

TENBY TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE TENBY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD
29TH MARCH 2022

PRESENT: Cllr Mrs S Skyrme-Blackhall Mayor
Cllr Mrs S Lane
Cllr Mrs T Rossiter
Cllr Mr D Morgan
Cllr Mr J Cornwell
Cllr Mr L Blackhall
Cllr Mr P Rapi
Cllr Mr M Evans
Cllr Mr T Hallett

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr A Davies Clerk
Mrs S Thompson Assistant to the Clerk
Cllr Michael Williams County Councillor

371. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Cllr Ronowitz, Cllr Mrs Evans and Cllr Mrs Brown. The Mayor sent best wishes to those in hospital, all have been working hard and hopefully out soon.

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

Cllr Mrs Rossiter declared her interest in Item 9.

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 TO AGREE ITEMS OF CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMITTEE MINUTES OTHER THAN THOSE MARKED NOT FOR PUBLICATION BEING GIVEN TO MEMBERS OF THE PRESS PRESENT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

RESOLVED

That items of Correspondence and Committee Minutes other than those items marked Not for Publication be given to members of the Press present.

374. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Typographical errors of Cllr Cornwell's name had been corrected.

Resolved that the Minutes of the Tenby Town Council meeting held 15th March 2022 be confirmed and signed as accurate.

375. TO CONSIDER ANY MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES AND IF FURTHER ACTION IS REQUIRED

- a. **Page 193 Item 354a – Meetings:** Cllr Blackhall said he would be following up on TTC having resolved to set up action groups. Unfortunately, he has not been able to do further work on this matter yet but intends to look at how they are going to be established and set up when we move to monthly meetings.
- b. **Page 196 Item 355 – Queen’s Jubilee:** Cllr Cornwell told fellow councillors that the Salvation Army have declined to play on Castle Hill as members would struggle to get their instruments up to the bandstand. Cllr Cornwell is currently talking to Mr Hughes of Goodwick Brass Band and is waiting for him to come back.

Cllr Mrs Lane was concerned that of the 11 councillors involved in the Queen’s Jubilee discussions, only 2 councillors were photographed along with the Clerk and seen in the Tenby Observer on Friday.

As we have now entered the pre-election period this may be seen as an unfair disadvantage to other candidates. Cllr Mrs Lane asked what other councillors’ opinions were.

The Clerk told councillors that this photo had been taken before pre-election period had started and TTC are unable to say when the Tenby Observer may use the photograph.

The Clerk added that the photo was arranged at short notice on Wednesday morning.

I just felt it was strange commented Cllr Mrs Lane.

Cllr Rapi asked where we stand on this, adding that we need to be careful. Do councillors know what the pre-election period, formerly known as purdah, is? There may be consequences.

He acknowledged the Clerk saying that the photo was taken before the pre-election period but came out after. Obviously, he did have a concern, however, as should all, he said.

We need to keep an eye on this and I hope all councillors will be understanding about the pre-election period, it is a sensitive time, he continued.

We all must be aware of how the situation is, said the Mayor, this was a TTC event and not something arranged by a particular councillor.

Cllr Cornwell apologised saying that his understanding was that the picture would be in the paper the previous week, before the pre-election period commenced. He had actually bought a copy but was surprised it wasn’t in that week and was shocked to see the picture in last Friday’s edition.

Cllr Mrs Lane said she felt as this was a council event, all councillors should have been involved in any publicity.

Cllr Rapi asked members where TTC were with the bunting and the Clerk advised members that TTC now has 30 garlands and this same amount will be ordered again shortly. Orders were now limited to 30 packets at a time.

He also advised members that the price had risen since the initial decision had been made to purchase the bunting. Cllr Mrs Lane believes that whatever we buy, it should be distributed on a first come first served basis and that businesses will have to purchase their own if we have no more.

Cllr Rapi asked if one can purchase bunting from the council, but he was reminded of the council's decision to offer the bunting free of charge on a first-come, first served, basis.

In relation to the Jubilee events, the Clerk wished to bring in to private the costs for traffic management for the proposed parade.

Cllr Rapi asked how TTC are getting the community involved in the celebrations. The Mayor replied telling councillors that Cllr Mrs Evans had been working hard on this, getting youths involved from associations, clubs and charities. Not only was this a Jubilee celebration it was also saying thank you to all those who have helped during the pandemic.

- c. **Page 201 Item 358c - Finger posts:** Cllr Cornwell had found 10 of the finger posts and asked councillors if they know of any others. All fine he said, the Clerk and he had worked on a finger post above the zig zag as it was pointing in the wrong direction! It may take some time to make sure all are sorted but he is getting on with it.
- d. **Page 204 Item 365a – Elections:** The Clerk reminded councillors that if they wish him to take their completed nomination papers over to County Hall, he is going over on Thursday morning. Forms need to be with him by tomorrow afternoon. The deadline for personal or online submission is 4pm next Tuesday.

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

- a. **PCC Development Management Section – Discharge of Condition Consultation - Discharge of conditions 5 (Landscaping Works), 8 (Surface Water Disposal), 10 (Archaeology), 11 (Lighting), 12 (Ecological Mitigation & Enhancement) and 14 (Landscape & Ecological Management Plan) of planning permission 16/0122/PA - Kiln Park Holiday Centre, Marsh Road, Tenby**

The Clerk said that this was interesting as it has come from PCC and not PCNPA as the site falls into both planning authority areas. Nothing has been received from PCNPA.

The Masterplan for redevelopment of the site was approved some time ago with certain conditions put in place. The applicants have now fulfilled the conditions outlined and ask if they can these be discharged.

Cllr Hallett told councillors that the plans had been approved by PCC and he approves of these conditions being discharged. The applicants employ local people in a tourist area and they do a good job. He was seconded by Cllr Cornwell.

RECOMMENDED

That TTC has no objection to these conditions being discharged.

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

a. Resident of St Julian's Terrace – Dog fouling

Cllr Mrs Rossiter said that dog fouling happens everywhere and not just in this area. There is a grey area on Castle Beach as you can take dogs to Caldey. How do we get round this, she asked, suggesting a big sign to say dogs can go to Caldey but not to let them off their lead?

This has been a problem in Tenby for years, we've tried poo bags and other initiatives. Dog owners should not let their dogs do it. We are trying.

The Mayor said dogs can go over to Caldey via Castle Beach. Perhaps the introduction of a different fines system may help.

Cllr Evans said there is signage on Castle Beach which is mostly adhered to. Lifeguards enforce when they are on the beach. Below mean high water you can walk your dog so you need access via Castle Beach.

Fifteen years ago, this town was blighted with dog poo, he continued. It feels town is a lot cleaner now with just the occasional person who doesn't pick up. Tenby is a community of dog owners and the vast majority do clean up after themselves. Some initiatives did work in the past so we should not consider throwing out the whole system.

Cllr Mrs Rossiter added that more and more visitors coming to Tenby bring their pets as kennels are now so costly. We are advertised as a dog friendly town.

Cllr Rapi agreed about the community being more engaged, adding that he has 2 dogs himself. He walks them and picks up after them. Some can't pick up for various reasons. Banning dogs for the whole year is taking it too far.

Since the pandemic pets are even more popular and there are so many dogs in town. Many businesses are obliging to dog owners, they are a part of British life, he said. There are those not following the rules, but in my view the new 'eyes' signage really worked.

Policing is the main problem but I felt the ‘eyes’ were very effective.

Can we respond politely that we take the matter seriously and we have been proactive where we can but we are mindful that there are two sides to this?

We will continue to work with PCC with education with those still flouting the law. RNLI are aware of the problems and do look after the beach.

RESOLVED

That the Clerk write back to the member of the public outlining the council’s views as discussed.

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

The Clerk has no further news.

379. TO CONSIDER ANY UPDATES ON THE PROPOSED BRYNHIR DEVELOPMENT

The Clerk said he has nothing further to add but referred to the report in the press from PCC who felt that the recent public meeting held at the De Valence Pavilion had been a very productive one. PCC had taken information gathered on board and were working on designs. PCC would be returning to us with more concrete proposals in the near future.

380. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES (IF ANY)

Nothing to report at this time.

381. PARKING ON THE NORTH WALK – CLLR RAPI

Cllr Rapi had been concerned as a van had been parked for the whole of the winter on this attractive site. This van had then been replaced by a smaller van. There shouldn’t be parking down there he said but the matter has now been dealt with.

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

a. Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales – Annual determination of payments to members

The Clerk told councillors that this is the usual Report received each year to confirm what TTC will and will not reimburse councillors for. There are mandatory payments that the council has to make for care costs to allow councillors to attend meetings (receipts must be supplied) and the £150 to members for costs incurred in the role of being a councillor.

Again, councillors have to write to the Clerk if they do not wish to receive this sum.

Councillors are given the choice if they wish to reimburse travel costs, overnight subsistence and financial loss if members work and have to attend during work time.

They are also given the choice if they wish to introduce an Attendance Allowance whereby members receive an amount of up to £30 to attend a meeting.

Also, members have to decide whether they will pay £1500 to the Mayor and £500 to up to three senior committee chairs and the Deputy Mayor. These payments are classed as wages and are subject to PAYE.

Historically we have agreed to pay travel and overnight subsistence costs and financial loss. We have not agreed to pay Attendance Allowance in the past as this is a new proposal this year.

We have also decided against making payments to the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and senior committee chairs in the past.

Members are asked to determine which payments they will agree for the following financial year.

Any comments asked the Mayor?

Cllr Rapi asked if this money comes out of our budget. The Clerk confirmed it did.

He felt that people should take the £150 and the care costs if available. We must remember the cost of living and some may be put off being a councillor if they cannot afford to do this job. It will help to get a babysitter if you have children, he commented.

This is an important issue and needs to be thought about thoroughly. If we are to attract people to this council, we need to discuss whether people may need this financial help to be councillors.

Cllr Blackhall took on board what is being said and proposed that we agree the payments as last year with the additional decision regarding Attendance Allowance being considered at the AGM.

We may have new membership to this council and if they feel in need of assistance this can it be revisited at that point, he suggested.

Cllr Rapi said we have an election coming up and this information may be handy for people to know before standing. Let's not leave it until after the election to decide or it may be too late, he said.

Cllr Mrs Lane said this is a small town council. Previously members have given the £150 back to be used on schemes within the town. She is proud to be a volunteer for the town.

It may encourage new candidates to come forward but their passion for the town and what they can do for the town is more important, she continued. Do we want people to become councillors just because they are being paid, she asked?

The Mayor believes that many are struggling financially and this could help some people in deciding to be councillors. Cllr Rapi felt both are saying the right things but we need to make a decision.

Cllr Mrs Rossiter said that Tenby people already think councillors get paid anyway, it is a tricky one.

The Clerk told councillors that when the draft report was initially sent out in November there was a considerable difference of opinion on the payment of Attendance Allowance in the feedback. This was a reason why the Panel had made it optional rather than mandatory. Each council is given the choice.

Cllr Evans emphasised that this is not a payment but a reimbursement. There may be some who are missing the opportunity to earn through work by attending council meetings.

He wouldn't want to close the door for new councillors who may require this reimbursement. Is there a way we can leave that door open so that individuals can make it their decision to accept it or not like the £150, he asked?

The Clerk felt that it was possible for councillors to refuse to accept, or just not claim, the attendance allowance.

This was a good solution said Cllr Blackhall.

If you have to have it and don't want it then you could always give it to charity said Cllr Hallett.

RESOLVED

Determination 43: All relevant authorities must provide a payment towards necessary costs for the care of dependent children and adults (provided by informal or formal carers) and for personal assistance needs as follows:

- **Formal (registered with Care Inspectorate Wales) care costs to be paid as evidenced.**
- **Informal (unregistered) care costs to be paid up to a maximum rate equivalent to the Real Living Wage hourly rates as defined by the Living Wage Foundation at the time the costs are incurred. This must be for the additional costs incurred by members to enable them to carry out official**

business or approved duties. Each authority must ensure that any payments made are appropriately linked to official business or approved duty. Payment shall only be made on production of receipts from the care provider.

Determination 44: Community and town councils must make available a payment to each of their members of £150 per year as a contribution to costs and expenses.

These are mandatory. No resolution required.

Determination 45: That the council do not make a payment for members undertaking a senior role.

Determination 46: That the council will make payments to each of their members in respect of travel costs for attending approved duties. Such payments must be the actual costs of travel by public transport or the HMRC mileage allowances as below:

- **45p per mile up to 10,000 miles in the year**
- **25p per mile over 10,000 miles**
- **5p per mile per passenger carried on authority business**
- **24p per mile for private motor cycles**
- **20p per mile for bicycles.**

Determination 47: That the council will authorise reimbursement of subsistence expenses to its members if a particular duty requires an overnight stay. This will be at the maximum rates set out below on the basis of receipted claims:

- **£28 per 24-hour period allowance for meals, including breakfast where not provided**
- **£200 – London overnight**
- **£95 – elsewhere overnight**
- **£30 – staying with friends and/or family overnight**

Determination 48: That the council will pay financial loss compensation to each of their members, where such loss has occurred, for attending approved duties as follows:

- **Up to £57.20 for each period not exceeding 4 hours**
- **Up to £114.40 for each period exceeding 4 hours but not exceeding 24 hours.**

Determination 49: That the council will introduce an attendance allowance for members who wish to receive it. The amount of each payment must not exceed £30. A member in receipt of financial loss compensation will not be entitled to claim attendance allowance for the same event.

Determination 50: That the council will not provide a payment to the mayor or chair of the council up to a maximum of £1,500.

Determination 51: That the council will not provide a payment to the deputy mayor or deputy chair of the council up to a maximum of £500.

b. Annual Report 2021-22

The Clerk told members that this is part of new legislation. All community councils now have to provide an annual report. Previously only councils with a precept over £200K had to.

The Clerk has made a start on the report using other council's reports as examples but there are not that many out there. There are many factors that he needs to include and, once compiled, it needs to be approved by full council.

It could be a time-consuming process and he is looking for some councillors to support him in preparing this report. It needs to be completed before the end of April this year.

Cllr Cornwell is happy to support the Clerk in preparation of the Annual Report.

Cllr Blackhall said he will also happily help the Clerk if required.

383. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved that the next meeting will take place on Tuesday, 12th April 2022 at 7.30pm.

384. TO PROPOSE ANY ITEM FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

None proposed at this time.

385. 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"