

**TENBY TOWN COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE TENBY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**  
**HELD 6<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2020**

<b>PRESENT:</b>	Cllr Mrs S Skyrme-Blackhall	Mayor
	Cllr Mrs T Evans	
	Cllr M Ronowitz	
	Cllr D Morgan	
	Cllr Mrs C Brown	
	Cllr L Blackhall	
	Cllr T Hallett	
<b>IN ATTENDANCE:</b>	Mr A Davies	Clerk
	Mrs S Thompson	Assistant to the Clerk

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

**90. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES**

Apologies received from Cllr Mrs Lane, Cllr T Brown and Cllr Rapi.

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

None disclosed at this time.

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 TO AGREE ITEMS OF CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMITTEE MINUTES OTHER THAN THOSE MARKED NOT FOR PUBLICATION BEING GIVEN TO MEMBERS OF THE PRESS PRESENT**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

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

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

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

P53 Item 78 The Clerk told councillors that he had received an email from Mr Marc Owen, of PCC as follows:

*We would appreciate your feedback on the social distancing measure in place in Tudor Square.*

*Currently the bays in the square are closed off for parking, this was put in place on the 12th September. The footfall at the end of September was high, however, we are now seeing a drop off of footfall, however, feedback from my team is indicating that at times footfall is heavier than would be expected this time of year.*

*Do you feel the closing off of the bays has worked? Do you feel these should remain in place or be reduced / removed?*

*We are very mindful that October half term starts a week Friday and we are seeing changes across Wales in relation to Covid19 daily. There may be a potential increase in numbers over half term from locals etc.*

*We would welcome your feedback as we want to work with yourselves on this.*

Cllr Ronowitz suggested leaving the barriers where they are. He said there is no need to confuse people as if taken away now they may have to be returned for half term. He felt what was in place was working well as footfall was up and down depending on the time of day and weather and the system should be left in place for now.

Cllr Mrs Brown also suggested leaving them in place and look at making another decision in November after half term. It's a good idea and is working well for business in town she commented.

## **RESOLVED**

**That the Clerk reply to Mr. Owen indicating that TTC would like the current system to remain in place for the time being and be reviewed again after half term.**

Cllr Hallett joined the meeting.

On the same item, the Clerk reminded councillors that Cllr Rapi had previously raised the issue of lack of dog prohibition enforcement. Mr Steve Morbey had replied advising that unfortunately District Enforcement were not able to issue fixed penalty notices as signage had to be amended to show more precise wording. This is being seen as an opportunity to try and change people's habits but PCC were unable to get signs erected in time due to COVID. Lifeguards and town wardens had been advising people about the prohibition, but had no powers to enforce. The signage will be in position by next May for the start of the next year.

P54 Item 79a The Clerk read a letter of thanks that had been received from Mr Terry Evans, Secretary of Tenby Male Choir.

P56 Items 81 The Clerk had attended the Zoom meeting which had allowed county councillors the opportunity to get more of a picture of what was going on in relation to Penally Camp. He felt that not much more was disclosed at the meeting than he had already known other than it was obvious that PCC were quite angry at the way the decision had been 'sprung' upon them.

PCC had subsequently written a letter to the Home Office – the content of which was also now in the public domain.

An email had been received from Simon Hart on Friday which had no further information other than what was already in the public domain through press and social media outlets.

The Clerk told councillors that there was a webcast organised by PCC for tomorrow at midday where someone from Home Office will be able to answer questions raised by the public.

**95. TO RECEIVE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS OF CORRESPONDENCE AND AGREE ACTION IN RESPONSE TO PROPOSALS:**

a. Helen Mcleod-Baikie, PCC – Tenby TIC

Any thoughts asked at the Mayor. Cllr Blackhall had had a number of conversations with people and knew of a couple of organisations looking to make use of the former TTIC. Cllr Blackhall suggested that a decision be deferred until the next meeting which will allow us to come up with proposal by 1<sup>st</sup> November.

Cllr Ronowitz feels that this matter was before TTC so long ago that his views on the whole situation are now more negative than positive. The amount of additional responsibility involved for current staff who do not have the time to carry it out needed to be taken into account. He felt it was not viable, especially as TTC were not able to make money from subletting.

Cllr Hallett feels the TIC is a white elephant, all information is available on the internet. PCC had experimental town wardens giving out information during this season and he believes that the TIC as a building is not viable. Cllr Blackhall agreed with Cllr Hallett.

**RESOLVED**

**That a decision be deferred to the next meeting.**

b. Mr J Cornwell, Treasurer, Tenby Skate Park Appeal

Cllr Mrs Brown thanked Mr Cornwell for writing this letter and also thanked the Clerk for applying for grants. There is still a bit of work to do however, she said. Some locals don't like it there but we must provide for children of this town.

Cllr Mrs Brown then asked the Clerk to update councillors on the Playpark.

The Clerk told councillors about the antisocial behaviour and irresponsible behaviour close to the roads that had come to light over recent weeks.

He had had a conversation with the heads of the four local schools to put out a gentle reminder to the children regarding standard of behaviour expected. The Clerk had met with Mr McGovern from Greenhill as it was apparent that, due to school closing earlier than normal due to Covid-19, students were coming to the park straight from school. Mr McGovern told the Clerk that if any staff members were aware of Greenhill students misbehaving, he will bring sanctions as these students were bringing the school into disrepute.

The Clerk went on to tell councillors that there are some standing water issues which contractors are coming back to resolve. He will also be having a word about how the noise may be damped down as it is a hollow metal structure.

The Clerk had also had the opportunity to speak to a CCTV provider but we were facing the same problem as we previously faced when wanting to light the park, in that access to the mainline power is some distance away.

The nearest street lamp is on corner of Battery Road and the only other sources in the area are close to the former South Beach Hotel and Kinloch Court and this would involve major excavation across the Seafront car park or through rock to get to the skate park.

CCTV is simple to install but power is the issue. Consideration has been given to solar power but this technology is not considered good enough at present to power the type of CCTV system needed. A combination of solar and wind turbine had been suggested but we just do not know if this would work either. A battery powered system would present major maintenance issues.

He had felt that we were at an impasse. However, today whilst at the park the Clerk had met with Mr Birt who manages the car park on behalf of the church.

Previous discussions with Mr Birt had indicated that there was no desire to put CCTV up at the car park but things had changed and it was now being discussed.

Mr. Birt had suggested that perhaps TTC could pay towards installation and running costs of this in return for some cameras directed at the park. It is a conversation he would be happy to continue with.

The Clerk had been following up on community grants through Police and Crime Commissioner funding streams but there was no more funding left in pot.

There are now budgets for the local neighbourhood policing teams for community safety initiatives through what is known as Participatory Budgeting. Some £10,000 has been allocated to Tenby and perhaps we could put a bid into this for CCTV funding. PCSO Andrew Griffiths is leading for the local NPT. He is setting up a steering group and has invited the Mayor to join this.

Cllr Mrs Brown asked if there was any money left in skate park account set up by Mr. Cornwell. The Clerk said that the bill had not been paid as of yet and he would not be paying until all the issues had been sorted. He would have to approach the Skate Park committee to draw down on their contribution but it had been suggested that they do not give the full amount held in their account as this would enable them to keep the bank account open and continue to fundraise.

Cllr Ronowitz felt it would be a good idea to see if we could work with the car park to provide CCTV and asked if this could be pursued.

#### c. Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales

The Clerk said that this is consultation on determinations to be finalised in February and the Panel were seeking comments on their proposals. As far as he could see, what was being proposed was no different to what we have already adopted in the past. Councillors agreed.

**96. PROPOSED SEAWEED FARM OF TENBY**

Cllr Blackhall had asked that this item be put on the agenda so that all were aware of what was being proposed. There were some potential issues but he was aware that those who may be affected were looking at the proposals. This area is being designated for a trial but could be expanded and thus could potentially impact sailing from Tenby and Saundersfoot and also may impact national sailing championships.

Cllr Blackhall feels that input from Tenby Sailing Club should be considered. He also felt it was worth asking around the Tenby fishing community and those operating from the harbour as it is important that their views are taken into consideration

He suggested that TTC should ask for responses from TSC, the harbour fishing community and harbour users and ask that they be fed into the appropriate channels. Cllr Mrs Evans seconded.

Cllr Mrs Brown feels that they should go ahead with the trial and see how it works out, Cllr Blackhall clarified that he thinks the trial should go ahead but wants all organisations consulted.

Cllr Ronowitz asked if anyone knew of this company. Cllr Hallett said that 'Seaweedology' is a new company started up about 18 months ago and possibly will expand.

His concern is whether the seaweed is indigenous and he also cannot see whether it is genetically modified for this type of farming or not. This would be of concern as it could impact on other local marine life.

Cllr Ronowitz asked where the firm was based and why would they be farming in this area. Where does it go to, who are the consultees, he asked?

He felt we should try and arrange a meeting with the organisations as suggested by Cllr Blackhall in order to find out as much as we can. Only then would we be in a position to know how we will reply.

Cllr Mrs Brown, agreeing with Cllr Blackhall, said she is always optimistic of new business coming to the area but she doesn't know a great deal about this topic and we should find out more.

Is there a deadline for a response asked Cllr Hallett? The Clerk told councillors that he was not sure as TTC were not consultees and had only been made aware of the application through media coverage. Cllr Ronowitz pointed out that the application was dated 10<sup>th</sup> September and it was noted that they hope to start work in December.

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

a. Tenby Observer Journalism feature

The Clerk had received an email from the Tenby Observer asking if TTC wished to take out an advert in their journalism feature which would cost £41.20 plus VAT. Is it something we have supported in the past asked Cllr Mrs Evans? The Clerk replied that most years TTC had supported the 'papers Local Journalism features. All councillors were in favour.

## **RESOLVED**

**That the town council takes out an advertisement in the local 'paper's feature highlighting the importance of local journalism.**

### b. Armistice Day

The Clerk asked councillors if they had any thoughts about what we should be doing about Armistice Day at the moment. This is the only public event for the town that has still not been considered, do members think it can go ahead he asked?

He was aware that many Clerks were discussing this matter and time is marching on. The matter had been brought to his mind again today as the Lord Lieutenant's office had asked if we were having a parade. Guidance that he has received from Welsh Government is pitiful, all that he has been told is that the maximum number of people allowed to gather outdoors is 30 and this could change as there is still 4 weeks to Armistice Day!

He was aware that already some North Wales councils had taken the decision not to hold a parade. We need to mark this important event but we need to know how to manage it, he said.

Cllr Ronowitz said that, as sad as it is, at the moment we don't know. He felt our normal event will create crowds and the 64 organisations usually laying wreaths is double the guidelines. He really could not see how the normal ceremony can be done.

Cllr Mrs Brown said we should wait for a directive from the British Legion. It may be that organisations do not lay wreaths on the actual day. If they wish to lay a wreath, they may do so a day or two before and the Council should lay theirs on the day.

She said that we still haven't heard from the British Legion although the local branch is actively trying to get information. The Royal British Legion head office in Pall Mall should announce what is to happen as perhaps there will not be any ceremonies anywhere this year.

She felt we should look to trying to accommodate ways in which the organisations could lay wreaths in a socially distanced way without attracting crowds of onlookers who could be at risk from Covid-19.

Cllr Blackhall agrees with Cllr Mrs Brown. We should take time, look at the options and see how we can do as much as we can as we simply can't hold a full ceremony under current restrictions, he said.

He agreed that TTC needed advice from the British Legion and felt members should reassess what would be possible at the next meeting.

Cllr Mrs Evans thinks that with the amount of people expected, a full parade is definitely not possible. She felt those councillors who could should attend in small socially distanced groups to lay a wreath on behalf of the town but we should discourage big groups of people.

As a side note Cllr Mrs Evans noted on Facebook that children are being asked to draw/colour poppies and put them in the windows in the same way rainbows were used for the NHS during lockdown. The Clerk confirmed that the British Legion have hinted at something like the clap for carers and rainbows may be an alternative to large parades this year but nothing was confirmed.

He also suggested the possibilities of streaming the ceremony via Facebook Live to reduce potential crowds.

The Mayor, having spoken about the matter with the Clerk previously said there were a number of options open to us. Regardless of what we do people would still attend on the day, but that was their choice, based on their own assessment of risk and was not something TTC would be encouraging.

Cllr Ronowitz asked if it was easy to contact the organisations to advise them in advance of what we are proposing, the Clerk replied that he normally writes to them to advise once the wreaths are available for collection so this could be easily done.

Cllr Blackhall proposed that Mayor and Clerk consult with the British Legion and other interest parties and come back with a proposal in two weeks. Seconded by Cllr Mrs Evans.

#### **RESOLVED**

**That the Mayor and Clerk consult with the British Legion and other interest parties in relation to how to hold the Armistice Day ceremony this year and come back with a proposal in two weeks' time.**

#### **98. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

Next meeting to be held on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2020 at 7.30pm.

#### **99. TO PROPOSE ANY ITEM FOR THE NEXT AGENDA**

Community Fridge – Cllr. Mrs. Skyrme-Blackhall

#### **100. 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”**

Moved Cllr. Hallett, seconded Cllr. Blackhall.

**101. TO CONFIRM THE PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES OF THE  
TENBY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD 22<sup>ND</sup> SEPTEMBER 2020**