had already taken place and a decision passed to not proceed with the Bluestone idea and just to proceed with enhancing the existing garden area. He expressed a personal view that the gardens could be used to create an area for people to sell their wares to remove them from within the town walls.

Councillor Evans reminded councillors that at present the regeneration funding is ring fenced for the next year; however in light of financial cutbacks it may not be available indefinitely and it is advisable to move the project on the table forward to fruition. Delay or withdrawal of a project in Tenby could see the funding moved and reallocated to support a shortfall in another town project being completed during the funding period.

Councillor Mrs Lane said the Battery Gardens requires new paving and rearranging of bench layout to provide a valuable leisure viewing area.

The Clerk reminded councillors that TTC would be responsible for the maintenance of the Battery Garden following the regeneration team improvement idea.

The Mayor requested that the Garden be placed on the next TTC agenda for further discussion following the next town regeneration meeting. The Clerk offered to provide proposed designs for the enhancement of the Garden at the next meeting.

Resolved that the Garden be added to the next TTC full council meeting agenda.

The Clerk explained the regeneration committee requested an update from the Tenby Market Hall working party. Councillor Evans said he was one of the TTC representatives on the working party and no further information was available at present.

327. TO RECEIVE MINUTES OF MEETING HELD WITH PCC AND PCNPA REPRESENTATIVES TO DISCUSS THE SALE OF PCC LAND AT BRYNHIR

Councillor Mrs Rossiter explained although her personal view was to keep the Brynhir fields unchanged, she was aware of TTC's resolution and therefore changes are inevitable. She was grateful to PCC for providing up to date information and agreeing to keep Tenby informed of the proposed process for sale and development of the land.

Councillor Mrs Brown asked if TTC will have involvement during the next stage when PCC meet with the developers who submitted interest in the site. Councillor Evans responded stating that the next stage would include financial information; therefore no additional parties would be involved.

Councillor W Rossiter said when TTC last voted on PCNPA LDP documentation suggesting review of land earmarked for development and to encourage removal of areas within the plan

not going to be developed only nine councillors were present to vote and personally felt the majority vote of 5 to 4 was not the view of full council. In addition he strongly felt he should be allowed to say what he feels on any matter despite a majority TTC resolution being passed.

Councillor Evans responded to his fellow councillor pointing out that Brynhir had been designated for development for the past 30 years and his personal view on democracy was any majority decision stands. Once a resolution is passed all councillors have a duty to stand by the majority decision whether they agreed with it or not. He pointed out in the official minutes it is documented that PCC employees were asked to be mindful of the community views and they in turn mentioned they had been in discussion with various groups who contacted them directly.

He continued stating TTC needs now to move forward with the next stage, and ensure the affordable housing element fits the purpose for the town. He requested if the Clerk could investigate the housing first letting policy criteria and ascertain how the local connection ratio changes once first occupancy has been undertaken. He asked if this information could be presented to council at the next meeting.

Councillor Hallett expressed concern that someone may use the local connection benefit to purchase an affordable house and then sell it on quickly. In light of this happening he asked if consideration to a four year ownership clause could be imposed before the owner is allowed to sell.

The Mayor reported that archive documentation on Brynhir was produced at the meeting and clearly stated that developing the site was not new information at all, it clearly reinforced discussion had been ongoing for the area to be developed over many years.

Councillor Evans said Tenby needs to grow and it will not grow without further building development.

Following further discussion it was

Resolved that the Clerk investigate and report the findings on the housing first letting policy criteria and ascertain how the local connection ratio changes once first occupancy has been undertaken.

328. CORRESPONDENCE

a. Wendy Barnett (via e-mail) – Upper Park Road pavement

Councillor W Rossiter expressed his personal praise for Mrs Barnett expressing her concerns at the shop goods encroaching onto the pavement and using the parking bay outside the premises for a cart. He felt the lady thinks TTC has control over such issues. However, it is PCC who have the authority to control these type of complaints; therefore PCC needs to be addressing these matters otherwise every other business will follow suit if nothing is done to restrict street care issues. He personally thought a letter should be sent from the council thanking Mrs Barnett for being public spirited as this is a dangerous area of roadway within the town.

Councillor Mrs Lane said the cart at the premises mentioned, was moved and personally she felt Tenby is losing the historical character of the town, as a greengrocer's shop has always had their produce displayed outside. Open shops displaying their goods adds to the ambiance of the town and owners take responsibility for the curtilage of their premises.

Councillor Mrs Rossiter said TTC cannot send a letter to a member of the public if it is just the view of one councillor. A proposition has to be made and then voted on before a resolution is made.

The Mayor felt as the letter is addressed to him personally he should respond; however Councillor Mrs Lane said now the matter had been brought before full council and discussed, it should go to a vote whether a letter is sent or not.

Councillor Evans reported that on a recent visit to Haverfordwest he noted they had given permission for a small fruit and vegetable franchise to be sited in the middle of the town square and it created a special feeling and looked attractive.

Councillor Blackhall said lots of people shop and have shopped in Tenby over Christmas and TTC has debated obstructions many times; however shop owners need to monitor the obstruction concerns themselves. He felt TTC should be celebrating the quality and diversity of items being sold and preserve what Tenby has to offer.

The Mayor proposed he would write to Mrs Barnett and outline the views expressed by councillors on shop trading issues, seconded by Councillor Hallett.

Resolved that the Mayor write to Mrs Barnett and outline TTC views on shop trading issues.

b. Planed – Action planning workshops

Councillor Blackhall suggested the Planed information about funding now been available be passed to the town regeneration team.

Councillor Dr Easy said he felt TTC had asked Planed to attend a meeting previously to discuss formulating a revised town action plan.

The Clerk confirmed that at the time of Planed visit they had no funding to assist in the formulation of a revised action plan; however now they have successfully obtained new funding for these type of projects.

c. PCC – Open consultation on The Avenue Social Activity Centre, Tenby

The Clerk outlined he had been given a copy of the Avenue Centre consultation from a member of the public as PCC has not asked for TTC views directly.

Councillor Evans was concerned to hear PCC has not asked for the town council's views when it is a vital service within the town. He explained County Councillor M Williams had written to PCC Cabinet member Simon Hancock to request a meeting with Mr J Griffiths, Head of Adult Care and Mrs P Marsden, Director of Social Services and Leisure. He proposed TTC arrange a meeting with Mr Griffiths and Mrs Marsden before TTC complete any formal consultation document, seconded by Councillor Mrs Brown.

Resolved that TTC arrange a meeting with Mr J Griffiths, Head of Adult Care and Mrs P Marsden, Director of Social Services and Leisure, PCC.

Councillor Evans said he felt all councillors should make an informal visit to the Avenue Centre

and speak to clients, staff and relatives about the facility before they attend a meeting with the PCC officers in charge and formulate a consultation response on behalf of TTC.

d. Mr Ben Blake, PCC – Proposed road safety scheme, 20 mph limit Greenhill Road and St John’s Hill

Councillor Mrs Lane said it was wonderful news to have road safety improvements being installed outside St Teilo’s School as speeding issues have been noted for many years in this specific area. She proposed a letter be sent to Mr Blake thanking him and the department for recognising the need for speed restrictions around St Teilo’s School, seconded by Councillor Mrs Brown.

Resolved that TTC send a letter be sent to Mr Blake, Senior Traffic Engineer, PCC thanking him and the department for recognising the need for speed restrictions around St Teilo’s School.

e. Welsh Government – Appointment of a vice-chair and independent members to NHS Wales

Following discussion it was

Resolved that the information be noted.

329. GRANTS

Councillor Mrs Lane and Councillor Evans declared an interest and left the chamber.

a. Tenby House Hotel – New Year’s Eve fireworks

Councillor Mrs Brown outlined that councillors agreed at the recent finance budget meeting some grant funding would need to be pulled back and therefore additional information would be required.

Councillor Mrs Rossiter felt TTC needed to have a copy of the insurance cost breakdown for the records.

Councillor Mrs Thomas said the New Year fireworks are a very special event for the town and we need them to continue.

Councillor Mrs Brown proposed TTC write to Tenby House and request a copy of the Firework Insurance breakdown for TTC records, before they can consider the grant application, seconded by Councillor Mrs Rossiter.

Resolved that TTC write to Mrs Fisher, Tenby House and request a copy of the Firework Insurance breakdown for council records, before they can consider the grant application.

Councillor Evans and Councillor Mrs Lane re-joined the meeting.

330. CONFIRM THE BUDGET FOR 2016 – 2017 & SET THE PRECEPT FIGURE

Councillor Mrs Lane reported that all councillors had discussed the proposed budget for 2016/17 at length and proposed acceptance of the Budget for 2016/17 and set the precept requirement for 2016/17 at £156,054.83. This represented a Band D equivalent of £58.57, an increase of 15p per household. This was seconded by Councillor Hallett.

Councillor Evans asked about two points. Firstly TTC needed to make a bid from PCC for specific maintenance work required at the Jubilee Play Park during 2016. Secondly he asked the Clerk if any further discussion had taken place in relation to the PCC storage area behind the Fourcroft Hotel. The Clerk said Mr Cooke and Mr Brown, PCC were both aware of TTC's interest in the specific storage area for the future; however he was aware no decision to sell the land had been made as yet.

Resolved that TTC accept the Budget for 2016/17 and set the precept requirement for 2016/17 at £156,054.83.

331. CONSIDER CANDIDATES FOR CO-OPTION FOR TTC SOUTH WARD SEATS

Councillor Mrs Lane said how lovely it was to have seven people standing for two TTC seats when historically there has been apathy about standing. She felt it was a very encouraging move for the future of Tenby.

Councillors discussed all the possible option of selecting the two new co-opted councillors for the south ward.

Councillor Mrs Rossiter proposed councillor carry out a secret ballot, seconded by Councillor Mrs Brown.

Councillor Blackhall made a second proposal to arrange a meeting to hear from every applicant and then councillors proceed to a vote, seconded by Councillor W Rossiter.

The Mayor took a vote on the second proposal from Councillor Blackhall, resulting in 4 votes for and 6 against. He proceeded to take a vote on the first proposal from Councillor Mrs Rossiter resulting in 6 votes for, 3 against and 1 abstention. It was

Resolved that TTC would take a secret ballot immediately to select the two new co-opted councillors for Tenby South Ward.

The Clerk outlined that each councillor would vote for two candidates. To select a candidate they would need to have a majority of 6 votes. Following each round of voting the candidate with the least votes would be eliminated.

Following the secret ballot two Tenby South Ward councillors were elected. It was

Resolved that Mrs Sarah Williams and Mr Ben James be informed of their successful application to become Tenby South Ward Town Councillors.

Councillor Blackhall proposed TTC write to the unsuccessful applicants, thanking them for their interest in becoming a town councillor, seconded by Councillor Hallett.

Resolved that TTC write to the unsuccessful applicants, thanking them for their interest in becoming a town councillor.

332. REPORTS BY COUNCILLORS ON OUTSIDE BODIES

On behalf of the Tenby (DVP) Trust, Councillor Blackhall reported, due to the success of how the De Valence has run during the last year, they have been able to reduce the grant funding amount required from TTC. He expressed how pleasing this news was at the start of a New Year.

He continued explaining the De Valence had hosted a very successful pantomime on Saturday 2nd January 2016. It was well received by all those who attended and the visiting company had been booked for the same date in 2017 to stage Cinderella. Unfortunately the New Year's Eve event booked jointly between Tenby Rugby Club and Renaissance - Mr N Lloyd was cancelled three days before the event due to poor ticket sales. The Tenby De Valence trustees were very disappointed as they felt walk up sales would have occurred to boost the sales; however at the next trustees meeting issues that arose from the cancellation would be discussed in more detail. He expressed his own disappointment at the event being cancelled; however he was pleased to report The Rugby Club had a successful event that evening.

Councillor Blackhall took the opportunity to thank all who helped to make the De Valence a success during 2015 from paid staff to volunteers and he said the trustees are looking forward to a positive 2016.

The Mayor reported he had visited the local nursing homes on Christmas Eve, the Boxing Day swim where he judged the fancy dress competition and he attended the De Valence pantomime finishing off a very successful 2015 and starting 2016 positively.

333. MEDIA

Councillor Hallett reported on an advert in the Western Mail advertising a Waterwynch property for sale with a private beach. He felt the article was misleading as the Crown owns the beach up to the high tide mark. He said he would personally be writing to the people concerned for the advert and pointing out the misleading information.

334. FINANCIAL OFFICER/CLERK'S ITEMS

a. Three weekly meeting cycle

The Clerk explain the process he had followed in assessing all other local town councils' schedule of meetings. He highlighted the information contained in his report and felt it was self-explanatory; however he said it was now for councillors to decide on the way forward for future TTC meetings.

He continued stating if three weekly council meetings are agreed a planning sub-committee would need to be elected with plenary powers at the next full council meeting. This sub-committee would consist of seven members with the Mayor as chair of the meeting being one of the seven members.

Councillor Hallett asked the Clerk for clarification of quorate numbers for the planning sub-committee. The Clerk informed councillors the quorate number would be four members; however any councillor would be able to attend any of the meetings even if they are not elected to the sub-committee. This would allow input from any councillor if they felt the need to view any application and certainly on large scale developments when all councillors may wish to be involved as highlighted by Councillor Hallett

Councillor Evans proposed TTC accept the recommendations from the Clerk with immediate effect for a three month period, seconded by Councillor Dr Easy.

Resolved that TTC support the trial period of three weekly full council meetings for three months, with a separate Planning Sub-committee meeting every three weeks commencing after the next full council meeting.

b. Proposed dates for Chairman's reception, County Hall

The Clerk reported the Chairman of Pembrokeshire County Council Mr Wynne Evans had supplied two provisional dates for TTC to attend a reception at County Hall.

Following discussion it was noted the Mayor would not be available for the proposed dates; therefore he said he would liaise with the Chairman to seek a mutual suitable date.

Resolved that TTC would inform Chairman of Pembrokeshire County Council, Mr Wynne Evans that Tenby Mayor would be unavailable for the proposed reception at County Hall. The Mayor would liaise with the Chairman directly to arrange a mutual convenient date.

335. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved that the next meeting will take place on Tuesday 26th January 2016 at 7.30pm.

336. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

Tenby Avenue Centre - Councillor M Evans

Brynhir Councillor Mrs Rossiter

Beach Parking - Councillor W Rossiter

337. 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.

338. MINUTES

Resolved that the Private and Confidential Minutes of Tenby Town Council Meeting held 8th December 2015 be confirmed and signed as accurate.

339. MATTERS ARISING

The Clerk reminded The Mayor, Councillor Evans and Councillor Blackhall of the scheduled meeting with AnturTeifi about the town WiFi on Friday 8th January 2016 at the De Valence. Councillor Evans gave all councillors the opportunity to add any requests for information relating to the town WIFI scheme before the meeting on Friday. No councillors had any further questions to ask at this stage.

Mayor _____

Town Clerk _____

Date _____