

MINUTES OF THE TENBY TOWN COUNCIL
MEETING HELD 14TH MAY 2024

Present: Councillor Dai Morgan Mayor
Councillor Laurence Blackhall
Councillor Emma Lewis
Councillor Michelle Evans
Councillor Sam Skyrme-Blackhall
Councillor Duncan Whitehurst

In attendance: Mr Andrew Davies Clerk to the Council/Financial Officer
Sharon Thompson Deputy Town Clerk

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.

15. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Cllrs Dale, Crockford, Phillips, Sloan and Criddle.

16. TO DISCLOSE ANY PERSONAL ITEMS OF BUSINESS LISTED BELOW

Cllr Whitehurst declared an interest on matters to do with the De Valence. Cllr Blackhall requested it be treated as previously, whilst councillors fully recognise the association, they do not feel it compromises his input in any way.

17. PUBLIC PARTICIATION: 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

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

Proposed Cllr Blackhall, seconded by Cllr Lewis.

19. TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD 2ND APRIL 2024

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Tenby Town Council meeting held 2nd April 2024 be confirmed and signed as accurate.

20. **TO CONSIDER ANY MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

Page 133 Item 213a – Observation Wheel Proposal: The Clerk had arranged a meeting with Mr Studt for clarity over plans, but this meeting had been cancelled. Mr Studt has now asked for another meeting. Cllr Blackhall suggested that TTC thank Mr Studt for his interest, but councillors do not think it is an appropriate development for Tenby.

Page 134 Item 213b – Brynhir Development: Cllr Blackhall told councillors that a good meeting had taken place with Cllr Jon Harvey, senior officers for housing and other officers. He offered his congratulations to Cllr Harvey becoming the new leader of PCC adding that he knows he will keep a very strong interest in Brynhir and keeping it to time.

PCC have been proactive in responding to issues raised. They have also looked at the character of the streets of Tenby and have reflected this in the design of the properties in Brynhir.

PCC have taken on the views expressed and are now moving on to contractors. They will be using local contractors, not big construction companies.

They are making good progress and look to get spades in ground next year. We expressed our desire that there is a clear need to progress quickly with no more delays, as this year marks the 50th anniversary of planning first being agreed for the site. Pembrokeshire needs to make sure it is brought home, and their focus is on making it happen.

It is also pleasing to see more coming on board in favour of this development, including those that previously objected.

It was good to have an update and to know where we are.

Page 136 Item 216 - Steampunk Weekend: Cllr Blackhall suggested that our Community Engagement Officer come to the next meeting for an update on projects. There are a number of things going on and it would be useful to catch up.

Page 137 Item 217 – Avenue Centre Building: The Clerk told councillors that he and Mr Hinds, PCC, keep missing each other and he was struggling to pin him down to chat about TTC's ideas.

The Clerk also believes there is another community-based charity interested in the building.

Cllr Blackhall suggested our County Councillor follow up a potential meeting date with Mr Hinds.

The Mayor pointed out that Mr Hinds had at one point suggested a meeting date but not a time and had not responded when the Clerk followed it up.

21. TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE TENBY TOWN COUNCIL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD 10TH MAY 2024

Hard copies had been passed around.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Annual General Tenby Town Council meeting held 10th May 2024 be confirmed and signed as accurate.

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

a. Tenby Chamber of Trade – Support for additional cashpoints

The Mayor asked if all had had a chance to look at the letter adding it was nice to have communication from them.

Cllr Skyrme-Blackhall said that we all are aware by now of the newly reformed Chamber of Trade. I have been liaising with them on a County Councillor level since they started again.

For the first time in many years, we now have the chance to engage as a Town Council going forward.

We have many associations, voluntary and organised groups and people doing fantastic work around the community.

There is a lot of agreement about what is needed for the future of Tenby. However, it has not always been that way.

I think we should build on this common agreement and agree a plan of things we all want to do for the town.

This is something that can be open to everyone to contribute to. So, working with others, I am proposing to get people to work together on producing a shared plan.

But this will not be warm words. This needs to be a plan of action and I am asking Tenby Town Council to pledge to join this with me.

We may not always agree on everything but we can all agree on a general direction to make Tenby better.

She felt that with our Sporting, Volunteer and Community organisations, the Chamber and the town council all working together, we could come up with a great plan.

Cllr. Blackhall felt that the Town Council was already moving in the direction of more community engagement, working with young people, holding forums, and trying to involve everyone.

There are lots of people doing their own, but similar, thing, he said, let's do them together.

Cllr Lewis explained that PAVS do speed networking with a wide range of community groups invited along and then have 2 minutes to introduce each other and network. This could be something that we could facilitate as part of Cllr. Skyrme-Blackhall's ideas.

Cllr Skyrme-Blackhall said that she had helped instigate a business breakfast with Greenhill and the Chamber which was a similar thing with each having five minutes discussion on rotation. Moving on. She agreed something similar could be the way forward to get organisations meeting other organisations.

She would speak to our Community Engagement Officer and suggested that Cllr Evans would also like to be involved as she is very good at organising.

Cllr. Skyrme-Blackhall said she now had a picture as to how the idea could be achieved. She would work on a date and was delighted that the town council was in support as she felt it was important for the Mayor and Councillors to be on board.

Cllr Blackhall felt we should thank the Chamber for their letter. Councillors will be going on to discuss elements within their letter later in the meeting and hopefully we will be in a position to go public with our plans soon. We hope they are pleased to see a new cashpoint in High Street and another new one under discussion.

23. TO RECEIVE THE ACCOUNTS FOR APRIL (INCLUDING SCHEDULED PAYMENTS, UN-PRESENTED CHEQUES, RECEIPTS, ACCOUNT BALANCES, BUDGET MONITORING TO DATE AND BANK RECONCILIATIONS) AND CONSIDER ANY ISSUES ARISING

Cllr Blackhall referred to arrangements in relation to the De Valence and the additional grant to them which had been extended over the current quarter. He proposed that this be further extended for the next quarter so that there is clarity of funding. Cllr Morgan seconded.

The Clerk highlighted spends on Jubilee Play Park items. Some items have been in situ since 2007 and are now starting to fail. He felt the maintenance budget for the Park would need reviewing during next year's budget setting procedure.

Cllr. Blackhall agreed this would be prudent as lots of play equipment guarantees will only be for between 10 and 15 year and some of ours was now 17 years old. He felt this was something that could also be discussed with our Engagement Officer.

Cllr Morgan proposed accepting the accounts. Cllr Lewis seconded.

RESOLVED

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

24. TO CONSIDER APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES TO COUNCIL COMMITTEES, SUB-COMMITTEES AND OUTSIDE BODIES (APPENDIX A)

a. Planning committee – nine members

Composition unchanged.

b. Policy and Finance – seven members

Cllr Blackhall noted membership of this was currently six and proposed Cllr Sloan be added.

c. Personnel – seven members

It was noted that current membership was only five. Cllr Blackhall is happy to be on personnel committee as is Cllr Evans.

Cllr. Blackhall queried the context of representation on the governing bodies of schools. It was his understanding that the town council is asked to nominate a potential Additional Community Governor but the board of governors did not have to accept our suggestion. We also did not have to nominate town councillors for the role.

The Clerk confirmed that this was the case and was a grey area, but NALC had advised that councils should err on the side of caution and consider town councillors appointed to the role to be representing the council.

Cllr. Blackhall suggested that we could receive periodic reports from our representatives on the activities of the schools.

Cllr Evans asked why there is no representative on the Governors at Greenhill. The Clerk replied that we had never been asked to nominate. Cllr. Skyrme-Blackhall was on the Governors as a PCC representative.

Cllr Evans was proposed as town council representative on the Tenby Chamber of Trade. Cllr Skyrme-Blackhall seconded.

Cllr Sloan was nominated to the Tenby Sports Forum. Cllr Morgan seconded.

The Clerk commented that the European Walled Towns are no longer meeting but Cllr. Blackhall felt that it should remain on the list for the sake of history. It would be good to retain an interest in Walled Towns, he said.

Cllr. Blackhall felt that it was very useful to have Cllr. Rapi as our representative on Tenby Museum, but he wondered if he intended coming to a council meeting to report back on his meetings.

It has been quite a long time since Cllr. Rapi had attended council meetings and TTC do not know what his intentions are.

There are opportunities during council meetings to report back on outside body meetings. It is frustrating that no reports received from some and no information flowing back, said Cllr. Blackhall. Maybe this is something to think about and revisit in the future as having a town council representative is of a mutual benefit, the council can assist a body with their plans but only if there is two-way dialogue.

It was agreed that the Mayor and Clerk will have a chat with Cllr Rapi.

The Mayor also noted that ‘Reports by Members on Outside Bodies’ had been inadvertently omitted from this meeting’s agenda. He would provide feedback on a meeting he had attended with Cllr. Sloan at the end of the public part of tonight’s meeting.

25. TO CONFIRM COUNCIL ACCOUNT SIGNATORIES FOR 2024/25

The Clerk reminded councillors of the current signatories, believing that the current system works. Cllr. Blackhall proposed the signatories remain as is and Cllr Evans seconded.

RESOLVED

That the council’s signatories be Cllr. Morgan, Cllr. Skyrme-Blackhall, Cllr. Whitehurst. Cllr Hallett and the Clerk.

26. TO CONSIDER WRITING TO PEMBROKESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL IN RELATION TO THE CLOSURES OF THE AVENUE CENTRE, TENBY, THE ANCHORAGE, PEMBROKE DOCK AND THE LEE-DAVIES CENTRE, NARBERTH AND THE FUTURE ARRANGEMENTS FOR CLIENTS USING THESE FACILITIES – CLLR. DALE

Cllr Skyrme-Blackhall had had a conversation with Cllr Hodgson. If Cllr. Dale’s query is sent to her, as the cabinet member responsible, she will be able to explain the situation in detail. The Mayor felt that, as the specifics of Cllr. Dale’s agenda item was unknown, it may be more prudent to adjourn this item to the next meeting. Cllr Skyrme-Blackhall suggested that Cllr Dale could also correspond directly with Cllr Hodgson.

27. TO CONSIDER A PROPOSAL RELATING TO THE SQUIBBS PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVE AND AGREE ACTION IN RESPONSE TO PROPOSALS (APPENDIX B)

The Community Engagement officer is working with Mr Hughes, Mr Lewis and Mr Crockford, on this proposal but there is a question as to whether the council could assist them by being the lead body on the application.

Cllr Blackhall felt this was a fabulous project and some great work has been done so far. It was really important recovering some costs in relation to the administration costs that fall on the Community Engagement officer and the Town Clerk.

If the town council was the lead, then it was important that there was sign off by the Town Clerk, as Responsible Financial Officer, that he is content that sums in the proposal are appropriate.

If we are the accountable body then we are accountable for whole amount and 10% for being responsible for the general management of the project is probably about right, said Cllr. Blackhall.

He would be happy for the council to take the lead as long as things are set out clearly. He suggested that he, Cllr. Lewis and the Clerk meet with the Community Engagement Officer to progress this project, which could then act as a blue print template for future project 'sign off' going forward.

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

a. Calendar of Meetings 2024-25 (appendix c)

Noted.

b. Reports on Outside Bodies

Cllr Whitehurst went to visit Dwr Cymru's waste treatment works with Cllrs Blackhall and Skyrme-Blackhall and found it extremely informative. It was good to put faces to names and have a different perspective, to just scrutinising data and holding them to account.

He had assumed chemical intervention at some stage in the treatment, but it was all biological. We saw how plastic and other items put down the toilet, are removed and compacted down to landfill and how the system manages when our population swells from £5k to £60k.

I'm sorry to have missed it, said the Mayor, it sounded fascinating.

Cllr Blackhall and Cllr. Whitehurst reminded members and issued an open invite to them to the 'Keeping Well in Pembrokeshire' event in the Regency Hall, Saundersfoot this Thursday from 10 am to 3 pm.

SEPCHN had originally proposed the idea to the health board and once people focussed on it is something that they are running throughout the whole of Pembrokeshire.

Cllr Skyrme-Blackhall said she had visited the Treatment Works with Cllr Whitehurst and Cllr Blackhall thanking Cllr Whitehurst for all the efforts he puts in to liaise with Dwr Cymru.

She recommended the new app from Dwr Cymru which alerts to overflows. While the Surfers Against Sewage app was good, Dwr Cymru's app is in real time and more specific with information.

Cllr Skyrme-Blackhall had also attended the Church services to say goodbye to Rector Andrew Grace. It was very emotional as he was a very dear friend. She extended her congratulations to Rev. Steven Brett who is now priest in charge.

The Mayor said he and Cllr Sloan had attended a meeting at Greenhill. A few months ago he had had an idea for an art market on South Parade, helping to recoup the market license fee we paid out.

As he was a professional artist he had asked Cllr. Sloan to assist and the concept had grown from an art market to one which will also involve the school.

There will be a 2-day market and a 'Paint Castle Hill' day.

Students at the school will be involved in running the event, which can go towards their exam qualifications, while Castle Hill works will be displayed in the De Valence during the summer.

The idea is to show students that not all art is the same, and, if really interested that there is a living to be made from it.

There are also plans to extend, with the exhibition of A-level artwork being on display for 2 or 3 weeks.

Any equipment that is bought to facilitate the project will be stored by Greenhill and will be available to be used by the public.

The event will start on 5th June and full details will be 'going live' this weekend.

Cllr Blackhall offered the facilities of St Julian Church for the Castle Hill elements.

The Mayor felt that the project gives students opportunity and experience to mount and frame their own work and the Head, Mr Haynes, and the Head of Art were very enthusiastic about what can be achieved.

Cllr Lewis felt there were other options to broaden the initiative including a 'Paint a bollard scheme' to make them more noticeable to people with disabilities; an artist trail, a 'colour a picture day' to get smaller children engaged, even a 'cartoon' map of the town.

Members welcomed the project and agreed to ask the Finance and Policy committee to work with Mayor, Cllr Sloan and the school to see what support the council could offer financially.

c. Library Needs Assessment

The Clerk had received an email from Mr Mike Cavanagh regarding library provision. The Clerk read the letter out:

As one of the Town Councils who financially supports their local library, I wanted to make sure that you are made aware of this in advance of the press release going out.

This is just a courtesy email to make you aware that we are about to embark on a public engagement exercise, as part of a Library Needs Assessment.

This will be an opportunity for Pembrokeshire residents to have a say on the future of libraries in the county in the context of a challenging medium-term financial outlook for the authority. We will be running a number of engagement activities including 5 public meetings, focus groups, one-to-ones and a public survey, available online and in hard copy.

The aim of the exercise is to ensure that we have a full and up-to-date understanding of the needs of Pembrokeshire residents to help inform changes to the Library Service. We will also take the opportunity to get feedback on some possible options, as well as inviting ideas that people may have for how we could deliver the service at reduced cost.

The engagement will run through until 5 August. We will then consider the findings of the engagement exercise before putting together specific options which will be the subject of a formal consultation exercise later in this calendar year.

The public meetings will be taking place at the following locations:

Monday 10th June, Fishguard Town Hall, 6.30-8.30pm

Wednesday 12th June, County Hall, Haverfordwest, 6.30-8.30pm

Wednesday 19th June, Pater Hall, Pembroke Dock, 6.30-8.30pm

Tuesday 25th June, Greenhill Centre, Tenby, 6.30-8.30pm

Thursday 27th June, Milford Haven Library, Cedar Court, 6.30-8.30pm

These meetings are open to anyone who wishes to attend.

The Clerk also confirmed that, in line with the Council's policy, we have now signed the agreement to fund PCC to maintain existing hours at the Library for the next 5 years and are paying annually by instalments.

Cllr Blackhall said that he had had an initial conversation with our Community Engagement officer about the library and the whole site and they were working on some ideas.

29. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved that the next planning committee take place on Tuesday 4th June 2024 at 7pm followed by a full council meeting on Tuesday, 4th June 2023 at 7.30pm.

30. TO PROPOSE ANY ITEM FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

None at this time.

31. 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"