

**TENBY TOWN COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE TENBY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD**  
**5<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2021**

**PRESENT:** Cllr Mrs S Skyrme-Blackhall Mayor  
Cllr Mrs T Evans  
Cllr Mr T Brown  
Cllr Mrs C Brown  
Cllr Mr L Blackhall  
Cllr Mr T Hallett  
Cllr Mr H Whitehurst  
Cllr Mr M Ronowitz  
Cllr Mr P Rapi

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Mr A Davies Clerk  
Mrs S Thompson Assistant to the Clerk  
Cllr. Michael Williams PCC North Ward

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

The Mayor wished councillors good evening, happy new year and hoped all were safe and well.

**186. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES**

None received.

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

None declared.

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 TO AGREE ITEMS OF CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMITTEE MINUTES OTHER THAN THOSE MARKED NOT FOR PUBLICATION BEING GIVEN TO MEMBERS OF THE PRESS PRESENT**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

**RESOLVED**

**That items of Correspondence and Committee Minutes other than those items marked Not for Publication be given to members of the Press present.**

**189. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

**Resolved that the Minutes of the Tenby Town Council meeting held 15<sup>th</sup> December 2020 be confirmed and signed as accurate.**

**190. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

**Page 111 Item 175 - Father Christmas:** Cllr Mrs Evans wanted to say what a brilliant event this had been and with such positive feedback. It had been a horrid evening but when she knew they were drawing close she had opened her front door, and many were seen running down the road. She felt that consideration should be given to making this a regular permanent fixture, a brilliant addition to Tenby's Christmas festivities.

Cllr T Brown echoed Cllr Mrs Evans sentiments saying that the children used to love it years ago and it was nice to see Father Christmas going round estates again. TTC should carry on with this every year.

Thank you to all involved who helped make it happen, this was for the children, said the Mayor. It brought a smile, was good for the town and very well received.

Cllr Blackhall said he had missed the entire event (!), but he had received a message from Santa thanking Dave and Mike at De Valence, and also Sion and Neil! Thank you also to the Town Clerk.

**Page 111 Item 175 – Market:** The Clerk had received further correspondence from Mrs McLeod-Baikie who had brought the matter up with Cllr Bob Kilmister and Dr Jones. Whilst this proposal doesn't fit in with PCC's policy as the market is an income generating asset, they are prepared to consider it if there are secure funding possibilities and that the market traders have approached TTC.

Cllr Blackhall has had discussions with traders in the market and wants to be able to support and sustain what they are doing. There are legitimate concerns as to what works for them and others. He has had long conversations with two of the traders and there is a willingness to look at options. Open discussion is needed with traders, this must work for traders first and secondly for Tenby town. TTC should invite traders to come and have an open discussion, let us see what the options are and air ideas. Ultimately what is better for them will be better for all. He felt the first stage would be to explore ideas through an open meeting.

Cllr Mrs Brown agrees partly but she does not want TTC to get into a situation similar to that of the TIC where it appeared that PCC wanted to offload a loss-making building.

The Clerk pointed out that the approach to consider a CAT had come from TTC and had not been suggested by PCC.

Cllr. Mrs. Brown felt that if TTC want to take on the building then we put to PCC this is what we want, this is how we see the transfer working, if PCC's answer to that is no, then we should forget it. Too much time was spent on the TIC and this was a waste of time.

The Clerk reminded councillors that before PCC will consider any CAT, TTC must fill in an Expression of Interest form complete with a business plan and details as to where funding needs to come from. He felt this needs to be discussed with market traders first as it may not be something that the traders are looking for. Previously when the possibilities of a transfer to the then Tenby Development Trust had been discussed in about 2014 it had come to nothing as the traders did not want to move from PCC control.

Cllr Hallett is extremely concerned as he believes there may be a lot of expenditure required on the building, as amongst other things it needs a completely new roof.

Cllr Blackhall felt Cllr Hallett is correct in saying that we must be careful with any asset transfer as we could end up taking on liabilities, and we cannot do this. Care must be taken.

Cllr Rapi believed there are some serious issues with the market including water leakage and rotten windows. It could be an absolute disaster as there has been little or no investment in the market for many years he said. TTC simply cannot afford to take on these costs unless PCC are prepared to put things right first. He himself has spoken to traders and the view was that the building is falling apart. The money we earn in a year from council tax would not touch the sides he continued, estimating that at least £200K would need to be spent on the building.

Cllr Blackhall agreed with Cllr Rapi, with any asset transfer the condition of buildings are important but we could look at whether we can draw on investment from outside that PCC would not be able to do. TTC would not want to take it on tomorrow given the current condition.

Outside investment was good said Cllr Rapi but what would be asked for in return? We are not money makers; we could end up owning nothing.

Exploratory discussions with the traders were needed to see if it is worth exploring further said Cllr Blackhall.

Cllr Mrs Evans agreed with Cllr Blackhall.

Cllr Blackhall proposed that an exploratory discussion be held with traders and then TTC to determine whether to continue with the proposed CAT. Cllr Mrs Evans seconded.

The Clerk said he would endeavour to set up a remote meeting involving the traders, but added that it may take a little time to confirm as so many were not operating at the moment due to current Covid-19 restrictions.

## **RESOLVED**

**That a remote meeting be set up as soon as practical for TTC to hold exploratory discussions with the market traders over the possibilities of a community asset transfer for the market building from PCC to TTC.**

**Page 111 Item 175 - Five Arches:** Cllr Blackhall said this matter has been ongoing for a while. What do we do with the walls, landscaping, streetscape etc. Beginning with one item is good place to start. He has had discussions in the past and a number of folk have approached him. Cllr Blackhall suggested an open meeting in a fortnight putting ideas together. Invite members of public and council and see how we can take this forward and make a difference.

Cllr Blackhall would be happy to set up a meeting for all those interested

Cllr Mrs Brown has also been contacted, people were talking about it and getting excited, but a grant must be applied for and a public consultation must be formalised. She welcomed the idea of a public forum but felt people also needed to be asked if they would be prepared to get involved and be part of ongoing discussions which could take months. It should also be noted that there are some who do not want anything done, she added.

She felt that, if we have a meeting remotely on Zoom, then we must account for the fact that some may not be able to take part. She suggested we also put something in the press inviting feedback. Lots of public consultation was needed or funders won't want to know, she commented.

Cllr Blackhall agreed. This needs to be an inclusive process and must show consultation. Let's get some interested people round the table. Let's generate some ideas.

Cllr Blackhall proposed, in line with Cllr Mrs Brown's idea, that TTC arrange a meeting. This would be exploratory in the first instance but could result in a group to take ideas forward through consultation.

Cllr Mrs Brown seconded.

## **RESOLVED**

**That a meeting be arranged to consult with the public as to how to enhance the Five Arches as one of the main gateways into the walled town.**

**P111 Item 175 – Newell Hill Parking:** The Clerk told councillors that the working party in relation to Newell Hill had composed and sent a letter asking for something to be done but no response had been received as yet.

**Page 111 Item 175 – Railway Station:** Cllr Mrs Evans had searched her emails for the contact details for the gentleman from Penally but had failed to find the information. She wondered if perhaps this information had come through the Tenby Observer. The Clerk will follow this up with the Tenby Observer.

**Page 114 Item 177a - Marine Licence Application:** The Clerk had managed to organise a Zoom meeting yesterday with councillors and representatives from Saundersfoot Harbour Commissioners. Unfortunately, the Chair of the Tenby Harbour Users Association was unable to attend due to last minute unforeseen circumstances. Both harbour communities share concerns regarding the lack of local consultation and the location of site. All welcomed diversity in the marine based economy but it was not to be to the detriment of existing long established local businesses.

A list of points in response was drawn up and forwarded to the NRW who have confirmed that it will consider these comments before determination.

Cllr Blackhall thanked the Clerk for convening the meeting at such short notice saying it had been a really positive meeting. This had been Saundersfoot and Tenby working together to express the concerns for local fishermen.

**191. TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING ITEMS OF CORRESPONDENCE AND AGREE ACTION IN RESPONSE TO PROPOSALS:**

a. **Dr K O'Docherty – Traffic Speed, Narberth Road**

Cllr Hallett said this area has been a bug bear for many years with motorists driving quite fast. There had been accidents and he considered that perhaps it was time for traffic calming measures.

Cllr Rapi felt, however, that putting speed ramps in would cause issues as this was one of the main access roads to the town for access for locals while also providing access to the doctors' surgery, the Cottage Hospital and Tenby's North beach car park which was used by coaches.

He felt that maybe there was the odd person speeding but this was not always an issue as most motorists will be sensible.

The Clerk told councillors that he is aware that PCC have conducted several speed surveys on this road over the years but the average speeds were always below what public perception was. We could ask PCC to conduct another survey as things change over time however.

Cllr Ronowitz would have imagined, since the mini roundabout was put in place at the top of the Narberth Road, that this would have slowed the traffic down. Perhaps another survey could be undertaken to see, he suggested.

The Mayor agreed that traffic has been slowed down since the roundabout was installed.

Cllr Mrs Brown agreed with Cllr Ronowitz and the Clerk and suggested that we ask county to reinvestigate speeds of vehicles on this road.

Cllr Brown believes that residents coming out from some of their driveways, when confronted by a car going up to 30 mph, their perception is of them going much faster. Speed bumps will not work as one of the two access roads into town and is used by lorries, coaches, cars and bikes, not to mention events.

Cllr Ronowitz suggested speaking with PCC about the possibilities of a flashing speed indication sign. He believes these tend to work and they could gather information rather than putting speed bumps in.

Cllr Rapi has a similar issue in his Carew ward. He believes that a sign as costs approximately £45K and that PCC are not going to find that amount of money. Another issue he continued is that researchers have found that these signs encourage youngsters to compete to get 'highest speed' score.

He felt we could ask PCC to check speeds in the area but cautioned that there was little funding available at PCC for calming measures.

Cllr Hallett wondered if the mobile speed camera could sometimes be sited on Narberth Road.

### **RESOLVED**

**That PCC be made aware of the concerns expressed and be asked to investigate further.**

## **192. TO DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING GRANT APPLICATIONS AND AGREE ACTION IN RESPONSE TO PROPOSALS**

### **A. Wales Air Ambulance**

Cllr Rapi felt that, as he knew one of the founders of the Air Ambulance personally, he should declare an interest. He therefore withdrew from the meeting and took no further part in the debate.

The Clerk reading from their accounts told councillors that in 2018/2019 (the latest available figures) it appeared that the Air Ambulance had an income of over £9million and their spend was over £6 million.

Debate between councillors then took place. Cllr Brown suggested a donation of £1,000 and Cllr Ronowitz seconded.

Cllr Blackhall reminded councillors that additional funds had been moved from reserves to support organisations that benefited the local community which had sustained loss of income due to Covid-19 curtailing their fund-raising activities. That absolutely applies to Welsh Aid Ambulance, he said. A donation would fit the criteria and be totally appropriate. We should recognise the vital role Wales Air Ambulance has played in a number of incidents in Tenby including that involving local former firefighter, the late Mr Martin Hurlow.

Cllr. Ronowitz agreed. He had looked at the accounts in closer detail and noted that, based on call out costs alone, the involvement of the Air Ambulance at incidents in the Tenby area over 12 months had amounted to in excess of £300,000.

### **RESOLVED**

**That under Section 137 of the LGA 1972 a donation of £1000 be given to Wales Air Ambulance.**

Cllr. Rapi re-joined the meeting

**193. TO CONFIRM THE BUDGET FOR 2021-2022 AND SET THE PRECEPT FIGURE**

The Clerk told councillors that the Finance Working Party had set the budget for 2012/22 at £221,933.88 which had been agreed at the last full council meeting. With income received and the decision taken to use unspent reserves from last year, this gave a precept requirement of £197,746.29. This will mean that the Council Tax Band D equivalent will remain unchanged at this year's level of £68.00.

Cllr Blackhall proposed acceptance and asked that councillors commit to more projects being achieved in the coming year. Cllr Rapi seconded.

**RESOLVED**

**That the Council's budget for 2021/22 be confirmed and Pembrokeshire County Council be notified that the precept requirement would be £197,746.29.**

**194. TO CONSIDER CLLR MRS MICHELLE BATEMAN'S RESPONSE TO A REQUEST FOR A MEETING ABOUT THE BRYNHIR DEVELOPMENT – CLLR BLACKHALL**

Cllr Blackhall asked if the Clerk had received a response and the Clerk confirmed that no response had been received. Cllr Blackhall suggested leaving it for one more week due to holidays. Then, if no response is received TTC send a letter once again requesting a meeting reiterating that we are keen to work together on social housing provision at Brynhir.

Cllr Mrs. Brown did not agree, believing that we need to go higher at PCC as Cllr. Mrs Bateman has not even had the decency to reply or make any contact even though we had made this request a number of times. Time has come that those being paid and who are not doing their job be pointed out to those in a higher position, we need a reply and now, she said.

Cllr Blackhall agreed with Cllr Mrs Brown.

Cllr Rapi said he knows Cllr Mrs Bateman, as he works with her on other PCC committees. He understands that she is very busy but she should have answered our request by now. Members recalled that TTC had first asked for a meeting when Cllr. Mrs. Bateman had initially taken over the Cabinet role for Housing from Cllr. Mrs. Pat Davies over 12 months ago.

Cllr. Rapi proposed TTC write to the Leader, Cllr. David Simpson asking if he could establish why Cllr. Mrs. Bateman had not responded. He was seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Brown. Cllr. Blackhall wondered if it would be sensible to copy in the Interim Chief Executive and the Director of Housing but Cllr. Rapi felt that Cllr Simpson was the Leader of Cabinet and it was down to him to resolve the matter.

**RESOLVED**

**That the Leader, Cllr. David Simpson be contacted to ask why Cllr. Mrs. Bateman had not yet responded to any of TTC's requests for a meeting regarding Brynhir.**

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

- a. The Clerk said that Cllr Blackhall had asked for a breakdown on watering costs from PCC at the last meeting after querying why they were so high.

Mr. McCarthy had responded that PCC staffing costs were 37 hours at £34.40 per hour and contactor costs were 143 hours at £20 per hour. In total 180 hours had been charged in relation to watering floral displays.

Cllr. Blackhall admitted his continued astonishment at the charges which equated to around £4164 just to water flowers.

Could we not employ someone ourselves asked Cllr Mrs Evans? We used to have our own gardeners, could we do it any cheaper?

Cllr Mrs Brown told councillors that water used on the floral displays has to be brought from the stand pipe.

Cllr Blackhall said this was correct but we also pay for the water drawn and the standpipe hire, which equated to an additional £500.

The Clerk pointed out that TTC agreed to pay for the standpipe costs to reduce the number of hours spent watering as it now took less time to fill the mobile water butt. The water butt contains 500 litres of water and it takes upwards of 1500 litres daily to water the displays around the town. The butt was filled in minutes using the standpipe whereas it was a time-consuming process to fill using a hosepipe in the Nursery Gardens.

Cllr Blackhall said he does not believe this process is still giving value for money however Cllr Hallett believes that there is not a lot of difference, if you work it out.

TTC could ask for a further breakdown suggested Cllr Blackhall, adding that he would like to examine this and look for savings that could be made. The grounds maintenance team are fantastic but every year PCC are putting more costs on to us, he continued. We have budgeted this year for another £10K to £15K for floral displays. Every year we are putting more in, and not wishing to criticise but the prices are out of control.

Cllr Mrs Brown felt there is nothing we can do about it. If we want floral displays, we have to accept that they do all the work and unless it rains, we have to pay for water.



Cllr Rapi also felt TTC needed a more detailed breakdown of costs. How exactly was this money spent, he asked? However, he could not see how TTC can do it any cheaper once all things considered.

Cllr. Mrs Brown felt that perhaps Cllr Mrs Lane needs to be spoken to as she and the Clerk go through the annual expenditure on floral displays with PCC. She said that TTC had tried to buy plants more cheaply privately but then we would have had to use PCC to plant. She agreed it is horrendous but wondered where else are we going to go.

The Clerk said that he and Cllr Mrs Lane usually discussed the bedding plants with PCC and the costs were brought back to council to be agreed. Manhours are not discussed as the assumption is, if we have flowers, they need to be looked after.

Previously PCC only charged for the cost of watering on weekends. Floral displays were no longer considered part of general grounds maintenance and, under the PCC policy of full cost recovery TTC is being charged for watering 7 days a week.

Cllr Ronowitz believes the more it is broken down, the more it seems a fair price for the number of flowers in town. He did not think it could be done cheaper.

Cllr Mrs Evans proposed that TTC ask PCC for a more detailed breakdown as it is a lot money. Cllr Mrs Brown proposed we just leave it as she does not feel we should do anything.

Cllr Rapi seconded Cllr Mrs Evans.

Cllr Ronowitz seconded Cllr Mrs Brown.

Cllr Mrs Brown's proposal was put to members but did not receive support.

Cllr Mrs Evans' proposal was then put to the meeting and was passed.

## **RESOLVED**

**That Mr. McCarthy be asked for a more comprehensive breakdown of the costs involved in providing and watering floral displays in the town.**

The Clerk informed the meeting that he had just received a text message from Cllr, Mrs. Lane who had tried and failed to access the meeting. He said he would speak to her to see if he could establish what the problem had been.

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

**Resolved that the next meeting will take place on Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup> January 2021 at 7.30pm. Due to Covid-19 restrictions still being in place this meeting would again be held remotely.**

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

None proposed.

**198. 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”**

Cllr Hallett moved and Cllr Mrs Evans seconded.

**199. TO CONFIRM THE PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES OF THE TENBY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD 15<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2020**

Resolved that the Private and Confidential Minutes of the Tenby Town Council meeting held 15<sup>th</sup> December 2020 be confirmed and signed as accurate.

**200. MATTERS ARISING FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

None.

Mayor \_\_\_\_\_

Town Clerk \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_