

TENBY TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE TENBY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD
21st May 2019

PRESENT: Cllr. T Brown Mayor
Cllr. Mrs C Brown
Cllr. L Blackhall
Cllr. M Evans
Cllr. Mrs. T Rossiter
Cllr. Mrs T Evans
Cllr. T Hallett

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr A Davies Clerk
Mrs S Thompson Assistant to the Clerk
Cllr. M Williams North Ward County Councillor

26. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Cllr. Mrs Lane and Cllr. Mrs Skyrme-Blackhall.

27. TO DISCLOSE ANY PERSONAL INTERESTS IN ITEMS OF BUSINESS LISTED BELOW

Cllr. Mrs Rossiter declared her personal interest in item 15.

28. TO AGREE ITEMS OF CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMITTEE MINUTES OTHER THAN THOSE MARKED NOT FOR PUBLICATION BEING GIVEN TO MEMBERS OF THE PRESS PRESENT

Proposed by Cllr. Hallett and seconded by Cllr. Mrs Rossiter.

RESOLVED

That items of Correspondence and Committee Minutes other than those items marked Not for Publication be given to members of the Press present.

29. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Resolved that the Minutes of the Tenby Town Council meeting held 7th May 2019 be confirmed and signed as accurate.

30. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES FOR INFORMATION ONLY

462. Cllr. Mrs Brown reminded councillors that Cllr. Blackhall had suggested an open evening for potential new councillors. The Clerk told councillors that no election had been called for so now it was a case of going to co-option. The vacancies would now be advertised, 2 in the South and 1 in the North.

Cllr. Evans reminded all that TTC are in charge of the co-option time scale. This is an opportunity to listen to the people to find out why perhaps people were reluctant to come forward. This should not be a one way process and that we, the Town Council, may have to change the way we hold meetings to encourage more people to consider joining us.

We need to consider the practicalities of when meetings are held as this could be putting younger candidates with families off coming forward he added, referring back to ideas over meeting timings that had been floated in the past.

The Mayor asked how long the deadline for applicants to reply was. The Clerk told him we usually allowed a week from advert to receipt of letters so that the matter could go on the agenda but it is entirely in our hands as the law states that vacancies should be filled as soon as practicable.

It was suggested an advert be placed in the local press with a four week deadline for closure of co-option applications. An open meeting could be arranged for two weeks' time to allow those interested in joining the council to come along and chat with existing members as to what the role entailed.

Cllr. Blackhall concurred saying we have an opportunity for change. We have attracted new councillors in the past then lost them, with many sitting conflicts between work and family commitments and meeting timings. We need to look at how we operate and give consideration to what people have to say. There are many people out there who love this town and we need to engage with that passion. What would encourage them to join the Council?

We need to attract young members and those who have specialist interests such as health services which could benefit the town.

The Clerk said he had received four letters of interest in co-option already, possibly because the applicants were unsure of the process involved. Of these only one had indicated which ward they would like to be considered for. Like in an election, people could not stand for both wards and he would contact the applicants for clarification as to which ward they would like to be considered for.

Cllr. Mrs Brown suggested inviting them along to the meeting as they may change their minds. Cllr. Mrs Brown proposed holding a meeting in two weeks and Cllr. Mrs Evans seconded the proposal.

RESOLVED

That an open meeting be arranged for those interested in joining the council to meet existing councillors and learn what the role entailed.

467. Tenby Tourist Information Centre

The Clerk told councillors that he had written to all the previous attendees/stakeholders asking what dates and times may be most suitable to

them in order for a meeting to be set up. Unfortunately he had not received any replies. Cllr. Blackhall suggested just picking a date and inviting all.

Cllr. Evans had met with Paul Ashley-Jones and had been informed that all information requested at a previous meeting had already been received by the Clerk.

The Clerk confirmed this, adding that the information sent had been presented to TTC at the last meeting. Cllr. Evans asked if the question asked as to what the minimum amount of time PCC would consider the Tourist Information Centre could be opened for had been answered in this information.

The Clerk said that this had not and Cllr. Evans asked if Mr. Ashley-Jones could be asked this again.

478. Tenby Harbour

The Clerk told councillors that following on from the last meeting he had been in touch with Cllr. Williams, who is to chair the meeting, as to his availability for a meeting and he has now emailed Sarah Edwards at PCC to establish officer availability. Cllr. Blackhall said there had recently been a meeting of the Harbour Users Association and a proposal had been posted on their Facebook page. This, they hoped, would attract support.

8a. PCC - Community Delivery Project

The Clerk told councillors that Mr Astins of PCC will be attending the next TTC meeting in order to speak to councillors regarding the Community Delivery Project and asset transfer.

10. Election of Representatives on various outside bodies and committees

Cllr. Mrs Evans apologised for her absence at the last meeting due to illness. She would very much like to be considered for the SEPCHN vacancy as this is close to her and she feels strongly about it. Cllr. Mrs Rossiter proposed Cllr. Mrs Evans be elected TTC's SEPCHN representative and Cllr. Hallett seconded.

RESOLVED

That Cllr. Mrs Evans be elected as TTCs representative on SEPCHN.

The Clerk had contacted PCC regarding the Tenby Leisure Centre Facility Users Committee asking if it still operated and he had a received a reply from Mr Cavanagh. It was felt that there was no longer a need for this committee as they had an onsite system which was proving excellent for feedback. The manager, Mr. Darren Bowen, was also making himself available in the café at certain times to engage with users.

However, if TTC felt that this was insufficient Mr. Cavanagh said he could consider re-instating the committee

Cllr. Evans commented that the system was so good that if, as a user, you did not attend the facility for a certain period of time you are contacted to see if you are unhappy with the service. He also welcomed the series of meeting opportunities being arranged to discuss any issues, pointing out the facility is being very well run by Mr Bowen.

31. TO RECEIVE THE NOTES OF THE TENBY REGENERATION TEAM MEETING HELD 10TH MAY 2019

Cllr. Blackhall told councillors that this was the first gathering for a while and it was very positive. Wi-Fi was moving forward. Useful conversations were had and he is grateful for the input from those present. The Team would be engaging with as many people as possible going forward.

.Cllr. Mrs Brown asked if Mr Perry had been invited to the meeting in relation to the Walled Town Trust Project. Cllr. Blackhall replied that he had not been on the original list so had not been invited but the next meeting planned would be open invitation to anyone interest in contributing towards the project.

Cllr. Mrs Brown also picked up on the comments of Sinead Henehan with regard to Battery Gardens/Play Areas saying it was not a proposal only an inquiry. She questioned the 'shared play opportunities' as while, the Toddler Play Park comes under play, the skate park be considered under the different heading of sporting activity. There will be a consultation on what to site in the Battery Gardens once a firm decision on the way forward has been made by the Skate Park committee.

Cllr. Blackhall remarked that the Battery Gardens had been on the agenda for discussion as it had been a longstanding Regeneration project to try and renovate it. He now felt its future was a matter for the play area group.

32. TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND TO AGREE ACTION IN RESPONSE TO PROPOSALS:

- a. NP/19/0240/FUL – Replace windows with Upvc traditional sash style – 4 Norton Cottages, The Norton, Tenby

Cllr. Mrs Rossiter could see no problem. She proposed accepting the application and Cllr. Mrs Brown seconded.

RECOMMEND

Approval. Considered against all the relevant policies within the LDP members consider this proposal to be acceptable.

33. **TO DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING ITEMS OF CORRESPONDENCE AND TO AGREE ACTION IN RESPONSE:**

a. **Dr. Steven Jones, Pembrokeshire County Council – Battery Gardens**

Cllr. Mrs Brown feels that the play areas are completely different. The Toddlers Play Park is for the under 5 year olds and the existing Skate Park for 8 years and over.

She commented that on any day of the week there are up to 50 scooterists at the park. It is a well-used park, she said and we have to do something, this is a play facility for locals and tourists.

Regarding the split site road safety issue mentioned by Dr Jones, Cllr. Mrs. Brown commented that the Pembroke Dock Skate Park apparently is either of a road, so they were obviously granted permission to split the facilities. She commented that children are accompanied.

Her view was that she would rather move one facility or the other and funding is available once plans and designs are to hand.

The Mayor asked if we knew of the costs involved in moving the children's play equipment from the Jubilee to the Battery Gardens. The Clerk told Councillors that he had contacted a firm who propose a visit to see if it is feasible.

He cautioned that the firm had told him that they do not recommend moving equipment that has been on site for some time bearing in mind the equipment is embedded in concrete but it is possible.

Cllr. Mrs Rossiter asked if it would be safe to reassemble the equipment. The Clerk replied that this would be something that would be considered when feasibility was looked into.

34. **TO RECEIVE AND CONFIRM THE END OF YEAR ACCOUNTS FOR 2018-2019**

The Clerk apologised to councillors for the accounts not being supplied with the Agenda papers, there had been some queries that needed ironing out but these had been amended and were now ready for councillors' consideration.

Proposed Cllr. Hallett, seconded Cllr. Mrs Brown and

RESOLVED

That the End of Year accounts for 2018-19 be accepted and approved.

35. TO RECEIVE THE INTERNAL AUDITOR'S REPORT FOR 2018-2019 AND CONSIDER ANY ISSUES ARISING

Cllr. Blackhall proposed noting the comments and making adjustments as and when necessary. Cllr. Hallett seconded the proposal.

RESOLVED

That the Internal Auditors comments be noted.

36. TO APPROVE THE ACCOUNT STATEMENTS AND ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT FOR SUBMISSION TO EXTERNAL AUDIT FOR END OF YEAR ACCOUNTS 2018 - 2019

The Clerk told councillors that these were not ready for consideration at this time as queries had been raised with the external auditors regarding figures they wanted us to 'restate' for last year. A response was awaited at this time. He hoped that these issues would be resolved in time for the matter to be brought back to the next meeting for consideration.

37. TO CONSIDER CO-OPTION TO FILL THE THREE VACANCIES ON THE TOWN COUNCIL

This matter was dealt with earlier in the meeting.

38. TO RECEIVE REPORTS BY COUNCILLORS ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Tenby Church in Wales Primary School

Cllr. Mrs Evans told councillors of an exciting project that is currently taking place at the Primary School. They are creating a mega mosaic of the school logo covering the main wall of the school. This is a Big Lottery funded project which was applied for jointly by the school and Springboard.

Springboard is a learning Pembrokeshire project which offers a wide range of courses for adults and families in target areas. The next step is to involve the Tenby community as a whole in constructing the mosaic. There will be twilight sessions running every Wednesday from 12th June – 10th July from 3.30 pm to 5 pm.

This was a fantastic project which will be spectacular when finished. All are welcome to come and help, and anyone with queries could contact Shelly, the Springboard Advisor.

39. TO CONSIDER ANY MEDIA ITEMS RELATING TO TENBY TOWN COUNCIL OR TENBY AND AGREE ACTION IN RESPONSE

Mention was made of the recent television coverage of the problems with the loss of sand on South Beach.

40. TO RECEIVE UPDATES AS TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF LAND AT BRYNHIR (IF ANY)

The Clerk told councillors that late Wednesday evening he had received notification from The Urbanists, who were acting as agents for PCC on Brynhir.

The statutory pre-application consultation period on plans to construct 145 dwellings would start the following day with the deadline of 14th June to make formal responses.

Cllr. Blackhall declared a personal interest in that the department he worked for at PCC had been merged with the Housing directorate but he felt this would not be prejudicial as he had no involvement in housing.

He commented that the new plans showed that a well-documented approach had been taken. He felt there were many reasons why folk should be positive about this application.

This was a massive opportunity to create much needed homes in Tenby. However, he felt that members should not respond that evening but should set up a special meeting to solely discuss this issue and invite members of the public to attend.

He suggested that PCC also be invited along to talk about the plan. There was now a larger amount of social housing proposed than originally envisaged and there was a 10 metre environmental protection boundary around the site with public walkways retained.

Cllr. Mrs Brown said that she, possibly like most councillors, has been asked how many private houses and how many social houses are in the development. The Clerk explained that there are 145 units whereas previously there were to be 168, of these 102 are to be social housing. Thirty four would be open market and nine shared ownership.

Cllr. Evans said members should also take on board that the social housing would be subject to the local letting policy on first let. He added that this policy had been strengthened in recent years and it would be good for members, and the public to have sight of it.

Locals need to get their names on to the list, he said. The good news is that in addition to Brynhir, the development behind Knowling Mead is under way where, again, the local letting policy applies. Council houses were being now built in the town for the first time in decades.

There is still a long way to go on Brynhir but so far it is really positive. PCC appeared to be meeting criteria set out by PCNPA as regards design and scale. There is a real opportunity for all to be involved in creating a quality development in Tenby that would be good legacy for the town.

The Mayor asked about whether a covenant that had previously been mentioned regarding ownership would be put in place.

Cllr. Evans said that, while nothing could be put in place regarding the open market housing, all the proposed social housing, as there is no longer a right to buy, will stay in council ownership for future generations.

He added that Cabinet member with responsibility for Housing, Cllr. Mrs. Pat Davies had suggested that there could still opportunities for some plots to be given over to self-build which he felt needed to be discussed further. PCC is in the process of setting up a register of people interested in self-build but demand needs to be proved. He added that Cllr. Mrs. Davies had also offered the town council the opportunity for further meetings with PCC to discuss the site.

Cllr. Blackhall proposed a special meeting of council to determine TTC's response to the consultation which would be open to the public. He also asked if PCC officers could also be present at the meeting. Cllr. Hallett seconded the proposal.

The Clerk reminded councillors that the feedback asked for was that of the views of the Town Council. He felt that PCC may be reluctant to send officers as it could be seen to be trying to influence the decision of the council.

Cllr. Evans felt that the town council could hold a separate meeting with PCC as offered by Cllr. Mrs. Davies and consider feedback from that at the special open council meeting proposed by Cllr. Blackhall. He felt that it was too late once the planning application was submitted. TTC need to continue to be involved with the application process.

The Mayor pointed out that the deadline for consultation was 14th June and these meetings needed to be arranged as soon as possible.

RESOLVED

That Cllr. Mrs. Davies be asked to arrange a meeting between TTC, PCC officers and the two county councillors to discuss developments on the site as soon as possible.

FURTHER RESOLVED

That an extra-ordinary meeting of TTC be called with the sole agenda item being to discuss the Town Council's response to the pre-application consultation. This will open to the public to attend.

41. TO RECEIVE UPDATES ON SOUTH PARADE (IF ANY)

Members had noted the Regeneration Team's recommendations to further investigate the setting up of a Trust to establish what happens over future maintenance before making progress on the lighting idea.

Cllr. Mrs. Brown commented that the weeds along the bottom of the town walls are about a foot high but it was noted that spraying had commenced this week.

Cllr. Blackhall asked what progress had been made with regard to the blue bins. Cllr. Evans had recently met with relevant PCC officers to discuss various refuse issues in town and there appeared to be some confusion by officer who believed that Tenby Town Council were happy with the situation.

Cllr. Evans felt members needed to consider whether or not to write to Mr Mike Harries at PCC to clarify the position and then PCC would be able to act. However, as a business owner himself, he said he would take no part in these discussions and left the chamber

Cllr. Mrs Rossiter said that the bins did disappear for a while but that they had reappeared with a vengeance. She appreciated that the businesses may have storage problems but pointed out that the majority of businesses sort their refuse themselves.

Cllr. Blackhall felt that TTC have made their position clear many times in the past - there should be no bins whatsoever apart from county council public litter bins along South Parade, St Florence Parade or anywhere adjoining the town walls.

He felt waste disposal was down to the business to manage and there were many examples of businesses who take waste away daily. A strongly worded letter to PCC was required and he proposed that this be written. He was seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Rossiter.

RESOLVED

The Clerk write to PCC to confirm that TTC find the permanent siting of trade waste bins along South Parade to be totally unacceptable.

Cllr. Evans returned to the Chamber.

42. UPDATE ON PLASTIC FREE TENBY INITIATIVES

Nothing to report at this time.

The Mayor reported that he had been in touch with the KIK PLASTIC tour coming to Tenby. Sainsbury's were taking part in the beach clean. Tenby Aces amongst others were also getting involved. The event is to take place on 28th May on the North Beach between 6 and 7pm.

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

a. Long Course Weekend

The Clerk told councillors that he had the full list of LCW road closures in the office.

b. Dementia Friendly Group

A new group is meeting this Thursday between 2pm and 4pm at St Teilo's Church Hall, all are welcome.

c. Winter Beach Cleaning

The Clerk had asked Mr McCarthy of PCC for a quote for beach cleaning to be undertaken during the winter months. He had now received a response and the price for cleaning was £110 per week, this would cover one visit to South Beach, Castle Beach, Harbour Beach and North Beach and would be for a 29 week period. This was well in excess of what was currently budgeted for. It was suggested agreeing to this figure be put on hold to consider the proposals in more depth.

d. Bandstand

The Clerk told councillors that the paint for the bandstand had now arrived and that it was just a case of co-ordinating volunteers. The Lions had previously mentioned helping and the Clerk confirmed he would contact them. Cllr. Evans reminded councillors that R& M Williams had also said they would like to get involved with the painting of the bandstand and asked that the Clerk liaise with them.

e. Railings

The railings at various points around Tenby had been painted. Cllr. Hallett commented on how nice it was looking.

f. Wheelchair Beach Access

A meeting has been arranged between Mr Hunt, Access Officer and Cllr. Mrs Skyrme-Blackhall to look at possible areas down at the harbour where a suitable storage area for a beach wheelchair may be identified. The Harbourmaster's office was suggested.

g. Christmas Festivities

The Mayor noted that planning needed to start on this year's event and asked the Clerk to call a meeting of this committee

44. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved that the next meeting will take place on Tuesday, 4th June 2019 at 7.00 pm. Mr David Astins will be in attendance to discuss PCC's Community Delivery Project.

45. TO PROPOSE ANY ITEM FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

Taxi Rank – Cllr. Mrs Brown

Sand on the Slipway – Cllr. Mrs Brown

Ground Maintenance – Cllr. Mrs Brown