

TENBY TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE TENBY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD
2ND MARCH 2021

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

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

The Mayor welcomed councillors and then introduced Mr Luke Conlon from MenShed who had been invited in to talk to councillors about the MenShed initiative. The Mayor suggested that once Mr Conlon had explained the initiative, councillors then ask any questions they may have.

257. TO RECEIVE A PRESENTATION FROM MR LUKE CONLON ON MENSLED TENBY

Mr Conlon thanked TTC for inviting him along to talk about the ‘Mens’ projects in West Wales and gave a little background. The initiative is a project network men2 men, which 2 colleagues started as there is concern around what is going on for men in relation to mental health. Recent figures indicate that suicide in Pembrokeshire and Ceredigion are the highest rates in all of Wales. There is an awareness of how difficult it is for men but there are concerns over the lack of opportunity for men to come out and talk to each other.

A fledgling group to support men in seeking to engage with others to develop friendship opportunities and support groups had been set up and progress is being made. A grant had been received from Hywel Dda UHB which is quite unusual as there is no men’s health policy in Wales, he told councillors.

This about engaging men, to share ideas within groups, of all sorts. There are around 20 men from west Wales as volunteer champions to set up initiatives around communities giving an opportunity to talk and listen to each other and how to grow. There are women taking part in these groups also.

In the second half of life aging is also difficult for men, particularly as they are more prone to heart problems and health issues.

Mr. Conlon said the idea was to start a MenShed initiative in Tenby. Based in Carmarthen, the idea is a simple space for men to get together and to learn and to share skills. One was recently launched in Cardigan town with 5 men signed up, who will now go on to create a constitution and find a space in town to start making things.

The MenSheds movement started in Australia in the 1990s as it was found that men in particular lose a lot of friendship networks once retired and then often encounter serious health issues due to the loss of friendship.

The initiative came to the UK about 8 years ago and there are now about 25 'sheds' around Wales. Men do not do well just sitting in a circle talking but if you were to place a broken chainsaw in the middle of the group, this gets them talking and solving problems.

It has been found that MenSheds provide benefits to the community and some of the biggest supporters are women, they understand that men need a space to engage with men other than a bar. He asked if councillors would know men who may benefit or be interested, if there were any spaces in Tenby that could be used and people able to donate tools.

The idea is not to start too big. Once through Covid-19, we do not know how things will be for men. We may enter a big recession, working men in their 50s and 60s who could potentially lose the chance to work, will lose confidence and benefit from this facility.

The Mayor thanked Mr Conlon for his interesting presentation. Cllr Mrs Rossiter commented that when she first read of MenShed she was concerned it may be 'sexist' but was glad to hear that women were also involved as women are going through the same as men.

Cllr Mrs Evans feels it is an absolutely brilliant idea and she can see why this is aimed at men who traditionally find it difficult to talk. She would support it 100%.

Cllr Mrs Brown reminded councillors that in Tenby we have a Probus club which is for retired men, but there is definitely room for something more. Hopefully once this is out in the press there will be a great deal of interest. Cllr Mrs Brown thanked Mr Conlon for his presentation.

Cllr Evans echoed getting this information out in the press suggesting that the Clerk liaise with Mr Conlon to publicise MenShed.

With regard to suitable spaces Cllr Evans suggested the Tenby library/community centre which has rooms and also outside areas including a shed. This is how TTC could help to bring this idea to fruition. TTC could also help with rental of a property although there is only a small budget. The Clerk added that council could also offer start-up grants or interest free loans.

As this was not on the agenda for tonight, he suggested we put this initiative on to the next agenda to get councillors to support and look at how we can work together. If

council is supportive then TTC can liaise with PCC regarding the use of the further education centre.

This is very positive for the town said the Mayor, there is and will be a big need for this and both men and women would benefit from this in the community.

258. APOLOGIES

All present.

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

Cllr Mrs Rossiter declared her interest in item 9a. Cllr Mrs Lane also declared her interest in 9a as did Cllr Evans and Cllr Ronowitz. If any added licensing matters were to be discussed then interest would also be declared by these councillors.

260. 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 Mrs T Evans.

RESOLVED

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

261. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Resolved that the Minutes of the Tenby Town Council meeting held 16th February 2021 be confirmed and signed as accurate.

262. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES FOR INFORMATION ONLY

- a. **Page 156 Item 237 – Penally Camp:** Cllr Mrs Brown requested that the 3rd paragraph down be moved into private as she wished to comment.
- b. **Page 158 Item 237 – Penally Camp:** The Clerk told councillors that he had received an acknowledgement receipt of our letter to the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration in relation to Penally Camp.
- c. **Page 158 Item 239d – Citizen’s Advice and Shelter:** Cllr Evans asked if either of these organisations have returned to us. The Clerk said that although they have been contacted and promised to return to us, we have not heard back. Cllr Evans asked if this could be followed up as he would like all our ducks in line once Covid-19 restrictions start to lift.
- d. **Page 158 Items 239b – Unlocking of Covid-19 Restrictions:** The Clerk had spoken to Mr Marc Owen who had asked to arrange a catch-up meeting

involving a small group of people. At this meeting, it was discussed as how to take matters forward. Mr Owen feels that, rather than meet the whole council, a better approach would be to use the forum of a council meeting for members to discuss matters first and then feedback to a small consultative group later. He asked that the group include the following: himself, the Mayor, Mr Dan Warder, of the Chamber of Trade and Tourism, Cllr M Ronowitz, the Clerk and Mr Benger, of PCC Highways Dept.

Things to consider in relation to coming out of lockdown included: do we need the town warden scheme again as unlike last year, PCC may not have the resources to use redeployed staff so may have to put other systems in place; do we need to close off parking bays for social distancing measures; what improvements may be needed to signage if it is to be replaced.

Cllr Mr Evans said the positives of virtual meetings is that, whilst putting matters on agendas for discussion, the Clerk can proactively email councillors as to what these points of discussion are?

He asked that this matter be placed on the agenda for the next TTC meeting and that the Clerk ascertain the points Mr Owen would like considered to send out prior to the meeting so members had time to think about them rather than make snap decisions.

Cllr Mrs Brown asked for clarification as to the town wardens initiative as she felt that they had had a negative impact last year. Cllr Ronowitz felt it better to wait until the matter was on the next agenda to comment.

The Clerk told councillors that recent storms have destroyed the two TTC funded social distancing banners and he was wondering if members would consider us replacing them.

With the possibility of Wales reopening before England it could mean that we may have a lot more people about and we still need to get the message across that all still need to observe social rules.

The initial cost of the two banners was £225 although this may now be slightly cheaper as the templates had already been set up.

Cllr Evans said that, given that PCC were to renew signage throughout town then we could consider at the next meeting if they would replicate the banners for us.

The Mayor believes that we should still have these banners.

Cllr Hallett supports Cllr Evans' suggestion.

Cllr Mrs Evans feels that Tenby needs these banners.

The Clerk suggested emailing Mr Owen in the morning to clarify discussion points. He would then send them out to members to mull over before the next

meeting. There may be more opportunities as things as may change next Friday with Mr Drakeford's next update.

- e. **Page 160 Item 242a – Travel Active Route:** Cllr Mrs Brown referred to the paragraph regarding the golf links area and the land opposite where the pathway is existing. She believed most houses have claimed land on the other side of footpath. This may be a problem when they are making their decisions.

Cllr Brown believes that the land is still owned by a third party. Work is due to be undertaken on the land behind this area over the next 18 months. He believes that National Resources Wales are creating culverts to resolve drainage issues.

He wondered if this was an opportunity for PCC to get together with NRW to pave the area to divert foot traffic to behind the treeline to reduce the impact on residents.

Cllr Mrs Rossiter feels that this would be an ideal situation.

Cllr Brown said there is a great deal of concern over traffic and footfall. This is a pre-application consultation, the Clerk reminded councillors, and so this may be worth suggesting.

Cllr Hallett said the path on The Salterns side was going through the floodplain, from the footpath on Marsh Road and needed to be looked at again.

The Clerk believes that the gentleman from Arcadis is happy to have a meeting and this may be an opportunity for councillors to have a proper chat.

Cllr Brown asked if The Burrows resident, Mr Truman, who appears to be the spokesman for the residents of the area, could be invited to this meeting so that he could explain the residents' concerns. The Clerk will see if the consultants were amenable to Mr Truman joining the meeting if one could be arranged.

- f. **Page 162 Item 246 – Tenby Town Walls:** The Clerk told members that although he had heard nothing further from Suzie Adams, Louise Mees of CADW and Rob Scourfield of PCNPA were happy to have a remote meeting to discuss how we can progress. The Mayor asked if councillors were happy to have a Tuesday evening meeting. All agreed. The Clerk will contact both to see when they are available.

- g. **Page 163 Item 247 – Gilroy's Gardens:** Cllr Mrs Rossiter feels that Council should have been consulted before any of this garden was turned into a vegetable plot. She asked if PCC have forgotten that Tenby in Bloom paid over £3k for fencing around Gilroy's Garden.

The Clerk told members that he had spoken to Sinead Henehan earlier. She apologised profusely for the lack of liaising with both TTC and TiB. Ms Henehan told the Clerk that it is going to be a light touch planting scheme. There will be no capital works and if the project stops there will be little cost to PCC to put it right as there will be no significant change.

This is part of a nationwide scheme, signs will be erected, the group are arranging insurance and are aware of the historical antisocial behaviour associated with the garden. They are aware that they are taking it on at their own risk.

There may also be opportunities for collaboration with this group and TiB initiatives in the future. Concerns over the compost bin have been acknowledged and it is going to be suggested that the bin is locked to reduce accessibility both by the public and rodents.

This is an experiment and Ms Henehan does share some of TTC's concerns but will see how it progresses.

Cllr Mrs Rossiter asked if they had thought of the Battery Gardens. Another concern Cllr Mrs Rossiter has is that the family of the late Mr Phillips live just around the corner and she feels it may be insulting to them.

Cllr Mrs Lane wished them all the best and it was nice that the group want to take it on, but she is not really convinced it is the right thing for this garden having hoped for an attractive scheme.

She still felt that TTC should have been consulted and that there may have been a better location. She wished them success but felt the project should be monitored. The Mayor commented that 'time will tell'.

- h. **Page 163 Item 247 – Paragon Gardens:** The Clerk told members that he is meeting with Mr McCarthy tomorrow morning regarding the shelter.
- i. **Page 166 Item 248 – Tenby New Cemetery:** Cllr Mrs Brown asked if TTC still have a cemetery committee. There is work still needing to be done and the cemetery committee needs to monitor it. There are still areas that haven't been done. The contractors are behind but TTC need to keep pushing them to get the work done.

The Mayor said the committee is overdue for a walk about and, in normal circumstances, this would have taken place. The Clerk had spoken to the contractor and he had started on some of the work.

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

- a. NP/21/0089/FUL – Conversion of basement garage and storage rooms into self-contained flat for use of family member (Note: all services are linked and served by the main residence, the service control room is within the new basement unit) – Seren Las, 10 Haytor Gardens, Tenby

Any comments asked the Mayor? With no objections Cllr Mrs Brown proposed approval and Cllr Mrs Lane seconded.

RECOMMEND

Approval. Considered against all the relevant policies of the LDP members feel this will improve the aspect and amenity of the property with no adverse effect on neighbours.

- b. Change of use of the ground floor of the application property from a former dental practice to a 2 bedroom self-contained flat with internal alterations and change of use of the lower ground floor from a dental ancillary storage use (D1) to an office (B1). Aces Court, Warren Street, Tenby, Pembrokeshire, SA70 7JY

The Clerk asked councillors to cast their minds back to this application in 2019. This application has now been withdrawn.

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

- a. Pembrokeshire County Council – Active Travel consultation

The Clerk told members that his was an opportunity for members to participate in the Active Travel Consultation. The Mayor asked councillors if they wished to make any comments. Cllr Hallett believes this to be a good idea. Cllr Mrs Brown agreed with Cllr Hallett.

Cllr Morgan feels it is about getting this information out and encouraging people to complete the survey and get this information back to PCC so they have the information needed and can act on it.

Cllr Blackhall believes this is about, once people have ‘actively travelled’ how they can park their cars and store bikes, thereby making areas accessible. We should look at additional ideas in relation to car parks, bikes and mobility scooters. There is a need to have appropriate places where they can be left.

265. TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING LICENSING APPLICATIONS AND AGREE ACTION IN RESPONSE TO PROPOSALS:

- a. Pembrokeshire Gin Company Ltd – New premises licence for off sales – Cobra House, 11 Upper Frog Street, Tenby – For sale off the premises between 9am and 7pm. (Between 1st March and 15th November and between 10th December and 2nd January inclusive every year, the hours between 9am and 9pm). Opening hours to the public 9am to 7pm (between 1st March and 15th November and between 10th December and 2nd January inclusive every year, the hours open to the public between 9am and 9pm)

Cllr Hallett moved no objection and Cllr Mrs Brown seconded. All in favour.

RESOLVED

That members have no objections to the application and that, as the applicants were addressing all four licensing objectives, no representation be made to the licensing authority.

The Clerk told councillors that three more licensing applications had been noted on the PCC website. As TTC are not official consultees it is up to us to seek out these applications and to bring them before councillors for comments. One deadline for comment had been missed already and the other two required observations before our next scheduled meeting

The Clerk then informed councillors of the applications.

Tenby Brewing Co. has applied for a licence variation for their premises on The Salterns. The deadline for commenting on this has already passed.

Tenby Harbwr Distillery has applied for an on/off premises licence for their new operation in Sergeant's Lane. The licence would be from 9am to 11pm daily with the premises open 9am to 11.30pm daily. The Clerk explained that conditions were being met in accordance with legislation and the four licensing objectives. Cllr Mrs Brown supported the application and the Mayor seconded. Cllr Hallett stressed that the lane must be kept clear as it is a public right of way.

RESOLVED

That members have no objections to the application and that, as the applicants were addressing all four licensing objectives, no representation be made to the licensing authority.

The Qube restaurant has applied for a variation to their licence to cover their basement which has been renovated. The Clerk explained that conditions were being met in accordance with legislation and the four licensing objectives. Cllr Mrs Brown proposed no objection and Cllr Hallett seconded.

RESOLVED

That members have no objections to the application and that, as the applicants were addressing all four licensing objectives, no representation be made to the licensing authority.

266. TO CONSIDER ANY UPDATES ON TENBY TOWN WALLS AND AGREE ACTION IN RESPONSE TO PROPOSALS

The Clerk believes that his has been covered earlier. A meeting is to be arranged to make progress.

267. FORMER POST OFFICE SITE, TENBY – CLLR EVANS

Cllr Evans said obviously this site is on one of the gateways in to Tenby. The property is looking tired, and he feels it is the role for TTC as previously on other sites, to seek to ensure that it does not detract from the town.

For members information this building is now owned by Telereal Trillium, a large UK property company. The site will shortly be advertised through Cooke and Arkwright, for expressions of interest and TTC should have a vision as to what we would like to see on that site.

Cllr Evans asked the Clerk to firstly contact C&A to ask for the area to be tidied up, including the foliage, as it was located on one of the main gateways into town.

However, he felt TTC should go further and say that we are here to help.

Not to predetermine or prejudge our role as planning consultees, TTC have seen the success of the Delphi and the mix of commercial units with residential above it, Cllr. Evans continued. He would hope something similar could be achieved here.

We have seen the success of Ateb in providing homes for locals to live locally, are Cooke and Arkwright aware Ateb have support to continue this process? Cllr. Evans said that there were suggestions that the second home council tax rise to 200%. If this happened there would be more money for social housing. Our vision should be that we replicate what was achieved with the Delphi building on this site, a combination of both residential and commercial use to support locals living comfortably in their own town, he said.

Cllr Blackhall echoed Cllr Evans, this is a gateway site into our town and therefore it is important that we make improvements. They can be cosmetic in the short term and then a broader vision for the long term. He would add to the wish list small start-up units for emerging businesses as part of any plan for future. This is a real opportunity and we should make sure we are a part of it.

Cllr Evans said he saw a role for TTC in how prominent areas of the town developed. Parts of the commercial area were retracting but other areas have been regenerated, for example, Upper Frog Street and White Lion Street. This was an opportunity to regenerate the top of Warren Street.

He proposed the Clerk contact C&A to say that TTC is keen to help to try and secure our vision for the area. This will be a win/win situation if the policy is right, whereby we can develop retail opportunities while also securing affordable housing.

Cllr Mrs Lane told members that Warren Street was, in the not-too-distant past, a commercial street with shops all the way down. Before most people had cars people arrived by train. There were all manner of businesses and it would be nice to see if we could bring something back there.

RESOLVED

That, without prejudice, TTC contact Cooke and Arkwright to explain our vision for the site and ask how we can work with them to see what can be achieved. Further that a request be made if the site, including overgrown foliage, could be tidied up.

268. PROTOCOL

Cllr Mrs Lane told members that there had been a council in Tenby for over 600 years and our heritage and protocol should be really important to us.

She was pleased to hear councillors being called by their title at this meeting as she had been dismayed when councillors and guests were referred to by their Christian names at previous meetings.

Cllr Mrs Rossiter felt while, it has been difficult as all are on a Zoom meeting and are not sat around the table, we had started to be a little lax in relation to proper procedure. Perhaps members will now be more aware of addressing each other and guests by their proper title.

The Mayor said she takes this on board, and in her defence, believes it is difficult hosting meetings via Zoom as members were more relaxed in their own homes. She apologised if she had offended anyone.

Cllr. Mrs Lane felt it would be a shame if we start losing correct protocol and procedure just because we meet on screen.

269. SOUTH BEACH EROSION – CLLR MRS SKYRME-BLACKHALL

The Mayor said she would leave this item for a little while. Perhaps she would return to it at a later date.

270. AUGUSTUS PLACE – CLLR MRS BROWN

Cllr Mrs Brown wished to thank PCC for the fencing to the footpath which had been renewed and the new fencing between properties. She wished to congratulate all on the work down especially project manager Mr Jason Sullivan. A marvellous job has been done.

Cllr Evans said it was a lovely opportunity to mention the late Mrs Maureen Ward who had been pushing for this for 10 years, she would have loved this, her legacy lives on.

Cllr Mrs Lane said she hoped Cllr Mrs Brown did not mind but she wished to mention car parking in front of some of the properties in Augustus Place. Cllr Mrs Lane suggested this in the past saying it would make sense if the occupants of Nos 1 to 4 had parking on that side of street. Retain the opposite parking but if residents were willing to give up their front lawns to make parking spaces it would help an awful lot.

Cllr Mrs Brown said that she too has investigated this and residents were not particularly happy with this suggestion. She agrees it is a shame as it could alleviate parking problems, but the residents like their grassed areas.

Local people who work in Tenby also park in Augustus Place which exacerbates the parking issue, the residents do not want the parking in front of their homes.

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

- a. The Clerk had received an email from the Harbourmaster, Mr Chris Salisbury, to say that the annual moving of sand from the entrance to the harbour will take place between 15th March and 18th March. He asked all to take care around North Beach area during this time.
- b. The PCC Regeneration Department has received grant funding to carry out a consultation on how the towns of Pembrokeshire capitalise on space, culture, heritage, artisan industries and other characteristics to contribute to their brand. Engagement will be undertaken with all the relevant stakeholders, including TTC, when the contract is awarded.
- c. PCC are undertaking works to improve the bus stop on South Parade. This will involve raising the pavement kerb to accommodate low threshold buses, moving the dropped kerb to a newly created crossing build-out and addressing the former tree pits in the area of the bus stop. Work was expected to commence on 22nd March.

PCC are to undertake remedial work on the former tree pits further along South Parade as soon as possible within the next few weeks too. There are still a lot of stumps left said Cllr Hallett. The Clerk was sure that these would be addressed as part of the works.

PCC would also be installing a new bus shelter on Marsh Road for those waiting for buses heading in a westerly direction towards Penally and Manorbier.

Long Course Weekend, as councillors are probably aware, has been postponed until next year due to continuing Covid-19 restrictions.

Cllr Mrs Rossiter wished to thank the Clerk for acting so quickly in corresponding with PCC with regard to the state of Gas Lane. This work has now been carried out.

272. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved that the next meeting will take place on Tuesday, 16th March 2021 at 7.30pm.

273. TO PROPOSE ANY ITEM FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

Update on works at De Valence – Cllr Mrs Brown

274. **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”**

275. **TO CONFIRM THE PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES OF THE TENBY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD 16TH FEBRUARY 2021**

Resolved that the Private and Confidential Minutes of the Tenby Town Council meeting held 16th February 2021 be confirmed and signed as accurate.

277. **TO RECEIVE THE NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD 23RD FEBRUARY 2021 WITH TENBY MARKET TRADERS**

RESOLVED

That TTC open a dialogue with Pembrokeshire County Council and continue to liaise with Market Traders over possible options for the future of Tenby Market.

Mayor _____

Town Clerk _____

Date _____