

MINUTES OF THE TENBY TOWN COUNCIL
EXTRAORDINARY MEETING HELD
10TH MAY 2023

PRESENT: Cllr Sam Skyrme-Blackhall Mayor
Cllr Duncan Whitehurst
Cllr Laurence Blackhall
Cllr Paul Rapi
Cllr Charles Dale
Cllr Trevor Hallett
Cllr Dai Morgan
Cllr Tom Sloan
Cllr Emma Lewis
Cllr Laura Crockford
Cllr Joe Criddle
Cllr James Phillips

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr A Davies Clerk
Mrs S Thompson Assistant to the Clerk

1. **APOLOGIES**

None.

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

None.

3. **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.**

UNDER STANDING ORDERS ADOPTED BY THIS COUNCIL, PHOTOGRAPHING, RECORDING, BROADCASTING OR TRANSMITTING THE PROCEEDINGS OF A MEETING BY ANY MEANS IS PROHIBITED WITHOUT THE COUNCIL'S PRIOR WRITTEN CONSENT.

The Mayor then moved that the standing order be suspended. All were in favour.

4. **TO GRANT THE FREEDOM OF THE TOWN TO CLLR TREVOR HALLETT AND MRS SUE LANE**

From the chair I would like to formally move that under the powers as defined by the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009, this Town Council do confer the Freedom of the Town on Sue Lane and Trevor Hallett.

The granting of the Freedom of the Town is a symbolic presentation which represents the highest honour a town can bestow on an individual.

The freedom of the town is a significant honour, demonstrating trust, loyalty and a sense of community between a town and an individual.

The awarding of the Freedom of the Town is an extremely rare event. To give you an indication of how rare it is, when it was last awarded neither Sue nor Trevor were members of the council.

It was last awarded in 1970 HMS Tenby. The last time it was awarded to an individual was in 1969 when it was awarded to Mr Wilfred Harrison, father of our well-known organist and musical director of Saint Mary's, Doctor John Harrison.

So today I propose that this honour be bestowed on Aue and Trevor. I believe it is fitting that these two remarkable people who have given such service to the town, receive the award at the same time.

Both entered council at the same time in 1987 and both served the council and the town locally throughout Pembrokeshire across Wales reaching all parts of the United Kingdom and acting as Tenby ambassadors throughout the world.

Although Sue and Trevor have had different areas of interest, they have both brought commitment, knowledge and determination to everything that they have done in and for the town.

Sue is often associated with flowers - I can't think why - seriously though as the leader of Tenby in Bloom she has been extraordinary in the way she worked tirelessly to always ensure that Tenby was looking at its best. Always keen to encourage others to get involved, the Bloom competitions involved entrants from houses to hotels, small gardens to large, modern to contemporary - but all making Tenby brighter.

And Sue first taking on Tenby in Bloom says a lot about her. She didn't take it on because of the passion for gardening or her knowledge at the Time. She did it because it needed doing and there was no one else prepared to give it a go.

She soon learned an awful lot and was respected throughout the bloom community leading to invitations to advise and present around Wales and Britain. There was even recognition with invitations to international events.

But Sue is not limited to flowers, for many years she was the coordinator of the British Legion Remembrance Appeal for Tenby and the surrounding area. She has also had spells on the management committee of the De Valence and Augustus Place.

Sue has always been passionate about promoting Tenby. During one of her mayoral years, she re-established the spectacle of Father Christmas being collected by the lifeboat and brought back to Tenby.

After a hugely successful event a counsellor from a nearby area asked Sue if this was a Tenby tradition. Flashing back a beaming smile Sue said 'it is now!'

Sue, like many I will always sociate that event with you and not just because of the incident with the two Santa's! Ask her about that one - when her and Councillor Blackhall abandoned a bemused Councillor Rapi who stood helplessly in the square as two Santa's simultaneously arrived.

But again, that captures Sue too. Incredibly hard working but also with a terrific sense of fun.

I know a lot of mayors and councillors past and present who would want me to thank Sue for her support, encouragement and kindness at various times in her long association with the Town Council. It is all part of being a tour de force in and for Tenby.

Oh, and did I mention that she was the Mayor? An incredible nine times serving her town, first donning the robes in 1998. It is a record that I doubt will ever be broken.

Once again Sue taking on the office of Mayor says a lot about her. Although often happy to have her name put forward, there have been times when there was nobody coming forward to take the role and Sue stood up when nobody else would.

She has truly served her town in the most remarkable way and that is why this honour is so richly deserved.

And now Trevor so often referred to as 'our Trev' or 'my Trevness', font of all knowledge. A remarkable man and one who like Sue, has done so much for this town. First Mayor in 1996, Trevor served the role with distinction on 4 occasions.

Trevor also took his expertise and knowledge onto a national and international stage. Together with the wonderful Mr Peter Osborne, Trevor worked tirelessly to promote Tenby through the Walled Town's Friendship Circle. Starting as an idea, it became an international organisation with significant European support.

There is another international feature to Trevor. It is not known by everyone but Trevor speaks German. Many a time a German visitor to Tenby has been over heard by Trevor and engaged in conversation. On one occasion a young German family were taking an interest in the mayoral procession down to the summer spec. Trevor was standing in as a macebearer. Hearing the German language to his right Trevor broke off from the group to talk to them happily telling them all the history of the Maces and the role of bearers. The mayoral party was halfway down St Julian St before realising that Trevor was missing.

Trevor of course has a huge knowledge about our environment and the need to care for it and protect it. Trevor. I hope you don't mind me saying but you were green a very long time before it was fashionable or understood.

And Trevor's knowledge has always been generously imparted to others. Whether it be Babaloubies, masonry marks on the viaduct or an obscure snippet of information, Trevor has always been ready to let others benefit from his learning. And as Trevor reminded me recently, we never stop learning.

In addition to his years as Mayor, Trevor has served Tenby Museum with distinction over many years. A fine ambassador and a man rightly proud of his area and the people within it. For many years the Tree Warden for Tenby - his knowledge is encyclopaedic.

Trevor has always been there with a welcome for visitors, always willing to chat and not just to the pretty ones he met in the Prince of Darkness during his last mayoral year 10 years ago.

Trevor, I have always hugely valued your support and encouragement, like Sue you are an inspiration and this honour is so richly served.

The Mayor then formally moved the motion and Cllr Dai Morgan seconded the proposal.

All were in favour and unanimously

RESOLVED

That Mrs. Sue Lane and Cllr. Trevor Hallett be awarded the Freedom of Tenby.

The Mayor and Clerk then signed the Scrolls and presented them to Mrs. Lane and Cllr Hallett as a mark of their achievements and in recognition of their status as Honorary Freemen of the Town of Tenby.

The Mayor then invited Sue and Trevor to say a few words.

Mrs Lane said:

Tenby has given me a lot more than I have given Tenby.

Firstly, I was born and bred in the town and what a fantastic place to grow up.

The sea, beaches, woods, the nabs and even Hoyle's Mouth Cave were some of my childhood playgrounds.

It has been a safe haven for my children and now grandchildren.

It also gave me lifelong friends along the way and a deep passion for the town I love.

There are certain people I have to thank for standing here this evening.

Firstly, my children: Sian, Doug and Jonathan who have been my stability throughout. They have supported me in every eventuality and emotion possible.

The late Denzil Griffiths who put my name forward for Council and on the 8th May 1987 saw 5 new councillors on Tenby Town Council: myself, Cllr Trevor Hallett, Caroline Thomas, Roy Edge and the late Maureen Ward.

We joined some of the great councillors of our time... Denzil Griffiths, Gilroy Phillips, Mickey Folland and Cecil Evans to name a few. I often feel that we were taught by the best.

I have to mention my former school, St Teresa's Convent and the nuns.

When I first became a councillor they would fight over the Tenby observer to see photographs and reports on my progress in Council and what I had been up to that week.

I'm sure they would today be shocked and amazed but hopefully, proud. They never saw this coming!!

I will continue to work towards the future of Tenby where possible.

I feel strongly that the first impressions of the town are vital to our economy and that is what matters for the future of our families and their children, the residents and businesses of this Jewel in the Crown.

It is an honour to accept this award for something I have loved to do.

I care!

Thank you, Tenby.

Cllr. Hallett then said:

Tenby is on the world map. Wherever you go Tenby is known and a connection can be made. I first became a councillor in the time of Denzil Griffiths, a time that saw many new councillors picked. It was a time for change.

I have had a wonderful time and have had the benefit of meeting many people. However, wherever I visit Tenby is still the best place to be.

We have the best council in the world who are, setting standards for other mayors and councils and I am proud to be a member.

The Mayor then declared the meeting closed and invited council members and guests to stay for canapes, prosecco and pictures.

Mayor _____

Town Clerk _____

Date _____