

TENBY TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE TENBY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD
24TH MAY 2022

PRESENT: Cllr Mrs S Skyrme-Blackhall Mayor
Cllr Mrs S Lane
Cllr Mrs T Rossiter
Cllr P Rapi
Cllr D Whitehurst
Cllr L Blackhall
Cllr T Brown
Cllr J Rossiter
Cllr C Dale
Cllr D Morgan
Cllr Ms L Attewell

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

1. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES

Apologies received by Cllr Ronowitz and Cllr Hallett.

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

MEMBERS ARE REQUESTED TO IDENTIFY THE NATURE OF THE INTEREST AND INDICATE WHETHER IT IS PERSONAL OR PREJUDICIAL

Cllr Mrs S Lane, Cllr Mrs T Rossiter, Cllr P Rapi and Cllr J Rossiter declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Agenda item 4. Cllr. Ms. Attewell declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 4.

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: AN OPPORTUNITY FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO ASK QUESTIONS AND MAKE REPRESENTATIONS ABOUT ANY ITEM OF BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED DURING TONIGHT'S MEETING AND WHICH IS OPEN FOR PUBLIC DISCUSSION. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS OF BUSINESS ARE EXCLUDED

The Clerk outlined how public participation operated. This was an opportunity to make representations to the council to help inform their decision making process relating to agenda items for discussion.

While the Mayor understood that there were strong feelings relating to one agenda item, she felt it would be beneficial if people raised their hands indicating if they wished to speak.

A number of the members of the public present outlined their concerns about the application for a licence to undertake a range of activities including performance of

plays, films, dance, live and recorded music and sale of alcohol on the playing field at Ysgol Greenhill School.

The general view was that this was an inappropriate venue with the proposed activities, the hours of operation and the duration, likely to have a detrimental noise impact on the amenity on what was a quiet residential area late into the night.

Concerns were also expressed about the added pressures events could bring to already stretched emergency services, additional traffic generated by events, the likely number of attendees at events based on the numbers indicated in the application, the possible impact of events on the field from the point of view of ongoing safety of pupils at the school outside of the events and the implications of alcohol being allowed for sale on a school site.

A representative of the applicants outlined their reasons for the application. They had been working with representatives of the school and it was felt that this licence would allow events that would help generate income for the school.

The applicants were experienced in staging events of this kind throughout south west Wales and mitigation plans would be in place to deal with the concerns raised.

The Mayor thanked everyone for attending. Obviously, this issue was important to them.

She added that the School Governors were meeting on Thursday to discuss this application further and members of the public could pass issues and concerns on to them for consideration.

She hoped a way forward could be found as this was important to the community.

4. TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING LICENSING APPLICATION AND AGREE ACTION IN RESPONSE TO PROPOSALS:

a. Pop Up Ops Limited – New Premises Licence, The School Field, Ysgol Greenhill School

TTC is not a statutory consultee in relation to licensing said the Clerk so we are not automatically asked for our views. However, we can make representation to the licensing committee as an interested party.

While it appeared that the first use of this licence, if granted, would be for a six week pop up food and drink festival during the summer holidays members' focus should be on determining if they feel that the application site is a suitable location for a license to allow the range of entertainment proposed the and sale of alcohol between 8am and 11pm throughout the year.

If we wish to make representations to the licensing committee to oppose the granting of a licence, our objections must be relevant to one or more of the four licensing objectives: prevention of crime and disorder, public safety, prevention of public nuisance and protection from children from harm.

Cllr. Blackhall thanked the Clerk.

The reality is what is said should happen in practice, he commented. The licence appears to allow the ability to stage two live music events out of three weekends.

It is significant to look at things that could potentially happen, he continued. The potential noise will clearly have an effect on the local community.

There are also other issues including traffic, parking, suitability of this being held on school property potential anti-social behaviour which TTC can address separately

In specific licencing terms there will be significant noise nuisance to surrounding residents, contrary to the relevant licensing objective and we should write to the licensing committee asking them to refuse this application.

Cllr. Brown seconded.

RESOLVED

That the town council write to Pembrokeshire County Council's licensing committee to ask them to refuse the licence as the potential noise generated by events was contrary to the licensing objective in relation to prevention of public nuisance.

In relation to the wider implications of licensable events on the school field, Cllr. Blackhall felt the council should also express a view.

He was aware discussions were on going, and felt it was positive that the school has responded to concerns the way they have.

Hopefully an arrangement could be found that is good for everybody but licensing the school field for events is not right at this moment. He understands the school needs money and, as a town council and as a community, we should ask what can we do to help the school financially.

He felt we should send a letter to the Governors stating that we will support the school in any way we can to raise additional funds but encourage them not to pursue the idea of an events licence for the school field

Cllr. Whitehurst agreed. Having worked with Estyn inspectors, he was immediately drawn to Estyn expectations that schools promote health eating and drinking. He felt the school promoting a licence for the sale of alcohol was not in line with this, could be seen as normalising consumption of alcohol and impact negatively on future school inspections.

He also noted that in previous inspections the school had come out well in relation to community engagement and he felt that the strength of feeling against the school over this proposal could also negatively impact future inspections.

Cllr Blackhall proposed that the Council write to the Governors asking them to reconsider giving their support to the licence application for the school field and to offer the assistance of the town council in exploring other funding avenues.

Cllr Dale seconded.

RESOLVED

That the Council write to the Governors asking them to reconsider giving their support to the licence application for the school field and to offer the assistance of the town council in exploring other funding avenues.

5. TO REVIEW AND MAKE PROPOSAL IN RELATION TO THE TOWN COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES FOR THE NEXT FIVE YEARS

The Clerk explained that, as part of their Annual Report, the previous council had agreed a range of priorities for the future. This is an opportunity for this council to review these priorities, see if they are agreed with, and to add future priorities over the next five years.

Cllr. Blackhall said that there were some long-term ambitions identified like town wall lightings, further improvements to gardens and public open spaces and continued support of the De Valence. These were all good things for the people of Tenby, those who work here and visitors.

He felt the council should resist the temptation to be negative and look at what is achievable. Some ideas will require help from others, with funding from different sources. Let's capture ideas, identify what we want to achieve and put together funding bids.

Cllr Mrs Lane said we are a different council to before the election and it may initially take time to understand what we can and cannot do. She felt it would be beneficial for members to undertake a proper walkabout looking at the town and categorising what we can do quickly and what may take more time. Cllr. Rapi seconded the idea.

Cllr. Blackhall agreed that a walkabout was a good idea. In addition to continuing with ideas already mentioned he also wanted to bring the play areas on town estates forward to the table to consider how we could work with PCC to make drastically needed improvements to play provision.

Cllr. Ms Attewell asked who liaises with CADW in relation to the town walls.

The Clerk said basically the town walls are property of PCC but, as a scheduled ancient monument, there are restrictions on what can and cannot be done and everything has to be signed off by CADW first.

PCC had devised a special maintenance programme, agreed by CADW, as to how they deal with things like weed growth and maintenance. The previous PCC officer

responsible for historic buildings in the county had been very good and was making progress but she has left PCC and she has not been replaced to date.

Her plans had the support of CADW and PCNPA's conservation officer and we were making progress. She had left an action plan for her successor but as they have yet to be appointed it was unclear as to the situation going forward.

Cllr Mrs Rossiter commented that the town's public benches are in a disgusting state. Not only was there need for repairs or replacements but more were needed too.

It was explained that there had been funding secured in the EPF bid for repairing and renovating benches and we were engaging with PCC's Norman Industries to assist with this work. The Clerk was also aware that PCC have some 30 memorial benches ordered to roll out in town. He was uncertain if these were for new sites or to replace older benches.

Cllr. Mrs Lane added that the EPF works to the Paragon would also create more space for memorial benches.

Cllr Dale asked what the situation was regarding memorial benches. A relative had had a bench removed from a site with a bench for another person replacing it, which had caused considerable upset.

He did not want this to happen again.

The Clerk explained that TTC had not been responsible for authorising any memorial benches in the town since 2005. This was now controlled by PCC. There is now a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in place whereby if a bench was beyond reasonable repair, PCC would contact the family (if known) to see if they wanted to purchase a new bench. If not, the site would be allocated to someone else.

This MoU also applied to benches provided by TTC prior to 2005 but, sadly, TTC record keeping of who had purchased benches prior to him taking up the post had been poor.

Cllr Dale asked if one of the priorities over the next five years could be to look at public toilet provision. We only have one free public toilet in town and its condition is a disgrace.

The Clerk admitted that he had seen an increase in complaints about people urinating in public.

Members felt that people needed to report these incidents to the police.

Cllr. Mrs Lane commented that our liaison with the police had reduced during the years. We used to have regular visits from either the inspector, a sergeant or a PCSO and she felt that one of our priorities should be to restart these meetings as we could bring things like this to their attention.

Cllr. Mrs Rossiter agreed commenting that the police used to come and a plan would be given to us about Op Lion and summer policing. It was nice for us and the town to know what was going on.

Historically we used to have a biannual meeting with the Inspector, said the Clerk. One was in June prior to summer, and then a washup meeting in October. We no longer have an inspector based in Tenby but he could write to the sergeant in charge and ask him to come and talk to council about it.

Cllr. Rapi said that a number of issues were down to there not being enough police in town. The Police and Crime Commissioner did come and talk to TTC and we felt some progress was being made, but this has stalled.

We need control, he said, not only by the police but by the county council. We have many rules, no dogs on beaches, no camper vans in car parks etc but there is no county council backing to enforce.

Every day there are dogs on North Beach, camper vans on the South Beach car park. If you make rules they need to be enforced.

The Clerk felt it was evident from comments made that one of the town council's immediate priorities appeared to be to increase engagement with the various agencies to discuss matters of concern.

Cllr Whitehurst wondered if an idea to amend the times dogs were allowed on beaches could be considered. Rather than a total prohibition from May to October, just have 'dog free' times. He felt this could assist many more elderly dog walkers in the north of the town who liked to walk their dogs on the beaches but the area of South Beach where dogs can go was too far.

He felt that the loss of the Blue Flag on the North Beach may present an opportunity to look at things differently.

Cllr Blackhall felt the discussion points were helpful in defining the way forward, all fitting into the ethos of 'have an idea and work on how it can be achieved'.

There was a programme underway relating to places and spaces and there were already ideas for next year. This gave us things to plan for going forward for the next five years.

For example, Cllr. Dale is concerned about public toilet provision and we are aware that the lack of facilities has increased complaints about people using the shrubbed area in St Florence Parade as a toilet. The fixes can be jointly working on how to increase toilet provision and redesigning the St Florence Parade area to remove the shrubs, which also has the added benefit of making the footpaths in that vicinity more accessible.

Cllr Brown said that this could also fit in with his proposal which was town wall lighting.

When he was last on council members had started looking at a phased approach starting with the Five Arches and then expanding it the whole length of the walls.

He would like to start working on this project once again.

The Clerk said CADW seem to be okay with this idea so long as lights are not attached to the walls. PCNPA conservation officer, Mr. Rob Scourfield, was also supportive of the idea.

Cllr Brown explained that, when he was last on the council he had had an initial discussion with Paul of LITE who estimated that the Five Arches could cost in the region of £30,000 with the whole walls coming in at around £100,000.

Cllr. Dale asked if the project should not be tendered for.

The Clerk explained that LITE supplied our Christmas lights but have also been involved in a number of projects to light public buildings e.g Edinburgh Castle. Paul had offered to look at the idea as a favour, saving the council the costs of a feasibility study.

The project would go out to tender if progressed.

Cllr Blackhall felt that the project could also be expanded to Castle Hill and St Mary's Church where the existing lights were showing their age. We can work out how we go about doing it and perhaps going even further down to the harbour.

Cllr. Whitehurst welcomed the idea of a walkabout and felt that it could also look at the parking situation in Tenby particularly residents parking areas.

He felt that residents permit holders who could not use their permits outside their houses should be allowed to park in PCC car parks nearby.

Cllr Rapi agreed, saying that residents within Tenby are fed up with not being able to park outside their homes even though they have a permit. Second home owners get permits for holiday makers and locals coming home from work are unable to park.

Residents parking should be for residents only.

Cllr. Lane added that some areas aren't eligible for resident parking scheme yet all have paid their taxes. A system was needed to accommodate these people too.

Cllr Dale also suggested that assigned parking bays purchased in the multi-storey should be for the purchaser, not a designated car which would allow more flexibility

Cllr Blackhall agreed parking is a problem but the question was how do we take these ideas forward. We can agree that this is what we as a council are going to try to do. If a solution cannot be found at least we've asked the question.

The Mayor said she had already asked Mr Marc Owen to visit Tenby to have walkabout with her to have a look at this issue and fellow councillors were welcome to join them when this was finalised. We could then take it from there.

Cllr Morgan felt that, with our reputation for Ironman and Long Course we should be prioritising sports and leisure facilities to encourage up and coming local sports men and women.

He felt our facilities are not good enough and that we should be looking at the possibilities of an all-weather 4G pitch for use by all sports.

He also felt that the leisure centre was not being used to its maximum potential.

He understood that the main hall had been a Covid vaccination centre, but it was not a priority now. We needed to look at another location where this could be delivered so that the main hall could once again host things like 5-a-side football.

Participating in sport is brilliant for mental health. Not having these facilities available was detrimental and he felt we are not doing enough to provide facilities for participating.

Cllr. Mrs Rossiter said that she understood that the upkeep of a 4G pitch could be in the region of £50,000 annually.

Cllr. Blackhall believes it is less than that but appreciated it was still significant. However, part of the plan going forward could be to look into all these potential costs and how it could be achieved.

Cllr Dale said in other areas local businesses provided 4G pitches for schools. Earlier we had spoken about how Greenhill could generate income. If provision of a 4G pitch could be achieved at Greenhill the school could boost its income by letting it out.

The Mayor commented that a 4G pitch was also on her list of priorities and she believed Greenhill was quite keen on the idea.

She went on to say that she had 10 points that she would like the town council to consider as priorities going forward.

The Mayor said that one of our priorities must be the provision of new houses. All support local housing for local people and we need to ensure that we start to see the building of council houses again. We will be meeting PCC for an update on Brynhir on 14th June.

However, there were schemes elsewhere to use second homes council tax to, buy back council properties or set up community land trusts which could be explored..

Cllr. Rapi commented that the Mayor seemed to be touching on her manifesto 'wishlist' for the recent county council election. He could not see how TTC could afford to undertake proposals like 4G pitches. This was down to the county council.

The Mayor said she felt upset that she was being interrupted while speaking and the meeting paused whilst she left to compose herself.

Cllr Rapi left the meeting.

The Mayor returned and the meeting resumed.

Cllr. Blackhall commented that TTC have an opportunity this evening to talk about the next 5 years, about what we want to do. How, as 13 people working together, we can do it collectively. Things may be difficult and problematic, but we all want this to happen. It does not help to be negative.

Let us show the town that we can be different, and work harder at being nice to achieve our goals, he continued. We are lucky to live in a fantastic place. We must be positive, not negative.

Cllr. Mrs. Lane felt it had been a positive meeting and it was a shame that the Mayor felt differently. She commented that councillors should be able to say what they feel around the table.

Cllr. Dale agreed that councillors should be able to say what they like but we do not interrupt other members while they are speaking. He was new to council and was aware we have points we are trying to make but he felt a member had been interrupting continuously and this must not happen again.

The council has procedures and they must be followed, he commented.

Mayor _____

Town Clerk _____

Date _____