

TENBY TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE TENBY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD
16th JANUARY 2018

PRESENT

Councillor Mrs S Lane	Mayor
Councillor Mrs C Brown	
Councillor Mr P Rapi	
Councillor Mr L Blackhall	
Councillor Mrs T Rossiter	
Councillor Mrs S Skyrme-Blackhall	
Councillor Mrs S Williams	
Councillor Mr T Hallett	

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr A Davies	Clerk to the Council/Financial Officer
Mrs S Thompson	Assistant to the Clerk

318. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Cllr Mrs Ward, Cllr Mrs Thomas, Cllr Evans and Cllr Brown.

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

None declared.

320. TO AGREE ITEMS OF CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMITTEE MINUTES OTHER THAN THOSE MARKED NOT FOR PUBLICATION BEING GIVEN TO MEMBERS OF THE PRESS PRESENT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Resolved that items of Correspondence and Committee Minutes other than those items marked Not for Publication be given to members of the Press present.

321. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Resolved that the Minutes of the Tenby Town Council meeting held 2nd January 2018 be confirmed and signed as accurate.

322. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES FOR INFORMATION ONLY

283c. Christmas Festivities

The Clerk advised Councillors that a ‘wash up’ meeting had taken place on Monday, 15th January, and that notes of that meeting would be available at the next TTC meeting.

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

- a. NP/18/0008/FUL – Mr. Robert Faulkner, Tenby Brewing Co Ltd., Tenby Brewing Company, Unit 15, The Salterns, Tenby – Change of use from B1 to B2 – Units 16 to 17, The Salterns, Tenby

The Mayor explained that it was a move a couple of doors up and Cllr Hallett thought it was a good move and excellent that a local business is putting money into the town. The Clerk said that it appeared Tenby Brewing Co needed more space and this application sought to change the status of these units to facilitate this. Cllr Mrs Rossiter proposed acceptance and Cllr Hallett seconded the proposal.

RECOMMEND

Approval. Members feel that the proposals will have no adverse impact when considered against the relevant policies in the Local Development Plan and will allow for the expansion of this successful local business.

324. TO DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING ITEMS OF PLANNING CORRESPONDENCE AND AGREE ACTION IN RESPONSE:

- a. Mr. Rob Scourfield, PCNPA – Notes of Conservation Area Review Committee

The Clerk had spoken to Mr Rob Scourfield who will arrange a walk about when the weather is more clement.

- b. Tenby Civic Society – Society’s’ comments on NP/18/0008/FUL

Noted.

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

- a. Pembrokeshire County Council - Road Closure, Bridge Street

The Mayor commented on the length of time to carry out the work. Noted.

- b. Pembrokeshire County Council – Budget Consultation 2018-19

Cllr Mrs Brown felt that the information supplied as to areas where PCC would have to make savings in relation to the different levels of council tax suggested was not detailed enough. Cllr Rapi said that this information supplied to the town council is a small amount of a much larger picture. The Clerk asked members how they wished to respond to the consultation. He also outlined areas of service where reductions or cost transfers to town and community councils were being proposed e.g. recharge cost of elections and cuts in level street cleansing and rubbish collection.

He felt that there would be potential impacts on town council budgets in the future particularly if suggestions of asset transfer to town/community councils were agreed.

There would certainly be further impacts on our sector of local government, if not this year but in future budgets.

He noted that in a webcast of PCCs most recent Cabinet meeting, members had discussed their response to the Welsh Government's consultation on reforming town and community councils in Wales.

Cllr Kilmister had commented on the large number of town and community councils in the county and felt that PCC should be pro-active in working with them to see how they could assist PCC. He had suggested area based conferences, looking at how the councils could work together in the future to deliver services.

He had acknowledged that hub towns such as Haverfordwest or Tenby would be delivering some services but it would be wrong to see the council tax payers of these towns carrying whole cost burden of changes to services that rural communities near these towns also benefited from. Part of PCC's transformation agenda should involve these discussions.

The Clerk commented that Carmarthenshire had already undertaken some of this work and he had read an interesting article in The Clerk magazine outlining how Llanelli Town and Rural Councils had joined forces to deliver maintenance of parks and open public spaces.

The Mayor said that her New Year's message spoke of things being dire and there would be changes that people will notice. She felt patience and help is needed, not confrontation. She felt a lot of the proposals would see budget implications for Tenby Town Council.

Cllr Mrs Brown asked the Clerk what sort of amalgamation was envisaged.

The Clerk said that the Welsh Government was expected to publish a white paper in the autumn but current thinking seemed to centre on town councils acting as central hubs with possible mergers or co-operative working with neighbouring community councils.

Cllr Rapi said that the county was now paying the price of enjoying the lowest council tax for years. He said PCC were already in discussions with Carmarthenshire and Ceredigion over possibilities for some Directorships to be shared between the three counties but there were only so many cuts that could be made.

PCC were asking what level of service the public would agree to pay for. Cllr Mrs Brown also asked if service provision would be further reviewed if the public opted for the 5 or 8 percent increases. Would PCC think of cutting back their staff?

Cllr Rapi felt that if only a 5% increase was agreed then many jobs will go and things that are presently done would not be. A 12.5% increase was the only way he could see to survive.

Cllr Mrs Brown questioned the impact of council tax increases as she was aware that many people were exempt from paying council tax. Tenby was still thought as ‘the richest town in Pembrokeshire’ but she believed only 60% of people were council tax payers.

Cllr Rapi said that 52% of residents pay Council tax in Pembrokeshire and working folk would be most affected by the rises but PCC could see no alternative.

Cllr Blackhall said the problem not realised is that the amount of money received via the council tax is a relatively small amount compared to the County Council’s overall budget but makes a difference in the delivery of non-statutory services.

He felt the suggestion that town and community councils looked to working with each other was long overdue. Libraries, leisure centres and the like, may be located in towns like Tenby but they benefit the wider areas.

He felt it is good that our Mayor is having already having conversations with neighbouring Saundersfoot. We needed to meet and talk and look at working together.

The Mayor said she had tried this a few years ago but when she came out of office she had been unable to follow it up. It was an excellent idea to try to move this forward again.

The Clerk asked if the Town Council wished to make a formal response to the consultation.

Cllr Rapi suggested that Councillors go on the PCC website, look at the information, and answer the questions individually. He urged everyone else in Tenby to do the same, then our views will be heard.

c. Mr. Shaun Fitton (via e-mail) – Holiday in Tenby January 2018

The Mayor said it was nice and refreshing to receive such a positive email. Cllr Rossiter said that after the adverse comments from a certain local resident this email was brilliant and should be published. The Mayor asked that a letter be written in reply explaining what the festivities group undertake.

326. TO RECEIVE THE ACCOUNTS FOR DECEMBER (INCLUDING SCHEDULED PAYMENTS, UN-PRESENTED CHEQUES, RECEIPTS, ACCOUNT BALANCES, BUDGET MONITORING TO DATE AND BANK RECONCILIATIONS) AND CONSIDER ANY ISSUES ARISING

Cllr Mrs Brown queried a paint expenditure but this was confirmed to be for benches. Cllr Hallett proposed accepting the accounts and Cllr Mrs Williams seconded the proposal.

Resolved that the accounts for December (including scheduled payments, unrepresented cheques, receipts, account balances, budget monitoring to date and bank reconciliations) be accepted.

327. TO RECEIVE REPORTS BY COUNCILLORS ON OUTSIDE BODIES

De Valence Pavilion

Cllr Mrs Brown reported that in 2017 pretty much every weekend was full in November and December. There had been boxing, a market, a senior citizens dinner and then the last event was a wedding. January saw wrestling and a panto on the 3rd and 4th – both sell outs. Now bookings for 2018 were really taking off with there being no weekend dates available in November and October was pretty much full. The De Valence will be closed for further work during February and March – plans to alter the toilets and create a kitchenette for hirer's use. The work will also include refurbishing the dance floor, which had not been done since the 1990s, and a redesign of the lighting in the bar and new bar shutters. There are already two confirmed weddings for 2019 with 2 provisional weddings also booked. Cllr Mrs Brown said that volunteers are still very much welcomed and asked for everyone's continued support. The Mayor gave a vote of thanks to the Committee especially Cllr Mrs Brown who spends so much of her time and works so very hard at the De Valence Pavilion. Cllr Hallett seconded.

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

Cllr Hallett had read in both the Western Mail and the Tenby Observer of Rosie Swales injury and asked that best wishes for a speedy recovery be sent to her. The Mayor suggested also that a message be posted on Tenby Town Council Facebook page conveying Council's best wishes.

329. TO RECEIVE UPDATES AS TO THE SALE OF LAND AT BRYNHIR (IF ANY)

None at this time.

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

The Clerk confirmed that no response had been received from Katie Daly yet. Cllr Mrs Rossiter asked if the trees had gone up to the new cemetery. The Clerk confirmed they had. Cllr Hallett said that evidence of honey fungus was present under the pots indicating that there was continued contamination.

331. PLASTIC FREE INITIATIVES

Cllr Blackhall noted that the UK government had launched a plastic free initiative also saying that Iceland supermarket also intends to go plastic free. He was sure that all have seen the growing concern in the media about marine pollution and explained that there was now a Plastic Free Coastlines initiative. Falmouth had been declared the first plastic free town with many other places to follow. The hope was that 150 towns will sign up to reduce single use plastics encouraging bottle refill points, introduce better recycling information and work with schools, etc. Cllr Blackhall felt that Tenby should be looking to be one of those towns and has requested an action pack on what needed to be done. He felt the Town Council should team up with Tenby Chamber of Trade and Tourism and the Licensed Victuallers Association and then hold open meetings for members of public with the aim to involve lots of people.

Cllr Mrs Rossiter asked where these bottles that are washed up on our beaches actually come from and was told from beaches, ships, rivers but to name a few. Cllr. Blackhall explained

that coastal erosion had revealed an item with a sell by date of 1983 while the Clerk added that when Tenby Church in Wales pupils had recently carried out a litter pick of South Beach they had discovered 'picnic' litter dating back to the 60s, 70s and 80s that had been buried in the sand and uncovered by storm action!

Cllr Rapi recalled in the 1970s his family's beach ice cream vans had only been allowed to serve ice cream in wax coated cardboard cups with wooden spoons!

Cllr Blackhall proposed, Cllr Mrs Rossiter seconded and

RESOLVED

That Tenby Town Council actively work with location organisations and the public towards making Tenby a plastic-free town.

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

A Tale of Two Tenby Luggers

The Clerk had received a letter from David James, Company Secretary of West Wales Maritime Heritage inviting the Mayor and members of Tenby Town Council to visit the boatyard and see how the restoration work to the two Tenby Luggers was progressing. Councillors agreed that they would love the opportunity to see the Tenby Luggers and asked that the Clerk sort a convenient date for all.

Co-option of new member

The Clerk explained that there had been four letters expressing an interest in the casual vacancy for the North Ward.

The Mayor asked if Councillors wished to decide who to co-opt this evening. Some discussion took place over the number of councillors not present, but members felt that this could still be the case if the co-option was delayed. Cllr. Mrs Rossiter felt that the council had been one member down for a considerable period of time and the matter needed resolution.

Cllr Hallett asked if there were to be interviews of candidates as had happened in the past. The Mayor said that co-option without interview had taken place more often than with. She felt the candidates had submitted very comprehensive letters which would give members all the information they needed to make a decision.

The Mayor then proposed that the co-option be dealt with this evening. Cllr. Mrs. Rossiter seconded.

Resolved

That the candidates be considered and co-option take place.

Two abstained from the vote.

The Mayor allowed members time to read the letters of application while the Clerk explained the co-option procedure and the requirement for a substantive majority, whereby the majority of members had to favour one candidate more than all the others combined.

There were four candidates putting themselves forward for co-option to the Tenby Town Council - Laird M Denton, Mr V Perry, Mrs P Spiller and Mrs A Rees.

Cllr Hallett abstained from voting and the remaining Councillors cast their votes in private. The Clerk then counted the votes and Mrs A Rees received the substantive majority.

Resolved

That Mrs A Rees be co-opted to fill the casual vacancy in the North Ward.

Councillors expressed their pleasure in having another younger councillor on board and the Mayor looked forward to welcoming Cllr Mrs Rees to Council. The Mayor then thanked those who had put themselves forward.

333. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved that the next meeting will take place on Tuesday, 30th January 2018 at 7.30pm. The Mayor gave her apologies at this time.

334. TO PROPOSE ANY ITEM FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

None

335. TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC TO RESOLVE FROM THE MEETING DURING CONSIDERATION OF THE FOLLOWING ITEM(S) OF BUSINESS UNDER THE "PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT OF 1960"

336. MINUTES

Resolved that the Private and Confidential Minutes of 2nd January 2018 be confirmed and signed as accurate.

337. MATTERS ARISING

The Clerk informed Councillors that the garden team had suggested keeping the Christmas trees in pots and not to plant them as this would allow them to remain at a manageable size. The Mayor added that the trees could be dotted around the town if they were not needed for South Parade next Christmas.

Mayor _____

Town Clerk _____

Date _____