

**TENBY TOWN COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE TENBY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD**  
**30<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2018**

**PRESENT:** Councillor Mrs C Brown  
Councillor M Evans  
Councillor T Brown  
Councillor Mrs T Rossiter  
Councillor Mrs C Thomas  
Councillor Mr T Hallett  
Councillor Mrs S Williams

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Mr A Davies Clerk to the Council/Financial Officer  
Mrs S Thompson Assistant to the Clerk  
Cllr Michael Williams County Councillor for the North Ward

Due to the Mayor being absent, under Schedule 12 of the LGA 1972, the Deputy Mayor took the chair.

**236. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES**

Apologies received from the Mayor, Cllr Crockford, Cllr Blackhall and Cllr Mrs Skyrme-Blackhall.

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

Cllr. Evans declared an interest in planning matters by virtue of him being a member of the PCNPA Development Management Committee. He would remain in the chamber to offer advice on policy and procedural matters but would not participate in voting.

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 TO AGREE ITEMS OF CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMITTEE MINUTES OTHER THAN THOSE MARKED NOT FOR PUBLICATION BEING GIVEN TO MEMBERS OF THE PRESS PRESENT**

The Clerk had attended a private meeting along with Cllr Evans relating to the closure of Tenby Tourist Information Centre (report at Agenda item 21(a)). Cllr Mrs Brown suggested moving the item from private in open council in the public interest. Cllr Brown proposed and Cllr Mrs Williams seconded the proposal.

**RESOLVED**

**That Agenda item 21 (a) be moved in to open Council session.**

Proposed by Cllr Hallett and seconded by Cllr Mrs Williams.

## **RESOLVED**

**That items of Correspondence and Committee Minutes other than those items marked Not for Publication be given to members of the Press present.**

### **239. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

**Resolved that the Minutes of the Tenby Town Council meeting held 16<sup>th</sup> October 2018 be confirmed and signed as accurate.**

### **240. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

#### **218. Castle Hill/Town Walls Trust**

Cllr Mrs Thomas asked if the Clerk had received any replies to the recent letters sent out and the Clerk told Councillors that a letter had been received from the Historical Society to say that there is one member who is keen to serve on such a Trust. There had also been verbal interest from the Civic Society but nothing received in writing from them.

#### **221b. Sharon Rees – ‘No Dogs’ sign, South Cliff Gardens**

Cllr Mrs Rossiter asked if any reply had been received to our letter. The Clerk said there had been none.

### **241. TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND TO AGREE ACTION IN RESPONSE TO PROPOSALS:**

- a. NP/18/0595/FUL – Replacement of existing metal handrail with glass balustrade – Flat 1, Royal Victoria Court, 5 Crackwell Street, Tenby

Cllr Mrs Thomas proposed approval of the plans and Cllr Mrs Rossiter seconded.

#### **RECOMMEND**

**Approval. Considered against all the relevant policies within the LDP members have no objections to this proposal.**

- b. NP/18/0601/FUL – Proposed new residential dwelling – 9 St David’s Close, Tenby

Cllr Mrs Thomas proposed approval of the plans and Cllr Mrs Rossiter seconded.

#### **RECOMMEND**

**Approval. Considered against all the relevant policies within the LDP members feel there is adequate space available for this and have no objections to this proposal.**

- c. NP/0602/FUL – Construct a small area of decking above the entrance of the property with protective glass balustrades – The Flat, Brecknock House, Tudor Square, Tenby

Cllr Mrs Thomas proposed accepting the application and Cllr Brown seconded the proposal.

**RECOMMEND**

**Approval. Considered against all the relevant policies within the LDP members have no objections to this proposal.**

- d. NP/0603/LBA – Construct a small area of decking above the entrance of the property with protective glass balustrades – The Flat, Brecknock House, Tudor Square, Tenby

**RECOMMEND**

**Approval. Considered against all the relevant policies within the LDP members have no objections to this proposal.**

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

- a. Tenby Civic Society – 20 mph speed limit

Cllr Hallett declared his interest as a member of the Civic Society. Tenby Town Council would have to approach PCC Highways. Enforcement would be a problem. Cllr Evans would give his total support this initiative, saying you only have to see vehicles racing down Tudor Square and up Upper Frog Street to see why a speed restriction was needed. He also added that TTC had fought long and hard to get the 20mph speed limit outside schools following the initiative of the Mayor, Cllr Mrs Lane, adding that now that there were raised sections of road which would assist with traffic calming, certainly Park Road and Lower Park Road were areas that should also be considered.

Cllr Evans said he would give his wholehearted support and proposed that TTC write to PCC supporting that consideration be given to the introduction of a 20 mph limit. Cllr Mrs Brown agreed with Cllr Evans and Cllr Mrs Thomas seconded the proposal that the Civic Society letter be forwarded on to PCC and also that Tenby Town Council write a letter in support.

**RESOLVED**

**That TTC forward a copy of the Civic Society letter to Mr. Darren Thomas, PCC, asking that the introduction of a 20 mph limit be again considered.**

b. Pembrokeshire Disable Bowlers Association – Patron’s Scheme

The Clerk told Councillors that this letter had been received by the Mayor and, as she wasn’t able to take this on at the moment, wanted to offer it out to Councillors for support. Cllr Mrs Brown suggested that any Councillor who wished to support individually could do so but if there were club members from Tenby that attended then TCC would reconsider.

**243. TO RECEIVE REPORTS BY COUNCILLORS ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

De Valence

The recent Queen Tribute concert had been a sell out and it had been a great night, guests and staff were brilliant. Last Saturday there had been a Friends of Tenby Museum craft fair. Friday had seen the building host a Halloween night which ended the Halloween Tenby Trail. Cllr Mrs Brown thanked Sue Roberts of Lollies for all her hard work and support.

This weekend was the Round Table Beer Festival and following on from that the Battles End Concert. The Mayor, civic dignitaries and prestigious guests were expected with the Mayor hosting a reception. Cllr Mrs Brown was very excited as this was the first concert of this kind. Goodwick Brass Band and Tenby and Whitland Male Choir will be performing alongside poetry readings and soloists. This promises to be an amazing evening.

CCTV has been installed, doors have been replaced but there is still a lot of work to do.

Skate Park

Monthly meetings were being held which were well attended. The Clerk had recently met with Sinead Henehan who had commented that there was no consistency with their approach over tendering for the work, which could impact grant aid bids. She had suggested a way forward which would be considered at the next meeting although the Clerk is meeting with a firm next Wednesday. Cllr Mrs Brown felt it was disappointing as, although everyone was working really hard, it does feel like the committee were having to start all over again. This was unfortunately going to make the process longer. Cllr Hallett commented that one of the ideas had been for a wooden park but wood has a one third lifespan of concrete.

Tenby Walk-In Centre Implementation

Cllr Mrs Thomas had attended a meeting to review the draft Report that is being presented to Hywel Dda University Health Board on 9<sup>th</sup> November. She hoped the HDUHB would take on board the appreciation shown by those who have used the service.

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

Cllr Mrs Brown referred to a report in the Western Telegraph stating that Pembrokeshire County Council are considering spending £950K on a property in Tudor Square, Tenby. She asked why, when PCC were repeatedly going on about a deficit of £21M were they considering this huge expenditure.

Cllr Evans explained to Councillors that PCC has assets which generate an income through rental. This income can be used to offset revenue expenditure on services. However, if an asset was sold, the income could only be used for capital projects not for revenue expenditure. PCC had sold a number of assets and this income was sitting on deposit earning a very low rate of interest. PCC were now looking to reinvest that money to gain a larger return, through rental income, which could be used to help provide services. More valuable assets also enhanced the borrowing capabilities of the council in relation to delivering capital projects like the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools programme.

This was what was being proposed in relation to the property in Tudor Square.

Cllr. Mrs. Brown thanked Cllr. Evans for clarifying the matter.

**245. TO CONSIDER CANDIDATES FOR CO-OPTION IN RELATION TO THE CASUAL VACANCY ON THE COUNCIL**

The closing date for applications for co-option was 19<sup>th</sup> October 2018 and one application had been received, this applicant, Mrs. Tracey Evans, had applied previously.

Councillors commented that they were delighted that someone had put their name forward and Cllr Evans told Councillors that the candidate works really hard both at Greenhill and at Tenby VC School.

Cllr Brown said all have a right to be involved and considered and we should not delay in making a decision even though only one person had applied.

Cllr Mrs Rossiter wondered why all those who usually have something negative to say about Tenby Town Council have not put themselves forward for Council.

Cllr Mrs Thomas proposed the applicant be co-opted and Cllr Mrs Williams seconded the proposal.

**RESOLVED**

**That Mrs. Tracey Evans be co-opted to fill the vacancy on Tenby Town Council.**

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

The Clerk told Councillors that nothing official had been received by him although he was aware that Cllr Pat Davies was pressing officers to come up with concrete outline proposals.

Cllr Evans told councillors that a report to next Monday's meeting of Cabinet outlined the fact that the land had been sold to the Council's Housing Revenue Account which meant progress could now be made on the delivering of affordable/social housing on the site.

Cllr Evans had also attended a meeting with PCNPA where Cllr. Phil Baker encouraged PCC and the Park to engage in meaningful conversations with a view to bringing the site forward for local housing.

Cllr. Evans added that while PCC, like TTC, contested PCNPA's proposal to remove the site from the next LDP, there had also been an expression of great surprise by WAG that PCNPA were not proposing any sites at all in Tenby in the new LDP.

Tenby is desperate for homes, there are 614 currently on the local housing list, he said. ATEB did have one 2 bed rental and one 3 bed available in Tenby at the moment but he expected that these would be snapped up very quickly.

**247. TO RECEIVE UPDATES ON SOUTH PARADE (IF ANY)**

The Clerk told Councillors that there was no news from Mr Brown but that Sinead Henehan is to help prepare a tender document. The Clerk also told councillors that he had registered with Sell2Wales to broaden the scope of the tender process.

**248. UPDATE ON PLASTIC FREE TENBY INITIATIVES**

Cllr Blackhall was absent from the meeting so the item will be held over to the next meeting.

**249. SIGNAGE AROUND TENBY – CLLR T BROWN**

Cllr Brown acknowledged that the Clerk had been on the case and had a walk about with Simon Barry of PCC to look at the problem of un-licenced advertising signs on fencing, lampposts etc. around the town. The number of signs were quite low on the ground on that day however and it also has to be considered that if the signs are on private land there is very little that can be done. Also to consider is the fact that some of the businesses who advertise only put their signs out during operational hours and take them back in when they are closed.

A number of signs had been removed however.

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

a. Grant Request

A grant request had been received from a young lady living in Sageston looking for financial assistance to travel to Uganda to work on a farm in June 2019. She is currently a student at Pembrokeshire College. Sadly her request was outside of TTC's grant policy but if anyone would like to make a personal contribution, please contact the office for details.

b. NHS 111

NHS Direct Wales Phone 111 is being rolled out on 31<sup>st</sup> October. This is an out of hours GP service for urgent but not life threatening matters.

c. Closure of Tenby Tourist Information Centre

The Clerk explained that, following concerns raised by Cllr. Mrs. Williams over rumours that Tenby Tourist Information Centre was to be closed, he and Cllr. Evans had attended a meeting with PCC officers, Mike Cavanagh and Paul Ashley-Jones, to discuss the matter.

It appeared that the TIC was one of some 29 service areas PCC Cabinet had asked officers to look at under their Transformation plans in a bid to reduce expenditure to help meet a £21 million shortfall in the Authority's budget.

A report of the meeting, and a suggested way forward was before members.

Cllr. Evans felt that the report prepared by the Clerk was an accurate and comprehensive account of the meeting and endorsed the Clerk's suggestion that TTC enter into discussions with PCC as to how TIC provision in the town could be maintained.

While he had been unable to attend the meeting due to another commitment, Cllr Michael Williams advised Councillors that there was a provisional date of 16<sup>th</sup> November for a financial seminar for County Councillors where all suggestions as to how to reduce costs would be considered. Both he and Cllr. Evans would be raising the TIC at that. (Members note – following the meeting Cllr. Williams has advised that the seminar will now take place on 26<sup>th</sup> November).

However, Cllr. Williams was pessimistic as he believes that things are financially dire for PCC and that the Authority is 'in a very dark place'.

Currently Pembrokeshire is being penalised by Central Government and the fact that Pembrokeshire's claim to fame was being the lowest council tax band since 1996 has now left them 30% behind neighbouring authorities, claimed Cllr. Williams. He felt that Pembrokeshire are now in a position where they 'do little

and badly'. He said he had flagged up the growing problem two years ago felt the worst is yet to come.

The current authority have inherited 'a mess' and Cllr Bob Kilmister is doing the best he can to try and sort it out.

Cllr Mrs Thomas asked where PCC expected savings to be made from saved from by closing the TIC, was it staff wages, rates or other building costs?

Cllr Evans did not think things were all as doom and gloom as Cllr. Williams made out and believed that there are opportunities to try and balance the books.

However, he conceded that the pressures of child and adult services were dramatically on the rise and there were more people needing care.

He believed a huge part of the problem is within adult care, local authorities have to bear the costs of people needing care and pick up all the expenses. If there is an influx of people needing care to the area, the council has a statutory duty to provide that care. A great deal of PCC's budget was being taken up on this and other statutory obligations like education and highways.

He acknowledged that TIC provision was not a statutory service but felt that it was needed in Tenby as it was the main tourism hub of the county.

Cllr Mrs Williams asked if Pembrokeshire County Council actually take tourism seriously.

Cllr Mrs Thomas asked what PCC saw for the future of the TIC building if provision was removed. Would it be rented out to a commercial venture?

Cllr Mrs Rossiter felt that so much was spent on the refurbishment that it would be an enormous waste to close the facility.

Cllr Mrs Brown said that closing the TIC would be detrimental to Tenby. She felt that all future enquiries would most likely come to the Town Council, and, while staff here could help in some small part, they did not have the specific training TIC staff had.

Volunteers are very hard to come by and even harder to retain, she added.

Something has to be done said Cllr Evans adding that £750 revenue is generated weekly by the TIC selling parking permits in the summer. It was located in an area that had been enhanced as a destination hub in front of the multi-storey car park which he estimated generated in excess of £500K per annum.

We need to speak to PCC to see how we can help to keep this TIC open. It not only benefited the town but also the surrounding area.

The Clerk asked the county councillors if they were aware as to what the other 28 services areas being looked at may be. Cllr. Evans noted that some were

mentioned in the newspaper cutting attached to the Clerk's report but others would become clearer at the members' seminar.

Cllr Mrs Brown thanked County Councillors for their input adding that TTC must now work with PCC to maintain TIC provision in Tenby.

**RESOLVED**

**That TTC enter into discussions with PCC as a matter of urgency to look at ways in which we may be able to work with the Authority to look at alternatives to the closure of the TIC.**

d. Armistice Day

The Clerk reminded Councillors that this is the last Council meeting before Armistice Day and the arrangements were to meet at the office at 10.30am before walking down to join the rest of the parade at the Hazelwell Club. The Clerk hopes that as many Councillors as possible will attend. Cllr Mrs Williams gave her apologies at this time.

**251. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

**Resolved that the next meeting will take place on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2018 at 7.30pm.**

**252. TO PROPOSE ANY ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA**

None

**253. 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 items to discuss.

Mayor \_\_\_\_\_

Town Clerk \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_