

MINUTES OF THE TENBY TOWN COUNCIL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD 8TH MAY 2026

PRESENT: Cllr Dai Morgan Mayor
Cllr Tom Sloan
Cllr Sam Skyrme-Blackhall
Cllr Laurence Blackhall
Cllr Charles Dale
Cllr James Phillips
Cllr Tara Carmody
Cllr Phil Spence
Cllr Anna Bolton
Cllr Jayne Badham

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs S Thompson Deputy Clerk

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 Deputy Clerk had received apologies from Councillor Lewis.

4. TO ELECT THE MAYOR FOR THE YEAR 2026/27

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 went on to say 'I said more than once I wouldn't stand again. But when neighbours, community groups, and several fellow councillors asked me to continue for another year... how could I possibly say no?

It has been the honour of my life to serve Tenby, and I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to have done so over the past three terms.

I have also spoken with my family, whose unwavering support has always made it possible for me to carry out the duties of this office. It remains a privilege to serve this town and, if entrusted once more, I will do my utmost to honour that trust and continue working for the good of Tenby'

Cllr Blackhall proposed that Cllr. Morgan be elected as Mayor saying *I respect those who offer themselves to serve. Cllr Morgan is a smart and capable character with serious determination. He puts the people of Tenby first. His work in all areas of the community is tireless and he gets things done. A huge respect to Mel who offers unwavering support and to Erin also. Quoting Churchill and Douglas Adams*

He was seconded by Cllr Sloan who quipped ‘*if it ain’t broke don’t fix it*’. All in favour.

RESOLVED

That Councillor Dai Morgan be elected Mayor for the ensuing year 2026/27.

The Mayor said ‘*Thank you all sincerely for placing your trust in me once again, and for electing me to serve as Mayor of Tenby for an historic fourth consecutive term.*

It is a truly humbling honour. The last Mayor to achieve such a milestone was David Morgan, whose service began some 112 years ago. He sat in this very chair, around this very table, wore this same chain of office—and went on to serve six years in a row.

Mrs Mayoress... don’t panic—that’s where the similarities end—and I’ve been firmly told at home that four is quite enough!

To be standing here for a fourth term is something I never dreamt of, and certainly never set out to achieve. When you reflect on those who have served before—Councillors Sam Skyrme Blachall, and of course the late, great Denzil Griffiths, known to many as “Mr Tenby”—both of whom served three consecutive terms—you begin to appreciate just how significant this moment is.

To follow in the footsteps of such dedicated individuals is both a privilege and a responsibility I take very seriously.

It is, and always will be, a tremendous honour to serve this town as its First Citizen. I remain committed to working hard, representing Tenby with pride and doing all I can to support our community in the year ahead.

And I promise—at least for now—I won’t be aiming for six!

Thank you once again for your confidence—it truly means a great deal’.

5. DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

The Deputy 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 2026-2027

The Mayor said: *I would like to propose Cllr Sloan as Deputy Mayor. His dedication and contribution to Tenby over the last few years has been unfailing. Cllr Sloan’s support has been incredible.*

Cllr Phillips seconded Cllr Sloan as Deputy Mayor for the coming year likening the Mayor and Deputy to famous duos in history! It would be remis to break up a winning combination he said. All in favour

RESOLVED

That Councillor Tom Sloan be elected Deputy Mayor for the year 2026-2027.

7. APPOINTMENT OF SERGEANT AT MACE

Cllr Phillips said Mrs Denise Cousins as Sergeant at Mace, was a senior member of the town who always performed her role diligently.

Town Crier Erin Morgan with her loud support she really has put Tenby on the map. Giving publicity brings youth, enthusiasm and passion to the role, with her loud voice and good ring.

He was seconded by Cllr Spence who wished them well. All were in favour.

RESOLVED

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

8. APPOINTMENT OF MAYOR'S CHAPLAIN FOR THE YEAR 2026-2027

The Mayor appointed Rev Steve Brett as his Chaplain for the coming year 2026-2027.

He said that they both had similar goals with the youth and community. 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 Morgan as his Mayoress saying it would simply not be possible without her.

The Mayor then appointed Mrs Daniella Sloan as Deputy Mayoress.

10. TO APPOINT MAYOR'S CADETS FOR 2026-2027

The Mayor said this is a great experience for cadets and has 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 Leading Cadet Jack Bainton adding that Tenby Sea Cadets support us and the community greatly.

11. VOTE OF THANKS TO THE MAYOR

Can I first congratulate you Mr Mayor on the beginning of your 4th term as Mayor of the town. Mr Mayor, Dai, Cllr Morgan or as I always say... David. Where do I start? Astute, charismatic, dynamic, honest, trustworthy, conscientious, empathetic, kind and caring and humble. Or as I say my big friendly giant.

When we were celebrating Mayor making last year little did we know of the changes we were to face. As always, you took so much in your stride, always supporting and

doing your best in the right way forward. It was a time of change and transition for us all and you should be proud of that.

From when you were first coopted as a quiet and very capable new councillor, your support and enthusiasm was already shining through which is why I was delighted when you agreed to be my successor... but I know the length in office wasn't the plan!

You have made many new friends and associates. Working with Greenhill, Tenby Sea Cadets and Tenby RBL which you have taken seriously and given your heart and soul into these and many other projects.

The role of the mayor has changed in many ways over the years and adapting to new ways of working together and with our community has and continues to be your priority.

However, you cannot do these things without the love and support of your family and I would like to say a huge thank you to Mayoress for her unwavering support and patience in always being there and for being you, Mel.

To Miles for just getting on with it when asked to do something and Erin, our wonderful town crier bringing youth to the stage, it is truly is a family affair.

Dai be proud my friend and thank you for agreeing to continue in the role and most of all being our Dai.

Cllr Carmody concurred with Cllr Skyrme-Blackhall and seconded the Vote of thanks.

12. RESPONSE BY THE RETIRING MAYOR

This past year has brought many ups and downs—not just in office, but personally as well. And so, first and foremost, I want to say a massive thank you to everyone around this table.

This may not be my first year, but in many ways it has felt like a year of firsts. Almost a full year in our new office and community hub—long overdue, but I think we can all agree, well worth the wait. Not only has it provided far better working conditions for our fantastic staff, but it has also brought us right into the heart of our community in a way we have never experienced before.

What we have created is far more than just an office. It has become a place people feel comfortable walking into. A warm and welcoming space during the winter months, a meeting place for local groups and somewhere residents know they can come for guidance, support and a friendly face. Over the past year we've opened our doors to organisations such as Citizens Advice, Easy Credit Union, Dyfed-Powys Police, Advocacy West Wales and we've worked closely alongside Sandy Bear and many others—helping ensure people can access vital services locally, when they need them most.

That community focus is something I'm incredibly proud of and it's only the beginning. We are already exploring ways to expand these partnerships and services even further, because we know there are still people out there who need help, support, or simply someone to point them in the right direction. If we can continue building a

council that is approachable, active, and rooted in the community then we are moving in the right direction.

Another milestone this year has been the appointment of two youth representatives for the very first time. Giving young people a genuine voice within this council is something we should all be proud of. It sends a strong message that the future of Tenby matters and that decisions affecting our town should include the perspectives of the next generation. Their enthusiasm, ideas and willingness to get involved have already shown the value of opening those doors wider.

But while we can celebrate achievements, we must also recognise that there is still much more to do. Challenges remain and they are not challenges any one person can solve alone. The only way we continue making progress is by working together—as one council, with one shared purpose. I truly believe this council wants to get stuck in, wants to make a difference, and wants to leave things better than we found them.

I also want to acknowledge the dedication shown by councillors, staff, volunteers, and community groups throughout what has at times been a demanding year. So much of the work that happens behind the scenes often goes unnoticed, but it is that effort, commitment, and care that keeps things moving forward every single day. Whether it's supporting local events, helping residents through difficult situations, attending meetings, or simply giving up personal time to serve the community—it all matters, and it does not go unnoticed.

Tenby is a special place. We are incredibly fortunate to live and work in a town with such a strong sense of identity, community spirit, and pride. And while there will always be pressures and obstacles ahead, I believe we should feel optimistic about what we can achieve together. We have already shown that when we work collaboratively, support one another, and focus on what truly matters to our residents, we can accomplish a great deal.

So tonight, I simply want to say thank you. Thank you for your hard work, your patience, your ideas, your support, and your commitment over the past year. I'm proud of what we've achieved together so far, and I look forward to continuing that work in the year ahead.

Miles—thank you for stepping into the Sergeant-at-Arms role when needed. I know it's not always your favourite thing, dressing up and parading around town—but you do it anyway, and we're grateful.

Denise—my main bodyguard! No matter the occasion, you're always by my side... until you spot someone for a chat or a photo, and then I'm left wondering where you've gone!

Erin—our wonderful Town Crier. From TV and radio to newspapers and now rubbing shoulders with celebrities on a national campaign—you truly are a fantastic ambassador for Tenby.

Rev Brett—thank you for your constant support this past year. I'll never forget that camping trip... a cold, wet night, and you telling me to pitch my tent "right there"... only to then mention I was on the old graves!

Sharon—our Deputy Clerk. What a year you've had. When Andrew went on sudden sick leave, you stepped up. There may have been a few wobbles, but your composure, leadership, and sheer determination carried us through. Honestly, without your monumental effort, I don't know where we'd be today as a council.

Mr Deputy Mayor—it has, as always, been a pleasure working with you. You've given your all whenever asked, and it's greatly appreciated.

And last, but by no means least—my rock. The person who grounds me, who has endless patience, who supports me without question, and guides me more than you probably realise. There is no way I could do this without you. Thank you—and I love you.

At an occasion like this, I must also mention Mr Andrew Davies, who retired after almost 24 years as Town Clerk. Sadly, he can't be with us tonight, but his service to this council and the people of Tenby has been truly remarkable. His expertise and guidance to so many mayors and councillors over the years has been invaluable. He will be greatly missed, and we wish him a long, healthy, and happy retirement.

Finally, my last words are not a thank you, but an acknowledgement.

Recently, we lost a dear friend and colleague, Councillor Trevor Hallett. Trevor was a true steward of this town and this council. I don't think I can add anything to the many kind words already said about him in recent weeks. But what I can do is ensure his legacy lives on.

Tonight, I am proud to announce the creation of a new and prestigious honour: the Trevor Hallett Award. This will be awarded each year to someone in our town who has shown unwavering dedication and commitment to Tenby. The recipient will be chosen by the incoming Mayor and presented at Mayor Making. It is a small gesture—but one that ensures Trevor will always be remembered for his outstanding service to the town he loved.

Thank you all.

13. ADJOURNMENT OF STATUTORY BUSINESS

Proposed by Cllr Bolton that all statutory business be adjourned, seconded by Cllr Badham. 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, 12th May 2026 at 7.30pm.

14. PRAYERS

Rev Steve Brett closed the meeting with a prayer.