

TENBY TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE TENBY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD
3RD JANUARY 2023

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| <u>PRESENT:</u> | Cllr Mrs S Skyrme-Blackhall | Mayor |
| | Cllr Mrs S Lane | |
| | Cllr Mrs T Rossiter | |
| | Cllr C Dale | |
| | Cllr T Brown | |
| | Cllr Ms L Attewell | |
| | Cllr L Blackhall | |
| | Cllr D Morgan | |
| | Cllr D Whitehurst | |
| | Cllr P Rapi | |
| <u>IN ATTENDANCE:</u> | Mr A Davies | Clerk |
| | Mrs S Thompson | Assistant to the Clerk |

The Mayor wished all a happy new year.

181. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Cllr Ronowitz.

182. TO DISCLOSE ANY PERSONAL INTERESTS IN ITEMS OF BUSINESS LISTED BELOW

MEMBERS ARE REQUESTED TO IDENTIFY THE NATURE OF THE INTEREST AND INDICATE WHETHER IT IS PERSONAL OR PREJUDICIAL

Cllr Mrs Lane declared interest in item 13.

183. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: AN OPPORTUNITY FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO ASK QUESTIONS AND MAKE REPRESENTATIONS ABOUT ANY ITEM OF BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED DURING TONIGHTS MEETING AND WHICH IS OPEN FOR PUBLIC DISCUSSION. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS OF BUSINESS ARE EXCLUDED

No members of the public present.

184. TO AGREE ITEMS OF CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMITTEE MINUTES, EXCEPT THOSE MARKED PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL, BE GIVEN TO THE MEMBERS OF THE PRESS PRESENT

Proposed by Cllr Mrs Rossiter and seconded by Cllr Mrs Lane.

RESOLVED

That items of Correspondence and Committee Minutes other than those items marked Not for Publication be given to members of the Press present.

185. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Resolved that the Minutes of the Tenby Town Council meeting held 6th December 2022 be confirmed and signed as accurate.

186. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Page 93 Item 162 - Sewage Spills from the Castle Beach overflow: The Clerk told members that a representative of Welsh Water will be attending the next TTC meeting.

Page 96 Item 168 - Update on the Brynhir Development: The Clerk advised councillors that PCC were awaiting updates from consultants and once these were received, a meeting will be arranged with us.

Page 97 Item 169 – Traffic on Estates in Tenby: The Clerk advised members that Mr Marc Owen had sent his enforcement officers to take a look and the situation is currently being monitored. The Clerk had spoken with Mr Darren Thomas regarding the possibility of a zebra crossing but this was a medium to long term option said Mr Thomas. A crossing patrol officer on the Tudor Way junction is due to start next week when the new school term commences.

Page 98 Item 170 – Consulting with the Community for Next EPF Bid – Cllr Blackhall hopes to get this rolled out next week. Cllr Mrs Lane will be away. The Clerk informed councillors that Tenby's Community Engagement Officer, Anne, suggests a community forum encompassing representatives for all aspects of the community. Meeting regularly this will enable people to be well informed about local issues and provide feedback on policies, procedures and plans. All would be welcome to get involved. This would enhance the consultation procedure. Cllr Blackhall feels that all forums are useful for evidence and that it would be helpful to have a fuller discussion then return to next month's meeting. All were happy for the item to go on the next Agenda.

Page 99 Item 173 – Attendance of Police: Unfortunately, the Superintendent had been unable to come to this meeting but will attend the next.

187. TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD 13TH DECEMBER 2022

Although noted, it seems now to be a regular occurrence that the planning committee is not quorate as only two or three members are regularly attending.

Cllr Dale reminded councillors that we, as a council, had voted to try this approach and perhaps not all are committed as they should be. He understands that the Clerk struggles to get a response from councillors but we need to try and back our resolutions as a council. TTC must move forward.

Cllr Mrs Lane proposed reverting to dealing with planning within the main full council meeting.

The Mayor felt the whole point of the new system was to reduce the workload of the Clerk and the Deputy Clerk to allow them time to actually action council proposals.

Separate meetings were to make it easier. Councillors chose not to come but why put yourself forward to serve on a committee if you're not going to be present at meetings, she asked.

Cllr Blackhall agrees it is proving difficult as numbers are not happening. May be this was a good time to ask members on the planning committee if they wish to continue or if others should be appointed.

There are times when councillors are unable to take part in debate and need to declare their interest commented Cllr Mrs Lane in her defence. Arranging a meeting which then doesn't go ahead is an unnecessary use of Clerk's time.

Cllr Dale suggested asking the Clerk for his thoughts.

The Clerk told councillors that the concept of separate meetings for things like planning is undertaken by other town council. Some are not always regularly scheduled but held on an adhoc basis. The original idea was that planning meetings were to be during the day but due to various councillors' commitments the meetings are held in the evening.

In effect we are still having two evening meetings a month but the timetabling means that staff have more opportunity to take annual leave.

Cllr Rapi arrived.

The Clerk felt that if councillors wished to incorporate planning into full meetings, then it could be added to a normal council agenda. Even though there was only one full council meeting a month, they were not lengthy.

Cllr Blackhall suggested that a planning committee could be held on the same day as full council but start earlier.

If there was an urgent plan that required discussion in between meetings there was capacity to fit a meeting in at another time in the month or do by consultation as we do during the summer recess. Members could come in to the office or have a brief meeting on line, and responses submitted under powers of delegation.

PCNPA delegate by email if councillors are unable to attend said the Mayor.

Cllr Mrs Lane said she could not see why we cannot incorporate into a full council meeting saving time and effort.

With plans being available online for members to look at prior to the meeting we have managed to get all debate down to 5 or 10 minutes, she added.

Cllr Blackhall believes holding a planning meeting prior to a full council meeting was worth a try.

If it doesn't fit with the timetable, if members aren't able to attend planning meetings, now is the time to step down, he said.

The Clerk added that, if the meeting was not quorate then there could be an opportunity to discuss any plans in the subsequent full meeting.

Cllr. Blackhall proposed that the council try holding planning committee meetings prior to full council on the first Tuesday of the month. The Mayor seconded.

RESOLVED

That the council hold planning committee meetings prior to full council on the first Tuesday of the month.

188. TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING ITEMS OF CORRESPONDENCE AND AGREE ACTION IN RESPONSE TO PROPOSALS:

a. Kelly Morris, PCC – Change of waiting restrictions, Narberth Road, Tenby

The Mayor asked if councillors had any comments. Cllr Rapi said it was a shame that the restrictions didn't continue on the other side as he felt the parking would be displaced to that side of the road

Cllr Blackhall agreed that this has been a problem for a while, and it is good that the problem has been recognised. TTC should support the proposal by PCC.

RESOLVED

That the TTC support PCC's proposal.

b. Lieutenant (SCC) William Elliott, Tenby Sea Cadets – Commanding Officer Succession

It was proposed that TTC send a letter of thanks to Lieutenant Elliot for all his hard work and wish him all the very best.

Lloyd will do a fantastic job as his replacement, I'm sure, said the Mayor.

RESOLVED

That TTC write a letter of thanks to Lieutenant (SCC) William Elliott.

189. TO CONFIRM THE BUDGET FOR 2023/24 AND SET THE PRECEPT FIGURE

The Clerk talked through his summary attached to the budget papers and outlined what shortfall there would be to be met from reserves if members kept the potential rise in the Band D rate to 6 % as previously agreed.

Cllr Mrs Lane feels that TTC needs reserves, we need to be very careful about using them. In the past TTC had used reserves to help keep the precept down and ended up with bigger rises in subsequent years.

Cllr Blackhall agreed that it is something TTC needs to watch closely but he felt we had built reserves to such a point to have sufficient funds to cope with unforeseen circumstances. We have to be realistic, some increase needed but does it need to cover all proposed expenditure.

Cllr Mrs Lane suggested increasing the Band D equivalent by at least 1% more to 7%.

Cllr Blackhall said he was mindful that PCC may want TTC to take over services like toilets in the future and suggested splitting the difference somewhere with an 8.5% rise.

The Clerk said that this would mean a Band D rate of £75.89 an increase of £5.95 but would still leave a £20,000 shortfall to be met from reserves.

Cllr Brown feels this is a tough time for everyone financially and was happy to support the Clerk's recommendation as we had more than enough reserves.

The Clerk said he acknowledged Cllr. Mrs. Lane's concern but the last two Wales Audit audits had picked up on our large amounts in reserve and had suggested we consider using some to reduce the precept.

Cllr Whitehurst agreed with Cllr Brown. He felt we should try and reduce the financial burden on our community. We would still have a substantial reserve.

Cllr Rapi feels it is a difficult decision to make, an increase is needed as we need to be careful that we do not fall behind increasing prices.

Cllr Rapi has been asked what TTC spending this money on. The people need to know what their money is being spent on, we need to be more sympathetic to their needs. This was very commendable said Cllr Mrs Lane but you'll never please everyone with spending plans

Cllr Blackhall said, at the last meeting, he had highlighted the declining Council Tax base in terms of properties due to holiday lets. The situation may reverse with new legislation proposed by Welsh Government and we should monitor this during the next year. Perhaps we should look at our budget earlier for next year.

Cllr Mrs Lane is right to alert councillors to this.

Cllr Brown proposed accepting the Clerk's recommendation and assessing the situation next year. He was seconded by Cllr. Whitehurst

RESOLVED

That the council accept the budget as proposed and utilise £25,778.24 of unearmarked reserves to set the precept at £225,143.12.

190. TO RECEIVE ANY UPDATES FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

SPRAG: Cllr Whitehurst was waiting to hear when the next meeting was. He had advised the group that Cllr Ms Attewell would like to be involved.

Heating Fund: Cllr Dale had spoken with Chris Hughes, Chair of the Tenby Charities, and they were meeting tomorrow.

SEPCHN: Cllr Whitehurst said that another meeting was being planned, possibly to feature on aiding people on how to use **Mysurgeryonline**.

Cllr Blackhall feels this could be really helpful service. While not all will be able to access the service, the more that do make use it can lessen the burden on administration staff. Options now include online consultations, and emailing questions to the surgery with the assurance that a doctor will respond within a couple of days. This is something that may be useful.

St Teilos School: Cllr Rapi is now a governor. There is still no Head but someone is being put in place as a temporary measure while PCC look to resolve the situation.

Ysgol Hafan y Mor: Cllr Rapi is now chair of governors. The school is doing really well and preparations are being put in place for their Estyn inspection.

De Valence: Cllr Dale asked the reason for closure of the café. Cllr Rapi asked that this be discussed in private along with the Office accommodation item proposed by Cllr. Blackhall.

Greenhill School: The Mayor is on the governing body of Greenhill and praised Mr Haynes for what has been achieved, the school is now out of special measures and is going in the right direction at last. There are exciting time ahead.

Various Christmas Items: The Mayor had attended carol services and the Santa Drive around had been fantastic. The drive had centred on estates and saw a lot more children and families than in previous years. The Mayor thanked all those who helped make it happen.

Boxing Day Swim: The Mayor said it was great to see this happen. Over 800 took part and the event drew huge crowds.

New Year's Eve Fireworks: The Mayor wished to congratulate Lesley Fisher and team at the Tenby House. It was a fabulous display and commented on by many. Cllr

Blackhall asked if TTC had received a request for financial support towards the insurance costs of the fireworks as we had done in previous years.

The Clerk said that no request had been received this year.

Cllr Mrs Lane proposed sending a letter congratulating Lesley and the Tenby House team on the New Year's Eve display adding that TTC would be delighted to support them with their insurance costs.

191. TO REQUEST AN UPDATE ON THE REDEVELOPMENT OF THE FORMER POST OFFICE BUILDING, WARREN STREET – CLLR MRS ROSSITER

Cllr Mrs Rossiter feels we owe it to the residents of Tenby to find out what is going on with this site as it looks shabby. The Clerk had approached PCNPA to see if they had any answers. Ms Kate Attrill, Team Leader Development Management said that a report to the Development Management team on the site was expected early in the New Year.

There were ongoing discussions on viability, which the Clerk speculated related to the affordable housing element.

Cllr Mrs Rossiter asked if it was possible to relay this information to Tenby residents?

Cllr Blackhall feels that the reality is that the developers are trying to get planning permission with minimal or no affordable housing. TTC supports Ateb and PCC in seeking to develop that land to provide more affordable housing for the people of the town.

If PCNPA do the right thing and refuse the application in its current form then a discussion can take place, he said.

Cllr Mrs Lane asked if PCC could threaten with a compulsory purchase order due to the state of the site. Cllr Blackhall feels it is really difficult to do as there are so many barriers to overcome.

192. TO REQUEST AN UPDATE ON THE REDEVELOPMENT OF THE FORMER PATROL STATION SITE, DEER PARK – CLLR DALE

The Clerk reminded members that this is part of a 5-phase development which included the Royal Gate House, the Playhouse, The Delphi, Deer Park and the Royal Lion Hotel.

The first three phases (Gate House, Playhouse and Delphi) have been completed but that the others have not.

Ms Attrill said that the Lion element has lapsed as no work has been done.

In relation to the Deer Park site, which was to demolish the petrol station and associated buildings and build 9 houses, there was a presumption that the discharge of conditions in relation to the demolition works meant that a material start has been made on the site.

However, she had asked Mr Scourfield to confirm this.

Cllr Dale asked if it would be possible to this follow up.

He was also concerned about the condition of windows at the Lion, particularly as any future development no longer had planning permission. He felt they were a danger to the public.

The Clerk said that a Section 78 notice was served on the current Leaseholders of the hotel just prior to Christmas and some remedial work had been carried out.. The Leaseholders are working with the Conservation Officer on applying for CADW grants to upgrade the windows and listed building consent is in the process of being applied for.

193. TO QUERY THE POSITION OF WHETHER PROVISION OF TABLES AND CHAIRS WITHIN THE GREGGS PREMISES IN TUDOR SQUARE REQUIRES CHANGE OF USE TO A3 – CLLR DALE

Ms Attrill had asked her enforcement officer to investigate but they were on leave and had been unlikely to get the information to us in time for this evening's meeting. Cllr Dale asked that the request be put in again.

194. PROVISION OF GRIT BINS ON TENBY ESTATES – CLLR ROSSITER

Cllr Mrs Rossiter feels the weather is getting more extreme. The recent severe frost prevented carers getting to patients in Upper Hill Park and residents were unable to get out of the estate. PCC were unable to grit estates. A grit bin was provided to Seascape some time ago and Cllr Mrs Rossiter asked if we could, as a council, look at placing more grit bins around the main estates.

The Clerk told members that PCC had not supplied grit bins since 2010. Town and community councils had to purchase them at a cost of £180 plus vat and make arrangements for spreading of the salt. PCC will refill the salt bins as necessary.

TTC have previously purchased two bins, one situated in Lamack Vale and one situated in Seascape. However, the bin at Seascape had been so little used that the grit salt had solidified.

Cllr Dale told members that he had had a conversation with the landlords of The Evergreen who have said that if a bin was placed on the pavement at the bottom of St John's Hill, then they would be happy to spread the grit salt as needed on the pedestrian footpath from The Glebe.

The Mayor told members that on 13th December she had contacted PCC about the problems on estates in her capacity as a county councillor as she was aware that carers couldn't access their patients.

She felt that the teams were doing a very hard job in difficult circumstances and has asked TTC's community engagement officer, Anne, to look into possible grant funding for purchasing more grit bins for the main estates.

If we do provide the bins this is where the community aspect comes in, she added because each bin will require a responsible resident with a key for the bin.

Cllr Blackhall supported asking Anne if grants are available in the short term and felt the town council look at strategic locations for the placement of bins.

He felt at least 8 were needed but some of the larger estates may need more than one.

Cllr Mrs Lane asked that any review also consider sheltered housing estates like Augustus Place.

Cllr Blackhall proposed identify initial budget of £2,000 to invest in bins.

Cllr Dale had heard that the pavements of Haverfordwest were gritted. Can we ask Pembrokeshire County Council if there is any truth in this?

195. DECISIONS OF COUNCIL TRACKER UPDATE – CLLR BLACKHALL

Cllr Blackhall advised members that the tracker will be deferred to the next Agenda.

196. TO CONSIDER ANY FINANCIAL OFFICER/CLERK'S ITEMS AND TO AGREE ACTION IN RESPONSE TO PROPOSALS

The Clerk advised members that TTC had received a letter from Mr Ed Spence, chairman of Tenby Round Table thanking TTC and others for supporting the Senior Citizen's Christmas dinner.

Cllr Mrs Lane proposed writing back to the Tenby Round Table thanking them for their kind words and that TTC look forward to next year. Apologies were given from the Trust, the heating was broken and unfortunately it was an exceptionally cold spell.

197. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Full council meeting Tuesday, 7th February 2023 at 7pm to allow for guest speakers. This will be preceded by a Planning Committee meeting at 6.30pm.

RESOLVED

That the next planning meeting will take place on Tuesday, 7th February 2023 at 6.30pm followed by full council meeting at 7pm.

198. TO PROPOSE ANY ITEM FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

None proposed at this time.

199. TO RESOLVE TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC FROM THE MEETING DURING CONSIDERATION OF THE FOLLOWING ITEM(S) OF BUSINESS UNDER THE "PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT OF 1960"

Proposed Cllr Brown and seconded by Cllr Blackhall.

