

MINUTES OF THE TENBY TOWN COUNCIL
MEETING HELD 12TH MAY 2025

Present: Councillor Dai Morgan Mayor
Councillor Laurence Blackhall
Councillor Sam Skyrme-Blackhall
Councillor Phil Spence
Councillor Anna Bolton
Councillor Jayne Badham
Councillor Tara Carmody
Councillor Emma Lewis Zoom

In attendance: Sharon Thompson Deputy Clerk

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15. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllrs Sloan, Phillips & Dale.

16. TO DISCLOSE ANY PERSONAL ITEMS OF BUSINESS LISTED BELOW

None declared.

17. 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 Bolton.

RESOLVED

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

18. TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD 14th APRIL 2026

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Tenby Town Council held 14th April 2026 be confirmed and signed as accurate.

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

Page 89 Item 232 - Annual Report: Cllr Blackhall had listed headings to circulate. A solid framework for Annual Report.

Page 89 Item 231 - Anti social behaviour: Cllr Skyrme-Blackhall confirmed that Op Lion has already started and that Tenby is seeing a larger number of Transport Police on weekends. Safety consideration.

20. TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE TENBY TOWN COUNCIL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD 8TH MAY 2026

Subject to typos being corrected.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Tenby Town Council Annual General Meeting held 8th May 2026 be confirmed as accurate.

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

Thanks received from Tenby Townwomen's Guild following receipt of their grant.

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

Unplanned works had been undertaken at the Jubilee Play Park due to safety concerns. Councillors agreed to note the additional spend and that this cost would be vired from the Special projects within the community budget as there were sufficient reserves to cover the amount.

Cllr Blackhall suggested that TTC look at the various grants secured and activities that flow from those grants. A report on grants to ensure we don't overspend and equally underspend. Grants could be looked at Policy & Finance Committee.

Steampunk was then raised by Cllr Carmody. DC explained that for TTC there were no costs for Steampunk except for AD's time in organising. Recently in social media there have been lots of positive comments, endorsement from the people of the town. Cllr Carmody asked should TTC be putting money to it. Since first Steampunk event in 2024 it has grown organically and is 'their show' rather than council owned. Worth maintaining a homemade character rather than over professionalising the event commented Cllr Lewis.

The Mayor proposed accepting the accounts for April, Cllr Spence seconded. All in favour.

RESOLVED

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

23. ASSET UPDATE – CLLR PHILLIPS

The DC had a couple of items that she wished councillors to look at the Jubilee Playpark. Cllr Skyrme-Blackhall and Cllr Blackhall will attend the Jubilee as soon as possible.

24. COMMUNITY LISTENING EXERCISE – CLLR CARMODY/CLLR SPENCE

I would like to update the Council on the recent ‘Meet the Town Councillors’ pop-up event held during the Nearly Mayfayre. This initiative, facilitated by our Community Engagement Officer, saw Councillors Spence and Carmody engaging directly with the public in an informal setting. The event was well-attended, facilitating a range of productive discussions with both local residents and visitors to our town.

Summary of Public Feedback

During these interactions, several recurring themes and concerns were raised by the public:

- Public Realm Maintenance: Concerns were noted regarding litter in side streets, with residents questioning if main thoroughfares are being prioritised. Additionally, the condition of beach-approach railings—specifically regarding rust, flaking paint, and structural sturdiness—was highlighted.*
- Highway Safety & Access: Feedback was received regarding the proliferation of ‘A-boards’ and pavement parking on South Parade, specifically how these obstacles impede safe transit for users of prams, buggies, and mobility aids.*
- Public Amenities & Heritage: There is significant interest in exploring best practices from other historic towns regarding murals and information boards that showcase our local history and notable residents.*
- Environmental Health: Concerns persist regarding dog control, specifically the use of ‘long leads’ in crowded areas and a failure by some owners to manage dog waste.*

Proposed Strategic Improvements

To build on this success, it is proposed that we adopt a more proactive "Visibility Strategy" to ensure councillors remain accessible throughout the year. Recommended actions include:

- ‘Surgeries on the Move’: Implementing informal drop-ins at high-footfall locations such as supermarkets, cafes, and the library.*
- Digital Engagement: Enhancing our social media presence to share ‘Councillor on the Ground’ updates, providing a transparent look at ongoing projects and the daily work of members.*
- Community Partnerships: Strengthening ties with school governors, residents’ associations, and local business leaders to broaden our reach, and consider presenting this as a rota or table of key contacts.*

Recommendations for Council Action

To professionalise this engagement and ensure the burden of attendance is shared equitably across the Council, the following is recommended:

- 1. Regularisation: Formalise these pop-up events as a recurring monthly or bi-monthly fixture in the council calendar.*
- 2. Professional Branding: Commission the production of high-visibility signage and promotional materials to ensure the 'pop-up' is easily identifiable.*
- 3. Data Collection: Introduce a semi-structured feedback form to standardise the way we record and track resident concerns.*
- 4. Member Allocation: Develop a fair rotation schedule to ensure all councillors have the opportunity to participate in these community outreach sessions.*

Cllr Badham and Cllr Bolton are regularly approached by residents with their concerns. Being visible in their working environments both felt that residents know they can be approached at any time.

Is there a way that information could be captured and brought back to the council Cllr Carmody asked.

There was a time when items went on the Agenda, it would be discussed and communicated with relevant bodies and all would be reported in the press said Cllr Blackhall.

We need to be able to say where we have acted, opportunities to feed into TTC meetings is valuable. When items come up repeatedly which are outside of our control, that's the challenge. Always good to feedback.

The Clerk's report used to highlight issues raised through the office.

Council acknowledged social medial debates often misrepresent facts and 'won't win' in that arena but worth strategic engagement with managed, fact-based posts that limit endless commenting.

TTC should be celebrating the small things, highlighting and collating this information. There is a definite need for better communication of council activities.

Cllr Carmody proposed and Councillors agreed to obtain quotes for a pop-up feather for Town Council. Promotion of Town Council as a whole not just the individuals. Explore signposting to councillors, a visual display of Who's Who, suggesting a board in the office with photos of councillors. A proven accessibility technique. Seconded by Phil Spence.

RESOLVED that

Quotes be obtained for a promotional pop-up feather for TTC and visual display for office.

25. MEDIA ENGAGEMENT – CLLR PHILLIPS

Cllr Carmody in Cllr Phillips' absence, councillors picking up delegated roles to support the Mayor as he enters his fourth term. Volunteering themselves individually to quote or to answer media issues or specific topics. For example, sport Cllr Sloan, finance Cllr Spence, those councillors with specific areas of knowledge, to help with enquiries that come in. This was brought about by an enquiry that came in recently. If councillors are particularly interested in certain areas but obviously with no exclusive rights.

26. MOBILE PHONE COVERAGE – CLLR PHILLIPS

Cllr Skyrme-Blackhall had received an update regarding Tenby connectivity issues. Vodafone have today confirmed installation of the replacement mast late last night and that they are on track to get coverage back up and running by weekend. It is hoped that this will conclude the issues and frustrations experienced by everyone.

Cllr Spence advised members that the local MP had recently written to the BT group regarding mobile phone coverage issues in Tenby highlighting network capacity struggles and the urgent need for improvements.

27. TO CONSIDER APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES TO COUNCIL COMMITTEES, SUB-COMMITTEES AND OUTSIDE BODIES

- a. Planning committee – nine members
Agreed with an extra space to be made available for future co-opted member.
- b. Policy and Finance – seven members
Agreed.
- c. Personnel – seven members
Agreed.
- d. New Cemetery Management sub-committee – six members
Agreed.

Representatives on Outside Bodies

Agreed.

TTC to write to Governor Support to clarify our nominations and duration for all three schools and based on that, TTC will make a decision.

Charity Trustees – no connections recently, suggested a conversation with SW to find out whether members active or if there is a need to replace.

28. TO CONFIRM COUNCIL ACCOUNT SIGNATORIES FOR 2026/27

The Mayor confirmed that he, the immediate past Mayor, (Cllr Skyrme-Blackhall), Cllr Phillips and Cllr Sloan are signatories. All agreed and it was

RESOLVED

That the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Cllr Sloan and Cllr Phillips remain as signatories on the bank mandate for the forthcoming year.

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

a. Calendar of Meetings 2026-27

RESOLVED

That the Schedule of Meetings for the council year be adopted.

b. Noticeboard on the South Parade

Complaints have been received about the condition of the noticeboard on the South Parade. In the first instance, councillors agreed that quotes for refurbishment be obtained.

c. Augustus Place

Still awaiting two more quotes.

d. Casual Vacancy

DC will contact Electoral Services at PCC tomorrow.

30. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Planning committee – Tuesday 9th June 2026 at 7 pm

Full Meeting -Tuesday 9th June 2026 at 7.30 pm.

31. TO PROPOSE ANY ITEM FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

32. 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"