

TENBY TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE TENBY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD
18TH JANUARY 2022

PRESENT: Cllr Mrs S Skyrme-Blackhall Mayor
Cllr Mrs T Evans
Cllr Mr P Rapi
Cllr Mr J Cornwell
Cllr Mrs T Rossiter
Cllr Mr T Hallett
Cllr Mr L Blackhall
Cllr Mrs Christine Brown

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

The Mayor welcomed all.

269. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Cllr Mrs S Lane, Cllr Mr D Morgan and Cllr H Whitehurst.

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

Cllr Hallett and Cllr Rapi declared their interest in Item 10 and Cllr Mrs Rossiter declared her interest in Item 12.

271. TO AGREE ITEMS OF CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMITTEE MINUTES OTHER THAN THOSE MARKED NOT FOR PUBLICATION BEING GIVEN TO MEMBERS OF THE PRESS PRESENT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 Cornwell

RESOLVED

That items of Correspondence and Committee Minutes other than those items marked Not for Publication be given to members of the Press present.

272. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Resolved that the Minutes of the Tenby Town Council meeting held 4th January 2022 be confirmed and signed as accurate.

273. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES FOR INFORMATION ONLY

- a. **Page 120 Item 260 – Budget 2022:** Cllr Blackhall asked if he could raise a matter relating to this under private session. All were in favour.

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

a. NP/22/0007/FUL – Proposed garage adjacent to driveway – Queen Victoria House, The Mews, Heywood Lane, Tenby

Cllr Rapi asked if any complaints have been received from neighbouring properties as in his mind, it is overdeveloped and appears very narrow. No objections had been received said the Clerk. Cllr Mrs Rossiter clarified the location for members. After some discussion a site visit was proposed by Cllr Rapi and seconded by Cllr Cornwell. The Clerk will ask PCNPA to accommodate a meeting.

RECOMMEND

Members are concerned about the scale of the proposed development and its impact on the amenity of neighbouring properties. They would welcome a site visit with officers to discuss the proposal in more detail.

b. NP/21/0816/FUL – Rear lean-to and flat-roofed extensions – Ystrad, Trafalgar Road, Tenby

Cllr Rapi has no objections, many have extended on this road, and proposed acceptance. Cllr Hallett seconded.

RECOMMEND

Approval. Considered against all the relevant policies within the LDP, members feel that this proposal will have no adverse impact on the amenity of neighbouring properties.

275. TO RECEIVE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS OF PLANNING CORRESPONDENCE AND AGREE ACTION IN RESPONSE TO PROPOSALS:

a. PCNPA – Supplementary Planning Guidance Consultation

The Clerk told members that PCNPA are updating guidance and asking for our views on what is being proposed. Councillors need to look at web links for each policy and see what they think. Cllr Hallett pointed out that the closing date is 15th April 2022. It was recommended that councillors have a look and feedback comments to Clerk who will raise it on a future Agenda.

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

a. Rebecca Evans MS, Minister for Finance and Local Government, Welsh Government – General Power of Competence – Qualifications of Clerks Regulations 2021 (deferred from 4th January)

The Clerk explained that the General Power of Competence (GPOC) was part of a raft of legislation within the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 passed last year by the Senedd.

GPOC had been in place in England since 2011 and was a very successful power of 'first resort' which, for those councils declaring GPOC meant that they did not have to look various pieces of legislation to see if they have the power to undertake something in the interests of the community.

This will replace the power of well-being which was subject to the same spending limit as S137. A council did not have to declare GPOC, but if it did not, it would no longer have the power of well-being to use.

A council has to pass a resolution declaring GPOC, which has to be reaffirmed annually.

However, to be able to declare GPOC a council must pass three tests.

- At least two thirds of member must be elected (Tenby currently falls below this as five members are co-opted).
- The council must have received two consecutive unqualified External Audits (Wales Audit has still to complete TTC's 2020-21 External Audit)
- The Clerk must be qualified.

Members will recall that, when GPOC was first suggested by the Welsh Government there was a question over what the requirement would be for a Clerk to be classed as qualified. This letter explains that WG has determined that a Clerk must at least have the sector recognised CiCLA qualification for a council to declare GPOC.

The Clerk has CiCLA, although it is recommended that any Clerk who obtained the qualification before 2022 undertakes the specialist module on GPOC if the relevant council wishes to exercise these powers.

The Clerk added that there were a number of other elements in the Act that members needed to address including:

- Multi-location meetings
- Public participation in meetings
- Annual Reports (the first having to be agreed, signed off and published by full council as soon as possible after 1st April 2022)
- Training Plan (which has to be published by 5th November 2022)

He suggested a working party be set up to look into complying with these elements.

Cllr Blackhall commented that WG was clearly setting a direction for town councils in the future. Smaller councils may not feel the need for GPOC but it was certainly something a town of our size needed to consider.

He agreed with the Clerk's suggestion to set up a working party as there were a number of things to be put in place to meet the requirements of the new act and we should start work.

b. Emyr John, One Voice Wales (via email) – New Pembrokeshire Community and Town Councils Project Officer

Are we members of OVW asked Cllr Mrs Brown. We are not but don't have to be members to benefit from what this Officer offers, said the Clerk. Cllr Hallett suggested noting this. If someone is offering assistance, then why not hear what they've got to say said Cllr Blackhall. The Clerk said it indicates that Mr. John has interest in looking to develop youth engagement and he knows the Mayor and other councillors are keen to progress this. This may be an opportunity to link in with him once ideas are further formed. The Mayor said it would be interesting to have Mr. John's input in the future.

c. Dan Shaw, PCC (via email) – Working Better together seminars

The Clerk believes that this meeting was postponed as it coincided with too many council meetings. The Clerk has attended two, the first because it was predominantly for Clerks. The second meeting was relating to the new post outlined in item b.

They are asking for a regular commitment by a councillor to attend forthcoming meetings, or would members want the Clerk to attend on behalf of Council. The Mayor proposed the Clerk attend on behalf of TTC and Cllr Mrs Brown seconded.

RESOLVED

That the Clerk represent TTC at forthcoming Working Better Together seminars.

277. TO RECEIVE THE ACCOUNTS FOR DECEMBER (INCLUDING SCHEDULED PAYMENTS, UNPRESENTED CHEQUES, RECEIPTS, ACCOUNT BALANCES, BUDGET MONITORING TO DATE AND BANK RECONCILIATIONS) AND CONSIDER ANY ISSUES ARISING

Cllr Mrs Rossiter proposed accepting the accounts and congratulated the Clerk. Cllr Mrs Brown seconded.

RESOLVED

THAT the accounts for December (including scheduled payments, unpresented cheques, receipts, account balances, budget monitoring to date and bank reconciliations) be approved.

278. TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING REQUESTS FOR GRANT ASSISTANCE AND AGREE ACTION IN RESPONSE TO PROPOSALS:-

Tenby Museum and Art Gallery – Advertising Leaflet

Have we donated to the museum asked Cllr Mrs Brown? The Clerk confirmed that some years ago TTC funded a display. How much can we afford then she asked.

The Clerk reminded members that the Grants Budget was already spent but that TTC had previously agreed to vire monies from reserves to help organisations applying for grants who had been adversely affected by the pandemic. Cllr Cornwell believes the Museum is asking for £1,875 but that perhaps TTC should give them £1K. Cllr Mrs Rossiter was thinking more £500.

Cllr Mrs Brown doesn't agree with £1,000 but rather a sum between £250 and £500 as a contribution. She felt leaflets could be something that maybe local businesses can also consider sponsoring.

Cllr Blackhall feels that Tenby is incredibly lucky to have such a museum, adding that it is really unusual to have something of this standard entirely funded privately.

In relation to the Clerk's comments, he concurred that TTC had put aside funds in relation to supporting Covid effected businesses. The Museum has been closed throughout the pandemic. However, they have been offering online projects like Artisan Avenue which have positively impacted local mental health and community wellbeing, and has resulted in a fantastic exhibition currently which he encouraged all to go and see.

This is not a massive amount in the overall scheme of things, Cllr. Blackhall continued. He feels really proud of our museum and that we should seek to pay the full amount.

However, Cllr Mrs Evans was not sure about full amount and would exercise caution over the use of reserves as it was still unclear as to how many more organisations may come to TTC for grants. She would not like to say no to anybody.

Cllr. Mrs Rossiter proposed a donation of £500 be given, seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Brown.

Cllr. Cornwell proposed an amendment in that the donation be £1000 and Cllr. Blackhall seconded.

The Clerk explained that both proposals were in favour of a donation, the question was over the amount. Cllr. Cornwell's amendment should therefore be considered first. If this failed Cllr Mrs. Rossiter's proposal would be voted on.

Put to the vote Cllr. Cornwell's amendment was carried and it was therefore:

RESOLVED

That under Section 144 of the LGA 1972 a donation of £1000 be made to Tenby Museum to assist them with their leaflet production and distribution.

Further resolved that sufficient fund be vired from reserves to facilitate this.

The Mayor said she had recently opened the exhibition and echoed Cllr Blackhall in that it was very much worth a visit.

279. TO CONSIDER ANY UPDATES ON TENBY TOWN WALLS AND AGREE ACTION IN RESPONSE TO PROPOSALS: -

Nothing further in relation to town walls.

In relation to the interior of the walls within the Mayor's Parlour the Clerk had managed to secure services of local builder who has repaired the damp area. This work should be completed tomorrow and it is then just a case of getting the Parlour cleaned. TTC will then be good to return to face-to-face meetings, subject to legislation.

Cllr Rapi said he was irritated by the white window fronting the Esplanade at the Imperial Hotel. He felt it was dreadful and he cannot believe they were allowed to get away with it in the middle of an historic monument. He suggested the Clerk contact the owners to ask if it could be painted a dark colour.

280. TO CONSIDER ANY UPDATES ON THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AT BRYNHIR

No further forward since Cllr Evans outlined the position at the last meeting. Progress is being made but not at pace.

281. TO CONSIDER THE GROWING HOUSING CRISIS IN TENBY AND AGREE ACTION IN RESPONSE TO PROPOSALS – CLLR M EVANS

Although this item will be deferred until the next meeting in the absence of Cllr. Evans, Cllr Blackhall said that there are some really serious housing issues coming up in town with people in rented being asked to vacate.

It is believed these properties could be being sold for holiday rental/Airbnb. Members of our local community are being forced to leave Tenby. If people hear of anything they are asked share information with Cllr Evans.

Cllr Williams is also dealing with these issues said Cllr Rapi, people have been in touch with him too.

Cllr. Blackhall agreed it would be a good idea that, when this item is discussed in a fortnight, both county councillors were present to discuss findings.

282. TO CONSIDER A MARINE CONSERVATION AREA – TENBY SOUTH BEACH, GILTAR SPIT, CALDEY SOUND AND CALDEY ROADS – AND AGREE ACTION IN RESPONSE TO PROPOSALS – CLLR M EVANS

This item too was deferred to the next meeting in the absence of Cllr. Evans. However, Cllr Hallett believes that there is already a marine conservation area in place and this would be an extension to it.

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

a. The Clerk suggested that councillors start to think of HM The Queen’s Platinum jubilee and how we may celebrate it. This will be placed on the agenda for the next meeting. If members could formulate some ideas this would be welcome.

284. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved that the next meeting will take place on Tuesday, 1st February 2022 at 7.30pm.

285. TO PROPOSE ANY ITEM FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

Cllr Mrs Brown – Street furniture

Cllr Rapi asked for the condition of the railings on the Esplanade steps to be placed on the agenda but Cllr. Blackhall felt that this would be addressed under the item he wishes to consider in private.

286. 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”

287. TO CONFIRM THE PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES OF THE TENBY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD DATE 2021

Resolved that the Private and Confidential Minutes of the Tenby Town Council meeting held 4th January 2022 be confirmed and signed as accurate.

288. MATTERS ARISING FOR INFORMATION ONLY

None

The Mayor thanked all for attending. Cllr Mrs Brown thanked Cllr. Rapi for inviting Mr Llewelyn along to the earlier meeting with TTC.

Mayor _____

Town Clerk _____

Date
