

TENBY TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE TENBY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD
26th NOVEMBER 2019

PRESENT: Cllr T Brown Mayor
Cllr L Blackhall
Cllr M Ronowitz
Cllr Mrs S Lane
Cllr Mrs T Rossiter
Cllr Mrs S Skyrme-Blackhall
Cllr D Morgan
Cllr Mrs T Evans
Cllr T Hallett

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

274. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Cllr Mrs Brown, Cllr Rapi and Cllr Whitehurst.

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

Cllr Mrs Rossiter declared interest in item 9.

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 TO AGREE ITEMS OF CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMITTEE MINUTES OTHER THAN THOSE MARKED NOT FOR PUBLICATION BEING GIVEN TO MEMBERS OF THE PRESS PRESENT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

RESOLVED

That items of Correspondence and Committee Minutes other than those items marked Not for Publication be given to members of the Press present.

277. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Resolved that the Minutes of the Tenby Town Council meeting held 12th November 2019 be amended at item 267d to be amended at the Resolution to read:

That TTC commit to include expenditure on the Town's floral displays in their budget for 2020/2021 at this year's budget level and enter into negotiations with suppliers

Then be confirmed and signed as accurate.

278. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES FOR INFORMATION ONLY

a. Page 127 Item 260 – Planning Applications

Comments had been received from PCNPA and Mr Scourfield was minded to grant permission, subject to any development not taking place before an engineer's report is submitted. Cllr Blackhall said this was incredibly helpful but he is still concerned as to the stability of North Beach/Walk. He felt that a decision on this application should go out to elected members at PCNPA. He understood the officer recommendation to consider reports by engineers before making decision but he felt that this application was in too sensitive a location to be delegated to an officer decision alone. Cllr Hallett commented that North Cliff is on the Ritec Fault and much needs to be taken into consideration. Cllr Blackhall proposed that we ask for the application to be referred to PCNPA's Development Management committee for determination. Cllr Mrs Lane seconded the proposal.

RESOLVED

That the application be referred to PCNPA's Development Management committee for determination.

b. Page 128 Item 262 – Outside Bodies

The Clerk asked that a letter received by TTC in relation to appointment to one of the Outside Bodies be moved into private for consideration.

c. Page 128 Item 261 - Accounts

The Mayor wished to explain that the buffet had been ordered, made up on the morning of the event and this had to be paid for. The decision was made to cancel at 3pm as rain was forecast to be in by 4pm. Phone calls were made to the various interested parties and rather than walking down to the fair and risk getting wet all were in agreement with the cancellation. Food was distributed to stall holders at the De Valence and then brought down to the Green. There was very little waste.

d. Page 129 Item 264 – Personal Hygiene Waste

The Clerk told councillors that he had received a reply from Mr Richard Brown of PCC as follows:

In terms of the AHP collections with the purple bags, there are a couple of options to improve the discreetness of the service. Individuals can leave their bags in a container or bin (including seagull proof bags) as long as they notify us what to look out for. We can also do a collection from on their property to prevent them having to place in open view on the kerbside. The vehicles we normally use for the service are not marked up in any way as waste vehicles either.

If anyone has a specific concern, please ask them to contact us and we can hopefully come up with a solution appropriate to their circumstance.

Cllr Mrs Rossiter had noted that the collection vehicle was subtly unmarked and felt this was good. The response answered a lot of people's questions.

e. Page 134 Item 267d – Tenby in Bloom

A recent meeting had taken place with Mr. Neil McCarthy and Cllr Mrs Lane explained that PCC were looking to make cut backs to the gardens.

Man power is so low, PCC is not doing as much as it would like to do. She thought that the meeting had been to look at how to cut back on flower beds in gardens but the case is that PCC were looking at two gardens not being planted with bedding plants at all next summer. The idea was for Gilroy Gardens to have the flower border taken out and grassed and all bedding removed from the Paragon Gardens. The tiered bedding is difficult to tend as it is awkward to get to with such limited manpower.

Cllr. Mrs Lane said that at the last meeting she had suggested a cast iron war memorial bench near the Cenotaph but she now felt that perhaps we could adapt that idea to create a Remembrance Garden on the top level of the Paragon.

We could remove the beds, re-pave the area and install a World War 2 memorial seat around the tree. We could even look at the possibility of interpretation boards explaining the contribution Tenby Harbour community made during the evacuation of Dunkirk and provide a picnic bench.

There was still the question over the 3 tier bed in the bottom section. PCC felt that it could be a danger if left open. At the moment people did not climb over the tiers due to the bedding plants. This protection would be lost and could result in accidents. A scheme was needed which would require no maintenance or the gate could be locked to that part of the Paragon for safety.

Support from the council was sought to work with the Clerk on her ideas with PCC.

Mr McCarthy estimates that providing no bedding in the Paragon would save TTC £1,745 on bedding costs while Gilroy Phillips Garden would result in a further £800 saving on bedding plants. Added to a potential £1,500 in watering costs, which were also met by TTC, a saving of approximately £4,000 could be made. He also suggested removing six hanging baskets from outside St. Mary's Church as, being located under trees, they do not thrive. This would result in a further £170 saving to TTC.

Cllr. Mrs. Lane felt these savings in the first year, together with our Special Maintenance Projects in the Community budget could be used to redesign the Paragon Gardens.

The Mayor commented on the fantastic view at the Paragon adding it was a well photographed view over to St Catherine's Island. We should do all we could to keep it open to the public and he fully supported Cllr. Mrs. Lane.

Cllr Mrs Lane added that the bench came with a 25 year guarantee, while the Clerk added that they were provided by a firm used previously by TTC for furnishings in the Jubilee in 2007.

Cllr Blackhall said this was a difficult subject. He wished to pay tribute to determined hard working council staff who produce superb work under trying conditions. He felt we must retain something in the Paragon although he appreciated this was difficult under current financial restraints.

During the summer this garden is full of people and we have to retain some planting he continued suggesting that perhaps TTC could make a contribution to staff costs.

Cllr Lane reiterated that it is not just a matter of money, it is the complete lack of PCC manpower. There are physical resources that they just don't have anymore, she commented.

Cllr Blackhall understood but it came to a point of what happens next. What about next year, he asked? There are dangers of us having to take on even more costs. Somehow, we have to retain some balance.

He also pointed out that it would be difficult to close off the lower tiers as there was no gate to lock!

Cllr Blackhall understands predicament and again said what a fabulous job they all do but the Paragon Gardens is in such a prime position we need to find solution.

Cllr Mrs Lane proposed working with the Clerk on her suggested project for the top section of the garden and to meet again with PCC to find out what work can be done in lower part of the garden. Cllr Blackhall seconded.

Cllr Mrs Rossiter reminded councillors that it is not Tenby in Bloom's responsibility as the town gardens belong to Pembrokeshire County Council. It's just that Cllr Mrs Lane has worked closely with the council on the floral side of things for many years.

RESOLVED

That TTC accept the cost saving proposals put forward by PCC. In addition Cllr. Mrs Lane and the Clerk will look to develop a project for the top section of the Paragon while also exploring alternative schemes for the lower section.

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

- a. NP/19/0594/FUL – Internal alterations and alterations to rear extension walls – Vine Cottage, St Mary’s Street, Tenby
- b. NP/19/0575/LBA – Internal alterations and alterations to rear extension walls – Vine Cottage, St Mary’s Street, Tenby

Cllr Mrs Lane proposed taking both a and b together and Cllr Hallett seconded the proposal.

The Mayor had seen the property. Cllr Mrs Lane proposed accepting the proposal and Cllr Mrs Rossiter seconded the proposal.

RECOMMEND

Approval. Considered against all the relevant policies within the LDP members consider proposal to be acceptable.

280. TO RECEIVE REPORTS BY COUNCILLORS ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Dementia Friendly

Cllr Mrs Skyrme-Blackhall and Cllr Mrs Evans had recently attended a further Dementia meeting held in the Mayor’s Parlour and Cllr. Mrs. Skyrme-Blackhall thanked the Mayor for allowing use of the Mayor’s Parlour for this meeting. There was lots of enthusiasm for the project and suggestions of ways to push forward with it were made. January 2020 will see the next main meeting. It is hoped to get the Dementia Bus down to Tenby and allow for training. Forget Me Not brooches are being looked at. Wearers of the badge will have been trained to deal with situations. There has been excellent feedback received from local organisations but as she said before, Cllr. Mrs. Skyrme-Blackhall felt the project is going to take a long time to become fully established.

Recent School Visit

Cllr Mrs Evans thanked the Mayor and Clerk for a recent visit to the Mayor’s Parlour by Year 3 and 4 students from Tenby Church in Wales School. It was a really enjoyable few hours and she believed they got a lot from it.

Christmas Tree Star Lights

Cllr Mrs Evans told councillors how students from Greenhill School DT Department had, at very short notice, designed and made solar powered stars for the town Christmas tree. Thanks to Lloyd Evans, Head of Expressive Art, his technician, Doug Chapman and Year 9 students for their efforts. All students involved had differing abilities and the project was used as an enrichment day. The Mayor also thanked all those involved with the making of the stars saying it was good for morale. Cllr Blackhall congratulated

Cllr Mrs Evans saying that working with schools is very important. Cllr Hallett proposed a letter of thanks be written to the school.

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

Tenby Tourist Information Centre

Cllr Mrs Lane said that until now any discussions had by TTC on this matter were held in private but it had come to her attention that PCC had gone public and she has concerns about this.

She stressed that it is Tenby TC who are looking to secure the future of TTIC and not PCC as written. This matter really needs to be looked at closely as PCC seemed to be praising themselves for ‘palming the TIC off’ on TTC.

This is an extremely sensitive issue and TTC should not be pressured into anything.

Cllr Mrs Lane said that, over the course of time, she has changed her mind on this proposed transfer. With gardens being closed and other demands on TTC can we really look at spending so much money on running the TIC she questioned.

The Clerk commented that the press release had probably been written as there is a report to PCC Cabinet next week which is in the public domain.

On the same Cabinet agenda, PCC will be considering adopting a new community asset transfer policy based on the model put out by the Welsh Government which would impact the way negotiations will be taken forward relating to the TIC.

Legal advice on any proposed lease was to be taken at the appropriate time as agreed by council previously but unfortunately the person in mind, who had acted for TTC on similar matters in the past, was unable to assist this time as they were extremely busy.

Cllr Blackhall agreed with Cllr Mrs Lane that care was needed and a clear decision made down the line. Constructive discussions needed to be had and any asset transfer needs to be mutual beneficial to all.

The Mayor agreed that TTC need to be very careful. Cllr Mrs Lane added that the asset transfer was hardly for us if it turned out to be a liability.

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

Nothing new at this time but the Clerk believes that they are still awaiting the outcome of the 12 month environmental impact study.

Cllr. Blackhall commented that clearly PCC are doing lots of work but now is a good time to meet the Cabinet Member for Housing and team as it really is important for the people of Tenby that this is to provide local housing for local people, our consent should be withdrawn if not so.

He said that there appeared to be some concern locally that information being provided by Housing Officers is not correct and this also needs to be confirmed before the final application is submitted. Clarity was required about the local houses for local needs policy and it was important that the public understand the local housing policy and who is allowed to apply.

He suggested a meeting with Cabinet member for Housing and Senior Housing Officers for clarity on local determination and what advice is given. It was imperative if the scheme goes ahead that it must be local housing for local people. PCC have been clear and while he has absolute faith we must get guidance given to public right. The scheme must genuinely deliver for local people – to wait would be a mistake.

Cllr Morgan seconded the proposal.

RESOLVED

That the Clerk ask the Cabinet member for Housing and relevant senior housing officers to meet with TTC as the earliest possible opportunity.

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

Cllr Mrs Lane said after three years of hoping for some scheme for the walls PCC still think it acceptable that the areas where the trees used to be on the South Parade are filled in with grit and dirt. She said it is a danger to people, do they not realise? It is horrendous and she believes that no other town would put up with the way this had been left. She asked that members responsible from PCC come and visit and be asked what exactly it is that they intend to do. Cllr Mrs Evans seconded the proposal.

RESOLVED

That a letter be written to the relevant officers at PCC inviting them to look at the situation in South Parade with a view to resolving the issue.

284. TO CONSIDER THE SOUTH BEACH GROYNES AND AGREE ACTION IN RESPONSE TO PROPOSALS

Cllr Mrs Skyrme-Blackhall told council that many residents have approached her, including an ex-councillor, asking about groynes on the South Beach and where would we stand with the second homes income fund. Could it be used towards reinstatement of the groynes? Where do we stand and is there any point in getting them back she asked.

Cllr Hallett told councillors that the earth surface is constantly changing with a sand bar formed in medieval times from Giltar towards Tenby. This had slowed down the tidal flow into the Ritec Valley over time but Cornwall and South Wales are slowly sinking (approximately 0.5 cm a year) and Scotland is rising. This is all down to tectonic plate movement which, along with global warming, is causing more flood water to come in.

The Pembrokeshire coast and land behind has been formed by glaciers during the last Ice Age and wave action.

The groynes were built with no foundation as a possible deterrent but the expanse of dunes have been eroded because the groynes had little impact on protecting them. The sea will eventually take it back and we must let nature take its course he added.

285. TENBY FIREFIGHTERS' CARNIVAL PUBLICATION

Cllr Blackhall had recently spoken to Firefighter Lee Simmons regarding the book published this year to celebrate the 100 years of the Tenby Firefighter's Carnival. These would make great Christmas presents celebrating Tenby's Firefighter Carnival history. On Saturday there will be a stand outside Sainsbury's selling the books and Cllr Blackhall suggested that Steve Briers advertise the book during the Christmas Festivities event in Tudor Square that day as the local fire brigade always show great support for the town. Cllr Blackhall also proposed that TTC buys 20 copies as they would make excellent gifts for visiting dignitaries. The Mayor seconded the proposal.

RESOLVED

That TTC purchase 20 copies of Tenby Firefighters book to use as gifts for visiting dignitaries.

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

- a. An invitation had been received to the Mayor and Councillors to attend a celebration of achievement of upper school students at Ysgol Greenhill School on 16th December. Those who are able to attend, could they please let the Clerk know before the end of the week so that Greenhill could be informed. Cllr Mrs Evans confirmed she would be attending as did the Mayor.

287. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved that the next meeting will take place on Tuesday, 3rd December 2019 at 7.30pm. This will be the Finance Working Party to discuss the Budget for 2020/2021; 10th December 2019 will see the next full council meeting also at 7.30 pm.

288. TO PROPOSE ANY ITEM FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

None proposed at the time.

289. 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"

290. TO CONFIRM THE PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES OF THE TENBY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD 12th NOVEMBER 2019

Resolved that the Private and Confidential Minutes of the Tenby Town Council meeting held 12th November 2019 be confirmed and signed as accurate.

291. MATTERS ARISING FOR INFORMATION ONLY

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

a. DVP Trust

The Clerk read a letter which had been received from the DVP Trust.

RESOLVED

That TTC's appointment of Cllr. Mrs. Skyrme-Blackhall and Cllr. Mrs. Evans to represent TTC on the De Valence Trust be confirmed.

b. Harbour Picnic Benches.

RESOLVED

That TTC take the lead on submitting a bid to the Enhancing Pembrokeshire Fund for this project.

c. Beach Wheelchair for Children

RESOLVED

That TTC take the lead on submitting grant funding bids for this project.

d. Paragon

Referring back to her ideas for the Paragon, Cllr Mrs Lane asked if there may be a grant for the lower section of the garden and furniture.

Mayor _____

Town Clerk _____

Date _____