

**TENBY TOWN COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE TENBY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD**  
**7<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2023**

**PRESENT:** Cllr Mrs S Skyrme-Blackhall Mayor  
Cllr C Dale  
Cllr D Whitehurst  
Cllr L Blackhall  
Cllr Mrs T Rossiter  
Cllr Ms L Attewell  
Cllr D Morgan  
Cllr T Hallett  
Cllr J Rossiter

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Mr A Davies Clerk  
Mrs S Thompson Assistant to the Clerk  
  
Cllr M Williams County Councillor, North Ward  
Paul Evans Tenby Observer

**203. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES**

Before receiving apologies, the Clerk had received three 3 letters which he read to members.

The Deputy Mayor Cllr Mrs Sue Lane tendered her resignation, Cllr Brown had tendered his resignation and Cllr Ronowitz also had tendered his resignation.

This is a very sad moment for town council, commented The Mayor, although Mr Ronowitz, she hopes, will continue to work with council when he can.

She was disappointed with Cllr Brown's resignation. She was very upset by the resignation of Mrs Lane who had been Mayor 9 times and has been on council for 36 years. 'She has given so much back to the town. Obviously, she feels it is time to stand down and I am very sorry that she has resigned,' the Mayor commented.

She wished she had been given an opportunity to speak to the three members prior to them making this decision.

Cllr Blackhall feels that, given the level of over 35 years' service by Mrs Lane, this should be acknowledged in some way, and a discussion should be had.

He would like it recorded that he gave his personal thanks to Mrs Lane as his Deputy when he was Mayor. She had made a significant contribution to the town and we should properly reflect her service in some way. He was sure she will continue to be an ambassador for Tenby in some guise.

No apologies were received.

**204. 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

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

a. **Kelly Jordan, Dwr Cymru River Quality Liaison Manager West Wales, and Richard Davies, Dwr Cymru Sewerage Manager West Wales**

The Mayor welcomed members from Dwr Cymru and thanked them for taking time to come and speak with TTC.

Kelly gave some background information and then proceeded to refer to a prepared Power Point.

This outlined how Dwr Cymru is regulated, the number of Combine Storm Overflows in the area and the certain conditions under which Dwr Cymru may discharge through these e.g. extreme weather conditions.

These CSOs are designed to ensure release would not back up into homes and are reviewed regularly.

CSOs allow permitted legal release in extreme weather and can cause pollution. which can impact on bathing waters. Surfers Against Sewage are given the information by DWR Cymru.

May to September is the time testing is carried out with monitoring for two types of bacteria. There are other factors that can lead to a failed test however not just CSOs.

The CSO 'spill count' for Tenby had reduced in 2022 from 2021 but the discharges from the Salterns were still rather high, which was a concern and Dwr Cymru was working with Natural resources Wales to ascertain what was happening in Tenby.

She stressed however that CSO discharges were not pollution incidents, although they could result in pollution (albeit highly diluted).

She added that she was aware there had been problems at nearby Wisemans Bridge but this was a private asset, and not a Dwr Cymru incident.

All Dwr Cymru 'assets' were checked prior to the bathing season.

As of 15<sup>th</sup> December Dwr Cymru were publishing live spill reporting for bathing waters on their website.

Cllr Whitehurst thanked Kelly and Richard for coming to the meeting.

Cllr Whitehurst had mapped the Surfers Against Sewage app against Dwr Cymru's data and it showed a discrepancy in what was being reported. He wondered what was the level of discharge that triggers an alert as the information was not correlating.

Mr Davies offered to take the information back to analyse but added that the 'asset' stays alive on the system for a certain time after the 'incident' is declared over.

Welsh Government were recommending a limit on the number of discharges and more investment may be needed in Tenby to reduce amount of discharges. The difficulty is the number of assets Dwr Cymru have in Wales and the need to ensure that investment going to the right place

Dwr Cymru is a not-for-profit body and has to prioritise where the potential for harm is greatest. If the environmental impact is high, then these are higher priority.

Cllr Hallett commented that the Ritec Valley is 27 square miles and run-off from farmland into the river can also affect the quality of water on the beach.

Drainage from land can cause issues and not just the 'assets' Dwr Cymru is responsible for, he said.

Kelly indicated that she was happy to liaise with Cllr Whitehurst on any specific areas of concern and would welcome continued engagement with TTC in the future.

The Mayor thanked both for attending.

**b. Superintendent Craig Templeton and Sergeant Lewis Simon, Dyfed-Powys Police**

The Superintendent said he was grateful for the opportunity to come and speak to the council and introduce himself.

He had just returned to take command of the Pembrokeshire Division after being posted in Carmarthenshire for the last 10 years.

He had worked previously in Tenby in summers past so he was aware of the town's unique problems. He also lived locally and had close affiliations to the county. He felt it was important to introduce himself and give TTC the recognition it deserves as TTC represents the view of those who live here and visitors alike.

He also wanted to introduce Sergeant Lewis Simon, who was the new Neighbouring Policing Team Sergeant for Tenby.

Cllr Dale thanked the officers for coming. He said he loved Op Lion. It made a huge difference to the town and it was lovely to see officers working the streets.

He had wondered if it could be extended over the Christmas period but was told at the time that there was no budget. He wondered instead about extending the scheme to begin at Whitsun. He felt this would mean a lot less work for the police due to the presence of officers acting as a deterrent.

The Superintendent confirmed that Op Lion will continue. He said there were financial constraints but the budget would be managed in the right way to ensure resources were there when needed.

Cllr Dale asked if TTC could be included in any consultation on timings and the Superintendent felt that this was possible.

Cllr Whitehurst felt that night patrols on North Beach have had a good effect. There has been positive feedback and he hopes the patrols continue.

The Superintendent thanked Cllr Whitehurst for the positive feedback and confirmed that the NPT would continue to act on anti-social behaviour issues

The Clerk confirmed that the NPT often called in to the office to liaise on issues. Sgt Simon confirmed that this would continue.

Cllr Dale wondered if a mobile police station would be employed in the Square during OP Lion, as had been the case some years ago. The Superintendent said that sadly all mobile stations had been sold.

Cllr Blackhall said resources are a challenge but welcomed the increased CCTV coverage in town. He wondered if more were needed.

The Superintendent agreed that CCTV coverage in town has increased dramatically since he was last here. Then the system was monitored by volunteers at the police station when available. Now there was a fully resourced monitor room at HQ where problems are picked up in real time and resources tasked immediately.

The Mayor thanked both officers for attending and looked forward to continuing our excellent working relationship with the police.

**206. TO AGREE ITEMS OF CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMITTEE MINUTES OTHER THAN THOSE MARKED NOT FOR PUBLICATION BEING GIVEN TO MEMBERS OF THE PRESS PRESENT**

Proposed by Cllr Hallett and seconded by Cllr 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.**

**207. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

**Resolved that the Minutes of the Tenby Town Council meeting held 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2023 be amended at item 119 to read Petrol Station then confirmed and signed as accurate.**

**208. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

- a. **Page 106 Item 186 – Update on Brynhir Development:** A meeting with PCC had been pencilled in for 14<sup>th</sup> March 2023. This will be confirmed once the availability of all relevant officers had been received.
- b. **Page 111 Item 191 - Former Post Office Building:** The Clerk gave an update on the development following a conversation with the case officer from PCNPA.

The case officer had commented that the development proposed is for 32 dwellings and PCNPA had requested that 17 should be affordable.

The developer had replied that this level would make the project unviable. In addition to the developer's own viability assessment, PCNPA had also undertaken their own independent assessment.

After much discussion on the results an agreement had been undertaken to provide 4 social rental dwellings and one low-cost purchase property.

The case officer believes it is the best that can be achieved due to the substantial increase in building costs in recent times and was minded to recommend to PCNPA Development Committee that the application be approved.

Cllr Blackhall was disappointed by the feedback and he hoped that PCNPA when considering this, will look at their own policy and the proportion of affordable housing proposed.

Even with viability assessments, this is nowhere near acceptable. This figure is based on the asking price for the land so if land costs are inflated then it will, using the viability 'toolkit' affect the affordability of the scheme and reduce amount of affordable housing.

He appreciated that development costs were now rumoured to be in the region of £4K per square metre for new build but 4 social rental units is just not acceptable and he hoped PCNPA will reject the application in line with their own policies. Accepting this adds nothing to the town or our housing crisis and we should make our views known to PCNPA.

**RESOLVED**

**That PCNPA be informed that TTC does not support the application if it will only provide four units of social rental housing.**

- c. **Page 111 Item 192 - Petrol Station Site:** Demolition of the building site had already commenced and therefore a start on building has taken place. Under these circumstances the Planning Permission is still valid. Cllr Dale asked if there were any limitations as to when development could be continued and was informed that there were none.
- d. **Page 112 Item 194 – Provision of Grit Bins:** The Mayor suggested that Agenda item 16b be brought forward and dealt with previous Agenda item 194. All were in agreement.

The Clerk told members that he did not walk around in preparation for his Report but had conducted a desktop review.

Members had agreed to make £2000 available to provide grit bins but this would allow for 11.5 bins. If the sum allowed was increased to £2160 then TTC can afford 12 bins.

Based on his review he estimated that there were at least 17 estates that would benefit. He suggested setting aside £2160 and if approached by estates, with someone prepared to take charge of looking after them, then the town council could liaise with PCC over purchase and installation.

The Mayor agreed that it was important that people take ownership of these bins adding that it was looking hopeful that a number of estates would be covered.

It appeared that grant funding was not available towards the costs and, with extreme weather incidents increasing it was important that we progress this idea.

The Clerk and Cllr Dale said that residents of two estates had already indicated to them that they would look after the bins if provided.

Cllr Blackhall recognised that people would have to volunteer to have them.

However, if one key strategic site was missed, would we look at putting one in regardless, he asked. He suggested we monitor where requests were received from and assess the situation.

### **RESOLVED**

**That the town council sets aside £2160 from its Special Projects in the Community budget to purchase up to 12 grit/salt bins from Pembrokeshire County Council to enable it to respond to specific requests from estates that give details of how the bins will be managed (including identified keyholders).**

**Further that the council keep the estates where the bins are supplied under review to ensure that key areas are covered.**

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

**a. Resident of Warren Street – Provision of rubbish bins**

Have all had a chance to look at this letter asked the Mayor?

Cllr Ms Attewell commented that she walks past the area referred to in the letter regularly and hasn't noticed piles of rubbish bags.

Cllr Blackhall felt it was the 'politics of the absurd' as, if bins are being overused they are taken away.

Surely if this is the case it shows that more are required, he said adding he would like to see PCC explain the logic.

However, he acknowledged that street litter bins are for litter and not domestic waste. It is an offence to use street litter bins for domestic waste and PCC needed to do more to combat holiday lets advising clients to use the bins.

Holiday lets were a business and should have trade waste agreements in place or make other adequate arrangements for disposal of waste. Not to do so, when earning a good income, was greed, he opined.

Cllr Dale noted that bins appeared to be much bigger in other places he had visited in the country.

Cllr Blackhall felt the town needs bins in strategic sites such as the train station. It was not fair on members of the public who have genuine waste. There is a problem but the solution is not to take the bins away.

Cllr Dale said it is now winter time, the residents of Tenby are being punished for a seasonal problem.

The Mayor proposed inviting Neil McCarthy and Nicky Young of PCC to have a chat with TTC.

**RESOLVED**

**That Mr McCarthy and Mr Young, be invited to meet with the council to discuss the issue.**

**210. TO RECEIVE THE ACCOUNTS FOR DECEMBER (INCLUDING SCHEDULED PAYMENTS, UNPRESENTED CHEQUES, RECEIPTS, ACCOUNT BALANCES, BUDGET MONITORING TO DATE AND BANK RECONCILIATIONS) AND CONSIDER ANY ISSUES ARISING**

The Clerk had no issues to bring to members' attention. Cllr Mrs Rossiter asked, as Ironman is such a contentious thing, can we withdraw our funds. She was informed that

we are committed to making a contribution for the five-year contract term which ends in 2026.

Cllr Blackhall referred to the funds being held in reserves. Given interest rates are moving, is there any chance of review our deposits to see if we are getting the best achievable rate of interest. The Clerk said he will look into this.

Cllr Hallett approved the accounts and Cllr Morgan seconded.

#### **RESOLVED**

**That the accounts for December (including scheduled payments, unrepresented cheques, receipts, account balances, budget monitoring to date and bank reconciliations) and consider any issues arising.**

211. **TO RECEIVE THE ACCOUNTS FOR JANUARY (INCLUDING SCHEDULED PAYMENTS, UNPRESENTED CHEQUES, RECEIPTS, ACCOUNT BALANCES, BUDGET MONITORING TO DATE AND BANK RECONCILIATIONS) AND CONSIDER ANY ISSUES ARISING**

#### **RESOLVED**

**That the accounts for January (including scheduled payments, unrepresented cheques, receipts, account balances, budget monitoring to date and bank reconciliations) and consider any issues arising.**

212. **TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING REQUESTS FOR GRANT AID AND AGREE ACTION IN RESPONSE TO PROPOSALS:**

a. **Clarby Warriors/Fishguard Thunderbolts pan-disability football teams**

Cllr Mrs Rossiter felt their accounts look healthy and they are north of the county. We need to look after our own players in the south.

There are some Tenby residents who do play on this team, believed Cllr Whitehurst. With regret, I don't feel we can support this, said Cllr Mrs Rossiter and the Mayor agreed.

Cllr Dale asked for clarity as to the demographics of players to see if any local residents are involved and then revisit this at the next meeting. He was seconded by Cllr Whitehurst.

#### **RESOLVED**

**That this matter be deferred until the next meeting to ascertain if there are any local residents involved in the teams.**



**b. Ysgol Greenhill School Year Nine football team – UK championships, Ireland**

The Clerk said that more information had been supplied outlining the projected costs of the trip.

The projected cost of the trip would be £11,000 and TTC had been asked if they could specifically assist with accommodation costs (roughly £2,800).

Cllr Dale felt TTC should help if we can. The Squad was not only representing Greenhill and Tenby but all of Wales. It was just a question of how much we can afford as far as he was concerned.

The Clerk explained that the grants budget had been used up, but members had the option to vire from reserves.

Cllr Whitehurst proposed that TTC contribute £1500 to the costs, with Cllr. Blackhall seconding.

**RESOLVED**

**That, under Section 137 of the LGA 1972, a donation of £1500 be made to assist with the costs of the Year Nine Football Team attending the UK championships in Ireland. Further that sufficient funds be vired from reserves to meet expenditure.**

**213. TO RECEIVE NOMINATIONS AND ELECT A MAYOR FOR 2023/24**

The Mayor asked each member in turn if they wished to stand for Mayor starting on her right. All declined except for Cllr Morgan who said it would be a great honour to represent this fabulous town as Mayor. The current Mayor was also asked if she wished to stand again but declined.

Cllr Whitehurst proposed Cllr Morgan as Mayor Elect and Cllr Dale seconded. All were in favour.

**RESOLVED**

**That Cllr. Morgan be Mayor Elect for 2023/24.**

Cllr Morgan thanked members for their support. The Mayor commented that Cllr Morgan had worked really hard since becoming a councillor and has been a great support and a loyal friend to her. She wished him all the best for next 12 months.

**214. TO CONSIDER THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OFFICER'S SUGGESTION TO ESTABLISH A 'COMMUNITY FORUM' AND AGREE ACTION IN RESPONSE TO PROPOSALS**

The Community Engagement Officer talked through her report, for a Community Forum, an informal place for people to air their views and be informed.

Cllr Whitehurst believes that a community forum is a good idea, keeping in touch with the people of Tenby and would be valuable for the town and councillors.

The Mayor and Community Engagement Officer are also working on children's' forum, attempting to engage them in what is happening in the town.

There was a recent litter pick and clean of the area by the old arcade on the North Walk zig zag, involving Duke of Edinburgh students at Greenhill.

The Mayor proposed that a Forum be established and Cllr Dale seconded.

The Mayor thanked the Engagement Officer for all that she does. If anyone has an idea, please come and discuss it with her to look at ways forward.

### **RESOLVED**

**That the Town Council support the Community Engagement Officer's bid to establish a Community Forum.**

**215. TO RECEIVE ANY UPDATES FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

Cllr Dale asked if the Clerk had received any feedback from the Charity Trustees meeting regarding the donation of various fuel rebates.

The Clerk said that the Trustees did not feel it was something they could be involved in and had suggested that if people wished to make a donation, they could do so directly to some of the Warm Room facilities already established.

Cllr Dale asked that this be made known.

The Mayor had attended the Art Gallery at Tenby Museum for the opening of an exhibition on Welsh Art and it was fantastic. Artisan Avenue were holding an exhibition there at half term.

The Mayor joined with the Community Engagement officer and Mr Mark Lewis to install QR codes on benches around the town. This allowed people to access information and historical background around town using their Smartphones and was a fantastic idea.

**216. TO CONSIDER THE INSTALLATION OF AN EXTERNAL CCTV CAMERA AT THE AUGUSTUS PLACE COMMUNITY CENTRE – CLLR. MRS SKYRME-BLACKHALL**

A number of Augustus Place residents have raised concerns with the Mayor about the mess, especially dog mess, around the community centre.

This is used as a shortcut by dog walkers who sadly fail to clean up after their dogs.

PCC cleaned the area up recently, and it was suggested that some sort of CCTV camera be placed on the front of the hall as a deterrent.

If people know they can be seen. They may be more minded to clean up after their dogs said the Mayor. Also it would be beneficial as there are vulnerable people using the hall's facilities.

She proposed asking the Clerk to look into the provision of CCTV to monitor the area around the hall.

Cllr Whitehurst seconded.

### **RESOLVED**

**That the Clerk investigate the provision of a CCTV camera system outside the Augustus Place Community Centre.**

### **217. ANNUAL REPORT AND FUTURE PLANS – CLLR. BLACKHALL**

Cllr Blackhall feels his report was pretty self-explanatory. Councils are now required to produce an annual report and TTC produced its first last year.

As part of process the intention would move councils towards including an annual plan and feedback on achievements around the annual plan.

He asked members to submit ideas for what could be included in the annual plan to the Clerk. They could be initial suggestions at this stage which would be elaborated on when finalising the annual report.

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

#### **a. To consider the Town Council's Financial Risk Assessment for 2023/24**

This is an annual exercise, looking at risks and how they are managed. Are members happy that all is covered?

Cllr Blackhall asked the Clerk if there are any things that need additional resources to ensure things are suitably managed.

The Clerk said that there was still staff security when lone working in the office to be considered but he felt this may be addressed by proposals of the policy committee.

Proposed by Cllr Morgan and seconded by Cllr Hallett.

### **RESOLVED**

**That the Financial Risk Assessment for 2023/24 be received**

**b. Grit bins on Estates**

Addressed earlier in meeting.

**c. TTC Bank Signatories**

With this evening's resignations, two of TTC's four signatories are no longer in place so members need to replace these as soon as possible. It was agreed that as incoming Mayor, Cllr Morgan would be a bank signatory. All were in agreement that Cllr Whitehurst be the fourth signatory.

**d. Council Vacancies**

With three vacancies on council, the Clerk will notify the authority to commence procedures required to fill them.

Cllr Blackhall hopes there will be an election.

It was noted that some of those members who had resigned were representatives on several council committees, most notably Planning.

It was agreed that Cllr Blackhall be appointed to the planning committee in the interim and further discussions be had on the make-up of council committees, and representation on outside bodies when the vacancies had been filled.

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

**RESOLVED**

**That the next planning meeting will take place on Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at 7pm followed by full council meeting at 7.30pm.**

**220. TO PROPOSE ANY ITEM FOR THE NEXT AGENDA**

None proposed at this time.

**221. 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"**