

**TENBY TOWN COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE TENBY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**  
**HELD 22<sup>ND</sup> SEPTEMBER 2020**

**The meeting was held remotely due to coronavirus restrictions**

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

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

**73. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES**

No apologies received.

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

None disclosed at this time

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 TO AGREE ITEMS OF CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMITTEE MINUTES OTHER THAN THOSE MARKED NOT FOR PUBLICATION BEING GIVEN TO MEMBERS OF THE PRESS PRESENT**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

**76. TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE TENBY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD 8<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2020**

Proposed by Cllr Blackhall to be a true and accurate record of the meeting seconded by Cllr T Brown.

**77. ANY MATTERS ARISING FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

P39 Item 61 In relation to this Planning application the Clerk had confirmed with PCNPA that they have contacted all neighbouring residents and they were prepared to send hard copies to anyone who could not get on line.

The Clerk had thought about how the Office could assist. People wishing to view plans could make an appointment to come in on a specific afternoon to access plans online with

social distancing measures in place. However, he was aware that the PCNPA office was now open on a limited appointment system for people to discuss planning matters.

P46: The Clerk had written to Mr Westley and he had responded to thank councillors very much for their good wishes. He very much enjoyed the working relationship with the Town Council during his tenure and hoped that between us we have been able to deliver some change for good within the community.

P48: The Clerk is still waiting to hear back in relation to Armistice Day. The British Legion Head Office should be putting advice on their website in the early autumn. Local Legion branch secretary, Mr Graham Philips, is also still trying to get further guidance. This is certainly on the radar of other town and community councils. Advice from PCC is that gatherings of over 30 people in open air is against COVID legislation and we will have to see where we go from here.

With regard to Father Christmas, the Clerk had sent an email round to the Festivities Committee representatives asking for their view and asking if they wanted to have a meeting. The only response received was from Mr Steve Briers who, as members are aware, plays a very important part of day. He feels that sadly under the present circumstances it would be inadvisable if we were to carry on.

The Clerk has also spoken to Mr Phil John who advised that members of the RNLI are prohibited from attending any outside event. The only thing they are able to do is attend emergency calls out so, unfortunately, he does not feel that the RNLI would be able to participate this year.

Cllr Mrs Lane apologised as she must have missed this email but she agreed with the views expressed by Mr. John and Mr. Briers. It was very hard as it was such a popular and well supported event but, given the amount of organisation that we have to do prior to the day, there would be limited time to now pull things together even if coronavirus regulations changed. This year's event should be sadly cancelled she said.

Cllr Blackhall agreed with Cllr. Mrs. Lane. Clearly the traditional event reintroduced by Cllr Mrs Lane some years ago cannot be practical or possible under the current circumstances and would sadly have to be called off.

However, he wondered if we could think of imaginative ways to celebrate Christmas from our own homes, perhaps asking everyone to turn on Christmas lights at home at the same time together.

He recognised the sense of community the event created but obviously a mass gathering in Tudor Square would not be appropriate and we need to accept that now.

Cllr Mrs Lane proposed that sadly the Father Christmas arrival and Lights Switch On event be cancelled for this year and Cllr Blackhall seconded.

She agreed that the Festivities Committee could look at imaginative ideas to keep the Christmas magic in the town. It was very sad but we have to accept where we are in relation to Covid-19 added the Mayor.

## RESOLVED

**That the Father Christmas arrival and Lights Switch On event be cancelled for this year.**

P48 Item 67: In relation to the skate park, the Clerk explained that the safety inspection had been carried out on the new ramps and there are a few snagging items for contractors to sort before we can go 'live' and officially open, even though youngsters have been getting in and using the equipment in the interim.

The invoice has come through for the work and is actually around £7K under original quote. The Clerk explained that this was because, once work commenced on site it became apparent that there was not quite enough room to fit one element originally proposed. During the consultation the user groups weren't entirely happy with the element anyway due to safety concerns, so it was decided not to install it.

He had spoken to Ms Henahan as to how this would impact the EPF grant. She is happy for the grant funding shortfall to be repurposed for works towards the new roundabout on site, as the wording on the grant application was non-specific and just referred to 'play equipment'.

In relation to the roundabout the full three quotes were still awaited. A slightly different style of roundabout was sought which will allow wheelchair user access and this had resulted in one firm having to revise their original proposal.

He anticipated that TTC should get 80 percent towards the cost of roundabout from EPF.

Cllr Mrs Lane had received some very bad reports about the children who were managing to get into the skate park. Their language and behaviour was horrendous, she said.

The Clerk has had similar conversations around town and there was some very unsavoury behaviour going on. As such he has contacted a CCTV provider to see if he can look into the possibility of installing CCTV at the park.

The provider was going to undertake a scoping exercise and then have a meeting on site with the Clerk to consider options. The Mayor thanked the Clerk for continually visiting and attempting to keep the area cordoned off.

### **78. TO RECEIVE THE NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD WITH MR MARC OWEN ON 17<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER AND AGREE ACTION IN RESPONSE TO PROPOSALS**

The Mayor asked if anyone had any comments on this information. Cllr Ronowitz said the only one thing he would say was that Mr Owen agreed that he would put the permit price 'starting from £12.50 per month' information on the wall in the car park. This he felt was quite important but had been missed out of the report.

Cllr Blackhall felt this meeting and all engagement with Mr. Qwen has been very positive. He knows it is very difficult and we are not going to please everyone but we

have got something that is workable and is at least operating in controlling access to town.

This was a very helpful meeting. Car parking charges were however clearly something for the future and we should continue with discussions.

Cllr Rapi said that he had been on the Paragon beach on Sunday for two-and-a-half hours during which 64 dogs walked past. This area was part of the dog prohibition area and they should not have been there. He has emailed Mr. Owen as this is just not good enough and could result in us losing the Blue Flag on this beach. Mr. Owen said he would contact officers concerned.

No one was observing the situation and no one was there to stop them, continued Cllr. Rapi. He believed District enforcement officers were in town and it was part of their responsibilities.

Cllr Ronowitz feels enforcement officers are more interested in people dropping cigarettes on floor. He was aware that enforcement came back in during the middle of July after being initially relaxed due to Covid-19 and lifeguards were advising dog walkers. Perhaps signage was not good enough, he suggested. Cllr. Rapi asked if we could contact enforcement offices asking that they spend more time on beaches.

The Clerk said he can make Mr. Richard Brown aware of the problems.

Cllr. Rapi proposed that TTC write to Richard Brown at PCC and Cllr Ronowitz seconded.

## **RESOLVED**

**That the Clerk write to Mr. Richard Brown asking for better enforcement of the dog prohibition restrictions.**

### **79. TO DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING GRANT APPLICATIONS AND AGREE ACTION IN RESPONSE TO PROPOSALS:-**

#### **a. Tenby Male Choir**

The Clerk asked if the minutes could reflect that he did not participate in this item as his father-in-law and son were both members of the choir.

Cllr Mrs Lane felt that £3000 is an awful lot of money to ask for. She knows organisations are struggling this year but it is a huge amount of TTC's money.

Cllr Blackhall said that every year the choir raise a lot of money for different charities and their own running costs. In relation to the amount, he commented that £2000 was recently given to Tenby Sea Cadets and could he propose a similar amount be given to Tenby Male Choir. This would recognise that they have raised a lot of money for local charities and will put them in a position to continue to do so in the future. He was taking on board what Cllr Mrs Lane said and reducing the amount.

Cllr Evans partly agreed with Cllr Mrs Lane, this is a large proportion, 60 percent, of the sum they are seeking. He wondered what other bodies they had applied to for funding.

There is the Lottery and various other funds for this type of organisation adding that he feels it is getting quite easy for organisations to just to come to TTC to ask for money. Looking at their application form it appears that they have applied only to us, no other attempt to source other funding had been made, he commented.

Cllr Mrs Lane said, if her memory served correctly, TTC were reluctant to give charitable organisations money to forward to other charities. Charities need to apply themselves. TTC funds were not there to donate to one organisation who pass on to another charity that the council could support directly.

Cllr Evans feels there is a flaw in our grant application in that we are not asking what else they have done to secure monies. All concerned in the skateboard park project deserved congratulating for getting external grants for the extension. The work put in from day one had been a journey worth taking. The Clerk now had the expertise to assist organisations in grants processes and perhaps donating £500 worth of clerk's time to assist in this may be more beneficial. This was not just about us handing out grants. The amount of EPF money towards the skateboard park had been worth the Clerk's time spent. Other organisations could benefit from this expertise as it could release more funding. Just giving out a grant may not be the best way forward.

Cllr Ronowitz agreed asking why the Choir was asking for this money if they are not doing any events. He felt they had no real massive costs as activities had been postponed until next year so what is the money actually for. He agreed with Cllr Mrs Lane that these are large amounts going out and there will be nothing left in our pot if we continued this type of level of grant funding.

Cllr T Brown agreed with Cllr Lane but has noticed that they are only asking for money for equipment and music as they haven't been able to hold any events to meet these costs.

Cllr Mrs Lane said she would like to propose £1000. This was still a large amount of money and there may be more organisations that will need help from us going forward.

Cllr Blackhall would be happy to go for a figure of £1,500 and also like to we ask them to sit with the Clerk and have some advice as to where to make further grant applications

Cllr Whitehurst said that the Choir were looking for ways to continue to perform possibly through live streaming videos. He felt the Choir was a big part of Tenby and carried out so much fund raising. It would be a shame for them to disappear and to lose their audience. If we could support them to continue activities in a COVID safe manner it would be really good.

Cllr Rapi said, as a musician himself, it pains him to say it but there are certain things within their accounts that rub against him. We were talking about public money yet there were items of expenditure the Choir could cut back on, particularly if they were not performing. People will notice and we should be wary, he said. However, he continued, we must appreciate all they have done for the town. He didn't know what type of

equipment they are hoping to purchase but he was thinking along the lines of a £1000 maximum donation

Cllr Blackhall said he had nothing to add but felt £1500 seems like a reasonable figure.

Cllr Ronowitz agrees with all they do for the town and that they represent town and all they do. He felt £1000 was fair.

Cllr Mrs Lane proposed a donation of £1000. She supports the Choir wholeheartedly, and this would provide a fifth of what they need.

Cllr Evans asked if Cllr. Mrs. Lane was prepared to add a caveat to invite the Choir to work with the Clerk to see what other grants are available. They are an integral part of Tenby and we all know a lot of them personally and wish to help them. This will hopefully give them a start and enable them to bring in more money through grant avenues.

Cllr. Mrs. Lane was happy to add this to her proposal and Cllr Ronowitz seconded.

#### **RESOLVED**

**That under Section 145 of the Local Government Act 1972 a donation of £1000 be made to the Choir. Further that the Choir be offered assistance from the Clerk to seek other grant funding sources.**

#### **80. TO CONSIDER COVID-19 ISSUES AND ACTIONS IN RESPONSE – CLLR BLACKHALL**

Cllr Blackhall said a lot had already been dealt with in the meeting with Mr Owen but it was important that we acknowledge that the challenges of COVID have not gone away. We have ongoing challenges and we need to support local volunteers and people helping the community. We recognise that the Clerk and his assistant are also involved in that and we must continue to support any measures that help keep our communities safe. We need to continue to offer our help and support in any way we can.

Cllr Ronowitz wondered what the impact on a 10 pm closure of the hospitality sector would have. Cllr Blackhall acknowledged this and said we really have to give a lot of thought as to how we continue to support businesses too. They employ our people, it is a difficult balancing act and we must find a solution.

#### **81. INFORMATION UPDATE REGARDING PENALLY CAMP – CLLR BLACKHALL**

Cllr Blackhall said again this is a very difficult issue. Firstly, he welcomed the statement made by TTC last week in relation to the decision to house asylum seekers at the MOD camp in Penally and thanked the Mayor and Clerk for what was put out. He felt we need to maintain calm and also need to recognise that this is outside of our jurisdiction. This is a decision made in London and not within our gift to reverse.

People have legitimate questions and people deserve answers, he continued. We as a town council need to support our friends in Penally and we should gather questions that people have. We need to address these to the Home Secretary and officials in the Home Office and ask that answers be publicised. Beyond that there is very little unfortunately that we as a community can do other than extend a sense of calm, care and consideration for all those affected.

Cllr Rapi said he had had a meeting today with the Police and Crime Commissioner who also appeared to be getting little information from the Home Office. Also the First Minister, Mark Drakeford today in Question Time in the Senedd said that this decision had been made without consultation with the Senedd and there is no extra finance from the Home Office for any of the bodies dealing with the situation locally.

At the moment nothing seems to be coming from London to inform us of what is going on and how it will be processed. It appeared that there were outside agitators in the area filling this information vacuum with falsehoods and this needs to be watched.

Cllr Ronowitz said the situation has not been transparent from the start and unfortunately some members of the general public are ‘pointing fingers’ as no one knows what is going on. How can we as a town council get across that we, as a council, have had no part of this decision, he asked? Certain councillors had suffered abuse on the street and online but there is nothing we have been able to do. How do we get this across and let people know that we would like to be doing something but we are getting no information?

Cllr Blackhall said we need to be clear that the decision was made in London, Tenby Town Council cannot make this decision, Penally Community Council cannot make this decision, PCC and the Welsh Government are also excluded. This is not a decision made in Wales and he felt, as such, the Home Office have to resource the consequences.

Cllr Ronowitz felt this was an extremely delicate situation. There are people for and against. The majority sat in middle and if they were well informed and could understand what is going to happen, life could be a lot easier.

Cllr Rapi agreed that the reason we are in this situation is because the Home Office failed to contact anyone, including the local communities, before making this decision. This was an appalling state of affairs, we have had no contact and they will not inform us, it is an appalling situation which has been created by them. They need to tell the people, he said.

The Mayor said that it was indeed a delicate situation and a difficult time for all.

She did have a conversation with the new Police inspector for Tenby, Reuben Palin, who started last Friday. He had hoped to join the meeting this evening but had said that there may be chance he couldn’t make it due to the current situation. This had obviously been the case.

The Mayor agreed with councillors that there has been a lack of communication which has fuelled fires. Regardless of the rights or wrongs of this matter, we are a tolerant and welcoming community. There is no place for violence, disorder or lack of respect for

our police nor for creating fear in our community. We must remain calm. Please respect our local communities and keep everyone safe, she urged.

Cllr Rapi commented that what the Mayor said in the press was perfect in every way and felt that, at the moment, TTC could add nothing more. He felt the Mayor had handled things exceptionally well.

The Mayor said it has not been a great situation for her due to the number of people contacting her personally. People think that we are responsible for it, she said, and it was frustrating as a councillor not to be able to answer the concerns.

She added that it had been equally frustrating for many councillors, they have had the backlash too. We have to stand by what we have already said as it is correct, she commented. We need to find answers to the questions raised by the community.

The Clerk said it had been apparent over the last few days that the lack of clarity from Home Office was frustrating not only to ourselves but all the other bodies involved. He felt one option could be that TTC write to the Home Secretary expressing disappointment with the lack of consultation and information and ask that they provide answers to questions being asked by our communities.

Cllr Evans commented that he had been invited to a PCC member's seminar the following day which was to involve many agencies. He was not sure to who invitations were being sent but would have thought the Clerk or the Mayor could also be involved in this seminar as it may help to gain further information. Cllr Rapi said it would be good if the Mayor and Clerk were invited to join the seminar.

Cllr. Evans said he would make this request first thing in the morning and contact the Clerk with the response.

## **82. TO CONSIDER THE SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS BETWEEN OCTOBER AND CHRISTMAS – CLLR BLACKHALL**

Cllr Blackhall was conscious that we have a very different format for our meetings. In some ways we had a reduced agenda for a variety of reasons and in some ways a more serious agenda in relation to topics to cover. He wondered if may be helpful to go to a monthly meeting rather than fortnightly, in one way to reduce workload of clerk and his assistant. He felt there were ways members could still make decisions though different methods. He suggested putting a plan in place in terms of reducing our meeting schedule to once a month for October, November and December and then review these arrangements in the New Year.

Cllr Mrs Lane said she couldn't agree after tonight's meeting, as there had been many emotive issues discussed. Even though the town council were not in a position to resolve them all, they still needed to be aired and she felt a month would be far too long between discussions in a rapidly changing environment.

Cllr Ronowitz said he had originally thought to go with monthly meetings but in light of situation with Penally Camp and COVID, he now felt it might be a good idea to keep



going as we are. It seemed to him that meetings were working well and all were getting used to Zoom.

Cllr Blackhall said that this had been requested as an agenda item before the situation both at Penally and in relation to further Covid-19 measures came to light. He was more than happy to withdraw his proposal.

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

No items at this time as all had been dealt with during the course of the meeting.

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

The next meeting to be held on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2020 at 7.30pm. This meeting to be held remotely.

**85. TO PROPOSE ANY ITEM FOR THE NEXT AGENDA**

Cllr Rapi said that since storms earlier in the year, the sticks and wires put up between Giltar and Kiln Park have been completely pulled apart and they look quite dangerous. Cllr Rapi wondered if it should it be cleared? He asked if maybe the Clerk could sort the matter out. The Clerk replied that he will get on to it tomorrow rather than wait two weeks for members to debate it at the next meeting.

**86. 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"**