

**MINUTES OF THE TENBY TOWN COUNCIL**  
**MEETING HELD 11<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2025**

**Present:** Councillor Dai Morgan Mayor  
Councillor James Phillips  
Councillor Michelle Evans  
Councillor Sam Skyrme-Blackhall  
Councillor Laurence Blackhall  
Councillor Tom Sloan

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

**171. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Hallett (dispensation), Lewis, Crockford and Criddle.

**172. TO DISCLOSE ANY PERSONAL ITEMS OF BUSINESS LISTED BELOW**

None disclosed.

**173. 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**

The Mayor proposed item 9 (TO CONSIDER CANDIDATES FOR CO-OPTION TO THE CASUAL VACANCY IN THE NORTH WARD AND AGREE ACTION IN RESPONSE TO PROPOSALS) be brought forward to allow the candidates to leave if they so wished. He was seconded by Cllr Skyrme-Blackhall.

There were six candidates who had put their names forward for co-option. All had been invited to the council meeting. There were four in attendance and each was invited to the table to tell members a little bit about themselves and why they would like to be co-opted.

The Mayor proposed that the co-option be undertaken by written ballot and was seconded by Cllr Skyrme-Blackhall.

The Clerk explained that the successful candidate would require a substantive majority to be elected, that is more votes than the combined total of all other candidates.

Following the ballot Dr Tara Commodity was coopted by substantive majority.

**174. 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 Skyrme-Blackhall and seconded by Cllr Phillips.

**RESOLVED**

**That items of correspondence and committee minutes, except those marked private and confidential, be given to the members of the press present.**

**175. TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD 14<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2025**

**RESOLVED**

**That the minutes of the Tenby Town Council held 14<sup>th</sup> January 2025 be confirmed and signed as accurate.**

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

**Page 87 Item 165b - Christmas lighting:** The Clerk will be arranging a meeting in the near future.

**177. TO CONSIDER ANY ITEMS OF CORRESPONDENCE AND AGREE ACTION IN RESPONSE TO PROPOSALS:**

**a. Tenby Chamber of Trade – Loss of retail, Tenby Market**

Cllr Blackhall welcomed the interest from the Chamber and the points made.

TTC have made it clear time and time again as to the future of the market and some time ago created a mission statement that was agreed with market traders at the time.

This Council has a firm commitment to the market and its importance to the town and we are now seeing commitment from PCC, he said.

All are supportive, we now have to move beyond words and have the opportunities turned into a viable project.

We do need to keep an eye on potential loss of retail space. I do not think the Chamber are being critical about one specific development. They are just highlighting that it is something we do need to keep an eye on.

We have a rich retail offer and we need to protect it, enhance it, and make people more aware of how good it is. Tenby is actually spread out in terms of its retail

offer. If put in one street it would extend a lot further than, for example, Narberth High Street.

I feel there is some work to do with the Chamber about promoting how good it is, Cllr. Blackhall continued. We have national chains yes, but we also have the great independents.

The Chamber are right in saying we need to ensure that it is not lost drip by drip.

They are worthy points; we want to protect what is good. He suggested holding an informal meeting with the Chamber a couple of times a year to discuss issues, concerns and ways of working together. This is a golden opportunity to work with them to promote the town to both visitors and locals, he said.

There is also an opportunity at the market. It needs PCC to see it and utilise it.

Cllr Skyrme-Blackhall agreed with all points made.

She had been working on the issues around the market for several months along with Lewis Hines, Chief Property Development officer at PCC.

We have met with traders several times in recent months and they are fully up to date with plans for the market, she said.

Things are not being reported on accurately, she said. The market needs major investment and it's a complex task given its mid-terrace location and listed status, but work is underway to provide a thriving market for years to come.

Deputy Leader Cllr Paul Miller has also met with traders and he gave them the reassurance that we will continue to have a market.

Mr Crockford is undertaking works on the property next door and has proposed utilising part of the Market within that project but it's not agreed yet, she continued. The roof has to be mended, whether traders will be rehoused whilst work taking place or the work carried out around them is still to be determined.

Mr Hines is working very hard to make things happen. He has given his contact details out to all the traders so they all are being kept in the loop.

There is lots of hearsay, with people putting 2 and 2 together to make 5 agreed Cllr. Evans.

The Chamber and the traders can be assured that TTC are committed to the market, said Cllr. Blackhall. Their concerns are our concerns. The traders work hard and they need some clarity as to the timeline.

Much of what has been said in the press and on social media is based on rumour. There needs to be transparency and the fact that the Deputy Leader has spoken openly and given a commitment is much needed.

It will take a couple of years and the more that get involved the greater the chance of something special being done. We need to work together to make sure it works.

Cllr. Blackhall proposed that we write back to the Chamber outlining our vision for the market and to suggest meetings with their members during the year where points of concern and collaboration could be discussed. The Mayor seconded.

**178. 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**

The Clerk pointed out that the Jewson payment highlighted at the last meeting has been resolved.

Cllr Phillips proposed acceptance of the accounts and Cllr Evans seconded.

**RESOLVED**

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

**179. TO CONSIDER CANDIDATES FOR CO-OPTION TO THE CASUAL VACANCY IN THE NORTH WARD AND AGREE ACTION IN RESPONSE TO PROPOSALS**

Dealt with previously.

**180. TO CONSIDER PROPOSALS FOR MAYOR ELECT FOR 2025/26 AND AGREE ACTION IN RESPONSE TO PROPOSALS**

The Mayor asked around the table if councillors would like to be Mayor. No members put their names forward. The Mayor said he is really enjoying it and getting a feel for the role. He would like to put his name forward.

Cllr Blackhall proposed Cllr Morgan for a third term.

Cllr Morgan joined the council in 2019 and at first, he appeared to be a quiet shrinking violet but that did not last long. His contribution and commitment to reaching out and engaging with people in a much wider way soon came to the fore.

A number of things are happening due to huge encouragement from Cllr Morgan. He has grown into the role and has a way of ensuring that he brings people along with him.

He provides leadership through listening and engaging. While he has a vision and a passion, he is always open to reason; a 'we can do this if we work together' approach.

Cllr Sloan seconded. Cllr. Morgan has actively contributed to so many projects and I know there are more to come, he said.

All were in favour.

The Mayor announced that Mayor Making would be on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2025.

He added that it was an honour and privilege to feel members had such confidence in him and to continue to serve the town. I feel very lucky, he added.

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

Cllr Blackhall said that an excellent SEPCHN meeting had taken place recently.

The delay on the new hospital was discussed and the Chief Executive of the health board and other officers were present to contribute in a meaningful way to those discussions

Any delay is dreadful. West Wales has serious need for new hospital and the hope is all political parties take this issue forward rather than use it for point scoring

However, this delay has created the opportunity to create hubs that have a community focus. Tenby is a prime site for provision with a range of services that could be worked around the doctors' surgery and cottage hospital.

The SEPCHN meeting had really good engagement between the members of public and health administrators. Thanks go to former councillor Duncan Whitehurst for continuing in his role as secretary to facilitate these meetings. Some serious questions were asked.

**182. TO CONSIDER WAYS IN WHICH THE TOWN CAN MARK THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF VE DAY ON 8TH MAY 2025 AND AGREE ACTION IN RESPONSE TO PROPOSALS – CLLR PHILLIPS**

Cllr Phillips said progress had been made on the wording of the Armed Forces covenant. The Mayor would sign on behalf of the town and, once returned, an official signing will be organised hopefully to coincide with the VE Day 80 celebrations.

The VE Day 80 celebrations have a suggested format for the day and he suggested a working party be formed with input from the Tenby branch of the British Legion, local schools and others to devise what we can do.

It was noted that 'fish and chips' is to be celebrated. A British staple for over 160 years, the ingredients were not rationed during the war as Winston Churchill felt it helped 'fuel' our war efforts. The possibilities of collaborating with local chip shops on the day was something that could be considered as part of the working party discussions.

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

Due to members being unable to attend the Castle Hill meeting scheduled for 18<sup>th</sup> February a suggested day of 7<sup>th</sup> March at 11.30 am has been proposed.

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

**Planning committee – Tuesday 11th March 2025 at 7 pm.**

**Full council -Tuesday 11th March 2025 at 7.30 pm.**

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

**Cllr. Phillips proposed the VE Day celebration as standing Agenda item**

**Cllr. Blackhall proposed ways of engaging with those who put themselves forward for co-option.**

**186. 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”.**