

TENBY TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE TENBY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD
30th July 2019

PRESENT: Cllr T Brown Mayor
Cllr H Whitehurst
Cllr P Rapi
Cllr L Blackhall
Cllr M Ronowitz
Cllr T Hallett
Cllr Mrs T Rossiter
Cllr Mrs S Skyrme-Blackhall
Cllr Mrs T Evans
Cllr D Morgan

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr A Davies Clerk
Mrs S Thompson Assistant to the Clerk

132. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Cllr Mrs Lane and Cllr Mrs Brown.

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

Cllr Mrs Rossiter declared interest in item 9.

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 TO AGREE ITEMS OF CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMITTEE MINUTES OTHER THAN THOSE MARKED NOT FOR PUBLICATION BEING GIVEN TO MEMBERS OF THE PRESS PRESENT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That items of Correspondence and Committee Minutes other than those items marked Not for Publication be given to members of the Press present.

135. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Resolved that the Minutes of the Tenby Town Council meeting held 16th July 2019 be confirmed and signed as accurate.

136. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES FOR INFORMATION ONLY

41. South Parade - Bins

The Clerk told Councillors that Paul Watkins of PCC had told him that for the interim the blue bins have been removed and instead they are using 23ltr bins (about 7 or 8). Mr Watkins has put forward a compromise, basically a housing

container/street cabinet or bin, lockable, so that passers-by are unable to add to the waste. The question raised was with benches and other street furniture already in place would two more items be any more obtrusive. Cllr Blackhall said the simple answer is no. Businesses operating within the town have to deal with their own rubbish. What if all businesses wanted these cabinets? We are grateful for the suggestion but this is not the solution. It is not fair on businesses who are currently sorting out their own rubbish. Cllr Mrs Rossiter agreed, saying everyone else manages to sort their rubbish on a daily basis. Cllr Blackhall proposed a letter to say no thank you as it is impractical if all businesses are offered one, there is no space. Cllr Mrs Rossiter seconded the proposal.

RESOLVED

That a letter be sent to Mr Watkins thanking him for his suggestion but that TTC does not support the idea.

137. TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING ITEMS OF CORRESPONDENCE AND TO AGREE ACTION IN RESPONSE TO PROPOSALS:

- a. Mr. Paul Ashley-Jones, PCC – Tenby TIC

Cllr Mrs Evans had called in to the TIC and it appears that business for the coffee shop is slow. She noted there was no signage. This had been asked for but has not been forthcoming, so there is no wonder that business is slow. Drinks were on offer but there did not appear to be any food available. The cafe needs advertising if it is to be a success. Cllr Blackhall said that given the timeline, a proposal needs to be on the table by 12th September. The Clerk told councillors that Mr Ashley-Jones is copied in on all correspondence and therefore he had seen many of TTC's ideas but that his concern was that there were no firm proposals being put forward to PCC and that this is what is needed.

Members welcomed Mr. Ashley-Jones' offer to come to the next meeting to discuss the matter further.

138. TO RECEIVE REPORTS BY COUNCILLORS ON OUTSIDE BODIES

CASTLE BEACH

Cllr Hallett congratulated Tenby for winning the best beach award in The Times National Newspaper saying it was a great boost for Tenby.

TENBY SCHOOL MOSAIC

Cllr Mrs Evans told councillors that the mosaic is now complete and looks absolutely spectacular, encouraging all to take a look if they can. She asked if maybe something similar could be undertaken in other areas of Tenby e.g. the Railway Station. It may be worth looking at possible locations. The National Lottery had funded this project and Cllr Mrs Evans wondered if maybe this may be something that may be eligible through the Pembrokeshire Enhancement fund. The Mayor, and Cllr Mrs Skyrme-

Blackhall together with Cllr Mrs Evans will have a walk about and look at potential sites. Cllr Blackhall suggested the wall at the back of Talbot Timber as a possible location. Cllr Hallett asked if there was some sort of award that could be made and the Clerk said he was look into it.

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

Cllr Mrs Skyrme-Blackhall had received a note just before attending this evening's meeting and proceeded to read it to councillors. The letter related to the District Enforcement Officers (DEO) currently operating in Tenby and the alleged aggressive tactics employed by them. The letter suggested that more signage is needed warning of fines.

Littering is a nationwide problem but it was felt that the approach of District Enforcement will have a negative press effect on Tenby. Officers were allegedly seen to be watching a youngster as to whether they would drop the ice cream wrapper they were holding which was most disconcerting.

Cllr Ronowitz had himself witnessed an altercation last Friday involving two well-known and respected local ladies and a new-to-the-area business who were being harassed and intimidated by a DEO using threatening and abusive behaviour on the High Street in Tenby.

He has prepared an email which he will be forwarding to various parties highlighting the awful way in which the DEOs are carrying out their duties. This DEO was also reluctant to show his identity badge. Their approach it appears is also to follow smokers, often over some distance, to see if they drop the cigarette butt.

The Mayor agreed that clear warning signage needs to be in place declaring it being an enforcement area. He believed that these DEOs would be on a set route but it appears that they are random in their routes. However, he believes it good as people should not be dropping litter.

It was suggested that education may be better in the first instance as opposed to just fining.

Cllr Mrs Skyrme-Blackhall agreed but believes there are certain ways of dealing with the public and many do not like the way these DEOs are going about it. Soon dogs on beaches will also be targeted. The signage is just not good enough, perhaps hotels could supply information to guests as could pubs. It was suggested TTC write to PCC to enquire what the role of the DEOs is and what the guidelines are for dealing with issues, Members felt that this is a serious issue, DEOs should not be following people. This is affecting locals and tourists alike. Could a softly, softly approach be taken until the idea is embedded? Cllr Hallett said these officers have been around for a while and they are just doing their job.

RESOLVED

That TTC write to Mr. Richard Brown expressing concern over the manner in which DEOs are operating. Further that Mr. Brown be asked to supply information on the DEOs remit and their operating Code of Conduct.

Beach Wheelchairs

Cllr Mrs Skyrme-Blackhall told councillors that despite having been on holiday recently conversations had continued with interested parties including the National Park. There was some issue still with obtaining a child's beach wheelchair but that was being investigate and possibilities being discussed. She was hopeful to have something further in place by Ironman at the very latest. On having talks with various people, clear signage was needed and it was proposed that a large sign be purchased and then a place be identified for erection of the sign. The gentleman from North Beach said that people are not aware of the location of the beach wheelchairs. She asked if TTC would be prepared to fund a sign. Cllr Blackhall seconded the proposal. Small signs/leaflets were needed that could be distributed from hotels and businesses alerting people to the service on offer. Cllr Mrs Skyrme-Blackhall is grateful to all those who have invested their time and energy into this so far to improve access around Tenby. Cllr Skyrme-Blackhall then read testimonial email from a visitor who had benefited from the scheme.

RESOLVED

That the Clerk investigate the production of suitable signage advertising the locations of the beach wheelchair.

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

The Clerk told councillors that the Urbanist had republished the pre app consultation as it had not being issued in Welsh. The Clerk also told councillors that S4C had been in town today to prepare a story on the proposals which be aired at 9 pm this evening. He had been asked about the position of Tenby Town Council. Cllr Blackhall felt it was important to note that the pre app is broad brush, what we want and aim broadly to fit with plans. There would be opportunities to alter before final proposals are submitted. The Civic Society had raised the issue of entrance/walkways on to Slippery Back which had been addressed. Cllr Blackhall encouraged the public to send their queries/concerns to the Urbanist. Plans can be refined as it is important to get it right. If something can make the scheme better let them know as it can be revised before it is set in stone. All ideas will be fully considered.

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

Nothing to report.

142. UPDATE ON PLASTIC FREE TENBY INITIATIVES

Cllr Blackhall said he hoped to hand over at the next meeting which will take place on 11th September at 6pm and that this meeting will be advertised locally. He told councillors that although he had suffered recent ill health, various activities had been going on over the past few months including various beach cleans and removal of single

use plastics from businesses amongst other good things. It is hoped to celebrate these various achievements at the next meeting and also to look at planning going forward. He will be standing down from his position and asked if any councillor is interested to please come forward. The Mayor congratulated Cllr Blackhall and all those involved with the Plastic Free Tenby Initiative for their work over the past 12 months.

143. TO CONSIDER THE ONGOING GULL PROBLEM IN TENBY AND AGREE ACTION IN RESPONSE TO PROPOSALS – CLLR. P. RAPI

Cllr Rapi told councillors that there is an issue with gulls. They seem to be becoming very aggressive. There are numerous stories of them attacking people and even his own children have even been pecked. This was becoming a public safety issue. He appreciates that gulls are protected but it is only a matter of time before a child will get seriously hurt. He felt that PCC need to realise that this is an issue that needs addressing, the gulls are clever, very aggressive and efficient in their activities. He himself was attacked by five gulls as there was a young chick on the floor who was unable to fly and the gulls were attempting to protect it. Cllr Rapi suggested writing to PCC asking them to address the issue, stressing that this is a health and safety issue. He said many people feed the gulls, unaware of the problems that this causes. There is not enough signage to warn the public and also to discourage feeding the gulls he added.

Cllr Mrs Rossiter remembers that some years ago each councillor bought a sign that said something along the lines of beware of the seagulls and do not feed the gulls. She also remembered that previously, eggs were taken from the nest and/or false eggs inserted to reduce the population. The Clerk said that TTC signs were still around the town but perhaps not all that were purchased were still in situ. Cllr. Rossiter asked that this be investigated and we consider getting more made. Cllr Mrs Evans said that this is not solely a Tenby issue but a nationwide problem. Recently in the press there was an incident where a small dog was taken by a gull. A combination of chicks, alcohol and flying ants all aggravates the behaviour of the gulls often making them very aggressive. How do other Councils deal with these issues she asked?

Cllr Whitehurst told councillors that, in line with the Wildlife Act 1981, there is absolutely nothing that can be done, other than signage against feeding, removal and protection of waste matter and netting to prevent nesting on roofs. Cllr Blackhall said in relation to chip or food dropping and feeding, this should be discouraged. Surely if people could be fined for dropping cigarette butts it would be a littering offence to scatter food? Cllr Hallett told councillors that, although it may not appear to be the case, gull populations were in decline. There are 50% less gulls than last year. The Mayor agreed that from a safety aspect this is a huge problem. Cllr Rapi said it is illegal in Scotland to feed gulls, why not so in Wales? Bread, ice cream and chips are not good foods for gulls. He recalled that, when we had erected bunting for the 2012 Royal Wedding, it had deterred the gulls from the town centre. Perhaps this method could be tried again while also helping to beautify the town. The Clerk remembered that when bunting had been erected complaints about the flapping noise had been received from residents. Also the bunting had becoming rather tatty very quickly. Poly netting was the only proven method that would prevent nesting on roofs. Cllr Rapi proposed writing to PCC and Cllr Whitehurst seconded the proposal. The Mayor encouraged any member of the public who had problems with gulls to write to PCC with their concerns. Cllr Hallett was concerned that small birds may get caught in the netting.

RESOLVED

That the Clerk write to PCC expressing concern about the aggressive nature of gulls in relation to public safety.

144. TO CONSIDER ANY FINANCIAL OFFICER/CLERK’S ITEMS AND O AGREE ACTION IN RESPONSE TO PROPOSALS

- a. Delegation of authority for the Clerk or assistant to the Clerk to deal with urgent matters during the Summer recess in consultation with the Mayor

Agreed by Cllr Hallett and seconded by Cllr Mrs Evans.

RESOLVED

That authority to deal with urgent matters be delegated to the Clerk or Assistant to the Clerk in consultation with the Mayor during the Summer recess.

145. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved that the next meeting will take place on Tuesday, 3rd September 2019 at 7.00pm. Mr Paul Ashley-Jones off PCC will be in attendance to discuss Tenby Tourist Information Centre.

146. TO PROPOSE ANY ITEM FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

Dementia Friendly Tenby – Cllr Mrs Skyrme-Blackhall

Bins – Cllr Ronowitz

Members held a brief discussion on this item, going over matters in relation to trade waste and collection times mentioned at previous meetings. Cllr. Blackhall suggested that it may be worthwhile inviting someone from Environmental Services to a meeting to outline the new waste collection arrangements coming into force in November. It may also be worth PCC holding a ‘roadshow’ on the scheme in the town before the start date.

147. 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”

There were no private and confidential items to consider

Mayor _____

Town Clerk _____

Date _____