

TENBY TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE TENBY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD
19th SEPTEMBER 2017

PRESENT

Councillor Mrs S Lane Mayor
Councillor Mrs C Brown
Councillor Mr L Blackhall
Councillor Mr T Brown
Councillor Mrs T Rossiter
Councillor Mr J Griffiths
Councillor Mrs M Ward
Councillor Mrs C Thomas

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

153. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Cllrs Hallett, Rapi and Mrs Williams. Apologies also received from PCC Link Officer, Mr Steven Richard-Downes. The Clerk had received a letter of resignation from Cllr James which he read to Councillors. The Mayor said it was sad but quite understood his situation between work, having a young family and other commitments. Councillors regrettably accepted Cllr James' resignation and requested the Clerk to notify PCC of the Casual Vacancy.

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

Cllr Mrs Rossiter declared a personal and prejudicial interest in item 7a. Cllr Griffiths declared a personal interest in 7a.

155. TO AGREE ITEMS OF CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMITTEE MINUTES OTHER THAN THOSE MARKED NOT FOR PUBLICATION BEING GIVEN TO MEMBERS OF THE PRESS PRESENT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 Mrs Rossiter and seconded by Cllr Brown.

Resolved that items of Correspondence and Committee Minutes other than those items marked Not for Publication be given to members of the Press present.

156. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Resolved that the Minutes of the Tenby Town Council meeting held 5th September 2017 be confirmed and signed as accurate.

157. MATTER ARISING FROM THE MINUTES FOR INFORMATION ONLY

121. The Three Mariners – Variation of Premises Licence

The Clerk had received notice of the next licensing sub-committee meeting to discuss this matter and confirmed his attendance at the meeting to be held on 25th September 2017 at 10am.

137d. NP/17/0137/ADV – 2 no. fascia signs and 2 no. projecting signs - Units 1-3, South Parade, Tenby – amended plans

Cllr Mrs Brown asked if the Clerk had heard anything in response regarding the sign to which the Clerk replied no. However, the Clerk informed Councillors that Dominoes had lodged an appeal against the planning refusal. The appeal will be dealt with via a hearing but the venue was not known at this time.

137g. NP/17/0490/LBA – Mr Bill James, Atlantic Hotel Limited, Atlantic Hotel, The Esplanade, Tenby – Construction of new lift shaft. Two storey extension over existing rear wing to accommodate 2 self-catering apartments. Conversion of basement to 2nd floor to create 4 new self-catering apartments. Alterations to existing flats on 3rd and 4th floors to create self-catering apartments – Atlantic Hotel, The Esplanade, Tenby

Cllr Mrs Thomas asked if there was any further news with regard to the Atlantic's application to which the Clerk replied there was none.

138e. PCC - Additional Community Governor – St Teilo's School

The Clerk confirmed to Councillors that Cllr Mrs Williams' name had gone forward for consideration as an Additional Community Governor at St Teilo's School.

146. To Consider a Request from the De Valence Trust Relating to the Opening of the Public Toilet Facilities within the Pavilion

Cllr Mrs Brown confirmed that the Ladies and Gents toilets are now closed and that the disabled facilities are open for café users only, reiterating that the toilets have never been public toilets. Cllr Mrs Rossiter said it had appeared to be a grey area as a grant had been received from the County Council some time ago and that the assumption was that this carried on, it was confusing but this needed to happen. The Mayor confirmed once again that it was due to cost, security, maintenance, insuring and manning the facility, which is now run by volunteers.

147. To Review this Year's Pedestrianisation Scheme

The Clerk confirmed the meeting set up with Darren Thomas and Officers of PCC on 29th September 2017 at 12 noon to discuss the mop up saying that they had asked that only representatives of the Council attend, not all Council members.

The Clerk then read a reply he had received from Mr Owen Roberts in regards to the local bus service:

Unfortunately, due to the reduced budget and the low numbers that were travelling on the 380 bus, the Council is not in a position to provide a replacement bus service. We already fund the Tenby Town Rider Service which is available Monday, Wednesday and Friday for residents to use to take them into the town shopping, Drs etc.

Just to provide you with some background details, the Council's budget for public bus services has had year on year reductions since 2011 with a total of over £500,000 saved. This has resulted in changes to bus services, with evening and Sunday services removed along with the frequency of some services being reduced. Further budget reductions are expected over the next few years and this is likely to result in further bus service reductions.

Cllr Mrs Brown said it was a poor response. Tenby pensioners and disabled residents are prisoners in their own back yard not to mention that the situation was bad for tourism. Cllr Blackhall asked at what point was the decision made to cut the service and why had there been no consultation with the Tenby Town Council. Cllr Mrs Rossiter feels that it is discriminating against those who cannot get to the harbour, this is a tourism hotspot, PCC is cutting noses to spite faces and the matter needs to be sorted out as it effects all not just locals. Cllr Mrs Ward was told that as most users appeared to be concessionary bus pass holders, no-one pays on the buses, and the company get no money. For those residents who live in outlying areas of Tenby it costs a fortune to get about via taxis. Cllr Blackhall proposed writing to PCC enquiring after the budget cut and to ask if reduced, when was the decision made to axe the service and with whom did they consult on the matter. Cllr Mrs Ward seconded the proposal. The Mayor said she would like to attend the meeting first next week and go from there. Talk needed to take place about the scheme generally and a solution needs to be sought. Cllr Griffiths suggested a petition to be set up by the elderly and disabled putting across from their views. Tenby plus Park n Ride needed as without it the Pedestrianisation Scheme just does not work. Cllr Mrs Brown asked if bus passes are still used and Cllr Mrs Ward said the Welsh Assembly covers the cost, with the Clerk confirming that the Welsh Assembly does indeed subsidise Pembrokeshire County Council. Cllr Mrs Ward suggested that a bus service be put in place not necessarily every hour but perhaps one bus on a loop. Cllr Griffiths noted that Councillors were looking at two separate issues.

Resolved that the Clerk ask PCC when the decision was made to cut the 380 service, who took the decision and what consultation was carried out before the decision was made.

148a. To Establish a Sub-committee to Consider Proposals for 'Battle's End' – the 100th Anniversary of the End of the First World War, November 2018

The Clerk advised Councillors that no sub-committee had yet been established but that he had been approached by Tenby Male Choir who would very much like to be involved.

158. TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND TO AGREE ACTION IN RESPONSE TO PROPOSAL:

- a. NP/17/0310/FUL – Mr. Roger Tomms, Ashelford House, Kenystyle, Penally – Demolition of existing stores and covered area and replace with 3 storage units – The Stores, off Wallsfield Lane, Tenby

Cllr Mrs Thomas could see no objection and proposed accepting the proposal. Cllr Blackhall seconded the proposal.

RECOMMEND

Approval. Tested against all relevant policies of the LDP, particularly 30, the proposal does not have an adverse impact on amenity or the appearance of the building and its immediate neighbourhood.

- b. NP/17/0496/TPO – Mr. Anthony Price, Pembrokeshire County Council, County Hall, Haverfordwest – Works to TPO trees to improve school playing field and new access – Greenhill School, Heywood Lane, Tenby

Cllr Mrs Rossiter remarked on the fact that PCNPA ask our opinions on trees but other issues are not considered in particular decisions regarding the Junior/Infant School. Cllr Mrs Brown suggested that we bring this matter up with our Link Office. Cllr Blackhall felt that work on the access road to make sure full size rugby pitch seems such a waste of money. Project management appears poor hence high cost and making the project short on revenue funding. Cllr Griffiths enquired as to what exactly they were doing with the trees and the Clerk explained that the trees were being repositioned. Cllr Mrs Thomas proposed accepting the proposal and Cllr Blackhall seconded.

RECOMMEND

Approval, although members are disappointed that construction work commenced prior to this application being submitted.

- c. NP/17/0527/FUL – Mrs. Jones, Rydal Mount, 5 Clement Terrace, Tenby – Loft conversion with dormer roof extension to rear and rooflights to front – Rydal Mount, 5 Clement Terrace, Tenby

Cllr Mrs Ward proposed accepting and Cllr Mrs Brown seconded the proposal.

RECOMMEND

Approval. Tested against all relevant polices of the LDP, particularly 30, the proposal does not have an adverse impact on amenity or the appearance of the building and its immediate neighbourhood.

- d. NP/17/0531/TPO – Mr and Mrs Hemsley, Sherwood, Narberth Road, Tenby – Reduce weight by removing lower branches which overhang Narberth Road, removal of dead and dying material and bracing remaining limbs to avoid further splaying – Sherwood, Narberth Road, Tenby

Cllr Mrs Thomas remarked on the health and safety aspect and proposed approval. Cllr Mrs Rossiter seconded the proposal.

RECOMMEND

Approval.

- e. NP/17/0555/TPO – Mr Julien Rhys Davies, The Grove, Heywood Lane, Tenby - 1 x Beech – crown reduction, 1 x Beech – retrenchment – The Grove, Heywood Lane, Tenby

Cllr Mrs Ward commented on the work being an improvement and proposed approval. Cllr Brown seconded the proposal.

RECOMMEND

Approval.

159. TO RECEIVE THE EXTERNAL AUDITOR’S AUDIT CERTIFICATE AND OPINION ON TENBY TOWN COUNCIL ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2017

Councillors congratulated the Clerk on the work done with the Accounts and Cllr Blackhall noted the Auditor’s opinion. Discussion has taken place in the past in regards to the matter but Councillors feel that the safeguards in place are sufficient as the firm employed is large enough to allow different partners to conduct the different activities required.

Resolved that the external auditor’s audit certificate and opinion on Tenby Town Council accounts for the year ending 31st March 2017 be received.

160. TO DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING LICENSING APPLICATIONS AND TO AGREE ACTION IN RESPONSE TO PROPOSALS:

- a. Lindholme Guesthouse – New premises licence

Cllr Mrs Rossiter and Cllr Griffiths left the Chamber.

Councillors were advised that the property was being taken over by new owners and Cllr Mrs Thomas could see no reason why they should not be granted a new licence and proposed no objection. Cllr Mrs Ward seconded the proposal.

RECOMMEND

That Tenby Town Council make no representation to the Licensing Committee on this application.

Cllr Mrs Rossiter and Cllr Griffiths returned to their seats.

161. TO RECEIVE REPORTS BY COUNCILLORS ON OUTSIDE BODIES

De Valence Pavilion

Cllr Mrs Brown told Councillors that over 900 athletes had filled the hall for Ironman briefings and awards. She thanked Dave, Mike and Cllr Brown for their assistance over the weekend saying it had been tremendous. Huge thanks have been received from Ironman who were amazed at the efforts of welcoming visitors to the area.

Walk-in Service

Cllr Mrs Thomas told Councillors that the summer had been very successful for the weekday Walk-in Service and that the service is to continue through the winter.

Ironman

The Mayor congratulated all locals who took part in the Ironman saying how horrible the conditions had been. She was looking forward to Tenby continuing to welcome the event for the next 5 years.

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

The Mayor congratulated the Tenby Observer for their coverage of Ironman.

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

The Clerk had received an update from Helen McLeod-Baikie of PCC Property Dept. and read the following email to Councillors:

We are working with colleagues internally and with our agents to bring this site forward.

The preferred developer identified when the site was marketed is still interested, however, to date we have been unable to agree terms between the parties.

Another party has since expressed an interest and I am waiting for a formal proposal for our consideration.

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

No dates had been received but when the Clerk had recently spoken with PCC regarding the Pedestrianisation meeting, they had indicated that they were to look at possible dates to meet and chat.

165. CONDITION OF OLD TENBY CEMETERY

Cllr Mrs Ward gathered that the work had now been undertaken but asked how often they planned to cut back next year. Some residents had approached her terrified that they might encounter snakes in the long grass. The Mayor informed Councillors of the God's Acre project and suggested that a site visit at the beginning of next year to monitor the pathways and to confirm the time of trimmings may be useful. The Clerk will check with Mrs Ellen Powling, who coordinates the project, to see if policies have changed. Cllr Mrs Brown asked who pays for the cutting and it was confirmed to be St Mary's although it was commented upon that all churches should contribute really as it was the town cemetery. The Mayor advised that there were approximately 103 species of plants not to mention the insects and birds and that it is, actually at its height, the biggest natural hay meadow remaining in the area. There are information boards around the area and also leaflets to explain the site and its management.

166. CONDITION OF TENBY POST OFFICE BUILDING

Cllr Mrs Ward started by saying that on approaching our lovely town walls there is an awful building on the right which is part of the Tenby Post Office. Also there is a sign which is extremely misleading as it indicates the Post Office entrance when it is really just the Sorting Office parcel collection point. It was suggested the Clerk write a letter to contact the owners and ask what the intentions are for the building.

167. TO CONSIDER THE CONDITIONS OF THE TOWN'S GARDENS

Cllr Mrs Brown informed Councillors that all summer she had received numerous complaints about the gardens and agrees that the quality of plants this year have been very disappointing considering TTC contribute thousands of pounds towards bedding plants. She was concerned about next year. Meetings were needed with PCC to find out what went wrong. She felt the Memorial Gardens were not planted properly and The Paragon Garden was embarrassing. Mention must be made that it is not the two chaps that work directly as they endeavour to do the best they can and are stretched to the limit. The flowers were not right and they were second class. The Mayor said she feels soul destroyed agreeing with Cllr Mrs Brown in that there was no value for money and that we shouldn't really have to pay for our flowers - we pay our rates. Tenby in Bloom paid for The Paragon to be shrubbed with colourful flowering shrubs but the results really didn't look anything like what had been agreed – time had been spent with the

head gardener and a list of different shrubs had been decided upon. Sustainable planting is such a good idea, the Mayor said. So much time is spent raising money and it is absolutely gutting to see the condition of the gardens at present, they're disgraceful. The idea was that shrubs would be low maintenance not no maintenance. We have to ensure that what is bought is properly watered. The Clerk mentioned that PCC will water plants Monday to Friday but not weekends, this comes at an additional charge. The Mayor mentioned that the 'Welcome to Tenby' area was meant to be planted with vibrant non-stop begonias but this did not appear to be the reality. It was felt that TTC need to talk properly to PCC to explain how we feel, that this is not good enough for our town and not to the standard we are used to. Cllr Mrs Ward agreed that a meeting was needed to thrash it out. The Clerk said that in order to enter Wales in Bloom shrubs needed to be established and gardens reformed which was why we had taken a gap year from the competition this year. Cllr Mrs Ward suggested hydrangeas as hers hadn't needed much additional water this summer due to the weather and Cllr Mrs Rossiter suggested going back to the plants as before. Cllr Mrs Brown commented that some areas haven't even been planted. The Parade was wonderful however it was mostly paid for by Tenby in Bloom and flowers on the North Walk also looked lovely and also paid for by Tenby in Bloom.

Resolved that the Clerk arrange a meeting with Mr. Richard Brown to discuss the matter.

168. TO CONSIDER THE CONDITION OF THE ENVIRONS OF TENBY LEISURE CENTRE

Cllr Brown has been approached by residents of the Clicketts regarding the condition of the area of the over flow car park backing on to the Clicketts. The fence had been damaged during recent major works to the Leisure Centre, the grass had not been cut and there appeared to be an abandoned caravan. Cllr Brown asked if the Clerk could write to the PCC as he had rung PCC previously but had received no response to date.

Resolved that the Clerk contact PCC to ask them to address the situation.

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

a. Tenby Conservation Area

The Clerk explained that he had been contacted by PCNPA Officer, Mr Rob Scourfield. The town's conservation area was due to be reassessed having been set up in 1996. When the conservation area was last reassessed in 2002 the Town Council had set up a working party including councillors and other working bodies such as the Civic Society. Mr Scourfield had asked if the town council would be happy to set up a similar arrangement this year. Cllr Blackhall indicated his wish to sit on this working party as issues such the percentage of retail properties within

the Conservation area will be included. Cllrs Mrs Thomas and Mrs Ward also would be interested in sitting on the working party.

Resolved that The Clerk liaise with Mr Scourfield to set up a working group to review the town's Conservation Area.

b. Advanced Notice of Road Closure

The Clerk advised Councillors that the PCC will be closing the road between Heywood Court and Serpentine Road for 7 days from 24th October 2017 for works to be carried out.

c. Pembrokeshire County Council Annual Community meeting

The annual community meeting will be held on 24th October 2017 between 7 – 8.30pm at the Community Education Centre.

d. End Loneliness

PCC's Rachel Gibby has organised a meeting in Letterston on 29th September 2017 between 10am and 3.30pm. Unfortunately Councillors are not able to attend this meeting but suggested writing with views.

d. Emails received from Skateboarders

The Clerk had received emails from several skateboarders asking if the park at the Jubilee could not be extended. The Mayor asked if there was still a Skate Park Committee and Cllr Mrs Brown said that it was kept separate from the Friends of the Jubilee Park. She also mentioned that more books are needed to sell in order to raise funds to maintain the Jubilee Park. Cllr Mrs Brown suggested that there should be a Skate Park Committee and perhaps they can generate some enthusiasm to raise some funding. Cllr Mrs Rossiter commented that the residents of Harries Street would probably be relieved for the skateboarders to be encouraged away from the Multi Storey car park. Cllr Mrs Thomas commented on the politeness of the skateboarders she had spoken with and would be delighted to support the initiative.

170. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved that the next meeting will take place on Tuesday, 3rd October 2017 at 7.30pm.

171. TO PROPOSE ANY ITEM FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

Town ATMs, supply of cash and card use by local businesses especially during high season – Cllr Blackhall.

Castle Hill and PCC's rolling plan of work – Cllr Mrs Thomas.

172. 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”

173. MINUTES

Jubilee Play Park

In relation to the possibilities of extending the skate facility, The Clerk commented that many youngsters are currently using the park which sometimes lead to overcrowding and accidents. Any work to be undertaken would need careful consideration and probably wouldn't get under way until at least April of next year as the project and its funding would need to be agreed. The area where an extension could be provided currently housed the basket swing but this piece of equipment had issues. Firstly the swing had been vandalised then the bushes had needed replacing and there would be further work down the line. Council had already agreed to fund the repair costs but some members felt that this may be an unnecessary expense if the swing was to be removed under plans to increase the size of the skate area. Cllr Mrs Thomas commented that the swing was quite big and ugly. The Clerk reiterated that no plans were in place for an extension and this could take at least 12 months to come to fruition. Cllr Blackhall suggested replacement of the swing for now so that it's in use whilst we work out our next step in the plan.

Battery Gardens Project

The Clerk read an update received from Helen McLeod-Baikie at PCC:

I understand that the Town Council raised concerns regarding the condition of the stone boundary walls at Battery Gardens and the Town Council being responsible for them under the terms of the proposed lease.

I have made some enquiries and our Maintenance department is prepared to undertake the necessary works at their expense to the stone boundary walls.

Therefore, I would be grateful if you could confirm whether the terms previously offered are now acceptable to the Town Council and that you will keep the boundary walls in good repair during the term of the lease.

It appears that agreement of the terms of the lease is causing the hold-up over the refurbishment and that the wall is the problem. PCC had inspected the wall and were prepared to undertake the work if TTC agreed to ongoing maintenance for the term of the lease. Cllr Blackhall commented that on one hand PCC wanted regeneration but on the other hand another department saw it as an opportunity to off-load liabilities as they don't want the responsibility. He suggested that we are not prepared to take on the surrounding infrastructure only the gardens.

Resolved that The Clerk write back to PCC stating that TTC were happy to take over maintenance of the garden area only after refurbishment not the surrounding walls.

Poppies

In the run up to the celebration in 2018 of the WWI end, Cllr Mrs Thomas asked if poppy seeds could possibly be thrown over the cliffs allowing them to seed naturally and if so, was permission was needed. The Mayor advised that care needed to be taken as they are quite invasive and certain gardens/area should be avoided. The Clerk mentioned that the Trefoil Guild had wanted to plant poppies between the shrubs at the Paragon but The Mayor felt that this was not possible for the same reason.

Mayor _____

Town Clerk _____

Date _____