

TENBY TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE TENBY TOWN COUNCIL
MEETING HELD 28TH JULY 2020

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr A Davies Clerk
Mrs S Thompson Assistant to the Clerk
County Councillor Michael Williams

The Mayor spoke of the sad passing of Mr. Martin Hurlow and asked councillors to join her in sending sincerest condolences to his family.

42. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Cllrs Mrs Brown, Mrs Lane and Mrs Rossiter.

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

None declared.

44. TO AGREE ITEMS OF CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMITTEE MINUTES OTHER THAN THOSE MARKED NOT FOR PUBLICATION BEING GIVEN TO MEMBERS OF THE PRESS PRESENT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 T Hallett seconded by Cllr T Brown.

45. TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE TENBY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD 14TH JULY 2020

Cllr Blackhall proposed that they be signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting and Cllr Hallett seconded.

46. ANY MATTERS ARISING FOR INFORMATION ONLY

P.15 Item 29: The Clerk told councillors that five hand sanitizer stations had now been purchased and they had come out cheaper than previously quoted for. These were now sited in five locations around the town and the Clerk was very grateful to the shop owners who are siting them out and ensuring they are full. Those looking after the stations have all been given a 5-litre tub of sanitiser liquid and will call the office once

used up. Cllr Ronowitz has sourced a cheaper supplier we can use going forward for refills.

The Clerk also told councillors that 2 vinyl banners have now been erected and he is most grateful to Canon Grace for allowing one of them to be erected on the railings at the front of St Mary's Church on Tudor Square.

P.19 Item 29: The Clerk updated councillors on the situation regarding gatherings on the harbour which they may have read about on social and national media. A number of problems had been experienced down the harbour in relation to anti-social behaviour last Wednesday evening.

The Mayor and Clerk met with Chief Inspector Louise Harries and Sgt. Bev Rodriguez of Dyfed-Powys Police on the harbour on Friday evening. As it happened it was a very bad evening weather wise and there were no gatherings down there at that time.

However, a long discussion was had about the issue and further anti-social behaviour relating to 'boy racers' using the pier.

The Chief Inspector said that Operation Lion is now up and running which provides 8 additional officers on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. All eight are on duty until midnight while 4 remain on station until 5 am.

Police have ordered their regular Operation Lion micro beats to now include the harbour area and the Mayor and the Clerk noticed two foot patrols and two car patrols passing in the hour-and-a-half they were on site with the police officers.

The Chief Inspector was aware that incidents and gatherings can be weather dependant and could occur outside of Operation Lion. However, PCC, the Police, the National Park Authority and other agencies have established an operational response team which meets twice daily.

This will give them an opportunity to assess weather conditions in relation to the potential for gatherings and task resources accordingly.

However, harbour residents can ring 101 or use the online reporting facility with general concerns at any time. If matters appear to be 'getting out of hand' then they should call 999.

In relation to the issues of 'boy racers' using the pier, the Chief Inspector said she was considering the placing of the police 'Go Safe' camera van in the area if available. The harbour master will also be erecting barriers at the entrance to Pier Hill every evening and various PCC departments were liaising on more permanent solutions.

They were also looking at additional signage to try and deter 'tomb stoning'.

The Clerk felt assured that the Police and PCC are being proactive in dealing with situations and all is being monitored.

The Mayor said the meeting on Friday had been necessary as a matter of urgency to try and nip problems in the bud. She thanked both officers for the meeting, adding that it was both useful and interesting.

TTC will continue to work with the police and PCC during the season on the various issues as they arise and already there has been positive feedback on action taken in the harbour area as a gathering was dispersed last Saturday.

Cllr Mrs Evans congratulated all involved and thanked everyone for their hard work and diligence over the last couple of weeks to keep the community safe. Cllr Hallett seconded.

P.23 Item 34: Referring to the Resolution that the ‘next meeting being held remotely’, Cllr Blackhall feels it sensible to agree that the first meeting after the summer recess be held under current arrangements and then a decision made thereafter. Cllr Mrs Evans seconded.

RESOLVED

That the first meeting after the summer recess be held remotely to allow councillors to assess whatever Government guidance is relevant at the time in relation to holding meetings ‘around the table’ again.

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

As a member of the National Park Development Management Committee, Cllr Evans took no part in voting, but remained in the meeting to offer any advice on planning policies.

The Mayor suggested that items a and c be taken together as they relate to Cheltenham House, Tudor Square, Tenby.

- a. NP/20/0331/LBA – Replace cement render with a natural slate cladding to the south eastern gable – Cheltenham House, Tudor Square, Tenby
- c. NP/20/0343/FUL – Replace cement render with a natural slate cladding to the south eastern gable – Cheltenham House, Tudor Square, Tenby

The Mayor asked if councillors had had a chance to look through the applications and if anyone had any questions.

Cllr Hallett said this is an excellent way of rain-proofing a building and that many properties suffer with such problems in town. This also helps with keeping the interior decorations in order. He has no objection to this being done as it helps keep the building in good shape. Cllr Mrs Evans seconded.

RECOMMEND

Approval. This is a traditional form of weather-proofing, of which there are numerous examples around the town, and members feel that this proposal will not have any adverse effect on neighbouring properties or the building's setting within the Conservation Area.

- b. NP/20/0332/FUL- Proposed change of use from retail shop into enlarged 3 storey town house with 5 bedrooms – Ventnor House, Warren Street, Tenby

The Mayor asked councillors if there were any questions or any thoughts. Cllr Blackhall proposed accepting the application as it is consistent with buildings in the areas, the retail dynamic of this area has changed with less shops now present and it is in keeping with the objectives of the LDP. Cllr Morgan seconded the proposal.

RECOMMEND

Approval. There is a changing dynamic in relation to retail opportunities within this area of the town and members feel that this proposal is acceptable within the policies of the Local Development Plan.

- d. NP/20/0345/TPO – G1 – 4 x Ash – Fell (all affected by Ash die back, cat 3); G2 – 3 x Sycamore, 1 Ash – Fell (poor form, will be more exposed and incongruous after removal of G1; T1 – Sycamore – Fell (poor form, tight fork unattractive tree in setting) – Ty Isaf, 22 Haytor Gardens, Tenby

Cllr Hallett commented that, while he had a personal interest as his property was nearby, he did not feel it was prejudicial as the ash trees have been affected by ash die back and need to be removed. Cllr Blackhall recommended approval. Cllr Mrs Evans seconded.

RECOMMEND

No objections in the interests of health and safety.

The Clerk advised councillors that an additional planning application had come through and Cllr Hallett moved that it be taken now.

- e. NP/20/0056/FUL - Installation of 4 glazed screens at Seafront Car Park, Tenby

Cllr Hallett enquired if the installation was to improve social distancing and this was confirmed by the Clerk. Cllr Mrs Evans proposed accepting the proposal and Cllr Whitehurst seconded.

RECOMMEND

Approval on the grounds of public health and safety.

48. TO DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING GRANT APPLICATIONS AND AGREE ACTION IN RESPONSE TO PROPOSALS

Cllr Hallett asked if Tenby Sea Cadets had received a grant from TTC last year and if so, how much. The Clerk confirmed that no grant had been made to them last year.

Cllr Rapi said we must support this organisation; it is good for our town and good for Tenby and he proposed giving the grant. The Mayor said there had been problems over the sustainability of the unit in the past and totally agreed with supporting Tenby Sea Cadets.

The Clerk said there was some confusion over the amount being requested. The project cost was £2000 and a sum of £1300 was also included on the form. He had tried to clarify if the request was for £2000, £1300 or the difference between the two sums but had failed to make contact.

It is obvious that councillors are minded to support the Sea Cadets with a grant, but it may be better to couch the resolution in such terms that clarity as to the amount was needed first.

Cllr Rapi said we must support as many local things as possible and this would be supporting the youth of Tenby town. This is a group specifically in Tenby and they have done so much for the town. Cllr Brown seconded.

Cllr Evans said that he fully supported giving the Cadets a grant, but he too had been confused as to the amount they actually wanted.

Was this an annual project? He suggested TTC engage with the Sea Cadets to enable us to gain an understanding of the pressures they face going forward. He wanted to know how they are going to be sustainable.

He fully supported a grant but there may be other groups requiring aid going forward and TTC should not just be giving out money without clarity as to the future.

Cllr Whitehurst said it appears that this money is more of a one-off investment to help the organisation to increase their numbers and help them to grow.

Cllr Rapi said he can see Cllr Evans' view but he is looking from an educational sense as opposed to a business sense. Organisations like this are crucial to town, they bring more youths into the system.

The Mayor feels the Cadets are important for the town and have been around for a long time.

While there may be other groups out there in need of support, there was a time not so long ago when Tenby Sea Cadets were almost a dying breed.

She knows the new commanding officer, Lt. (SCC) Elliott, and he will do a fabulous job with the unit. She thanked him.

Cllr Evans said he is not talking about the Cadets as a business. He wants the organisation to be here in 10 years' time but now is the time to be speaking with them, to understand their operations and what potential hurdles are in their path.

He is aware that PCC have been looking at rents in the harbour area which could impact the sustainability of their headquarters. He supports their grant application but TTC need to go above and beyond and ask what they need to keep them going. Cllr Blackhall was in agreement with Cllr Evans.

Cllr Hallett asked if a balance sheet had been provided by them. He reminded councillors that all grant applications have to be accompanied by a copy of the last 12 months accounts.

The Clerk said that one had not been received. This would have been something else he would have raised had he been able to make contact.

Cllr Rapi proposed a grant of up to £2000 be made to the Sea Cadets depending on their requirements. Cllr Brown seconded.

Cllr Blackhall commented that Cllr. Hallett was perfectly correct in stating that we should see the accounts but suggested a minor amendment in that TTC agree to award a grant of up to £2000 subject to clarification as to the actual amount requested and receipt of an up-to-date copy of their accounts. Cllr Rapi was happy to second the amended proposal and withdrew the original.

RESOLVED

That under section 19a of the Local Government (Misc.Prov) Act 1976, a grant of up to £2000 be given to Tenby Sea Cadets subject to clarification as to the amount requested and receipt of an up-to-date copy of their accounts. Further that we engage with the Commanding Officer to look at what else can be done to ensure the long-term sustainability of the unit.

49. TO CONSIDER ‘UNLOCKING’ ISSUES, BINS AND PARKING PERMITS - CLLR BLACKHALL

This item was withdrawn as it had been covered earlier under matters arising.

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

a. Delegation of authority to deal with urgent matters during the Summer recess

Cllr Hallett moved that delegation to the Clerk and/or the assistant to the Clerk be authorised and Cllr Rapi seconded. The Clerk told councillors that it is customary for the Clerk or assistant to the Clerk to deal with matters in consultation with the Mayor or with consensus of the council, if needed.

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.

b. Item not on the Agenda – Recent Meeting with Heads of Schools in Heywood Lane

The Clerk told councillors that Mr Palmer of Tenby Primary had asked for a meeting to discuss the parking problems around the schools in Heywood Lane after Mrs. Hart-Griffiths had sent out an email on the proposed opening and closing times at Hafan-y-Mor for September.

He reminded members that, prior to lockdown, there was meant to be a meeting to discuss parking problems and Mr Palmer felt this was an opportune time to discuss the matter further.

Initially opening and closing times will be staggered, and it was felt that this won't create much of a parking problem up to half term. However, Mr. Palmer believes it is PCC's intent to get schools back to normal after half term and this was the time to try and come up with ideas while there was time to implement them before the wintery weather.

Only the mayor and deputy mayor had been able to attend and the meeting seemed to focus on the car park outside the primary school rather than problems previously experienced at St David's Close and Tudor Way.

There were some ideas put forward but there seems to be a misunderstanding as to who is responsible for the car park even though the concept originally was that it would serve both schools.

Mr Palmer had suggested the possibility of employing a parking monitor to ensure correct parking. It was also suggested that the long spaces on entry be turned over to teacher parking only, meaning there would be no reversing out when parents were arriving. Reversing the entrance and exit to the car park was also suggested to reduce congestion as parents waited to turn in.

Mr Palmer was also interested in getting bollards across the loading bay with only a way in and out provided. This would stop parents parking right up to where children walked on leaving. It was agreed that the ideas be brought to the meeting tonight and, if agreed, they could be forwarded on to Mr Blake - who was unable to attend the meeting as he is currently shielding – to investigate further.

Cllr Mrs Evans told councillors that this has been an ongoing issue since the year dot and it is not getting any better. There are no easy answers, but we must try she said. This is an accident waiting to happen and we must try every avenue to get it right.

She felt that bollards are a very good idea particularly at the access to kitchen as parents drive up on to area and this extremely dangerous as this was where children exited the school. This could be a removable bollard to accommodate deliveries.

The Mayor said bollards are a good idea but Cllr Brown felt that the loading bay needed access for taxis etc to ensure children got to school safely.

Cllr Mrs Evans explained there would still be access into the loading bay but the bollards should stop parents filling it right up to the crossing point forcing children to step out in to the road to see what was coming.

Cllr Brown said he was not convinced as when it was raining parents will stop wherever whenever and would just park on the road alongside the bollards causing more congestion.

Cllr. Mrs Evans said that overall, the car park is dangerous as it is. Parents must be educated not to reverse out where children walk. The suggestion is that all the ideas go into the hat for Mr Blake to see what would work and what would not.

Another suggestion was that the two crossing points be raised which could slow cars down and prevent parking across the walkways.

The schools had different start and finishing times which should give enough time to get parents away due to staggering the arrival times and departure times, more control of the car park was needed.

Cllr Rapi said this is an ongoing problem with the two schools being built on one of the narrowest sections of road in town

He said he has a personal interest in that he has been waiting outside for his own children but, even though the schools had staggered finishing times, the children do not always come out on time which causes a backlog as parents from Hafany-Mor were still waiting when Tenby Primary parents arrived.

He felt class teachers need to be aware of the situation. They seem totally oblivious as to the traffic problems being caused by letting children out as much as sometimes 10 to 15 minutes late.

Cllr Rapi felt the only real solution would be to further extend the staggering of the starting and finishing times. Parents are seen sitting and reading books waiting for their children, we need to see if there is a possibility of these times changing, he said.

The Clerk said that this was one suggestion put forward at the meeting but neither head teacher seemed that amenable to the idea.

The Mayor agreed that a bigger gap may help ease the situation but neither head seemed in favour as they believed it to be detrimental to pupil/teacher contact time and learning.

They did not seem willing to change even though the chaos is literally only for ten minutes, she said. By half past three the roads are clear and the car park is empty.

Cllr Rapi suggested that letting different Year Groups out at different stages would help create more of a traffic flow and felt that the schools need to wake up and find a way to work it out between them.

Cllr Blackhall suggested that when schools go back and are working on different timings perhaps this could be a good time to explore this avenue. He felt minor adjustments may help and we could look at the position in September to see how things were with the temporary alternative timings for different year groups operating.

Cllr Hallett feels that this could create another problem if parents have children of different ages, all in different classes and year groups.

Cllr Rapi said it was not good for all parents to be turning up at the same time. Ysgol Hafan y Mor is growing at an increasing rate and this problem will only get worse given the catchment area of these pupils.

He proposed going directly to the Director of Education to ask him to intervene as he was in charge of the school heads at the end of the day. This situation needs to be discussed as it is not getting any better, they need to sort themselves out, he commented.

Cllr Brown seconded the proposal.

RESOLVED

That the town council write to the Director of Education to ask for his assistance in resolving this issue.

51. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting to be held on Tuesday, 8th September 2020 at 7.30pm. As agreed earlier in the meeting, this will be another remote meeting.

52. TO PROPOSE ANY ITEM FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

Cllr Rapi asked for an agenda item at the next meeting for all the council to receive feedback from PCC and Police as to how the summer went. This would also give an opportunity for fellow members to express their views.

53. 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”

54. TO CONFIRM THE PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES OF THE TENBY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD 14TH JULY 2020

Cllr Hallett declared this to be a true and accurate record of the meeting. Cllr Mrs Evans seconded.

55. **MATTERS ARISING FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

P25. Item 41: The Clerk told councillors that, in relation to this matter, no ideas were put forward by councillors.

To close, the Mayor thanked councillors for all their hard work. She sent them all good wishes to stay safe and she looked forward to seeing everyone in September.

Mayor _____

Town Clerk _____

Date _____