

MINUTES OF THE TENBY TOWN COUNCIL
MEETING HELD 10TH MARCH 2026

Present: Councillor Dai Morgan Mayor
Councillor Tom Sloan
Councillor Laurence Blackhall
Councillor Sam Skyrme-Blackhall
Councillor Phil Spence
Councillor Tara Carmody
Councillor Jayne Badham
Councillor Anna Bolton

In attendance: Sharon Thompson Deputy Clerk

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The Mayor welcomed Mr Chris Osborne of Tenby Blues Festival. This year is the 20th Tenby Blues Festival. Mr Osborne passed round a previous Blues Trail and programme explaining that for one weekend in November Tenby becomes the focus of one of only two Welsh Blues Festivals that takes place.

TBF venues include De Valence, Church House and the downstairs bar of the Giltar Hotel, the late night venue. The Blues Trail takes place during the day on both Saturday and Sunday with 20 additional places including pubs, clubs, restaurants and cafes hosting live music. Traditionally the first concert always takes place in Fecci's Fish and Chip Shop.

TBF has used the ex-serviceman's club, Old Imperial Hotel, from solo artists to multiple musicians, large to small venues hosting a whole variety of blues music. There are 13 ticketed events throughout weekend. Ticketed venues are very important as they provide an income. The Blues Festival was a dream of a friend to find a place where proper blues music could be found and at a time of year in Tenby when quiet hence November. Bringing people to Tenby when traditionally Tenby was quiet.

Research information was gathered using students and volunteers over time but last year TBF engaged a professional survey response team to try to keep a track of how TBF was doing. Last year they believe TBF added £900k to the local economy and brought in 1500. Over 20 years created £6.5 million pounds. Of those people who come 21% stay in hotels, 10% guest houses and B&B, 40% self-catering, 5% motorhomes/tents, 11% with friends and family leaving a mysterious amount!

Flyers are distributed UK wide and tickets are available from early June. For 2026 thought to develop a new website, produce commemorative tee-shirts and special badges to mark 20th event.

It would be good to have TTC in principal supportive, if feeling generous TTC may want to come on board as a one off sponsor for a year. £500 would be handy for new website. However TBF have made sure that each and every festival washes itself, if anything they have a slight lump sum for a rainy day. This year is going to be special, announce in press, a special ceremony, very happy for TTC support in any way.

The Mayor said that with the good reputation and momentum it has and what it brings to the town, this is definitely something TTC can get on board with. A pleasure to be a part of it. Let's meet and work together.

200. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Cllrs Hallett, Lewis and Phillips.

201. TO DISCLOSE ANY PERSONAL ITEMS OF BUSINESS LISTED BELOW

Cllrs Blackhall and Skyrme-Blackhall declared personal interest in Item 6.

202. 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, seconded by Cllr Badham.

RESOLVED

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

203. TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD 10TH FEBRUARY 2026

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Tenby Town Council held 10th February 2026 be confirmed and signed as accurate.

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

No matters arising.

205. TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING REQUESTS FOR GRANT FUNDING AND AGREE ACTION IN RESPONSE TO PROPOSALS:

Cllr Blackhall declared personal not prejudicial interest as Warden of St Mary's where both the Townswomen's Guild and Y Lle Da Cyf meet.

a. Y Lle Da Cyf

There was some confusion as to how much was being requested. Projection of income and expenditure would be welcomed.

Would like to understand the funding model from last year, what were the proportions. This may help to work out what would be a proportionate contribution. Previous applications we ask for account information. Upon receipt of more information TTC will consider further.

Request bank statement or bank records together with level of arts council funding this year and last. Once further information has been received, then circulate to all councillors. Cllr Morgan proposed and Cllr Sloan seconded. Cllrs Skyrme-Blackhall and Blackhall did not vote.

b. Tenby Townswomen's Guild

As councillors know this is a hobby of mine how we may look after the older demographic within the town, said Cllr Carmody. When discussing funding for Senior Citizens Christmas do, suggested was keen to see how we as council can supplement with social events at different times of the year. This is exactly the evidence of need to socialise. TTC welcomes this type of dialogue with members of our community. This is an important cause, some residents do not socialise and this is their opportunity. A thorough application with clear information. Proposed by Cllr Carmody. Photos and feedback would be welcome. Cllr Spence seconded. Cllrs Skyrme-Blackhall and Blackhall did not vote.

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

Cllr Skyrme-Blackhall asked if it was possible to have the Repair Café attendance numbers for the last three months as she is interested to learn how well it is attended.

Cllr Carmody queried cost of hourly rental of Augustus Place Community Hall and this was confirmed £8.50 per hour but rising to £10 in the new financial year.

Cllr Blackhall, looking at monies held in reserve and premium accounts, would like to look at how TTC may maximise return. Item for next Policy & Finance Agenda.

Cllr Morgan proposed and Cllr Carmody seconded that the accounts be accepted.

RESOLVED

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

207. ASSET UPDATE – CLLR PHILLIPS

DC advised members that the wall had collapsed at Jubilee Play Park and had required emergency remedial work. Cllr Blackhall proposed that we suspend financial order as endeavours to get three quotes had failed and that TTC accept the quote given. Commission work to be done on grounds of safety. Cllr Morgan seconded.

208. MAYOR ELECT – THE MAYOR

The Mayor asked each councillor if they wish to be considered for Mayor.

Cllr Blackhall said that *he had the great privilege of being Mayor 10 years ago. To be Mayor in the coming year would be both a privilege and a huge opportunity.*

This council has made great strides forward despite turnover of members and challenging times, including picking up significant costs for library and toilets that was previously funded by PCC. The development of community space at the front of this building has meant a better working environment for our staff but also space to operate from for a range of organisations including SaveEasy Credit Union, CAB, Business Wales and others – all now offering advice to local people here in the heart of Tenby. The work established a few years ago to support People Places and Spaces has had success, particularly around the management of gardens (also saving PCC money) and has helped increase engagement.

There has been excellent work with young people and schools, and this is ongoing. But I think that there is much more that can be done around increasing involvement and working with an ever-wider group of people. I also think we need to follow the lead of our partners and invest more into town enhancement projects and support voluntary groups doing this work. And we now have a performing TTC to help with this. Excellent committed Councillors who turn up, work hard, work together and are committed to making a difference. There isn't a single person around this table that isn't capable of being Mayor of Tenby in the future and I hope that will happen.

But to turn to this year, I have made no secret of the fact that this will be my last cycle on Tenby Town Council and I will not be standing at the TTC elections in 2027.

It has been a huge honour to be a Tenby councillor for so long but I am going to stick to my plan to finish in 2027. And so, to be Mayor in my final year would be a lovely way to bow out. However, I have, as you all know, taken on commitments at St Mary's church as Warden and in addition to my other voluntary work do not feel that I could do the role justice in the coming year.

So my answer Mr Mayor is thank you but no thank you.

The Mayor said When I began my third term as Mayor, I indicated that it would likely be my last. At the time, I believed that to be so. Over the past three years, we have worked steadily together for the good of Tenby, and that reflects the consistent efforts of this Council and the much wider community. In recent weeks, I have been grateful for the encouragement I have received from residents, community organisations, and Members of this Council, asking whether I would consider continuing for a further year. I have given that encouragement careful and measured thought. I am mindful that no Mayor of Tenby has served four consecutive terms since the First World War. That in itself speaks to the demands of the office and the commitment it requires. I have also discussed this matter with my family, whose support has always enabled me to undertake this role fully. With their encouragement, and in response to the confidence expressed by many within our community, I am prepared to stand for a fourth term, should it be the will of the Council. It remains a privilege to serve this town. If entrusted once more, I will do my utmost to honour that trust, sustain the progress we have made, and help guide Tenby toward its next chapter with care and dedication. Thank you.

Cllr Blackhall replied to the Mayor, thank you for what you have just said, it would be fantastic if you were able to continue in the role that you have done so well over the

last three years. A list of achievements, achievements made despite being challenging times, your display around table and the town, is a calm measured and collegiate leadership, all in it together, encouraging all to take their role, you are a good enabler and a good supporter. And you will continue to be so. You have my wholehearted support and it is an honour to propose Cllr Dai Morgan to be Mayor. Seconded by Cllr Sloan. All in favour. Congratulations.

209. CEMETERY ENHANCEMENT – CLLR SKYRME-BLACKHALL

Cllr Skyrme-Blackhall congratulated the Mayor and continued *I believe that there are opportunities to enhance new cemetery and undertake some refurbishment works.*

Earlier this week I met with Cllr Badham at the Cemetery. I should say that the works done at the Cemetery by Rhys and the Smart Gardens team and the work done by Rossiters is of the highest standard and done with the greatest of care and respect. We have the new area for internment of ashes being prepared. This will be a pleasant, discreet and contemplative space and we look forward to these works being finished. But there are further opportunities to enhance this important space. The temporary works, done by Morgan Construction to improve the path from Seascape has shown the value in enhancing that route.

This is an important way through during the development at Brynhir and I think we should seek to go much further and develop a solid permanent path that is accessible for buggies, people with walkers and wheelchair users throughout the cemetery. There is a need for some minor tree works around that area to ensure space for an accessible path. The compound area has become quite overgrown and I think that clearing this and refencing will assist with the management of the site and I would propose some new work, over and above our existing maintenance contract, to tide the grass and road edging. At the entrance from Slippery Back there is some soil erosion following cars parking on the grass. I would like to see this entrance improved and kerbstones used to mark the area. We should look at gate entrances at both ends and ensure that this area is assessable as possible. We should seek guidance from PCNPA who have largely managed to create secure gateways that are easier to access. In planning this work, I believe we should have discussions with PCC and the construction partner Morgan Construction, to see if we could work together on this. I would propose that we call a Cemetery sub committee meeting to plan this work and we invite our contractors and Rossiters to join us in those meeting as technical advisers and experts. Finally I would like to propose that as part of the work on examining and redirecting our reserves, I would like to ask the Finance and Policy Group to see what funding could be freed up in this year to support enhancement works in the New Cemetery.

Cllr Skyrme-Blackhall proposed meet with PCC and Morgan Constructions. Arrange sup group to take forward proposals into design and costing. Invite Smart Gardens and Rossiters to join the subgroup as advisors. Ask Finance and Policy Group to identify resources that could be used in the coming year. Bring further reports to Council.

Cllr Badham added that the entrance in a bad state, clearly visible where cars are mounting grass, a floral display would make more welcoming, the tarmac is uneven, edging, area at the back, under the trees could be a beautiful area, for reflection. Make it accessible for all. Currently slippery and dangerous. Reinstate grassy area. This is a golden opportunity.

Cllr Carmody welcomes these plans. Thinks principal point here is accessibility, and wondered if there is another group to consult with cemetery visitors, may be others who habitually visit cemetery to ensure wider wishes and needs met. Cllr Blackhall suggested a public consultation to ask what more could we be doing. Organise a range of consultation methods. The Rossiter's understand the land and what can and cannot be done and it is a gift to have them on board. Essential, not had them involved before. Meet on site. Cllr Skyrme-Blackhall proposed her earlier resolution plus a consultation and Cllr Badham seconded. All were in favour.

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

TS – Greenhill invited he and the Mayor to attend Frozen production. Conversations with Mr Haines and Senedd members, relentlessly proud of support from TTC. Ideas on taking it further. All positive feedback from parents. Cllr Carmody said should we schedule visits of representatives for Senedd members for an update. Cllr Sloan showed appreciation for social media support. Nice to see Greenhill Senedd reps before summer holidays.

SSB – TESSA presentation was a lovely evening and thanked the Mayor for his presence. Various sponsors, huge thanks to Imperial Hotel, very accommodating. To hear everyone's stories, it was a lovely enjoyable relaxed fun evening. Sponsors went above and beyond, everyone helped out, worked hard but to be able to hand over an amount that will make a difference, helping local charities. We need more volunteers and anyone wishing to get on board is welcome

Business Breakfast was a huge success. Done differently this year. AB helped with Chamber and many different businesses. Huge thanks to Tap Room.

Time 4 Tenby litter picks starting again on Thursday, 2nd April, at 6pm at St Julian's.

TC - Went to Boxing Day presentation with AB and SSB. Very positive. LCW presentation also went very well. Tenby Market Consultation. Tenby St David's Festival evening of Poetry and had a useful catch up with CEO. Attended Living Well in Southeast Pembrokeshire event. Networking with other community and town councillors. It focused on the development of services at Tenby Cottage. Interested to see good practice with community engagement through personnel committee.

AB – well done to Cllr Skyrme-Blackhall, being chair of TESSA has been hard work. A great mixture of people taking part and good to chat with people and to meet so many different people.

LB – attended TESSA presentation, Tenby Market consultation, Tenby St David's festival events.

He discussed integrated care, good model in Cardiganshire. Good that there is progress albeit a consultation at this stage. May be good to invite people from Health Authority to speak to future meetings. There are rightly concerns over downgrading of services at Withybush. Long term model of these health hubs, original design of services, supported by a brand new hospital but any proposals to get anywhere near that are nowhere to be seen. The first consultation attended was 17 years ago, about possible new hospital in Pembs, no progress since then, just consultations. There will be a

meeting of SEPCHN in April, also extension of this consultation, start of asking for member of health board to come and explain proposals about Withybush. Meeting on Wednesday, 8th April at 4pm at New Hedges Village Hall.

Another reason for Cllr Carmody attending the Living Well in SE Pembs was her interest in examples of good practice in terms of community engagement. Research on how done in other areas. Two CICs with a lot of experience. Good to have contact.

Mayor - LCW Mayor's Challenge, helping various local charities. Would like to go with this again with this. Pleasure to be a part of TESSA Boxing Day Swim presentation. Two nights out in Tudor Square raising over £2,500 for homeless veterans.

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

DC raised three items to be considered in the future.

a. Annual Risk Assessment

Good for all councillors to be involved and needs to be updated with rigour and reality.

b. Annual Report

Fantastic opportunity for all councillors to have input. A fresh format with up-to-date information. An opportunity for TTC's CEO to look at the Annual Report from a grants application Attendance figures of councillors will be included.

c. Annual Remuneration Report

d. Payroll and Accounting software up for renewal. All councillors were happy to renew.

e. Insurance up for renewal now awaiting quote for renewal.

f. Cemetery Group will review current fees at cemetery group meeting.

g. Mayoral Chains currently being repaired.

212. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Planning Committee – Tuesday, 14th April 2026 at 7pm

Full Council – Tuesday, 14th April 2026 at 7.30pm

213. TO PROPOSE ANY ITEM FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

None proposed at this time.

- 214. 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”.**

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