

**TENBY TOWN COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE TENBY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD**  
**8<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2019**

**PRESENT:** Councillor Mrs S Lane Mayor  
Councillor Mrs C Brown  
Councillor Mr W Crockford  
Councillor Mr L Blackhall  
Councillor Mr P Rapi  
Councillor Mr T Brown  
Councillor Mr M Evans  
Councillor Mrs S Skyrme-Blackhall  
Councillor Mrs T Evans

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

**309. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES**

Apologies received from Cllr Mrs Rossiter, Cllr Mrs Williams and Cllr Hallett.

The Clerk told Councillors that he had received the following letter of resignation from Mrs Caroline Thomas:

*A new year is a time for reflection and of thoughts for the future and, after much deliberation and soul searching over recent weeks, I would like to tender my resignation as a member of Tenby Town Council with immediate effect.*

*I first joined the council in 1987 and I have thoroughly enjoyed every minute I have spent representing the people of Tenby, particularly on the two occasions when I was given the privilege of serving as Mayor.*

*I feel this experience has taught me a lot, not only about the town and its wonderful people, but also about myself. It has given me insight and skills I have never before used and knowledge I will carry with me for life.*

*I would like to thank you, all councillors and council staff past and present and all the representatives from all the public bodies and local organisations I have met along the way for their friendship and courtesy during my time as councillor.*

*Again this has not been an easy decision to make, but after a lot of thought, I feel I must now make way to allow someone else who has more time to devote to have the opportunity of working alongside you all to look after the best interests of Tenby and its people.*

*With my very best wishes for the future.*

The Mayor replied:

*I first became friends with Caroline at the polling station in 1987 and we quickly became two of Denzil's Dollies and firm friends. Caroline has worked tirelessly for Tenby and Tenby Town Council for 32 years.*

*She is known as 'a worker' 'a doer'. During her time on Council she has managed to run her family business and she supported her late husband John 'Yobbler' Thomas in his post as Town Crier, they successfully travelled the world as Ambassadors for the town winning competitions including best dressed couple.*

*Caroline has been involved with the Health Authority from day one, starting off on the Friends of Tenby Cottage Hospital back in 1988. It is down to her persistence that we in Tenby have the input from the NHS that she feels we need and deserve.*

*Caroline has held the office of Mayor twice. She is passionate, honest and caring, not forgetting sensible and a true stalwart to this Council and Tenby. We will miss you Caroline but quite understand your time is now for you and your family.*

*I hope that when we advertise this latest position Council that we find someone with the same commitment and dedication that Caroline has given for the past 32 years since 1987.*

*Thank you Caroline.*

Cllr Blackhall wished to endorse all that had been said by the Mayor saying that when Cllr Mrs Thomas got to her feet to speak, all listened. She was such a knowledgeable Councillor and one of the ablest members of Council, a past advocate for the Health Services in Tenby and he was grateful for all that she has given including the kindness shown. She was a truly a fantastic Councillor who would be missed.

The Clerk asked if all were happy for the process to be put in motion in order to fill the casual vacancy.

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

Cllr Rapi informed Councillors that in Item 8c Webcasting of Standards Committee Hearings consultation that he was in fact the Chair for this. He would therefore not take part in any decision vote but would be able to explain the matter to Councillors.

Cllr Rapi also declared his interest in Item 16 as he is the Chair for the Tenby DVP Trust.

Cllr Mrs Brown and Cllr Brown also declared their interests in Item 16.

**311. 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 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.**

**312. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

**Resolved that the Minutes of the Tenby Town Council meeting held 11<sup>th</sup> December 2018 be confirmed and signed as accurate.**

**313. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

There were no matters arising.

**314. TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND TO AGREE ACTION IN RESPONSE TO PROPOSALS**

- a. NP/18/0734/FUL – Conversion of existing car port to a bedroom with en suite facilities – new dwelling, Noe Acre, Gas Lane, Tenby

Cllr Crockford believes it would look far better and proposed accepting the application, Cllr Mrs Brown seconded the proposal.

**RECOMMEND**

**Approval. Considered against all the relevant policies within the LDP members feel this will improve the appearance of the building and have no objections to this proposal.**

- b. NP/18/0734/FUL – Dormer extension to western elevation, insertion of 6 rooflights for loft conversion to eastern elevation – Shalom, 40 Lady Park, Tenby

Cllr Rapi proposed accepting the proposal and Cllr Brown seconded the application.

**RECOMMEND**

**Approval. Considered against all the relevant policies within the LDP members feel this will not have an adverse effect on neighbouring properties and have no objections to this proposal.**

**315. TO DISCUSSING THE FOLLOWING ITEMS OF PLANNING CORRESPONDENCE AND AGREE ACTION IN RESPONSE TO PROPOSALS:**

- a. Tenby Civic Society – Comments on NP/18/0734 and NP/18/0728

Noted.

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

a. Tyla Robinson – Saving our Oceans, One Beach at a Time

The Mayor suggested that this be forwarded on to the Plastic Free Tenby Group. Whilst on the subject she had seen on Facebook fish shaped waste bins for the beach which encourage children to dispose of their plastic waste and proposed that Pembrokeshire Engineering and a couple of other firms be approached to quote for producing something similar, perhaps one for each beach to start.

Cllr Evans felt that this was be something that the Enhancing Pembrokeshire Fund may be very interested in supporting. The Mayor hoped that something may be in place for this coming summer. Cllr Brown seconded the proposal.

**RESOLVED**

**That Miss Robinson’s letter be passed on to Plastic Free Tenby for consideration and that TTC investigate the provision of sculpture bins for plastic waste collection on the town’s beaches.**

b. Marion Davies – Copy of e-mail to PCC regarding Tenby TIC

Cllr Mrs Brown thought this was an excellent letter encompassing all that needed to be said. Hopefully we could take this forward with help from the community. There had been a meeting yesterday with Paul Ashley-Jones, the minutes of which were on the table.

Cllr Mrs Brown struggled to see how donating £20k to a business like LCW is acceptable when this is half of the money needed to keep the TIC open in town. Tenby has the most beds in Pembrokeshire, the biggest bed space in the County. Support must be given to Tenby’s TIC, although perhaps it needs reinventing with the introduction of more sales to generate income.

TTC were, she added, looking for ideas on how to fund if PCC could not be convinced to retain and fund the facility.

She felt that it was a poor meeting as information had to be dragged out of PAJ. She did however make sure that the point was made that TIC does generate income and to this he conceded.

She wondered if more could be done at the TIC to make it a customer service centre for the area but the Clerk pointed out that part of the proposed efficiency savings included a proposal to close all customer service points throughout Pembrokeshire.

Cllr Mrs Brown would like the hoteliers, restaurateurs and publicans to join TTC in a meeting.

The Mayor and Clerk have now collated numbers on bed spaces and visitor numbers and we need to push for a public meeting inviting all businesses that benefit from the TIC.

Cllr. Mrs. Brown added that perhaps the reformation of the Hotel and Restaurant Association was needed to help press the case as this is such an important issue for Tenby and Pembrokeshire.

The Mayor told Councillors that at the meeting Cllr Mrs Evans had brought up the subject of a possible tourist tax like in other EU tourist areas, this tax being collected by Local Authorities to cover the costs of additional demands on services brought about by the large influx of visitors.

The Clerk said a number of areas of tax had been considered by Welsh Government following devolution of some tax raising powers and a tourism tax was something that they had mooted.

However, an informal poll by WG indicated that 63% of the sector had been against the idea so we have no idea if this will go forward.

The UK Government would have to allow the Welsh Government to impose such a tax. Elsewhere Bath is considering seeking permission to impose a tourism tax as is Birmingham, for a levy specifically for Commonwealth Games 2022. Cllr Mrs Evans, through her research, had found that Oxford and Edinburgh have also considered introducing tourist tax.

One additional thing to consider is that VAT in certain EU areas is less than VAT in the UK – in some places up to 50% less – and this could make the UK less competitive. Cllr Evans thanked the Clerk for the information.

He wondered if PCC take tourism seriously even though the direct income to Pembrokeshire Economy is £600 million.

The Mayor said that apologies were given by PAJ that the Tourism Officer was unable to attend, but she commented that we had never seen a tourism officer despite a number of requests for a meeting over the years.

However Cllr Evans told Councillors that this department has been cut relentlessly over time, although it did appear to do better each time their resources were cut.

The Mayor acknowledged that PCC had so many other pressures but they needed to know how serious we are that the TIC needs to be saved where it is. Currently it stands at the gateway to Tenby and the rest of the county, surely they must see the tie in or don't they see tourism as important.

Cllr Evans felt the proposal was purely financial, an attempt to help plug so many holes caused by the drain on resources by adult and child care services.

Cllr Mrs Brown asked why give £20k to one private business when they knew this proposal was coming along the line. £45k for the TIC would appear to be little by comparison – surely it is from the same pot.

Cllr Evans said that there are funds available from Welsh Government to support international events including £3/4 million available for cycling events.

This funding would only be able to be drawn down by those willing to spend so support of LCW and Ironman could be seen as spending money to gain money.

Cllr Mrs Brown remarked that the £45k in question was actually predominantly salary costs – the staff are knowledgeable employees who are well deserving of their salary and were the backbone of TIC provision in the town.

Cllr Mrs. Evans added that, of the £600 million brought to the Pembrokeshire economy by tourism, this is 0.01% which is a small amount for such a huge pay back. Tenby is the busiest tourist town in Wales.

Volunteers are unfortunately very hard to find. Her biggest worry was the shortness of time and that maybe the decision has already been made.

The Mayor said we should stall as much as possible, asking that a decision be held over until a solution can be found. She added that any councillor who has anything to add to these comments should please approach the Clerk.

PCC need to understand, even have it explained to them, that the Tourist Information Centre is not just for Tenby but for the whole of Pembrokeshire County, she stressed.

Cllr Mrs Brown felt that this is not solely the responsibility of TTC to fight this but for all local businesses, hotels, guest houses, pubs and restaurants who will benefit or be affected by the loss of Tenby's TIC. TTC needed to call a meeting, we alone cannot have this on our shoulders.

Cllr Mrs Brown proposed requesting a meeting inviting all to get involved. Cllr Mrs Evans seconded the proposal.

## **RESOLVED**

**That TTC write to PPC asking that they reconsider their proposal to close Tenby TIC. Further that hotel, guest house, restaurant and public house proprietors in the town be invited to a meeting to discuss the situation.**

c. PCC – Webcasting of Standards Committee Hearings consultation

Cllr Rapi explained the reasoning behind this consultation and asked that all Councillors carefully consider that, if they were in a hearing being recorded for broadcasting, how happy would they feel about being questioned in a very detailed and thorough manner for all to see and hear.

After some debate the Mayor proposed Tenby Town Council inform Pembrokeshire County Council that they would not be in support of the webcasting of Standard Committee hearings and Cllr Mrs Evans seconded

Upon voting it was 4 for and 3 against. Cllrs Rapi and Evans abstained.

### **RESOLVED**

**That Tenby Town Council inform Pembrokeshire County Council that they would not be in support of the webcasting of Standard Committee hearings.**

d. PCC – 2019-2020 Budget Consultation

Cllr Blackhall declared a personal not prejudicial interest.

Cllr Mrs Brown asked if this was to be completed jointly as a Council or individually – given the strength of feeling for some issues, especially that of the TIC at Section 2 members felt that they could submit their own responses as well as a collective response.

The Clerk pointed out that, in Section 5, mention was made of a possible efficiency saving through a reduction in street cleansing. He had been in touch with Cllr Bob Kilmister to try and draw out more details as to what this proposal will mean. Cllr Kilmister has responded to say that he has asked Mr Richard Brown to provide details. The Mayor felt this matter needed to be followed up, adding that TTC need to be kept informed.

e. Welsh Government – Community and Town Council update December 2018

Cllr Blackhall commented that this work had been going on for some time and would most likely be further informed by another change in minister. However, he noted that Welsh Government identify funding to support councils in ways in which they can be developed. He offered to meet with the Clerk to possibly bid in to resources that may be available.

Cllr Blackhall also noted that further work was being looked into on dual hatted councillors. The suggestion is County Councillors will not be able to also serve as town Councillors but would have a duty to attend town/community council meetings in an ex-officio capacity.

f. Save Brynhir Greenspace and Wildlife Group – Invitation to meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2019

The Mayor asked if any Councillors would be in a position to attend. Cllr Rapi commented that each person has a personal thought on this matter but if one is to attend it must be as a representative of the Town Council to represent the views of the Town Council.

Cllr Evans added that no one at all would wish to see harm to the wildlife/green space and ecological concerns would be considered by law. However it is important to understand that TTC have long supported the building of social and affordable housing and this area has been in the NPCPA's LDP for residential development for over 20 years.

Of course we are more than willing to discuss the proposed development and the concerns of the group but we have a collective ideal.

Cllr Blackhall said he would happily go but it may clash with a course he is currently attending. However he would be more than willing to meet with representatives of the group at another time. There is a need for affordable and social housing in town and this site presents the best opportunity to deliver it.

It was agreed that Cllr Evans and the Clerk would attend to outline Council's position.

**317. 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**

The Clerk confirmed that the hire rate of Augustus Place Community Centre had now increased. The Mayor asked how the work was coming along and the Clerk told Councillors that the inside had been completed and now it was a case of waiting for suitable weather for the outside. Cllr Brown proposed accepting and Cllr Mrs Brown seconded the proposal.

**RESOLVED**

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

**318. TO CONFIRM THE BUDGET FOR 2019 – 2020 AND SET THE PRECEPT FIGURE**

All Councillors agreed to accept the Budget for the next financial year however the Clerk wished to raise an item in private that he felt was pertinent to possible forthcoming changes by Pembrokeshire County Council which may have an impact on projections. He requested that the matter be considered in private in the first instance as nothing was confirmed and may require negotiations with PCC.

**RESOLVED**

**That the Town Council budget for 2019-2020 be confirmed and a precept requirement of £183,835.23 be notified to Pembrokeshire County Council.**



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

**DE VALENCE PAVILION**

Cllr Mrs Brown told councillors that the run up to Christmas had been very busy and since Christmas the De Valence had staged a Panto, Welsh Wrestling, a children's film and this evening Films4Tenby were in once again. A lot of these are community events and do not always bring a huge amount of money in but the Trust feel these events are good for the town.

Work is to commence on the upstairs bar and also the sound and lighting equipment is to be moved downstairs, this will be quite a substantial cost, possibly in the region of £25k. Hopefully this work will be completed in time for the next set of events, one of which is Rhod Gilbert.

**SKATE PARK**

Cllr Mrs Brown told Councillors that there had not been a recent Skate Park meeting due to the busy lead up to Christmas but that one has been planned for the near future.

**MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS**

The Mayor told Councillors that she had attended the New York Welsh Christmas Party in New York which had been an absolutely fantastic evening, even meeting old friends from Tenby! Arriving back from the trip she had immediately attended the Rotary Christmas dinner at the Fourcroft which was, as ever, a wonderful night, thank you to the Rotary club.

The Christmas festivities day had been absolutely fantastic. Thank you to all the services who took part and made the day so special.

On Christmas Eve the Mayor had visited residential homes in Tenby and it had been wonderful to see some familiar faces.

The Boxing Day swim had been excellent with record breaking numbers.

On New Year's Eve she had been a guest of the Tenby House Hotel and it had been a fantastic evening. A video taken from the balcony showing the number of people in Tudor Square that she had shared had 15.5k views and another video by the Tenby House had received 65k views which is all good for the town. She congratulated Lesley and Eric and all at the Tenby House Hotel who had done such a good job.

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

None noted.

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

No further updates apart from the invite which had been received and discussed earlier in the meeting.

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

The holes had now been filled and maybe it was time to start looking at permanent planters on those spots said the Mayor. Cllr Rapi asked if the pavement has been done yet. He was informed that no major work had been carried out. The Mayor wondered if perhaps use could be made of planters not currently being used by PCC. Cllr Mrs Brown said planters were great but perhaps not permanent ones in light of TTC's goals of the Parade being eventually enhanced and the town walls lit-up. A visit to the depot in Templeton to see what we could make use of would be good, suggested the Mayor.

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

Nothing further at this time but a meeting would soon be organised and the date and time would be in the Tenby Observer.

**324. TO CONSIDER ALLOWING THE TENBY DVP TRUST ACCESS TO THE TOWN COUNCIL'S CONSULTANCY FEES AND SPECIAL PROJECTS SUPPORT FUND TO ENABLE IT TO MAZIMISE GRANT FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS AND ENHANCEMENTS – CLLR MIKE EVANS**

Cllrs Mrs Brown, Rapi and Brown left the chamber.

Cllr Evans told Councillors that with the community asset aims of the Trust he is proposing to allow the Trust to tap in to the fund which will assist them with the process of applications for grant funding for building improvements. Cllr Blackhall seconded the proposal.

**RESOLVED**

**That the DVP Trust be allowed to access the fund on application to the Council.**

Cllrs Mrs Brown, Rapi and Brown returned to the chamber.

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

a. PCNPA – LDP Focussed Changes Consultation

The Clerk told Councillors that the LDP was almost finalised, this consultation was just a case of corrections and amendments. Could Councillors please have a look and pass on any comments they may have.

b. PCC – LDP

While Tenby was in the National Park and governed by their LDP, PCC's LDP is also progressing. One particular element that may have quite an impact on Tenby is the number of candidate sites being considered in neighbouring areas such as New Hedges and Penally. PCC have workshops on their candidate sites taking place on 14<sup>th</sup> January at Prendergast between 2pm and 4pm and on 21<sup>st</sup> January in Conference Room 1, County Hall between 5.30pm and 7.30pm. He asked if any member would like to attend. Cllr. Blackhall indicated that he would try to attend one of the two dates.

c. Service Providers

The Clerk had received an email from Marc Owen at PCC who had said that the matter could not be taken further unless there was evidence of problems which had to be received by 14<sup>th</sup> December 2018. Not a single piece of evidence had been received to date and Mr. Owen was putting out another call for evidence which could assist in deciding whether the introduction of a byelaw would be appropriate in dealing with the issue. Cllr. Evans asked if the Clerk could inform those who had attended the meeting with Mr Owen last year about the situation, requesting a response.

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

**Resolved that the next meeting will take place on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2019.**

Cllr Evans gave his apologies for the meeting to be held on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2019 as he will be unable to attend.

**327. TO PROPOSE ANY ITEMS 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 8<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2019**

**Resolved that the Private and Confidential Minutes of the Tenby Town Council meeting held 8<sup>th</sup> January 2019 be confirmed and signed as accurate.**