

TENBY TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE TENBY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
HELD 1ST DECEMBER 2020

PRESENT: Cllr Mrs S Skyrme-Blackhall Mayor
Cllr Mrs Tracey Evans
Cllr H Whitehurst
Cllr L Blackhall
Cllr M Evans
Cllr M Ronowitz
Cllr T Hallett

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

The meeting was held remotely due to coronavirus restrictions

155. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES

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

The Mayor wished Cllr Tony Brown and his wife Sarah, a speedy recovery.

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

None disclosed at this time.

157. TO AGREE ITEMS OF CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMITTEE MINUTES OTHER THAN THOSE MARKED NOT FOR PUBLICATION BEING GIVEN TO MEMBERS OF THE PRESS PRESENT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 and seconded by Cllr Mrs Evans.

158. TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE TENBY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD 17th NOVEMBER 2020

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

159. ANY MATTERS ARISING FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Page 91 Item 143 The Clerk had been advised that Cllr. Mike Evans' proposal was not possible as town councils have no power to provide individual meals for people. They only have the power to make donations to organisations that do so. After emailing and ringing councillors, he had managed to get responses from 10 who felt that the simplest solution therefore would be for the donation of £3000 to Round Table be paid as requested. The cheque is now ready for collection.

Cllr Ronowitz told councillors that about 150 senior citizens had already booked but, due to the fact that it would be doorstep delivery, he estimated this could double. However, he told councillors that the council's generous donation would be enough for Round Table to cover all costs and so no one will be turned away.

Cllr Ronowitz had also been in touch with Cllr Evans and organised with him for wine to accompany the two-course meal. Each meal will also be accompanied by a hand written card with Happy Christmas wishes.

Cllr Blackhall wondered, given the numbers already registered, should the town council consider granting extra resources that may be needed.

Cllr Ronowitz felt that there was no need.

Many phone calls had been received from residents wishing to make donations and also to help with deliveries.

Cllr Hallett feels this is the true Tenby spirit.

Cllr Evans said that such community spirit in Tenby made him smile and suggested that the Mayor get the names of those people who had offered support from Cllr Ronowitz to thank them in the press for stepping up to the plate.

The Mayor volunteered to help in any way and Cllr Blackhall offered to drive for the Mayor to help deliver meals. Cllr Mrs Evans also offered her help.

Cllr Ronowitz thanks them all and asked that if any other councillor was willing to help, to let him know.

Page 93 Item 145 Cllr Evans told councillors that from tomorrow 28 houses at Hafalnod, will be going live on the Choice Homes website. All these homes would be available to local people and he asked that the Mayor write to Tenby Observer for this Friday to highlight that these houses must go to locals and urge them to bid.

The Mayor commented that she has had much contact via email about the scheme and she was aware that the office had too. Many people are delighted with the scheme and the fact that they are going to local people.

This is such good news for our town commented Cllr. Evans. It was vital that people must make sure they are registered so they can bid. He believed that bidding would remain live until Monday at 5pm. People could register on Choice Homes tomorrow and still be able to bid, it is not too late.

He felt the number of people coming forward for local housing, even if not successful this time, would influence the next development at Brynhir going forward.

Cllr Blackhall asked for clarity as to when bidding for Hafalnod properties ceased as he would like to be able to chase this up on behalf of those who had contacted him directly.

The Clerk said he would clarify this with Ateb in the morning and let members know.

Cllr Evans asked if the Clerk had had the opportunity to send a letter of thanks to Angela at Ateb and the Clerk confirmed that he had. Cllr Evans thanked the Clerk.

Page 96 Item 147b The Mayor told councillors that the Christmas lights switch on had gone very well on Friday. There had been a good response and feedback was all good. She thanked all those involved.

Plans were now in hand for a drive around the town with Father Christmas on Saturday, 19th December. We will try and estimate times over the next few weeks so people know roughly when she and Father Christmas would be passing through.

**160. TO CONSIDER TENBY MARKET AND A COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER –
CLLR M EVANS**

Cllr. Evans gave apologies for having quite so many items on the Agenda but this will allow the Clerk to do any necessary research or start actioning proposals.

He stressed that these were not his Agenda items but should be considered as ones for the council as to what we as a council can look at trying to achieve going forward into 2021.

Turning first to the Market, Cllr Evans said that we are all aware of the market and its importance to the town. There were, he felt, opportunities for the town council to look at ways to make it even better.

The Freeholders of the site are PCC but unfortunately they are unable to access grants that we as a town council can.

Running markets is a discretionary service and historically PCC have operated four in the county but questions were being asked as to why county council run them when private enterprises could?

He was not advocating the market be taken over by the private sector but believed that TTC could look at the building and have a better vision for Tenby. That was not to say that PCC have been poor but simply saying that a local eye could be more proactive.

The Clerk will recall, he said, that some time ago when PCC were actively looking at possibly disposing of their markets portfolio via Community Asset Transfer, TTC were approached and had several discussions around whether we could take it on through the town council, a development trust or a corporation of market traders.

Of the four council run markets throughout Pembrokeshire, three were losing a considerable amount and looked more like liabilities. Tenby was profitable and was seen as a benefit to the town. The then Development Trust had submitted an expression of interest and the county council were open to the idea and happy to explore it further.

However, when there was no similar interest in the other towns that had markets PCC decided to retain ownership of all four.

Cllr. Evans felt that the market can be a key driver within the community of Tenby and, if we work with PCC, TTC could access funding to make it a stronger more viable part of Tenby thereby giving more security for tenants there.

Cllr Evans said he was not asking members to sign up to a CAT tonight but was suggesting that a working group be set up to look into the matter and that TTC contact PCC to express interest in the possibilities of allowing us a community asset transfer of this market.

Cllr Blackhall felt that this could be a huge opportunity to do something very positive, as the town council can access resources that the county council could not. TTC should make this a key priority for the coming year.

Cllr Hallett suggested caution however, feeling that there is a lot of work to spend money on in the market which should be considered before TTC put pen on paper. He felt that TTC needed to see figures, like the profit and loss account, as it could be a major liability to take on.

Cllr Blackhall felt that this could be an exploratory conversation at this stage. TTC could look at what was possible to make the market an even better asset for Tenby without making a firm commitment. It could prove worthwhile doing to secure opportunities for existing tenants and strengthen their position.

He took on board Cllr. Hallett's view that TTC proceed with caution but was happy to second Cllr Evans' proposal. Cllr Hallett abstained from voting.

RESOLVED

That TTC set up a working party to look at the opportunities that could be provided by a Community Asset Transfer of Tenby Market from PCC to TTC and that TTC contact PCC to express our interest in exploring this option.

161. TO CONSIDER HOW TO MAKE THE FIVE ARCHES A 'GATEWAY' TO THE WALLED TOWN – CLLR M EVANS

Cllr Evans felt that the town walls were a tremendous asset to the town but that more could be done to enhance the Five arches as an historic gateway into the Walled Town. He was looking for TTC to recognise this as such a gateway and for suggestions and ideas as to how we could enhance it.

Do we replace the gates? he asked. Do we install lighting? Can we get rid of the weed growth? Can we get the litter bin moved outside?

TTC can access Enhancing Pembrokeshire Fund grants to do a lot more with them, he continued. If we don't use the EPF it will go to other areas.

Cllr Hallett told councillors there were brackets opposite the Five Arches car park for flag poles and there used to be 3 shields of different medieval patterns hanging from the

walls on the Arches themselves. However, the wall is ultimately in the hands PCC and CADW and CADW do not like things hanging on it.

The Mayor said that she and the Clerk had spoken to Cllr Phil Baker during the summer on looking at ways for enhancement of South Parade and the town walls but due to Covid-19 these ideas were not moving forward.

She said Cllr. Baker was keen to learn of any ideas that we may have. Tenby should be celebrating and making the most of our heritage

Cllr Evans proposed that TTC think about designating the Five Arches as our gateway into the Walled Town and work out how we welcome people through it. TTC have the money in our budget, all we needed was the vision of councillors to create a beautiful wish list, he said.

The Clerk said that he was aware PCC have surveyed South Parade with a view to replacing sets in the former tree holes and he believed work was programmed to start in some time next year on sorting out the uneven pavements. However, this work would be unlikely to affect anything further down South Parade towards the Five Arches.

Cllr. Evans said he was delighted to hear that PCC were to take on board resolving the uneven pavements.

He formally proposed that TTC designate the Five Arches as the gateway to Tenby and look to establish a working group to look at how we improve the designated gateway to Tenby.

The Clerk said he was aware that two of the absent councillors had expressed interest in getting an item on the agenda to look at resurrecting the idea of lighting of town walls, perhaps this would be considered by the working party.

Cllr Blackhall said as one of the people who first raised the idea of lighting the town walls, he supported this. The possibility of PCC looking at the unevenness of the parade was a start but he felt it requires a much bigger project to make long term impact.

We need to look at this in the round but the Five Arches were a good starting point, he said, seconding the proposal.

RESOLVED

That the Five Arches be designated as the gateway into the Walled Town and that TTC look to establish a working party to consider ways of enhancing it as an historic focal point.

162. TO CONSIDER A RESIDENTS PARKING SCHEME AT NEWELL HILL – CLLR MEVANS

Cllr Hallett declared an interest due to having a nephew living on the estate.

Cllr Evans thanked Cllr Mrs Evans her for all her previous work on the parking problems at Newell Hill.

This has been a long process as previous PCC conditions of working within traditional council estates was dependant on amount of council houses still in PCC ownership or urgent need.

There was success with Knowling Mead some time ago where they managed to get around the policy to remove the problematic roundabout there but not until now did there seem to be interest in dealing with Newell Hill in a similar way.

Cllr Evans said he had long been working on changing the policy with regard to council estates and PCC were now nearly there. There appeared to be agreement internally that PCC would no longer not look to undertake work on estates that were less than 80% council owned unless in exceptional circumstances. This was good news for Newell Hill as it meant that work could be undertaken to create more parking facilities for residents.

He asked that that TTC now call upon PCC to look again at Newell Hill to introduce changes on the estate. He was aware that three or four schemes were likely to be put forward across the county to benefit from this change of policy but, given the past history of problems, he felt Newell Hill would be high on agenda.

The Clerk said he and Cllr Mrs Evans have been in correspondence recent again about the long-standing issues over local emergency service volunteers being unable to get out of estate to due to parked cars. Again, recently there were incidents where the Fire Service first response driver couldn't get out of the estate which led to delays in the fire engine leaving the station.

As a result, the Clerk had again emailed Cllr Evans, Cllr Phil Baker, Darren Thomas and Marc Owen at PCC and it was believed that they had been looking into ways to get around the covenant on the play area to see if land could be released to create additional parking space. Mr Marc Owen had also suggested the introduction of a residents' parking scheme.

The difficulty the Clerk envisaged over a residents' parking scheme was PCC policy that only 50 percent of spaces would be given over to residents' parking, only 1 car per house would be eligible for a permit and more permits than available spaces could be issued.

Cllr Mrs Evans felt residents' parking could work if spaces were made available on the Salterns car park but, given all the houses, if the allocation was only one car per house, she did not think there would be enough room solely on the estate to accommodate a residents parking scheme.

Cllr Evans said that the change of policy he outlined earlier could see the creation of eight to 10 more parking bays in the vicinity of the play area with four or five given over to residential bays and, if PCC thought they could earn money from a yearly permit fee per space, success was more likely.

He felt TTC should write to PCC asking them to commit to providing 10 extra parking bays in Newell Hill.

Cllr Evans said he would veto any residential permit bays within existing parking on the estate but could support 10 new bays if 5 were limited to residents only.

Cllr Mrs Evans thanked Cllr Evans for bringing this up again saying that this is such a real problem and causes a lot of distress to residents.

Cllr Evans asked that a working group with plenary powers and headed by the Mayor be established to author a letter to be sent to PCC within 10 days. He would like to be part of this working party. Cllr Blackhall suggested that the third member be Cllr Mrs Evans and seconded the proposal.

RESOLVED

That a working party be established and that they be given plenary powers to author a letter to be sent to PCC about Newell Hill within the next 10 days.

163. TO CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITIES OF A WORKING PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN BOURNE LEISURE AND TENBY TOWN COUNCIL – CLLR M EVANS

Historically Bourne Leisure has been a great investor in Tenby, said Cllr. Evans. We have not lost that connection but it is an untapped resource, he felt.

Bourne Leisure supports a lot of local organisations but he felt TTC should work closer with them, he continued, suggesting that TTC meet with them to discuss their needs and for TTC to ask what Tenby needs from them.

Cllr Blackhall agreed saying this was absolutely a good idea. It would be good to set up an exploratory discussion in the New Year he said proposing that Bourne Leisure be invited to lunch with the Mayor and Cllr Evans to look at ways of working together. Cllr Evans seconded the proposal.

Cllr Hallett asked, if TTC were to form a bridge with Bourne Leisure, would TTC have to declare an interest in applications relating to Kiln Park?

The Clerk said he envisaged it would be similar to if PCC or PCNPA dealt with their own planning applications. All plans would still be considered on their merits with no favour or influence. There could be an interest but this should not override the planning policies that would need to be taken into account.

RESOLVED

That the Mayor and Cllr. Evans set up a meeting with Bourne Leisure representatives in the New Year.

164. TO CONSIDER A LOCAL HOUSING NEEDS POLICY FOR BRYNHIR – CLLR MIKE EVANS

Cllr Evans said that, following on the success of Hafalnod, it was never too early to start looking at ensuring the same local letting policy applied to the affordable housing provision proposed for Brynhir.

Within our local community there will be applicants who may be unsuccessful in securing homes at Hafalnod. We as TTC can help offer them a vision that there will be a house for them in Tenby in the future.

He felt TTC should make PCC ‘stand up’ and give assurance that we will have same access for locals within the Brynhir development as we as a town council have achieved at Knowling Mead. Brynhir will be the biggest local housing development in Tenby for the next 20 to 30 years and we will be unlikely to see another like it in our lifetimes.

TTC must be proactive and secure a local letting policy to deliver these properties to local people.

Cllr Blackhall felt that the interest in Hafalnod will really strengthen our position, we must encourage applications. We want Knowling Mead Hafalnod to be fantastically oversubscribed so that this reinforces the need for local houses for local people.

The Clerk told councillors that we have, on several occasion, asked Cllr Mrs Michelle Bateman for a meeting on Brynhir but have never had a reply. TTC had enjoyed an excellent working relationship with Cllr. Mrs. Pat Davies when she was cabinet member responsible for housing and we were hoping to foster a similar relationship with Cllr Mrs Bateman.

If we could secure such a meeting in the future the provision of local housing for local needs is a matter that could be raised.

Cllr Evans said that Cllr Mrs Bateman is an excellent councillor but is currently inundated with work as PCC look to build more affordable ‘council’ houses around the county. However, if TTC wrote again requesting a meeting he would speak to her to try to secure it.

Cllr Evans proposed TTC write to Cllr. Mrs. Bateman seeking to establish a meeting where a local lettings policy can be looked at to be implemented on the new Brynhir development and Cllr Hallett seconded.

The Mayor feels this is very important for the future of our town, response for Hafalnod has been fantastic and we must carry this impetus forward to Brynhir.

RESOLVED

That TTC write to Cllr. Mrs. Bateman seeking to establish a meeting where a local lettings policy can be looked at to be implemented on the new Brynhir development.

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

The Clerk told councillors that he did have something to bring to their attention but that it was really down to Cllr Mrs Evans.

As members were aware, Cllr, Mrs. Evans has taken a keen interest in trying to improve Tenby Railway Station and, when a couple of weeks ago, she read in the news that St Clears were getting a new railway station and Whitland was being refurbished, she had contacted local MP Simon Hart. She knew Mr Hart had been involved for a long time in discussions on the deterioration of Tenby and had been pictured welcoming both improvements. She had asked him if he was aware of any proposals for Tenby.

The response back was so positive that she felt it worthy of sharing with members. The Clerk read the email:

Further to my email of 20th November regarding Tenby Train Station

Simon has received a response from his enquiries with Network Rail. They have stated the following:

“Tenby was one of 11 schemes across Wales and Borders chosen for Access for All funding.

The Access for All Programme provides an obstacle free, accessible route to and between platforms. We manage and deliver the improvements which are funded by the Department for Transport, and in Wales, the schemes are match funded by Welsh Government through Transport for Wales.

In terms of the development of the scheme at Tenby, we are currently at what we call GRIP 3 – which is essentially option selection – once we’re through that stage of the process, and as the project continues to develop, we will of course ramp up our engagement with stakeholders and the local community.

In other very good news, we are also planning to deliver a renewal of the canopy at the station – we have some costs back from suppliers and are hoping that this work will commence in the spring. In my experience of similar projects we’ve delivered recently, this will make a huge difference to the overall look and feel of the station.”

This is all certainly good news for Tenby. All these improvements will make a huge difference to visitors experience as they step off the train.

I am awaiting confirmation of who at Network Rail you should contact with regard to carrying out community work at the station, but I also hope you have had an opportunity to look at my earlier email with regard to other volunteer work already being carried out on site.

Cllr Mrs. Evans said she was aware that Mr Perrott is the gentleman who does an excellent job looking after and watering the flowers. The news that the canopy was to be replaced is brilliant as it needs doing.

As they propose to involve local stakeholders, Cllr Mrs Evans asked if we can we get involved earlier as this information has only just come to light. She suggested we write to Network Rail directly.

The Mayor congratulated Cllr Mrs Evans and Cllr Blackhall echoed the comments, congratulating Cllr Mrs Evans for keeping this item on the agenda.

It was suggested TTC form a short-term working group involving the gentleman from Penally who had previously met with Cllr. Mrs. Evans and offered to help and Mr Perrott who comes down to volunteer. Cllr. Blackhall suggested that Cllr Mrs Evans lead with the Clerk's support. Cllr Hallett seconded the proposal.

The Clerk told councillors that Mr Perrott had not been able to get down to Tenby for a while due to Covid-19 as he lives in Caerphilly but he believed he was now making visits again. Cllr. Hallett felt he should be congratulated on his work.

It will be nice to get the station half way decent again as it is one of the gateways in to Tenby and so important said the Mayor, adding that it was sad that it had got in to such a state.

166. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

- a. Tuesday, 8th December 2020 at 7.30pm – Finance Working Party
- b. Tuesday, 15th December 2020 at 7.30pm - last scheduled meeting before Christmas recess.

167. TO PROPOSE ANY ITEM FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

Cllr Hallett asked that the maintenance of the railway bridge down at the Green be brought up as stones were lifting due to tree growth. He would take some photographs for members to see at the next meeting. The Clerk said that, with supporting photos, he could get in touch with Network Rail on the matter as soon as possible without having to wait until the next meeting to discuss.

168. 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 by Cllr Hallett, seconded by Cllr Mrs Evans.

169. TO CONFIRM THE PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES OF THE TENBY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD 17TH NOVEMBER 2020

Proposed by Cllr Hallett to be a true and accurate record of the meeting held on 17th November, seconded by Cllr Ronowitz.

Mayor

Town Clerk

Date
