

TENBY TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE TENBY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD
6TH JUNE 2023

PRESENT: Councillor Dai Morgan Mayor
Councillor Charles Dale
Councillor Emma Lewis
Councillor Duncan Whitehurst
Councillor Laurence Blackhall
Councillor Sam Skyrme-Blackhall
Councillor Tom Sloan
Councillor James Phillips

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr A Davies Clerk to the Council/Financial Officer
Mrs S Thompson Assistant to the Clerk

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37. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Cllrs Joe Criddle and Laura Crockford.

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

None declared by Councillors.

39. 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

a. Lt Col (Ret) Christopher Le Hardy – Visit of Belgian Free Forces Veterans, 24th September 2023

Lt. Col. Le Hardy thanked councillors for allowing him the opportunity to attend explaining that he is the acting liaison officer in Britain for the Belgian Veterans Memorial committee. He had been working in close cooperation with both TTC and PCC.

The idea is to hold a commemorative and remembrance visit to the town to revive memory of the warm welcome given by Tenby in 1940 to the Belgian armed forces after the disastrous campaign to try and stem the Nazi Blitzkrieg in mainland Europe.

An outline programme had been devised for the weekend with the main day being Sunday, 24th September. Around 40 Veterans and their families would be arriving on Friday with an introduction to the town and a night in a local public house. Saturday will see a visit to the Tenby Museum, where a special Belgian commemorative corner will be unveiled and a bust of the Belgian's commanding officer in the UK in 1940, General Victor van Strydonck, will be presented by the memorial committee to add to the display.

The group will then travel to Caldey Abbey where they will be welcomed by the Abbot. Some of the monks on the island during the war were Belgian, and they had been called up.

The party would be coming back to Tenby for 6.30 pm and a presentation on events of 1940s which will be open to public (the location of this is to be confirmed).

Sunday will start with a church service at 10am at St Mary's, which the granting of the Freedom of Tenby to the Veterans and their families is hoped to be presented.

There will then be a parade through town to the war memorial where a brass plaque will be unveiled and wreaths laid. This will be based on the town's Remembrance Service.

A short reception for various dignitaries will follow at The Atlantic Hotel, which served as the headquarters of the Free Belgian Forces in the 1940s.

The Queen's Dragoon Guards will be sending a small detachment to join the parade which will also feature Royal British Legion standards from the various Pembrokeshire branches.

Tenby is where the Belgian armed forces were able to re-find their mojo and regroup before returning to help liberate Belgium and Europe after D Day. Tenby is very important in the Belgian Armed Forces history.

Lt. Col. Le Hardy said he would welcome any comments that council may have.

Cllr Lewis admitted it was not part of Tenby's history she had previously been aware of.

She has chatted to some shop keepers who were keen that they should know more about the visit so they may have the chance to decorate. They are keen to participate if the opportunity arises.

Lt. Col. Le Hardy said that the Memorial Committee are getting flags from the Belgian Prime Minister's office for decorating the town but the quantity and sizes not known.

The Clerk said that Cllr Philips, had attended the recent Tenby Events Working Party where the visit had been discussed.

As recently retired from the military himself, and as Veterans Commissioner for Wales, he was keen to be involved and had some ideas, which he may be able to progress

through his contacts. Unfortunately, he is travelling and his train has been delayed so he had not been able to join the meeting yet.

Lt. Col. Le Hardy said initial contact with the Army HQ in Wales had been made some time ago but he would love the opportunity to speak with Cllr Philips.

The Mayor said he is looking forward to the visit.

Tenby is a gorgeous town and residents are very lucky said Lt. Col. Le Hardy. Thank you for all your efforts in helping facilitate the visit.

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

Proposed by Cllr Blackhall and seconded by Cllr Lewis.

RESOLVED

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

41. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Tenby Town Council meeting held 16th May 2023 be amended to reflect Cllr Sam Skyrme-Blackhall was a PCNPA Board Member, not just a member of the planning committee, then confirmed and signed as accurate.

42. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Page 6 Item 19 - Post office site: Cllr Blackhall has the 72-page report from PCNPA. It is their view that housing needs, particularly some of specific needs of Tenby in the long-term plans are constantly being met, he said. However, evidence from PCC's housing list questions this.

How do they determine what is 'viable' in relation to provision of affordable housing? It appears to be based on a Welsh Government 'toolkit' but they need to explain how they come up with figures, Cllr. Blackhall continued.

He suggested calling a meeting of Chief Officers from PCC and PCNPA to ask them how they think policy is meeting both targets, and need, at present. Considering their response, we can look at a way forwards. The report, he felt, asks more questions than it answers.

The Mayor agreed. There appeared to be different numbers and different views.

Page 10 Item 26a – Withdrawal of Public Facilities: A response has been received from the offices of Rebecca Evans, Welsh Government minister for Finance and Local Government which the Clerk read:

I understand your concerns – and those of your fellow councillors - in relation to the proposed closure of a number of public toilets in Tenby. The provision, accessibility and maintenance of public toilets is the responsibility of each toilet's owner e.g. a local authority, a community council, or business. Local authorities may provide public toilets, but are not obliged to do so. Public toilets do not, therefore, generally fall within the remit of the Welsh Government's responsibilities, and we cannot intervene in the decision making of local authorities or businesses in this regard.

There are currently no plans to legislate to make the provision of public conveniences a statutory requirement. The lead in this area would be the Minister for Health and Social Services.

The Public Health (Wales) Act 2017 requires each local authority to develop and publish a local toilet strategy for their area to ensure that the communities' needs are identified and met. Local authorities have been encouraged to consider toilet provision within other buildings within their control and to look for solutions to provision beyond the traditional stand-alone public toilet. The Welsh Government produced statutory guidance for local authorities on what they needed to do to develop their toilet strategies and how they should engage with their respective populations. This guidance can be seen here: [Toilets for public use: guidance for local authorities / GOV.WALES](#)

I note that Pembrokeshire has published its [Local Toilets Strategy](#) in 2019, and that it has recently consulted on its [Draft Local Toilets Strategy 2](#) which includes an assessment of the community's need for toilets and also how the Local Authority proposes to meet the need. The duty to prepare a strategy does not in itself require Local Authorities to provide and maintain public toilets themselves, but they are required to take a strategic view across their area on how these facilities can be provided and accessed by their local population.

Asset transfers between principal and community councils can be beneficial in a number of cases, such as where both parties are aware of the ongoing responsibilities, that post-transfer support is in place and that the transfer is sustainable. The Minister for Finance and Local Government would be concerned if communities were facing a double taxation through council tax but also a raise in the precept as a result of an asset transfer where there was no discernible change in service.

Cllr Lewis feels that the point is being missed particularly in relation to people with protected characteristics.

Lack of toilet provision discourages people from spending too much time in town which impacts our retail and hospitality businesses. Tourists may expect to pay for use of the toilets but for residents it is different. She wondered if it would be out of order to contact the Minister for Health and Social Services

Cllr Skyrme-Blackhall told members that there are still ongoing talks with PCC and with PCNPA in relation to toilet provision. Pressure is being put on them.

She took on board Cllr Lewis comments.

She felt things were progressing and it seemed that only the market toilets were earmarked closing due to state. Nothing is set in stone, regarding the North Beach PCC are aware that we need them due to the volume of people in town.

Cllr Blackhall said he would be loathed as a council to step up and fund toilet provision from the precept. We need to continue to put pressure on various agencies, or else it will be a slippery slope and we will be funding everything PCC wants to stop providing.

Cllr. Whitehurst felt that the Welsh Government strategy was not fit for purpose. He felt allowing unitary authorities to develop their own strategies enabled them to manipulate the process for closures.

Welsh Government need to return to the drawing board and develop something that works for the people of Wales, he said.

PCC consulted on their strategy, he continued. Toilet closures was the most negatively received proposal within their budget consultation. It is deeply unpopular and if PCC cared about the views of the people of Pembrokeshire, they wouldn't be closing any.

Cllr Skyrme-Blackhall felt more pressure was needed especially with PCNPA. PCC, have hinted at library closures as well as toilets unless someone else pays. We need to get them to pull the brakes on, otherwise where will it end, she said.

Page 16 Item 28 - Provision of Dog Warden/Enforcement Officer: Cllr Dale noted the second part of the resolution in relation to possibly setting up a Coastal Communities forum to add pressure on government and PCC.

It was his opinion that coastal towns and villages in the county have different needs to those 'in country'. All tourist destinations are diverse in relation to their neighbours but we all experience problems that those living in places like Haverfordwest do not.

He proposed establishing an informal committee to approach other coastal community/town councils and hopefully get together to discuss problems that are in common such as toilets, dog fouling, pest control, sewerage, which are bad for our tourist offer.

Cllr Dale said he was happy to make approaches and float the idea informally to members of other councils to see how it would be received.

Cllr Lewis agrees there is much that unites us, and in her experience, groups are listened to more than individuals. She felt it could be a forum to share positivity as well as need.

Cllr Skyrme-Blackhall agrees with Cllr Dale. There were several 'coastal' county councillors who would also agree.

Cllr Blackhall also agreed. He felt the forum could also discuss second homes and housing needs. There was lots of potential. He suggested it may be worth some discussion with other coastal towns, not just those in Pembrokeshire, as they also have the same issues. He suggested looking at setting up a forum initially focussing on Amroth to Manorbier. A conversation with One Voice Wales may be helpful. They support councils coming together on a county basis, it may be worth seeing if they are interest in assisting in process, he said.

Cllr Dale felt we start small. We don't have a joined up strategy on events that effect several local communities, he pointed out. Something like that could benefit all councils involved.

Cllr Dale was more than happy to contact other councils. Cllr Skyrme-Blackhall seconded.

43. TO RECEIVE THE NOTES OF THE EVENTS WORKING PARTY HELD ON 30TH MAY AND CONSIDER ANY ISSUES OR PROPOSALS THEREIN

Cllr Philips had been able to now join the meeting remotely and asked about the earlier discussions with Lt. Col. Le Hardy.

The Mayor outlined discussion and asked if he was happy for his contact details to be passed to the Lt. Colonel.

Cllr. Phillips noted that Lt. Col. Le Hardy had been in touch with representatives from the Army but he felt, unless the right authorities are contacted, then the military will not be able to take part. He would contact Lt Col Le Hardy and make sure there are no gaps.

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

a. Susan Sanders, PCC – Appointment of Community Council member on the Standards Committee

Is this to be noted asked the Mayor? Cllr Blackhall stressed that this is an important committee, standards need to be enforced. Some councillors don't always follow the rules laid down in the Code of Conduct and the Nolan principles.

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

Councillors thanked the Clerk for his hard work.

RESOLVED

That the accounts for May (including scheduled payments, unrepresented cheques, receipts, account balances, budget monitoring to date and bank reconciliations) be approved.

46. TO RECEIVE THE END OF YEAR ACCOUNTS FOR 2022-2023

All thanked the Clerk for his work in preparing the accounts. Cllr Blackhall asked if there was anything the Clerk wished to point out.

The Clerk said that the interest rate increases have resulted in improved returns on our investments.

Although expenditure had increased, this was due to major projects being undertaken supported by EPF grants. Augustus Place is now fully operational again following the Covid lockdowns and, as such, hire income increased. The De Valence expenditure was more than the agreed grant due to an additional grant the council has made to assist with a boiler repair.

Cllr Blackhall commented while it appeared that the council had substantial reserves carried forward, these included sums already allocated to certain projects. It also included the recommended 6-month contingency fund laid down in Financial Regulations

Many may think it is a pot of gold, but the margins are quite tight in reality, he commented.

RESOLVED

That the End of Year accounts for 2022-23 be approved

47. TO RECEIVE THE INTERNAL AUDITOR'S REPORT ON THE 2022-23 ACCOUNTING PROCEDURES AND AGREE ACTION ON RECOMMENDATIONS THEREIN

Councillors were happy with the Internal Auditor's findings.

RESOLVED

That the Internal Auditor's report be received.

48. TO AGREE THE ANNUAL RETURN FOR SUBMISSION TO THE EXTERNAL AUDITORS

Cllr Blackhall moved approval. Cllr Lewis seconded.

RESOLVED

That the Annual Return for submission to the External Auditors be approved.

**49. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE WELSH WATER WORKING PARTY –
CLLR. WHITEHURST**

Cllr Whitehurst requested that he sit to present his report. The Mayor agreed.

Main Findings: • Dŵr Cymru release a Combined Sewage Overflow (CSO) Alert when a CSO spills. • The Safer Seas & Rivers Service releases a Beach Alert following a CSO Alert. Some beaches have more than one CSO in their vicinity - and a single CSO can trigger a Beach Alert, which remains on the SSaRS App for two days. This explains why a Beach Alert can be in force when no CSO alerts are active. • There remain however some inaccuracies in the reporting of CSO Alerts and Beach Alerts and the reliability of both services could be improved. Dŵr Cymru announced they would be launching a new reporting system in December 2023. • Dŵr Cymru and Natural Resources Wales could not identify the cause of elevated Coliform bacteria in a small number of samples taken on North Beach, which led to it losing the Blue Flag award in 2021. • The 2014 CEFAS Report identified the River Ritec - which empties into the sea via the Ritec Culvert on South Beach - as a potential source of raised levels of bacteria in seawater. The report noted that St.Florence Waste Water Treatment Works discharges Stage 2 treated sewage into the Ritec in addition to 3 CSOs and agricultural run-off as potential sources of bacteria. The Rivers Trust website also identifies a sewage pumping station near Oakridge Acres and the Clicketts (see map on p.34). This overflows into the Ritec Basin and spilt 48 times for 35 hours in 2022. It is labelled as “unpermitted”, which might explain why Dŵr Cymru has not reported it in the CSO data. The CEFAS report also revealed that “Significant positive correlations between faecal coliform results and antecedent rainfall were The River Ritec 30th May 2023 33 detected at all sites, and this influence was greatest two days after a rainfall event.” Since CSOs are more likely to overspill in response to heavy rain, this could point to discharges from CSOs as being an additional factor. • Dŵr Cymru and Natural Resources Wales don’t appear to have acted on the findings of the CEFAS report and investigated the potential of the River Ritec as a source of the intermittent poor water quality results on North Beach. Furthermore, the potential of the Ritec as the source of bacteria on North Beach were dismissed due to the distance between the Ritec Culvert and North Beach. There has been no investigation of the influence that marine currents could have in carrying outflow from the Ritec Culvert in the direction of Castle Beach and into North Bay. • Dŵr Cymru and NRW maintain that CSO overflows may or may not contain sewage or other pollutants depending on the catchment area draining into the CSO. According to both organisations, media reports of sewage pouring into our seas are exaggerated when some/many CSOs typically handle unpolluted run-off during storm conditions - however, no test results were available to support this claim. Furthermore, councillors were surprised to hear that NRW do not test CSO discharges for pollutants because routine testing is not required under current discharge permit conditions. This absence of scrutiny is a matter for Welsh Government to review. 34 • Town Councillors expressed concern in response to Dŵr Cymru’s statement that the capacity of Tenby Waste Water Works can “accommodate a theoretical load from a population of 39,000 people” and that, by their calculations, peak population on a single day in the summer of 2021 was 38,496. Dyfed-Powys police estimate that the population in the Tenby area rises to over 60,000 in summer. Such a dramatic rise in population could put the treatment works under significant pressure. It would explain why many CSO overflows occur during school holidays and weekends. Dŵr Cymru replied that: “This is based on DCWW design standards for building a new activated sludge process and not to

assess the capacity of an existing works. However, the reality is that it would be capable of treating flows and loads from a larger population than that and maintain compliance with the current discharge permit conditions.” • In layperson’s terms, this means that if Tenby WWTW has to treat effluent from a population of over 40,000, the process would involve stirring some more bacteria into the sewage sludge, which will digest more waste. Once this option can process no more waste, the three pumping stations at Tenby, Saundersfoot and Manorbier go to overflow to ensure that the main works are not overwhelmed. The main results never go to overflow and consistently discharge bacteria-free UV-treated waste into the long-sea outfall. However, as we understand it, the three pumping stations have the potential to discharge untreated waste into the environment and “maintain compliance with the current discharge permit conditions.” • In 2018 Dŵr Cymru invested £400,000 in a new sewer in Castle Square to improve the performance of the Harbour/Castle Hill CSO. It hasn't stopped the CSO from overflowing completely but it was Tenby's best-performing asset in 2022, overflowing only once. The same can't be said of the £1.5 million spent on a new sea outfall serving Saundersfoot Pumping Station, which spilled 70 times for a total of 1244.5 hours in 2022. Pumping stations normally overflow when the wastewater treatment works are over capacity (as described on p.23), which suggests that improvements need to be made to Tenby WWTW to increase capacity beyond 40,000 in the summer. Dŵr Cymru could consider investigating Tenby WWTW's performance to identify any required upgrades or rule it out as the cause of SPS 35 CSO's overflowing. • The data on page 16 shows a trend towards a steady decline in CSO overflows. Most of these occur in the autumn and winter, following sustained periods of heavy rain. As one of the primary holiday destinations in Wales, the expectation is that we should have clean seas all year round, and we can't afford to be complacent about the frequency of winter overflows. The additional problem we have in Tenby is the intermittent alerts at peak holiday times and the intermittent detection of E.Coli and Escherichia Coli bacteria in water quality samples collected off Tenby North Beach, which resulted in the beach losing Blue Flag status in 2021. Tenby Town Council seek to encourage Dŵr Cymru to invest in wastewater infrastructure to guarantee further reductions in CSO overflows and thoroughly investigate the cause of the intermittent poor water quality results on Tenby North Beach. Tenby Clean Seas Working Group would like to thank Kelly Jordan from Dŵr Cymru for the open dialogue and good communication regarding bathing water quality in Tenby. TCSWG have developed a good working partnership with Dŵr Cymru and will continue to look at the evidence available to make a case for future investment in Tenby's sewer systems and wastewater treatment facilities. TCSWG will meet representatives from Dŵr Cymru, Natural Resources Wales and Pembrokeshire County Council in the Autumn following 2023's testing programme results.

Cllr Blackhall congratulated Cllr. Whitehurst on his thorough report. This was the most information received for a very long time. He said an interesting point about the North Beach is that readings are over 4 years, so there is a knock-on effect. The water quality is good but the statistical way of doing things can result in the loss of the Blue Flag.

He felt it was good that Dwr Cymru were committed to having ongoing meetings with different agencies. He commented that while we may not be at the top of list, we should not underestimate the point of being a nuisance.

Cllr. Lewis felt the information was clearly explained. It was wondered if the fact that over 2000 Ironman swimmers use the North Beach could assist in adding pressure which could tip the balance.

In relation to whether outfall from South Beach could be affecting North Beach, she felt it may be useful to ask a local sailor to look at their 'pilot book.' Cllr Criddle may be able to assist.

Cllr Phillips wondered if there is any leverage that PCNPA or Tourism Wales can apply. Can we quantify the impact of not having blue flags on our beaches has on tourism?

Cllr. Skyrme-Blackhall commented that one of the conditions of Blue Flag status is having toilets. She agreed pressure was needed so that PCNPA understand the enormity of the situation.

Cllr Whitehurst said, at the end of the day, it all comes back to Welsh Government. Dwr Cymru are doing their job within the regulations, the legislators who set those standards need to ensure they are fit for purpose.

Cllr Philips asked if we were going to release this report publicly. Cllr Whitehurst said that he wanted to bring it to TTC attention first but there was nothing to stop going public now.

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

Cllr. Whitehurst said that SEPHCN had hit buffers over winter due to post covid pressures on the health service. He had been back in touch, with the HDUHB's new director John Evans, to arrange meetings for July and September.

Cllr Skyrme-Blackhall met with Nicky Young, PCC Area Maintenance, regarding the River Ritec and 'foreign objects' blocking its flow.

PCC's amazing maintenance team had managed to pull out 5 shopping trolleys from the bottom of the steps and a pole from the recycling sign along with bottles and crates. It was flowing again nicely. The items had been taken away for recycling.

The Mayor had spent the CARTEN day down at the harbour. The organisers did a fantastic job, particularly the Sea Cadets who dealt with riders' luggage.

He had had a very positive conversation with the TSC's CO with the idea of a Mayor's cadet suggested as the Tenby unit is back up and running and thriving.

He was delighted to announce that Able Cadet Finlay Davies was appointed.

Cllr Skyrme-Blackhall and the Mayor had visited Greenhill to open the new gym. The Mayor was delighted to see it being used by pupils as it had been something they had requested. The Community can also use it out of school hours.

Cllr Dale commented that he had received complaints about lack of security around the beer tent during CARTEN. This needs to be addressed in the future, he said.

51. CLLR. BLACKHALL - BUSINESS PLANNING

As part of the work of the previous Policy Committee, work had started on the development of a business plan for the Town Council, with the possibility of sections of it forming a Town Plan in the future. With a group of new Councillors due to be co-opted, further work on this was suspended until Councillors were in post.

There is now an opportunity to recommence this work. The aim was to capture the ambitions and ideas of Councillors and Staff into a single document outlining priorities for the coming years.

Proposal

To host 3 sessions to develop the next stage of the Council's plan for the future. One session to be for staff to talk through their ideas and to raise items that they think it would be helpful for Councillors to consider. The other two sessions would be "ideas into plans" workshops where there would be an opportunity to list ideas, consider what would be needed to make them happen and to determine some form of priority. These sessions would be held one on a Saturday morning and one on an evening. This would hopefully allow most Councillors to attend one of the sessions.

All ideas would then be brought together into a single document for a more detailed discussion at Policy Committee and then at Full Council. Cllr. Blackhall hoped this could be achieved by September.

RESOLVED

That the proposal be adopted.

52. CLLR. BLACKHALL - DECISIONS OF COUNCIL

Council have previously agreed to maintain a Decisions of Council list, to ensure that decisions are tracked and we can monitor progress.

Proposal

It is proposed at the end of every meeting to simply list those decisions that are to be included on the tracker. It is suggested that after today's meeting, a list is developed and added to as required. It would be available in the office for checking progress.

RESOLVED

That the proposal be adopted.

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

a. To consider the Clerk's report on the provision of a dog warden/enforcement officer jointly funded by Tenby and Saundersfoot Councils

Members had been given the opportunity to read the Clerk's report. Unfortunately, PCC as the authority responsible for enforcement, were unable to provide him with costings or management structures at this time. He suggested that we discuss the matter with Saundersfoot Community Council to see if they were in favour of a joint arrangement and then try to make progress with PCC.

Cllr. Skyrme-Blackhall commented that PCC were being 'pushed' on this by both her and Cllr. Williams, of Saundersfoot.

They are waiting for enforcement for the main part of the holiday season and want to see what progress they make, she said. This is only a small window; we need something constantly. We really can't afford to wait.

She felt that the Coastal committee suggested earlier is something that could be worked on to put more pressure on PCC.

Cllr Phillips agreed. He felt visitors to the area need more information as to the restrictions as it is not clear what part of the beach is acceptable for dogs.

Cllr. Skyrme-Blackhall said that Saundersfoot are producing additional signage and it may be worth speaking to beaches officer Mr Myrddin Dennis.

Cllr Dale thought that the signage needed to be in the form of an arch across the entrance points to the beaches. As folk will walk under a sign, it cannot be avoided he said.

Cllr Lewis said that the existing signs could be blocked by another person standing in front of them so people may not see information.

She also felt it was a question of control, referring in particular to the use of extendable dog leads. These were very dangerous as it is difficult enough for sighted people to avoid an extended lead let alone those with protected characteristics like the visually impaired.

This is also an issue if driving through Tenby, agreed Cllr. Blackhall. Even if you're only going at five miles an hour through the town centre you never know if a dog on an extendable lead will step out in front of you.

He felt the signage needed to be bold and simple and something at height might be worth looking at. We could ask for design ideas.

Proposed by Cllr Dale, seconded by Cllr Blackhall that we open a dialogue with Saundersfoot Community Council in relation to the possibilities of jointly funding a dog warden. Further that we look at additional signage.

You can travel through a village with signage saying speed cameras are in operation but there is no camera van. It still makes you reduce speed, said Cllr. Dale. Why not have signage saying dog wardens operate in this area? It will at least make people stop and think.

RESOLVED

That TTC open a dialogue with Saundersfoot Community Council in relation to the possibilities of jointly funding a dog warden. Further that we look at provision of additional signage.

b. Casual Vacancy

The Clerk told councillors that there had been no call for an election. The Mayor and he both feel that an appointment can be made in the next month as a number of applicants had come forward last time. Tomorrow an advertisement will go out with 2 weeks to apply. Members could then determine on 4th July meeting.

The Mayor added we should try and resolve this before the Summer recess follows and there may be a loss of interest. It may be worth mentioning it to, and encouraging, those who came forward previously.

Cllr Blackhall asked if the format will be the same as previously. This was confirmed.

c. Planning Item NP/23/0216/ADV – New shop signage – 2 Gower House, Tudor Square, Tenby

As the earlier planning meeting was not quorate councillors were asked if the planning application could now be discussed before full council. All agreed to continue.

As a member of the PCNPA Board Cllr Skyrme-Blackhall declared an interest and left the chamber.

It was noted that a similar sign on this building had been approved previously for a different retail company. This signage is not internally illuminated. All were in favour.

RECOMMEND

Approval. The proposal is in keeping with, and will have no detrimental effect on, the streetscape and the property's location within the Conservation Area.

Cllr Skyrme-Blackhall returned to the chamber.

54. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Planning committee – Tuesday 4th July at 7 pm

Full council meeting – 4th July at 7.30 pm

55. TO PROPOSE ANY ITEM FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

Cllr Dale feels we do a lot of ‘Hokey-Cokey’ standing to address the meeting. He asked whether councillors still find it necessary to stand.

The Clerk said that One Voice Wales have recently issued revised Standing Orders, and whether members stand to speak would be referenced within. There are mandatory elements and discretionary elements within Standing Orders and council can choose what they wish to adopt. This should be something the policy committee consider at the next meeting.

Cllr Skyrme-Blackhall feels it can be more daunting having to stand to speak, recalling her first few meetings as a new councillor. Cllr Whitehurst wondered, particularly in relation to hybrid meetings, if the sound was better when standing.

56. 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”

Cllr Blackhall moved and Cllr Skyrme-Blackhall seconded.