

TENBY TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE TENBY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD
6TH JULY 2021

<u>PRESENT:</u>	Cllr Mrs S Skyrme-Blackhall	Mayor
	Cllr Mrs T Evans	
	Cllr Mr L Blackhall	
	Cllr Mrs T Rossiter	
	Cllr Mr J Cornwell	
	Cllr Mrs C Brown	
	Cllr Mr T Hallett	
	Mr N Young	PCC
	Mr N McCarthy	PCC
<u>IN ATTENDANCE:</u>	Mr A Davies	Clerk
	Mrs S Thompson	Assistant to the Clerk

The Mayor welcomed all to the meeting.

86. TO MEET WITH MR. NEIL MCCARTHY AND MR. NICKY YOUNG, PCC AREA MAINTENANCE

The Mayor opened by thanking the maintenance team for all they do for Tenby. They work closely with the Clerk and everything is very much appreciated. She suggested Messrs McCarthy and Young run through things first and if councillors have any questions please ask after.

Messrs McCarthy and Young introduced themselves, explaining that their remit includes street cleaning, beach cleaning, grounds maintenance, PCC play areas and invasive weeds including Japanese knotweed.

As a result of Covid, work has been put back by about 18 months although they have tried to work closely with the town council to do what they can. Now the department was trying to get back to normality and hope to continue building the relationship with TTC over the next 2 years and continue to work together for the good of the town.

Mr. McCarthy was aware that TTC were applying for EPF to maintain Tenby's image and he was looking forward to being part of that bid to future proof Tenby for the next 20 years by looking at what we can achieve together.

Cllr Blackhall thought it may be useful to put context to the EPF bid, a big part of which relates to gardens and open spaces, railings and street scape. Some discussions have been had but we may have to accept that we may have to prioritise spaces, to target high profile areas and maybe move to lower maintenance schedule or a different type of street scape.

Resources are in short supply, he continued, and there is a need to prioritise what is important. Which are the key sights that Tenby residents want us to prioritise? We

must use resources to future proof things and keep adapting so that costs can be manageable.

Cllr Mrs Rossiter asked if weed spraying had been done. All had been completed said Mr. Young, although they had been back in yesterday to go over bits that had reappeared.

Mr. McCarthy explained that weed spraying is actually a highways department function but from next year area maintenance will take it over in Tenby as he and Mr. Young felt it started too late this year.

Cllr Cornwell said he has received feedback and feels that congratulations are in order as he has received many comments on how well managed and clean the town is.

It has been a difficult year with hospitality closed, visitors eating takeaways and creating more waste, but feedback was clear that town is wonderfully looked after and staff deserve thanks for all their hard work.

Cllr Hallett added that he too has received many positive comments as to what a well looked after town Tenby is and a place worth coming to.

Cllr Blackhall asked Mr. McCarthy and Mr. Young what they see as their biggest challenges and if they had to pick 5 most important sites, what would they be?

Mr. McCarthy feels that Rotary Garden is one of the biggest challenges due to the sandy soil and its south facing aspect. There are solutions for most gardens however, and none should be discounted as they are high impact areas. If we get this partnership approach right it would be incredible.

Some of the main challenges include logistics, added Mr. Young as several sites have limited, or no vehicular access. He thanked the Clerk for all his help, particularly in arranging the standpipe for watering. This shows what working together can do.

The biggest issue faced by the maintenance team at the moment is that much of the infrastructure in the gardens is coming to end of life. The number 1 priority is to keep the gardens open by replacing this infrastructure, otherwise, if the gardens are considered to becoming dangerous, sadly they will close to the public.

Working together is crucial as PCC themselves cannot access grants, said Mr McCarthy We need to look outside the box to make changes. We can still have floral displays but give them a different aspect. With combined knowledge and working together we can make Tenby as good as it can possibly be. These are challenges to face together to achieve the same goal, to see Tenby back looking great

Members asked, in relation to the Rotary Gardens, what solutions would area maintenance suggest? Mr. McCarthy said that there were several options that could be considered including flowers, shrubs, bushes and sculptures. Cllr Mrs Rossiter felt that Cllr Mrs Lane should also be liaising on this subject.

Mr. Young felt that the work undertaken by TTC in the Paragon Gardens showed what could be achieved. This garden is now becoming one of the most popular sitting out areas in town.

Cllr Mrs Brown said that one of her bugbears is grass cutting. Even before Covid, it was not being undertaken as frequently in most sites. She realises it is difficult, but it is important for locals as well as tourists that areas are looked after. She feels that some places don't get cut for a month. One area in particular can see two months between grass cuts and yet some areas are done more frequently.

Would it be possible to have a schedule of grass cutting, she asked? She appreciates work done and how hard it is but people live here too.

Mr. McCarthy said he was happy to forward grass cutting schedule but highways were responsible for some areas like roadside verges, while other areas, like the Bells Corner had limitation on when cutting could start due to the wild orchids and daffodils.

There were 12 cuts a year on a 12-to-14-day cycle. If areas were not being cut within this cycle, then ask the Clerk to let Mr. Young know and they can get it done.

Mr. McCarthy said that he and Mr. Young were more than happy to have a walk around with councillors to look at issues and gardens in relation to the EPF bid.

Cllr. Mrs. Brown commented that, at the last meeting, Cllr Mrs Lane had felt that we do not do enough walkabouts ourselves. Let's be proactive and take PCC up on the offer, she said

Cllr Hallett said it was nice to see wild flowers being looked after. They look nice and it doesn't cost the rate payers a penny.

Mr. McCarthy suggested that Friday would be good for a walkabout meeting.

Cllr Cornwell said he would be happy to join in a walk around on Friday. The Clerk suggested that he see if Cllr Mrs Lane is free and also invite other members of the council.

What about Battery Gardens, asked Cllr Mrs. Brown? Will it be an idea to put sculptures in there? It was pointed out that the floral area is looked after by a team of volunteers, while Cllr Blackhall said that one of the possibilities that Cllr Mrs Lane was discussing at the Regen meeting, was where lower priority sites may fit in with this sort of approach.

Cllr Mrs Rossiter asked what was being done about Brother Thomas' Garden?

Mr Young said that this was being radically overhauled by a family who lived nearby who volunteered to look after it. They have done great things already and will open the gardens to the public for a short period of time every day. The local PCSOs and Police Cadets were also working together with the family and it is absolutely fantastic what they are doing.

The Mayor said the flower towers on South Parade are fabulous and it was great to have colour back.

She asked if rubbish collection fell under maintenance's remit? There was a high volume of people in town and the team on refuse handle it so well. They are once again doing a fantastic job in difficult circumstances.

Mr. McCarthy indicated that up to 5 tons of rubbish is being taken from town per day.

The Mayor said this was amazing. She would like to thank all involved in doing a great job.

Mr. Young said he will pass thanks on to the team.

The Clerk asked what the best time would be on Friday for the meeting and it was agreed to set it for 10 am. All councillors are welcome to join the meeting which will start from the office.

The Mayor thanked Mr. McCarthy and Mr Young for attending.

87. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Cllr M Evans and Cllr Mrs S Lane.

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

None declared.

89. 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 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.

90. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Resolved that the Minutes of the Tenby Town Council meeting held 22nd June 2021 be confirmed and signed as accurate.

91. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES FOR INFORMATION ONLY

- a. **Page 36 Item 74a – Parking:** The Clerk told councillors that he had written to Darren Thomas, PCC, with the change of TTC's position relating to The

Green and he had replied to say that TTC's comments will be fed back into the consultation.

- b. **Page 39 76a – PCNPA Seminar:** The Clerk had informed PCNPA of TTC's wish to attend this seminar. PCNPA have acknowledged and will send a link shortly.
- c. **Page 40 Item 76b - Fund:** The Clerk and Cllr Mrs Lane had spoken and their ideas aren't eligible for the grant on offer. Unfortunately, we cannot move forward any further on this one.

Cllr Cornwell noted that there is now a bus shelter on the opposite side of the Marsh Road.

- d. **Page 40 Item 77 – Town Walls:** The Clerk advised that last meeting's resolution was to write to various parties on the lack of action. However, the Clerk had received an email from Suzie Adams the following morning. The email advised that work was due to start this week, the Clerk had emailed this information on to councillors upon receipt.

The Clerk believes that the work started yesterday and that the team are coming in really early to avoid spraying whilst people are sat on benches.

However, initially we did say that we would be prepared to fund one day's work and Susie appeared to be under the impression that this was a project jointly funded by PCC and TTC and believes that a contribution of £600 is coming from TTC.

Cllr Mrs Brown felt that TTC should stand by their original offer to contribute £600. Cllr Mrs Rossiter agreed as did Cllr Blackhall.

Cllr Mrs Evans said that she was under the impression that the original agreement was PCC pay for a day, TTC would pay for a day and Tenby in Bloom would pay for day. This was based on Susie's estimate of the daily cost of the works. Cllr. Mrs. Rossiter confirmed that TiB had offered financial support.

RESOLVED

That TTC abide by their initial offer and contribute £600 towards the cost of the weed removal.

- e. **Page 43 Item 79 – TTC Pop up Tent:** The Clerk said that he had enquired whether a Covid recovery grant could be used to buy a tent. Having checked with the relevant department, he had been told it was an ineligible expenditure. The Mayor said that this was disappointing news.

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

The Mayor asked if items 7 and 8 could be taken together as they tied in with each other.

- a. NP/21/0355/TPO – Ash – fell due to category 4 Ash Dieback symptoms – 14 Mayfield Drive, Tenby

Cllr Hallett feels this needs to be done under guidance as the tree will become unstable and health and safety must be adhered to. Cllr Mrs Brown seconded.

RECOMMEND

Approval on the grounds of public health and safety.

- b. NP/21/0369/TPO – Sycamore – remove overhanging limbs to fence – 16 Trafalgar Road, Tenby

Cllr Hallett said this work needs to be done as trimming is good for the tree. Cllr Mrs Rossiter seconded.

RECOMMEND

Approval. Members feel that the removal of these branches will improve the health of the tree and increase its longevity.

- c. NP/21/0381/FUL – Proposed change of use and conversion of vacant ground floor shop to a two-bedroom flat – Bayview, 5 The Norton, Tenby

Cllr Hallett believes the shop front needs to be reduced and made to look like the rest of properties on the street as laid out by the Civic Society letter. Cllr Mrs Rossiter seconded.

Members also noted that the Civic Society had highlighted that this was a listed building within the Conservation area which would also need approval by the Park.

The Clerk said it was quite common for both Full and Listed Building applications to be submitted in circumstances like this but they were not always sent out for consideration at the same time. The LBA will probably be received shortly.

This proposal could be visibly attractive if in keeping with rest of the properties said Cllr Mrs Rossiter.

Members recalled that there was another shop in this row which was converted so successfully that you could no longer tell where it was. This was the standard required to fit in with the streetscape here.

RECOMMEND

Approval. Considered against all relevant policies in the Local Development Plan members feel that there will be no adverse impact from this proposal on the proviso that the conversion adheres to the streetscape's Listed status and location within the Conservation area. Members also note and support the comments of Tenby Civic Society in relation to this application.

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

- a. Tenby Civic Society – Comments on recent planning applications
- b. Matthew Griffiths, PCNPA – Conservation Area Notification process in relation to application NP/21/0370/TCA – Cypress – reduce by 3m (10 m to 7 m) – 16 Trafalgar Road, Tenby

Both these matters had been considered in relation to the previous agenda items.

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

- a. Miss K Telford, Tenby Taxi Associates – Evening train services to Tenby

The Clerk told councillors that he has received a number of comments from people who have mentioned that the evening train service has been discontinued, also commenting on how difficult it is to go home from town after an evening out.

The Clerk had advised that he could not do anything until the matter had been brought to the attention of TTC hence the letter from Miss Telford.

Miss Telford has also written to Samuel Kurtz our new Senedd Member on the matter and he has already taken the issue on board. He understands the implications and has written to Lee Waters, Deputy Minister for Climate Change, as this fits with Welsh Government's Climate Change agenda in relation to improving public transport links to reduce reliance on private vehicles. The Deputy Minister has been asked to intervene to get later trains reinstated as soon as possible.

Cllr Mrs Brown agrees with what Miss Telford is saying. She knows of someone who works in London and cannot get back to Tenby on the same day.

She added that it is also noticeable as to the amount of visiting day trippers leaving, and the town emptying at 5.30 pm, which was detrimental to the early evening economy.

Cllr Hallett remarked that the later trains to Haverfordwest and Fishguard remained operational; it was only our service that had ceased.

Hopefully Mr. Kurtz's intervention will be successful.

RESOLVED

That members wait for the outcome of Samuel Kurtz SMs actions before considering whether to take the matter up themselves.

- b. Miss K. Telford, Tenby Taxi Associates – Operation of Tuk-Tuks as Hackney carriages

Cllr Hallett moved that this be sent to PCC as they have the licensing department and we have no input on such matters. The Mayor seconded.

Cllr Mrs Brown commented that this was a good idea when it all started and meant to be fun thing but they now seem to roar up and down Warren Street to and from the railway station. A Tuk Tuk can only take 3 passengers and Cllr Mrs Brown fails to understand why they are taking people off trains.

To get a taxi license, PCC go through everything to ensure that the vehicle is safe and there is concern that some of these vehicles are now using busy main roads. This was a novelty to begin with but now has become a taxi business, and they are not designed for our roads, Cllr. Mrs. Brown added.

The Mayor agreed, feeling these vehicles were more suited to flat, built up towns.

Cllr Cornwell believes that the Tuk Tuks also offer cocktail tour nights. Perhaps they shouldn't be taxi licensed but licensed for entertainment he added.

RESOLVED

That PCC Licensing Department be contacted for their views.

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

This matter had been dealt with earlier in the meeting.

96. TO CONSIDER WAYS OF SUPPORTING COMMUNITY ACTIVITY BEYOND COVID (COMMUNITY HUB) – CLLR. L. BLACKHALL

Cllr Blackhall believes we prepared as best we could but no one expected that 16 months later we'd still be dealing with Covid related issues. Some organisations, societies and community groups are now thinking of meeting up again. All of them have been the foundations of our community and have been missed. However, their fund raising has been adversely affected by Covid and getting started again will be difficult. How can we help and what is best to do to help, he asked?

As part of TTC's bid to EPF, we are looking at having a grants/community engagement officer to help get organisations back on their feet. Could we put the question out there to organisations as to what support they need as we come to the point where things are opening out and residents have the chance to get back together.

He suggested a piece in the local press asking this question of organisations.

Cllr Mrs Brown seconded the idea.

Cllr Mrs Rossiter asked if it was a need for money by these organisations, but Cllr Blackhall said there were other considerations, particularly how a grants/community engagement officer can work with organisations to help them access grants from other sources.

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

The Clerk told councillors that it looks like Ironman is going to be confirmed for 5 events from 2022 and that shortly TTC will be asked to continue with their support. This matter will be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

With regard the Tenby Town Market meeting that has been arranged by Helen Mcleod Baikie, this invitation is to a Teams meeting and therefore councillors will have to use the link provided by her. This meeting is to be held on 26th July 2021 and the Clerk will remind councillors at the next TTC meeting.

98. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved that the next meeting will take place on Tuesday, 20th July 2021 at 7.30pm.

99. TO PROPOSE ANY ITEM FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

None proposed at this time.

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"

101. TO CONFIRM THE PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES OF THE TENBY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD 22ND JULY 2021

Resolved that the Private and Confidential Minutes of the Tenby Town Council meeting held 22nd June 2021 be confirmed and signed as accurate.

Cllr Mrs Evans congratulated the Mayor and Cllr Blackhall on becoming first time grandparents. The Mayor thanked everyone for their good wishes

Mayor _____

Town Clerk _____

Date _____