

TENBY TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE TENBY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD 5th March 2013

PRESENT

Councillor T Hallett	Mayor
Councillor Mrs Rossiter	
Councillor Mrs Durham	
Councillor Mrs Putwain	
Councillor W Rossiter	
Councillor P Rapi	
Councillor Mrs Brown	
Councillor L Blackhall	
Councillor M Evans	

ALSO PRESENT

Mr A Mackay	Member - Tenby Sailing Club
Mr M Brace	Commodore - Tenby Sailing Club
Mr P Redford	Secretary - Tenby Sailing Club

IN ATTENDANCE:

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

The Mayor welcomed the Sailing Club Members for attending to discuss their concerns about dog fouling particularly on the North Walk Boat Park.

Mr McKay outlined the concerns being experienced by Sailing Club members, children and recent visitors to the club, highlighting information previously explained in letters sent to TTC. Members welcome and totally accept the dog ban on the beaches between 1st May – 30th September, however they feel the by-law relating to dogs on leads throughout the town walls, promenades and slipway is not clearly defined on the signage. They would request consideration by the appropriate authority for this by-law to be amended to all year round, with increased monitoring and enforcement. He clarified that when dogs are off the lead owners are not observing what their dogs are doing and can be unaware where or when they have defecated. When on leads they are much more aware and able to clean up after their pets.

Tenby sailing club would like the authority with the relevant powers to consider:

1. Improved/clearer signage documenting the by-law information.
2. A clearly map showing the dogs on lead area during 1st May – 30th September.
3. Prominent positioning of the signage.
4. Enforcement of the by-law.
5. Consideration to changing the dogs on lead by-law to all year round.

Councillors discussed and explained that they are aware of the increased problem and regularly discuss issues and ways to tackle the problem. However it is a few irresponsible owners spoiling their own town and causing distress to others in the community. It was highlighted that TTC annually spend £3,500, 3% of the budget on dog waste bags and dispensers to encourage owners to clear their dog excrement.

County Councillor Evans reported that he suggested the parking enforcement officers take on the additional dog enforcement duties but at present PCC are reluctant to go down this avenue; however PCSO already have enforcement powers. Pembrokeshire County Council Environment Scrutiny Committee is meeting this week to looking into alternative solutions including consideration of using a private sector company to manage by-law enforcement.

Councillor W Rossiter had witnessed visitors' dogs and not just local dogs causing the problem and asked if the sailing club had considered fencing off the boat park, therefore making people stop and think before using that area to exercise their pets. However it was noted that the sailing club only rent the land and it is required for access by other PCC vehicles.

Councillor Blackhall felt that a total ban on dogs in the area would be imposing a restriction on people who do behave responsibly. However he noted that some areas on the North Walk were overgrown with abandoned equipment in situ and this leads to people not really caring about an area. If this area was tidied up first it would create a pleasant outlook and make people think and care more for their surroundings. By inviting locals to a planned session to clean up the area it makes a statement and highlights many of the issues that have been discussed.

Councillor Mrs Putwain suggested that the Sailing Club could make clearer signage and place them in strategic positions. She hoped the community would work together and the sailing club consider in return the inconvenience their boat trainers can have when left on the beach during sailing events, these may be a trip hazard to children and adults using the beaches.

The Clerk reported information received from Mr T Hayes PCC relating to extending the by-law, from 2005 creating new by-laws were replaced by Dog Control Orders. If TTC create a new Dog Control Order enforcement becomes an issue; responsibility for enforcement lies with the authority creating the order.

The following course of action was discussed:

1. Education of the community and dog owners.
2. Await decisions of PCC Scrutiny Committee relating to Dog enforcement issues.
3. Tenby Sailing Club to make and display clear informative signage.
4. TTC consider a contribution towards the signage supplied by the sailing club.

The Sailing Club members thanked the Council for listening and considering their concerns before leaving the chamber.

411. APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Councillor Mrs Thomas, Councillor Mrs Lane, Councillor A Brown and Councillor Dr Easy.

412. DISCLOSURE OF PERSONAL INTERESTS

Councillor Mrs Rossiter declared a personal interest on item 7d and 11. Councillor Hallett, Councillor Mrs Brown and Councillor Blackhall declared a personal interest on item 11.

413. ITEMS TO PRESS

Proposed by Councillor Blackhall, 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.

414. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Resolved that the Minutes of the Tenby Town Council held 19th February 2013 be confirmed and signed as accurate.

415. MATTERS ARISING

Smart Towns Initiative

Councillor Mrs Brown asked if TTC should be responding to Smart Towns Initiative scheme following their presentation to Council on 19th March 2013. Councillor Evans felt TTC should respond and proposed a letter is sent noting that TTC support the ethos of the idea, it is a great scheme, a great idea and good luck with the project, seconded by Councillor Mrs Brown.

Resolved that a letter is sent to Smart Towns, c/o. Tenby Chamber of Trade and Tourism, supporting the Smart Towns project.

373 – Christmas Lighting Displays

Councillor W Rossiter felt it should be noted that a lot of information has been publicised in relation to dark skies and requested TTC note the concerns relating to light pollution. The Clerk reported he had contacted Melissa Howell in relation to up-lighting the town walls; however no reply has been received as yet.

395c. Mr Alistair Mackay – Dog Fouling

Following the earlier discussion with Tenby Sailing Club, Councillor Evans proposed TTC make a donation to the sailing club for four professional quality signs, seconded by Councillor Mrs Brown.

Councillor Mrs Putwain disagreed and felt Tenby Sailing Club were happy to pay for the signage, highlighting that many other areas have dog fouling problems and would love signage, she proposed to not contribute to the signage, seconded by Councillor W Rossiter.

The Mayor took a vote on Councillor Putwain's proposal, recorded vote 3 for, 5 against. Recorded vote taken on Councillor Evans proposal, 5 for, 3 against. Therefore it was

Resolved that TTC liaise on the signage with the sailing club and contribute towards the cost of four professional quality signs.

404 – Paragon sea wall

Councillor Rapi expressed how impressed he was to read that the work on Iron Bar Sands, Paragon Tenby discussed at TTC previous meeting was in hand and scheduled to commence.

403 – Signs

Councillor Mrs Brown reported that a walk about reviewing street signage with Mr B Blake PCC was very successful. Some signage will be removed, some repaired and costings looked into for replacement of the fingers on the fingerposts in Tudor Square and other areas.

393 Planning Applications

Councillor Blackhall still felt strongly that a two week consultation process on planning applications is not long enough for town and community councils who only meet once a month, despite the response received from Mrs J Gibson PCNPA. He felt that TTC should write again as he feels feedback given by TTC does not matter to PCNPA. Councillor Mrs Brown expressed concern that TTC at present do not have the equipment to present information to Council by compact disc or power point. Councillor Mrs Putwain explained that Mrs J Gibson wrote saying

that PCNPA have an eight week window for planning, surely TTC could have three weeks of that consultation time; therefore still leaving them five weeks.

Councillor M Evans said that TTC should be reviewing the present system of process for delivering all information to Councillors. Perhaps plans should be e-mailed to Councillors on the day they arrive in the office or put on the website, agendas and other information could also be sent via e-mail reducing funding of paper copies. He was fully aware that TTC opinion relating to planning is valued as local connections can highlight local important facts that lead to plans requiring referral to PCNPA Committee.

Councillor Rapi agreed e-mailing documents would be of advantage to many working Councillors, suggesting TTC commence moving to keep up with technology and it was time the process of providing and accessing documentation was discussed.

Councillor Mrs Rossiter expressed views on behalf of Councillors who do not have access to computers or the expertise to operate modern technology.

Councillor Evans proposed that the Clerk provide a report on the process of delivering information to Councillors, highlighting the pros and cons from all aspects available.

The Clerk reported that again due to the reduced consultation period on planning by PCNPA, three additional planning applications required a decision before the next scheduled meeting. Councillor Evans felt that NP/13/0071 and NP/13/0092 planning applications received were too large to discuss at short notice and proposed a separate planning meeting be arranged, seconded by Councillor Mrs Durham.

Resolved that a planning application meeting be arranged to discuss NP/13/0071 and NP/13/0092.

Councillor Mrs Rossiter proposed to accept discussion on planning application NP/13/0065, seconded by Councillor Mrs Putwain.

Resolved that a planning application NP/13/0065 is accepted for discussion.

416. PLANNING APPLICATION

a.NP/13/0065 – Mrs Susan Spilsbury, 2 Glenwood, The Oaks, Wembdon Rise, Bridgewater, Somerset - Demolish existing garage and build new garage at ‘Woodview’,Serpentine Road, Tenby.

Councillors discussed and viewed the planning application. Councillor Mrs Putwain proposed approval as it is only marginally larger than the footprint of the existing garage, seconded by Councillor M Evans.

RECOMMEND

Approval as the proposed garage is only marginally larger than the footprint of the existing garage; fitting in with the streetscape and does not appear to have any adverse effect on the amenity of neighbouring properties.

417. PLANNING CORRESPONDENCE

a. PCC – Local Development Plan – Training Event for Town and Community Councils

Councillors reviewed the information, it was

Resolved that the information be noted.

b. Mrs Humphies – Tenby Harbour pontoon

Councillors reviewed the information, it was

Resolved that the information be noted.

c. PCNPA – Tree Works notification Park Hotel, North Cliff, Tenby

The Mayor as tree warden reported that on inspection in his opinion the cedar tree is healthy and he sees no reason for removing it. He proposed objection to the works as the red cedar tree appears to be an excellent healthy specimen, seconded by Councillor W Rossiter.

Resolved that a letter is sent to Mr Higgins PCNPA as TTC object to the works as they cannot see any justifiable reason for the removal; of what they consider an excellent specimen of a Red Cedar Tree.

Councillor Mrs Rossiter declared an interest.

d. PCNPA – NP/12/0567 – 11 St David’s Close, Tenby

Councillors reviewed the information, it was

Resolved that the information be noted.

Councillor Mrs Rossiter rejoined the meeting.

418. CORRESPONDENCE

a. Tenby Chamber of Trade and Tourism – January minutes

Councillors reviewed the information, it was

Resolved that the information be noted.

b. Community Health Council – Minor Injuries Unit, Tenby

The Clerk reported he had received no further correspondence from Hywel Dda Health Board in relation to TTC requesting a meeting to commence engagement of how Tenby Cottage Hospital can become the Community Health Hub for South East Pembrokeshire.

c. Mr Shacklock– Dog Fouling

The Clerk reported that he is aware that the PCC Scrutiny Committee is meeting this week to discuss enforcement measures and deliver a series of proposals. They are planning to introduce educational programmes which will have an impact to address dog fouling along with other issues. Following discussion it was

Resolved that a letter is sent to Mr Shaklock outlining TTC’s awareness of the problem, with present and proposed action being proposed.

d. Mr H Mathias, PCC – Coastal Bus Services

Councillor Mrs Durham felt although she was pleased the Coastal bus service will continue to run it is a disgrace that no Tenby resident can access the service, due to the fact no local

connecting service is available on a Sunday. People who do not drive are trapped in Tenby on a Sunday as no local bus service at all is provided.

Councillor Evans outlined that PCC receive a levy from the Welsh Assembly for allocation to multiple services and inevitably savings have to be made. If the subsidy is withdrawn, private operators will withdraw services if they are not being used or are making a loss.

419. FINANCIAL RISK 2013/14

Councillors reviewed the Financial Risk Assessment 2013/14 before thanking the Clerk for preparation of the document. Councillor Evans proposed acceptance of the Financial Risk Assessment, seconded by Councillor Mrs Brown.

Resolved that the Financial Risk Assessment for 2013/14 be accepted.

420. ACCOUNTS FOR FEBRUARY 2013

The Clerk circulated copies of the Accounts for February 2013 highlighting the one outstanding debt, relating to a hire of Augustus Place in 2011. Despite many letters sent to the hirer no settlement has been received. Following Councillors discussion, Councillor Evans proposed the outstanding invoice be written off as a bad debt, seconded by Councillor Mrs Brown.

It will be recorded that the hirer concerned will not to be allowed to hire the hall again.

Resolved that TTC write off the outstanding invoice relating to Augustus Place hire; as a bad debit.

Councillors discussed the accounts. Councillor Mrs Rossiter proposed acceptance of the accounts for February 2013, seconded by Councillor Mrs Putwain.

Resolved that the accounts for February 2013 be accepted.

421. DE VALENCE

The Clerk reported the ducting has arrived for the De Valence main hall heating system and it is envisaged that work on installation will commence later this week.

422. GRANT APPLICATION

a. Cruse Bereavement Care, All Pembrokeshire Branch

Councillors discussed the application however they felt with regret they were unable to make a donation this year. Councillor Mrs Rossiter proposed that a letter of regret be sent to Cruse Bereavement Care stating that TTC are sorry but unfortunately they are unable to donate this year, seconded by Councillor Mrs Brown.

Resolved that a letter is sent with regret to Cruse Bereavement Care stating with regret that TTC are unable to make a donation this year.

b. Annie Jeremias, Lower Landsker Senior Section, Girlguiding Pembrokeshire

Councillors discussed the application; Councillor Mrs Durham proposed a donation of £100.00 towards Miss Jeremias fund to represent Pembrokeshire Guides at the 2013 Discover Your Potential Camp in Sangam, India, seconded by Councillor Mrs Brown.

Councillors wished her every success for her adventure and requested if she is able on her return perhaps she would provide a report about her experience gained in India.

Resolved that a letter be sent to Miss A Jeremias congratulating her on representing Pembrokeshire Guides at the 2013 Discover Your Potential Camp in Sangam, India, with a donation of £100 payable to Lower Landsker Senior Section. Requesting in addition on her return that she may like to visit TTC and provide a report about her experience gained in India.

423. REPORTS BY COUNCILLORS ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Councillor Blackhall reported he had attended Tenby Infant School Governor meeting with nothing to report at this time.

The Mayor reported he attended the 90th Anniversary Celebration of Girl Guiding in Tenby held at St Mary's Church; it was pleasing to see so many young people and leaders present.

The Clerk provided a SEPCHN update in the absence of Councillor Mrs Thomas. They have arranged a meeting on 26th March at 2pm in New Hedges to provide an update on the fight to keep Tenby MIU services as it is at present. All local AMs have been sent a letter outlining all issues relating to the proposed closure and inviting them to attend this meeting to provide their opinions on the proposals.

The Mayor reported that there is a meeting in Saundersfoot on Monday 11th March to discuss the proposed Civic Amenity Site at New Hedges, all individuals interested can attend this meeting.

424. MEDIA ITEMS

Councillor Mrs Rossiter reported that on the BBC weather report last weekend the background picture was Tenby. The main presenter asked where the beautiful place was stating she would like to go there. Cllr. Evans suggested that the Clerk discover the BBC presenter in question and the Mayor formally write, invite her personally to Tenby and arrange to meet her when she visits.

425. GOOD NEIGHBOUR SCHEME

Councillor Evans explained that following the presentation by Mrs A Watwood PCC, on the good neighbour scheme it was up to TTC to decide if they were interested in participating in the scheme. Councillors discussed the scheme and its benefits before it was proposed by Councillor Evans to send a letter explaining TTC would be pleased to see a Good Neighbour Scheme commenced in Tenby, seconded by Councillor Mrs Brown.

Resolved that TTC write to Mrs A Watwood PCC thanking her for the presentation she provided and that members would be pleased to see a Good Neighbour Scheme commenced in Tenby.

426. DEAD HOUSE STEPS

Deferred to the next meeting in the absence of Councillor Mrs Thomas.

Councillor Mrs Rossiter left the chamber.

427. TENBY HARBOUR PONTOON

Councillor Mrs Brown felt that as money is available to provide a pontoon for Tenby Harbour and following two unsuccessful planning applications perhaps a meeting between PCC, TTC, and all organisations and groups with an interest in the harbour should be arranged to discuss the best solution for Tenby rather than end up with nothing. Councillor Evans agreed that this would be the long term aim however it would be a multi-million pound project to meet PCNPA criteria at present.

It was noted that a second Tenby regeneration meeting has been arranged for Monday 11th March at 7pm in the De Valence café giving an opportunity for all community groups to work together.

Councillor Evans left the chamber.

428. FINANCIAL OFFICER/CLERK'S ITEMS

a. Actions and update on outstanding matters from the 19th meeting

The Clerk outlined the information contained within his report highlighting items relating to dog fouling. It is noted by the dog wardens that owners always clean up after their pets when they are aware they are being observed. Evidence from other authorities who have used private enforcement companies show less than 1% of the fines issued are for dog fouling. He continued outlining an incident this week where a member of the public has taken photographs of a dog fouling and forwarded it as evidence to PCC for action to be taken.

b. Films 4 Tenby event insurance costs

The Clerk reported he had received the cost for public liability insurance of the Tenby Pop-Up Film festival, this being £421.00, TTC had previously agreed to donate £200 towards this cost when it was arranged. Proposed by Councillor Rapi that TTC donate £200 towards the public liability insurance for Tenby Pop-Up Film festival, seconded by Councillor Mrs Brown.

Resolved under Section 144 (LGA 72) to forward a cheque for £200 towards the public liability insurance for Tenby Pop-Up Film festival.

c. Report of meeting with local county and community councillors re Tenby MIU campaign progress

Councillor noted the report.

d. Report of meeting and discuss a judicial review into the proposed closure of Tenby MIU

The Clerk added that we are still waiting to hear from Councillor Lloyd any additional information following the meeting to discuss the judicial review procedure; however he reported it looks unlikely that one for Tenby MIU will be submitted.

At present meetings with Assembly Members on a local political party basis are being arranged, the Labour Assembly Members have responded and are in the process of arranging a suitable date with the Clerk. The aim of these meetings is to lobby the members prior to the Chief Medical Officers assessment so they are fully aware and support our case, highlighting that we are not just a tourist area for eight weeks of the year, this is an old fashioned view and simply not the case anymore.

The Chamber of Trade and Tourism have sent letters to all its members asking if they are willing to donate to the Smart Towns Scheme.

The Clerk reported that Tenby Town Councils Insurance contract is coming to an end and so he had obtained three competitive quotes:

1. NIG - £7000
2. Royal & Sun Alliance - £9700
3. AVIVA - £6536.60

Following discussion Councillor Mrs Brown proposed acceptance of the third quote for the three year contract, seconded by Councillor Mrs Durham.

Resolved that TTC accept the Aviva Insurance quote on a three year fixed term.

Wales and West Utilities gas main replacement provided a progress report on scheduled work; this was outlined in detail by the Clerk. Councillor Mrs Brown praised the workforce for their hard work and commitment to the task expressing details of how helpful the various teams have been to the public. It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Brown to send a letter to the Wales and West Utilities thanking them for the information and their continued consideration and help to the general public, seconded by Councillor Mrs Durham.

Resolved that a letter be sent to Wales and West Utilities thanking them for the information and their continued consideration and help to the general public.

429. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved that the next meeting will take place on Tuesday 19th March 2013 at 7.30 pm.

430. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

Staffing (In private) Councillor Blackhall.

Rubbish Collection inside the Town Walls Councillor Mrs Putwain.

431. 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.

432. MINUTES

Resolved that the Private and Confidential Minutes of Tenby Town Council Meeting held 19th February 2013 be confirmed and signed as accurate.

433. MATTERS ARISING

None noted.

Mayor _____

Town Clerk _____

Date _____