

MINUTES OF THE TENBY TOWN COUNCIL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD 9TH MAY 2025

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

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

The Mayor thanked all for coming and asked that Standing Orders in relation to photography during meetings be suspended. He was seconded by Cllr Laurence Blackhall.

1. TO SIGN THE REGISTER OF ATTENDANCE

All present signed the Register of Attendance.

2. REV STEVEN BRETT OPENED THE MEETING WITH PRAYERS

Rev Steven Brett was invited to open the evening's meeting with a prayer.

3. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Clerk had received apologies from Councillors Hallett, Evans and Carmody.

4. TO ELECT THE MAYOR FOR THE YEAR 2024/25

The Mayor asked each councillor in turn if they wished to stand for the Election of Mayor for the ensuing year and all declined.

The Mayor said that serving for a third term would be a tremendous honour. *'I deeply appreciate the trust and support of this council and community. It would be a privilege to continue serving and working towards our shared goals. This town holds a special place in my heart and I am committed to its continued success,'* he said.

Cllr Blackhall proposed that Cllr. Morgan be elected as Mayor saying: *Firstly, I know yesterday (VE Day celebrations) was a team effort, special thanks to Andrew, Sharon and Anne, congratulations to James, our friends at the British Legion and all who said that when Tenby commemorates, let us make sure we do it really well and focus on what we are doing and why we are doing it. There can be no greater symbolism of that, than you as Mayor, as the first citizen of Tenby, quite rightly, handing the torch to Mr Duncan Hilling and asking him to light the beacon on behalf of the Town – that says a lot about you as Mayor and is one of many good reasons why you should carry on in the role for a third year.*

I am not going to say too much about your achievements over the last year – I don't want to steal Cllr Dale's thunder when he proposes the vote of thanks. But I will say this – as you have grown into the role, you have become the Nike Mayor – Just do it!

All of us who have seen you in the role have seen you grow into it and become a powerful voice for the town. We have also seen the magnificent support you have had from Mel, our fabulous Mayoress – believe me – it is not easy being consort to the Mayor for 3 years on the trot!

This will be the 2nd time that we have had a Mayor for three years running. I believe that as a Council, we have benefitted from the continuity, we have had the chance for plans to be seen through and we have had the chance for a Mayor to make a lasting impression on the Town – and you are definitely doing that.

But being Mayor can be frustrating . Yes, you are the first citizen, the first among equals around the Council table and you are just one vote too – well also a casting vote if needed!

And that is why I say to everyone else round the table, that to be truly successful, Dai needs all of us to be working and supporting him.

It is not simply about turning up to meetings – although in some cases actually turning up to meetings would be a reasonable start.

So if we are choosing a Mayor who wants to make a difference, who wants to engage with the community, who wants more for our young people, who is passionate about a true voice for young people, who wants to have pride in what Tenby is and what it's Council does – if we want all of those things – and I think we do – then we have to contribute to make it happen.

So when you cast your vote, I urge you to cast it wisely – and if you are voting for Dai, then I suggest you are also pledging to do more to make this Council even better and more importantly, our glorious Town even more magnificent.

He was seconded by Cllr Sloan. All in favour.

RESOLVED

That Councillor Dai Morgan be elected Mayor for the ensuing year 2025/26.

5. DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

The Clerk congratulated the Mayor on his appointment as Mayor of Tenby before asking him to perform the Declaration of Acceptance of Office followed by the Swearing of the Oath.

6. ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR FOR THE YEAR 2025-2026

The Mayor said: *I would like to propose Cllr Sloan as Deputy Mayor. His dedication to Tenby and this council is evident in his extensive community involvement. Cllr*

Sloan has played a vital role in building relationships within the youth of our community and is a driving force for what this council has been trying to achieve for many years, youth representation.

Cllr Skyrme-Blackhall said: I would like to second Cllr Tom Sloan as Deputy Mayor of the coming year 2025-2026.

This really wasn't difficult. I would like to sum up Tom a little first. A family man, true, loyal, dedicated, hardworking oh and a rather good professional contemporary artist!

What Tom has brought to the table since becoming a Councillor is truly inspiring to others.

The work and foundations that you have built up within the town include Tenby Arts Events, markets on South Parade – even on wet and windy summer days - projects on Castle Hill with schools, competitions and reconnecting with Greenhill School – which in the past has always fallen short!

You have and always take your Civic duties seriously – always attending our many calendar events to represent the town. You are always reliable.

I love that Daniella and your girls have embraced your role and are always a huge support to yourself and Dai.

Quite simply it is 'Dai's Ant to your Dec'.

You deserve this and make many more memories with your lovely family.

RESOLVED

That Councillor Tom Sloan be elected Deputy Mayor for the year 2025-2026.

7. APPOINTMENT OF SERGEANT AT MACE

Cllr Phillips said Mrs Denise Cousins as Sergeant at Mace, was a senior member of the town with tremendous local knowledge and expertise.

As Sergeant at Arms - the Mayor's 'protector, escort and path clearer' - Mr Spike Abbot, as a highly decorated former RAF Warrant Officer, Veteran and Yeoman of the Guard was most suited to the role.

Town Crier Erin Morgan brings youth, enthusiasm and passion to the role, with her loud voice and good ring.

I have no hesitation in proposing that the council reappoint all three, he said. He was seconded by Cllr Lewis who commented she could not think of a better trio for the roles and how extremely fortunate we are to have these. All were in favour.

RESOLVED

That Denise Cousins be appointed as Sergeant at Mace. That Spike Abbot be appointed Sergeant at Mace and Erin Morgan be appointed as Town Crier.

8. APPOINTMENT OF MAYOR'S CHAPLAIN FOR THE YEAR 2025-2026

The Mayor appointed Rev Steve Brett as his Chaplain for the coming year 2025-2026.

He said the connection with the church was not only a historic tradition but was important in forging further connections within the town.

Rev Brett said it would a great pleasure and privilege.

9. APPOINTMENT OF MAYORESS & DEPUTY MAYORESS

The Mayor was once again delighted to appoint Melanie Lewis as his Mayoress.

Without her unswerving support he wouldn't be able to do what he does as Mayor.

The Mayor then appointed Mrs Daniella Sloan as Deputy Mayoress.

10. TO APPOINT MAYOR'S CADETS FOR 2025-2026

The Mayor said this is a great experience for cadets. He has really seen a difference in the confidence of those cadets appointed in the past. It sets them up for the future and valuable life lessons can be learned.

The Mayor presented a Scroll to AC William Price adding that Tenby Sea Cadets support us and the community greatly. He wished that, in his youth, he had had these opportunities. He then presented Cadet Lloyd Thomas, ATC Haverfordwest and Cadet Penny Thomas, Police Cadet, with their scrolls

The Mayor thanked the last year's Police, Air and Sea Cadets and welcomed the new.

11. VOTE OF THANKS TO THE MAYOR

When asked to become Deputy Mayor, I felt I was becoming part of 'The Management' as, standing together, we looked like two nightclub bouncers, quipped Cllr. Dale.

I was also told that this meant that I would potentially be the next Mayor so I thank him for not retiring!

Seriously though, Dai is an extraordinary mayor. I'm proud of what he has achieved, how he works with, and for, the council and the town while also balancing a full-time job and many charity commitments. He is doing a fantastic job.

Cllr Skyrme-Blackhall seconded the Vote of thanks. *I have known David for quite a long time, and remember when he attended his first meeting to seek to be coopted on to council, she said.*

You sat, wearing a black suit, quietly in the corner but after you put your case to be considered for co-option, quite a few who were around this table at the time said you were the one we needed, you were real.

You are still enjoying it and that is most important. I am so proud of you.

12. RESPONSE BY THE RETIRING MAYOR

Looking back to my first night on the council, it felt right, said the Mayor. I admit I was originally one of those happy to sit at home and curse the council until Mel said. 'why not do something about it!'

The first couple of months were hard and I wasn't sure whether I should dip my toe in to debates or not. But I am glad I stuck it out.

I admit that, during my first year as Mayor, although there was plenty of guidance, there was no formal training I felt 'thrown in' and was not enjoying it at that time.

Then I realised that I was trying to be someone I wasn't. I was advised to 'just be yourself' and when I did that, things changed for me.

As a council we have to get on and move on, it's vital for the town. We are getting things done.

We are now engaging with the youth organisations and we hope to have representatives from Greenhill school sitting around the table alongside us shortly. That alone is worth everything, because they are our future.

I couldn't have done it without the support of my Mayoress, Mace Bearers, Town Crier, Mayor's Cadets, fellow councillors and council staff and my retiring Deputy Mayor, Cllr. Dale.

13. ADJOURNMENT OF STATUTORY BUSINESS

Proposed by Cllr Phillips that all statutory business be adjourned, seconded by Cllr. Blackhall. The proposition was carried.

RESOLVED

That all statutory business be adjourned until the next Meeting of Council which would be held at the De Valence Pavilion on Tuesday, 13th May 2025 at 7.30pm.

14. PRAYERS

Rev Steve Brett closed the meeting with a prayer.