

TENBY TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE TENBY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD
7th JANUARY 2020

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

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

Cllr Michael Williams
Acting Inspector Mike Llewelyn

The Clerk told Councillors that due to a recent bereavement the Mayor would not be in attendance at this evening's meeting and therefore the Deputy Mayor would take the chair.

Cllr Mrs Brown welcomed Insp Llewelyn, Dyfed-Powys Police.

Insp. Llewelyn told councillors that he was stationed in Tenby until the end of March. Operation Lion would again be operating this coming summer. Fridays would now be included and there would be extra staffing in place.

The Inspector explained that in December the Tenby Town to Penally area recorded 27 crimes which was half those recorded in July/August. There were 26 crimes in November as opposed to 44 in 2018 which was a positive step. There have been 4 recorded crimes so far this year. Six of the recorded crimes in December were drink related.

If the council were concerned over any issues please feel free to bring them to his attention.

Cllr Rapi asked if any arrangements had been made to cope with the influx of people for the 6 Nations rugby tournament. Council was told no extra staff had been drafted in along the lines of Operation Lion but no additional leave was being allowed during those times so there would be sufficient police cover.

Cllr Rapi said this was important for the police to monitor and rugby weekends can be busier for business than days in August.

Some businesses experienced record trading, even busier than the summer due to the sheer volume of people coming to Tenby.

Cllr Mrs Brown asked if there was good cooperation with transport police as the street on which she lives lead to the railway station and experiences a lot of trouble. Cllr Mrs Brown said there are PCSOs around but no transport police.

With Operation Lion transport police are drafted in explained the inspector but he is unsure if anything similar is in place historically. He welcomed Cllr. Mrs. Brown's suggestion that the police be supplied with a calendar of dates when major events are taking place in the town.

Cllr Blackhall asked if Operation Lion identified a particular time of day when there were more issues than others. Early evening appears to be the problem time rather than when the licensed premises close commented the inspector who explained that, as a result, Operation Lion was now starting earlier.

Cllr Rapi believes that problem times are between 5 and 7 pm with some serious incidents in St Georges Street last year. The Licensees need to take responsibility as some are supplying to those already intoxicated.

The question was asked if the Police are obliged to report individuals who are drunk coming out of public houses but the inspector said that this was only done if there is concern for their welfare.

Cllr Ronowitz agreed that the problem time appeared to be around 5pm and he employs doormen from 3pm on match days during the Six Nations.

Cllr Rapi said he watches people entering pubs with drinks already in their hands. There were not enough of a police presence he said. By the time a call is made to the police the damage is done.

He claimed that a group of women who already appeared drunk came through the town on Sunday at 3pm. Surely this would be monitored by CCTV, he said. Would it have been acted upon if seen on CCTV? Why are these things happening? Was it reported, he asked.

The inspector said that currently there is a bank of screens being monitored by HQ. Staffing levels for monitoring were under review and hopefully coverage will improve.

However, he felt business owners must take responsibility over not serving people who already appeared intoxicated.

Cllr Mrs Brown felt there were too many outlets for off sales in town which allowed people access to alcohol outside of public house opening hours. She said the opening hours of these premises were ridiculous and supermarkets could still serve alcohol to people who were not allowed into the pubs as they are open late in town. There was also the issue of people 'preloading' before heading out to the pubs.

The inspector commented that all types of premises were still under same obligation to not serve people who were intoxicated.

Councillors felt that cooperation with the licensing trade and more police resources to provide a physical presence was needed.

Cllr Mrs. Skyrme-Blackhall asked how much policing was provided and if there is an increase during busy times but was informed that only Operation Lion sees extra officers drafted in to enhance the existing station complement.

Cllr. Mr. Skyrme-Blackhall felt the mobile police unit in the square was quite a good deterrent and asked if it could return. The inspector said that this could be looked into.

Cllr Rapi asked why café culture allowed outside drinking. It was explained that under café culture each property has a designated area outside which is licensed by the county council. These areas are studded or marked by barriers. It was pointed out that St Georges Street remains a live carriageway.

Members felt that many problems are mainly a direct result of drinking outside premises and it was down to the licensees to take responsibility.

Cllr. Ronowitz pointed out that the town's door staff now had a system in place whereby any trouble makers could be photographed and circulated through a WhatsApp group to warn colleagues at other premises.

311. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES

Apologies received from the Mayor, Cllr Mrs Lane, Cllr Morgan and Cllr Evans.

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

Cllr Mrs Rossiter declared interest in item 13.

313. 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.

314. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Resolved that the Minutes of the Tenby Town Council meeting held 10th December 2019 be amended as follows:

Page 151 Item 297b Tenby in Bloom in title be renamed Paragon Gardens Project, and

Page 154 item 298c the resolution to include that trees removed be replaced by broadleaf species and confirmed and signed as accurate.

315. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES FOR INFORMATION ONLY

a. Page 158 Item 306

Cllr Blackhall, whilst he understands that the Director of Education's Mrs Kate Evans-Hughes is moving on to pastures new, enquired as to whether a response had been received from her or Mr McGovern, headmaster of Ysgol Greenhill School. The Clerk confirmed that no response had been received from either but the long Christmas break was being taken into account.

Cllr Mrs Evans said that she, in her capacity as a Governor, would be meeting with the headmaster of Ysgol Greenhill School on Thursday and would follow up on the letter.

316. TO DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND TO AGREE ACTION IN RESPONSE TO PROPOSALS:

- a. NP/19/0619/ADV – Replacement of 2 existing external ATM signs with 2 new external ATM signs – HSBC Bank, Tudor Square, Tenby

Cllr Blackhall said he was slightly confused as there appeared to be, on both the existing plans and the proposed plans, 2 ATMs when at the moment there is only one. A second machine would be fantastic he commented, adding that it is good that HSBC are investing in its frontage. This signalled that they were making an ongoing commitment to the town which was very positive. Cllr Rapi proposed accepting the application and Cllr Ronowitz seconded.

RECOMMEND

Approval. Although members were slightly confused by the plans that showed two ATM's existing where there is only one, they welcome the fact that the bank is continuing to show its commitment to Tenby and considered against all the policies of the LDP feel that the proposals are in keeping with the area.

317. TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING ITEMS OF CORRESPONDENCE AND GREE ACTION IN RESPONSE TO PROPOSALS:

- a. Mr Miguel Llama – Public Piano

Cllr Hallett asked who would provide and look after the piano. Members felt the market is the only suitable public location in Tenby as a piano could risk vandalism if not in a place that was supervised. PCC would therefore need to be consulted along with the traders in the market.

Cllr Rapi asked that we write to PCC and send letter of support to Mr Llama. It is a good idea he added but we have no authority over the market. Cllr Ronowitz seconded the proposal.

RESOLVED

That, while TTC write to Mr. Llama supporting the idea, PCC be contacted to see if they would consider the market as a possible location.

b. Sarah Worby, PCC – Budget Engagement Sessions

Councillors discussed the proposed Budget Engagement Sessions noting that 2 will be live on Facebook and the third will be a public forum.

Councillors noted the information.

c. Mr Darren Thomas, PCC – Community Works Grant Scheme

Cllr Rapi having had a read through the correspondence said that it appears this may be a way to get projects undertaken that TTC are not happy with. This could provide us with funding for infrastructure and small highways schemes.

The Clerk indicated that he had written to Cllr Baker, cabinet member with responsibility for infrastructure for clarification on certain issues but it would appear the more money that TTC put in, the more TTC are likely receive funding.

Cllr Rapi suggested inviting Cllr Baker to come and chat about how the systems works so that TTC may take advantage of the scheme for our town. Cllr Mrs Brown seconded the proposal adding that TTC need to know where and when they would like things to happen. There is so much TTC would like to do.

Cllr Blackhall asked if this scheme could be used to improve pavements, being a highway issue, as he was thinking of the South Parade. It could also be used to improve signage or possibly clearing all current signage which was often confusing. There are a number of questions to ask.

RESOLVED

That Cllr. Baker, cabinet member with responsibility for infrastructure be invited to attend the next available meeting of TTC to outline the Community Works Grant Scheme in more detail.

d. Ben Blake, PCC – Parking issues around Tudor Way and Heywood Lane schools

Cllr Rossiter believes this is a catch 22 situation, when the weather is nice people will walk, when the weather is bad then it is a different story. However, she felt that it doesn't always make a difference as it appears totally chaotic – and she did not know what the answer is.

Cllr Mrs Evans agreed with Cllr Mrs Rossiter adding that it is absolute chaos and she also does not have the answers. Kerb blips may work at the entrance to St David's Close and Tudor Way but Mr Blake's suggestion with regard to the car park she feels would make the situation worse and possibly endanger lives.

Cllr Ronowitz suggested staff could use Serpentine Road to relieve pressure on the car park, 60% of spaces taken be employees of school and he felt the staff could walk that extra distance to their workplace. Young children cannot simply

be left to walk in on their own and leaving school could prove dangerous if children are looking for their parent's car. Employees could park elsewhere as their equipment could easily be carried.

Cllr Rapi sympathises but staff have to park, and should be able to park outside their place of work. Cllr Rapi said a child of 6 cannot just be left to find their parents and using Serpentine Road would just mean that the pressures will be felt elsewhere.

He believed that this matter could be sorted easily if there was more time allowed between let out times at the two schools. He suggested that staggering start and finish times is the only way around the matter he believes.

The rugby club ground cannot be considered for parking as there is no pathway to the schools along Heywood Lane, he added.

Cllr Mrs Evans confirmed that Cllr Rapi was a governor of Hafan y Mor and suggested that he bring this matter up with them. Cllr Rapi said that he had previously mentioned it to schools and also for that matter to Director of Education.

Cllr Rossiter said this could be a problem if children are at different schools, staggering the times may not be practical. Moving cars to Serpentine Road is not the answer either she said, they have enough problems already.

Cllr Ronowitz said that while Cllr. Rapi's proposal could seem a great idea, by 2 pm bays are full as parents turn up an hour before school finishes just to ensure they secure a parking place. If cars are pushed further away, then children will have better access.

Cllr Rapi believes this situation is only going to get worse as Hafan y Mor is growing rapidly, attracting children not only from Tenby but from all over the area. Another 20 went on role at the start of the year and this matter cannot be ignored. We need to have a go he said.

Suggestion was made over the possibility of creating additional car parking but it was pointed out that there is very little room behind the schools to facilitate this.

Cllr Hallett said buses need clear run as Serpentine Road becomes blocked, so this suggestion was impractical.

Cllr Rapi felt his suggestion is the only way forward. Cllr. Blackhall felt that an additional idea would be to encourage car sharing or maybe a significant campaign to promote walking and 'walking buses'. Walking home under supervision in something that has worked previously and is environmentally better.

Cllr Rapi proposed suggesting a larger time gap for end of day with Hafan y Mor closing at 2.55 pm Tenby Church in Wales at 3.15 pm. Cllr. Mrs. Evans seconded.

RESOLVED

That the Clerk respond to Mr Blake suggesting that the school closure times be staggered at the end of the day with Hafan y Mor closing at 2.55 pm Tenby Church in Wales at 3.15 pm.

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

Cllr Mrs Brown noted there is £50K to spend before March and said that we should get on and spend it. Cllr Hallett proposed accepting the accounts and Cllr Mrs Brown seconded the proposal also thanking the Clerk for all his hard work once again.

RESOLVED

That the accounts for December (including scheduled payments, unpresented cheques, receipts, account balances, budget monitoring to date and bank reconciliations) be approved.

319. TO CONFIRM THE BUDGET FOR 2019-2020 AND SET THE PRECEPT FIGURE

Cllr Blackhall asked for clarification of being able to finally set the precept due to the fact that PCC had yet to set theirs. The Clerk commented that we are in this position every year and confirmed that we have until Friday to submit our figures to PCC. Cllr Blackhall said it must be difficult for the Clerk to accurately set the precept until PCCs budget is set as this can impact our plans

He added that the budget has been considered by the Finance Working Party and approved at the last meeting of council.

Cllr Mrs Rossiter said she was not at the meeting but felt that members had obviously gone into financial matters in great depth. Cllr Blackhall said that the Working Party's proposals gave a flexibility in budget heads to allow money to be moved over to large projects such as the skate park if necessary.

He proposed that the budget be confirmed and the precept be agreed on the basis of the figures laid out. Cllr Mrs Rossiter seconded the proposal.

RESOLVED

That the Council's budget for 2020/21 be confirmed and Pembrokeshire County Council be notified that the precept requirement would be £197,734.07.

Cllr Mrs Brown abstained from voting.

320. TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING GRANT REQUESTS AND AGREE ACTION IN RESPONSE TO PROPOSAL:

a. Kelly John, PCC – Play Inc (Tenby)

Cllr Mrs Brown believes that this is a wonderful project and has already been set up. She proposed giving a £500 grant to assist with rent costs as it is such a brilliant scheme. This is grant money which will be going into reserves if not used. Cllr Mrs Skyrme-Blackhall seconded the proposal.

RESOLVED

That under Section 19 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 a contribution of £500 be made towards room rental costs for the project.

321. TO RECEIVE REPORTS BY COUNCILLORS ON OUTSIDE BODIES

De Valence Pavilion and Skate Park

Cllr Mrs Brown told councillors that both had applied for grants to undertake planned projects.

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

Coverage of New Year's Eve in the square by the Tenby Observer was very good commented Cllr. Mrs. Rossiter. Thanks should be given to Lesley Fisher and family of Tenby House Hotel because, without their tremendous support and input, there would be no NYE celebrations. A letter of thanks was proposed by Cllr. Mrs. Rossiter and Cllr Hallett seconded the proposal.

Cllr. Blackhall felt that congratulations were also due to the Tenby Sea Swimmers Association, organisers of the Boxing Day Swim. This was its 49th year, there are plans already afoot for next year and they are keen to encourage new members.

Cllr Hallett also thanked PCC for the tremendous clean up after the New Year's Eve celebration.

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

The Clerk told councillors that he had yet to receive a response from a request for a meeting with the new Cabinet Member for Housing. Cllr. Blackhall asked if this could be pursued.

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

The Clerk had nothing to report. Cllr. Mrs Brown felt that there should be a full discussion on this at the next meeting. The Regeneration Team seems to have ceased and we need to make some progress. Cllr Blackhall had intentions for a Regeneration meeting but unfortunately it has not been possible to arrange to date. He was happy for the Parade to be discussed more fully at the next meeting. Cllr Hallett believes that the public should be consulted on any plans for the South Parade.

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

a. Licensing Applications

The Clerk explained that he had been made aware of two licensing applications relating to Tenby. Consultation on one was due to close before the date of the next meeting.

Cllr. Blackhall proposed that the applications be considered this evening, with Cllr. Hallett seconding.

Cllr Mrs Rossiter and Cllr. Ronowitz declared an interest and withdrew from the meeting.

On George's, George Street, Tenby

No objection. Cllr Rapi proposed and Cllr Mrs Brown seconded.

RESOLVED

That, as members have no objections to the proposal, no representation be made to the licensing authority.

Bar 10, St George Street, Tenby

The Clerk told councillors that part of the application assures that noise levels will be monitored and doors/windows kept closed.

Cllr. Rapi said that he understood PCC are aware of issues relating to this premises in St George Street. The music is loud as doors are not kept closed and children/people feel intimidated walking by. At the very least a porch was required to prevent the spillage of noise and patrons onto the street.

There have been sound complaints lodged, he claimed

Cllr Hallett feels they should stick to their existing licence as any extension could lead to problems in the early hours.

The Clerk pointed out that, based on previous experience, concerns about the potential likelihood of increased disturbance were not valid enough grounds if the applicant could demonstrate how they planned to mitigate against this.

Cllr Rapi felt TTC should be honest and realistic and, in his opinion, the applicants were not ready to cope with a later licence yet based on problems allegedly already being experienced.

The Clerk said he has not been made aware of any issues relating to late night disturbance and there had been no complaints of this nature to his knowledge.

There had been historical issues which appeared to have been resolved by another licensed premises in the street having its hours reduced. There had also been complaints from retailers relating to issues in the early evening on Saturdays during the summer but these were being addressed by the police under Operation Lion.

Cllr Blackhall felt that the impact on crime and disorder and public nuisance are the most relevant points here. The Clerk said that the applicant proposed to control these matters with doormen. Members questioned the legal requirement for doorman and were informed that while they used to be legally required now there is no stipulation. It is down to licensing authority conditioning or the discretion of the licensee.

Cllr Rapi reiterated that he felt the owners were not ready to operate a licence until 1.30 am and that there was evidence of noise nuisance and public disorder already lodged with County Hall. He added that PCC had a noise app that people could download whereby they could submit noise issues directly to County Hall. TTC would therefore be unaware of any ongoing issues.

Cllr Whitehurst felt that the most salient point to consider was Section 1.16 of the licensing act which related to the impact of proposals on the character of the area. There was no other establishment on the street with a licence to the time requested.

Cllr Blackhall said that TTC can make an objection and residents in the area could do so also if they were concerned about the proposals. There were a record number of public objections when another local premises wanted to extend their licence to 4am.

He felt TTC could submit our thoughts to licencing in that we disagree with extended hours as these would be the only premises with such a licence in the street and it could have a detrimental impact on the character of the area and the licensing objectives in relation to crime and disorder, public safety and public nuisance.

Cllr Hallett asked if we will have to attend the licensing authority meeting and the Clerk said that TTC may be invited to attend to support any letter of objection.

RESOLVED

That TTC write to the licensing authority objecting to the variation as this would result in the only late licence in the street and could therefore have a detrimental impact on the character and amenity of the area in relation to upholding the licensing objectives regarding crime and disorder, public protection and public nuisance.

Cllr Mrs Rossiter and Cllr. Ronowitz re-joined the meeting.

b. DVP Trust Letter

The Clerk had received a letter from David Jones of the DVP Trust to say that they were applying to the Enhancing Pembrokeshire Fund for further enhancements to facilities at the Pavilion and could they please have a letter in support. Cllr Blackhall proposed a letter in support and Cllr Hallett seconded the proposal.

RESOLVED

That the Clerk write a letter of support to the Trust on behalf of the Council.

c. Child's Beach Wheelchair

PCNPA were looking into the feasibility of a loan scheme for child adapted beach wheelchairs. The plan was for a pilot scheme with local schools and youth clubs. The service would be free and PCNPA were hoping to get funding from Welsh Government for a fleet of chairs to be used throughout the area.

326. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved that the next meeting will take place on Tuesday, 14th January 2020 at 6pm to meet with Sinead Henehan and Helen Mcleod-Baikie, of Pembrokeshire County Council to discuss Tenby TIC.

327. TO PROPOSE ANY ITEM FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

None proposed.

328. 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"

329. TO CONFIRM THE PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES OF THE TENBY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD 10TH DECEMBER 2019

Resolved that the Private and Confidential Minutes of the Tenby Town Council meeting held 10th December 2019 be confirmed and signed as accurate.

Mayor

Town Clerk

Date
