

**TENBY TOWN COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE TENBY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD**  
**6<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2022**

**PRESENT:** Cllr Mrs Sam Skyrme-Blackhall Mayor  
Cllr Mrs T Rossiter  
Cllr Mr L Blackhall  
Cllr Mr T Brown  
Cllr Ms L Attewell  
Cllr Mr C Dale  
Cllr Mr P Rapi  
Cllr Mr D. Morgan  
Cllr Mr M Ronowitz  
Cllr Mr D Whitehurst  
Cllr Mr J Rossiter

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

**88. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES**

Apologies received from Cllr Mrs Lane.

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

Cllr Mrs Rossiter declared interest in item 9B. Cllr Rapi declared a personal interest in item 9a as a member of the Sailing Club as did the Mayor and Cllr Blackhall.

**90. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Mr Mackay from Tenby Sailing Club was present at the meeting and the Mayor asked if councillors had any objection to bringing item 9a forward for discussion. All agreed. Mr Mackay explained that he was a member of TSC and had been involved in grant applications for 12 years or more and then went on to explain why a bid had been made to the EPF and why he sought a letter in support from TTC.

The Club had had use of members' boats in the past to enable regattas and championships to be run. Unfortunately, the Club was now struggling to find a vessel suitable to run these events from and are looking to purchase a such a vessel and also another safety boat. Whilst these vessels would be the sole property of the Club, he explained that TSC supports a myriad of events that go on in and around Tenby area and named a number of events that Tenby Sailing Club have supported over the years and hopes to continue to support in the future.

Cllr Blackhall said that what TTC has been trying to do with EPF bids across town, is to ensure a local strategy to support people and organisations.

Having gone through the process on a number of EPF bids Cllr. Blackhall felt that, questions are likely to be asked as to the greater community benefit, for example, would the Sea Cadets be able to use these vessels.

Mr Mackay felt that it could be difficult and the idea was that the Sailing Club members would assist in local events, but would be the sole users.

The Mayor thanked Mr Mackay for attending.

**91. OPEN DISCUSSION WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF DYFED-POWYS POLICE PRESENT**

Sgt Stuart Wheeler was present from Dyfed-Powys Police and the Mayor asked if councillors had any questions they wished to ask.

Cllr Dale noted that, being on the High Street all summer, some things have improved, and he wished to say thank you. There has definitely been an improvement in hours of daylight he added.

Cllr Rapi asked that, now the summer season is over, will there be extra police presence once the rugby internationals start? Sgt Wheeler said that there is no extra budget but response officers will be tasked specifically to Tenby over the internationals period. There won't be as many officers as under Op Lion but there will be a focus on anything identified.

Cllr. Ronowitz said that the nature of the town now was that we seemed to be attracting families back in the summer with subsequent reduction in anti-social behaviour. However, the rugby internationals attracted a different clientele, the town seemed more 'on edge' and he agreed with Cllr Rapi that more of a police presence was needed.

The local policing team will be out and about over those weekends, with an additional response of 5 officers available to be tasked to incidents if required, said Sgt Wheeler.

Sgt Wheeler outlined this year's Op Lion which, along with additional police resources at weekends had seen local police link in with British Transport Police.

From experience the trains were where issues can arise but BTP committed to be with the local team every weekend, and those without tickets or with the potential to cause problems were intercepted early.

There would be no full feedback on Op Lion until after Ironman, but the general opinion was that the town was a lot better than in previous years with more families around.

Cllr Ronowitz agreed, feeling that the town's previous 'drinking culture' was not as it was. The atmosphere in town was families enjoying themselves. Door staff and licensees don't like big groups, he said.

Sgt Wheeler said there were problems on North Beach, with the neighbourhood team responding to a number of parties. However, these seemed to have now located to further out of town so were not so much of a problem.

There had also been a number of successful drugs operations in the area.

Cllr. Dale said that a number of local people seemed to associate local petty theft with the homeless people staying at a local hotel. There was also a widely reported incident at this premises during the summer which had increased local concern.

He asked what is true about the stories and were there problems with this premises?

He also asked if stories about ex-residents of this premises camping on the north Beach were true.

Sgt Wheeler said that there had been no recent problems relating to the premises. Regarding the campers on the beach, it is believed that they may have been linked to the premises but unfortunately this was a person's last stop. Once no longer staying there for whatever reason, if they haven't been found other accommodation, then they really are homeless.

Cllr. Blackhall felt it was important to demonstrate the success of Op Lion and that we still needed it next year. He asked that thanks be passed on to senior management but it needed to be stressed that we need to maintain its position for next year.

Cllr. Blackhall said there was a danger that because of its success, resulting in the number of problems going down there could be a thought that it is not needed anymore.

The cost to the police force for Op Lion is over £40K for six weeks and everything would be assessed in light of funding but the new Chief Inspector would be pressing the case for it to continue.

The Chief Inspector did hope to attend this evening but was unable to due to operational demands. He hoped to be available to attend at another time.

Sgt Wheeler said that any issues of concern could be emailed directly to him.

**92. 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 Blackhall.

**RESOLVED**

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

**93. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

**Resolved that the Minutes of the Tenby Town Council meeting held 5<sup>th</sup> July 2022 be confirmed and signed as accurate. Page 45 Parking for Agenda item.**

94. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

- a. **Page 38 Item 64 – 4G/5G Pitch:** The Mayor confirmed that she had been in contact with Mr Eddie Lewis who is now based in Cardiff and is happy to assist TTC with anything to do with a 4G pitch.
- b. **Page 41 Item 69c – Traffic Calming Measures:** Cllr Mrs Rossiter referred to a chicane type traffic calming measure asking if this could they be used by the horse shoe area of The Glebe. This she feels, would help. Cllr Mrs Rossiter knows that some residents are for and some are against traffic calming measures but this is for the safety of our children. Whilst the Heywood Lane pathway is being progressed, the residents of Oakridge Acres are still unhappy and would like a mirror and the 20mph speed limit extended from Tudor Way all the way down to the Marsh Road.

The Clerk reminded members that Welsh Government is bringing in a 20 mph restriction in built up areas from next year although Cllr Ms Attewell commented that she had heard that this idea had been scrapped. The Clerk said he had seen nothing to this effect.

- c. **Page 44 Item 71 – Proposals to Change Waiting Restrictions:** The Clerk explained that the proposed restriction on Southlands was discontinued but the other two projects, The Croft and Upper Hill Park, went ahead.
- d. **Page 45 Item 75 – Dog Restrictions on North Beach:** Cllr Whitehurst asked if anything had been heard from PCC as, according to the press, PCC are not planning to enforce restrictions in favour of an education campaign. The Clerk believed the relevant Cabinet member had passed on Cllr Whitehurst's idea to PCC officers to investigate.
- e. **Page 49 Items 78 & 79:** Cllr Blackhall had not been able to organise meetings due to personal circumstances. He hopes to do so in the next few days.
- f. **Page 49 Item 78 – Play Areas:** Cllr Dale had received complaints regarding the state of the Children's play area at The Glebe.

95. **TO RECEIVE MINUTES FROM PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD 12<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2022**

Noted.

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

a. **Tenby Sailing Club – Enhancing Pembrokeshire Fund bid**

Cllr Ronowitz felt, as a community lead organisation, it appeared inappropriate that the vessel would be solely operated by the Sailing Club. He felt it should be available for use by other people on the Harbour such as the Sea Cadets.

All members were supportive of the bid but agreed with Cllr Ronowitz.

Cllr Blackhall felt that, based on our experience of previous EPF bids, PCC would raise these same questions when assessing it. He felt we could write a letter of support but ask for further consideration be given as to how the vessels could be utilised by the wider community.

### **Resolved**

**That the town council write a letter of support but ask if further investigation could be undertaken as to how more community use of the vessels could be achieved.**

#### **b. Tenby Greenspace Preservation Society – Brynhir**

Cllr Mrs Rossiter took no part in the following discussions.

Members went through the points raised individually.

There is a high demand for one bed flats, elderly residents want to move from 3 bed properties to 1 bed which will free up three bed properties elsewhere in the town said Mayor.

Cllr Ms Attewell, agreed commenting that many elderly people did not want, or need, to remain in larger properties but wanted to stay close to family within the community.

Recent meetings with PCC had also indicated an increase in local demand for one bed properties since Covid.

The Clerk added that, although out-of-date, the TTC housing needs survey done in 2008 had indicated that the two highest areas of need were one bed and 3 bed properties. Nothing had appeared to have changed.

Cllr. Blackhall commented that TTC had only supported the development on the proviso that properties would be allocated based on local need. The allocation policy will be developed much closer to the time properties would be coming online but the principle will be exactly the same as PCC's ongoing Johnston project.

Cllr. Blackhall was also not sure that claims that this was the last 'green space' in the town were entirely accurate.

The LDP identified the site in 1974 and it has continued to be in subsequent LDPs year on year ever since, Cllr. Blackhall continued. At the last LDP review, a number of other sites including the Rectory car park which were part of the LDP were looked at from the point of view that, if not developed by certain a date, then they would have been taken out.

Plans were not fully considered at that time and this is why PCNPA took it out of the LDP.

Schools within the town have falling rolls, years 3 and 4 are sharing classes in the English medium school so there is capacity.

Cllr. Whitehurst felt that concerns regarding drainage were valid and should be explored further.

Cllr. Blackhall felt that Welsh Water was not at that point in the development of plans.

Drainage does need to be looked at.

It was proposed that a reply is sent based on this evening's discussion.

### **Resolved**

**That TTC reply to Tenby Greenspace Preservation Society answering the points raised.**

#### **c. Hywel Dda University Health Board – A Healthier Mid and West Wales**

This was the Health Board's proposal for future healthcare, including new hospital provision, which they had asked to be shared with members. The Clerk went through the presentation briefly.

Cllr Whitehurst said, looking at the map, the new hospital location was great for us in Tenby but he could see the concerns of residents from St Davids and Fishguard who would have further to travel.

He had spoken to Health Minister Eluned Morgan with a heart attack scenario where the patient from the north of the county may not survive a trip to hospital. Her answer was that she would prefer to be on road to the new hospital rather than waiting 2 days at Withybush before being transferred to Morriston Hospital, Swansea for a cardiac specialist.

It was becoming increasingly difficult to recruit specialists to Withybush because of the age of the building and equipment. This will be a new state of art training hospital linked to the University.

Cllr Ronowitz commented, looking at the length of time it takes to get from Tenby to Haverfordwest he feels there will be winners and losers wherever the new facility goes.

Cllr Blackhall told councillors that the next SEPCHN meeting will take place in October and this document will be part of the ongoing dialogue. The next meeting will also deal with Tenby and Saundersfoot Surgeries. Looking at creating a health campus at Tenby for integrating services. There are considerable opportunities to discuss and he and Cllr. Whitehurst will report back to council.

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

The Clerk had nothing to flag up to members and asked if there were any queries.

Cllr Blackhall raised rising energy costs and asked what the position was in relation to TTC energy contracts. The Clerk told councillors that the current fixed price contract for Augustus Place ends at the end of October. He had been informed the new fixed price contract would see the kwh rate go up from 14.33p to 62.23p. The Quarterly standing charge was up from £32.07 up to £41.34.

The Clerk asked councillors to allow him to go out to market to see if he could source a better deal as an agreement with the current provide for the new fees would need to in place by Oct 1<sup>st</sup>, otherwise TTC would be charged on the default tariff.

There was also the question as to what measures the Government would be proposing on energy costs which may have an impact on tariffs.

Cllr Ronowitz said he has done quite a bit of comparison research on this for his own business and a rise of around 50p per kwh seems to be the norm across the providers.

Cllr Mrs Rossiter proposed accepting the accounts.

Cllr Dale commented that quite a large amount of budget was spent on town Wi-Fi, but it still was not functioning correctly. The Clerk said that remedial installation work was due to commence next week.

**RESOLVED**

**That the accounts for July and August (including scheduled payments, unrepresented cheques, receipts, account balances, budget monitoring to date and bank reconciliations) be approved.**

**98. TO RECEIVE A REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OFFICER TO DATE**

Anne Draper talked Councillors through her Community Engagement Report and gave progress updates from when the report was drafted.

With regard to wi-fi, work is beginning in Mayor's Parlour at the start of next week. They then plan to roll out the other elements after that

Norman Industries will be fixing benches in place. It has taken some time to co-ordinate as initially they didn't think it could be done in situ we're pleased now that headway is being made.

Cllr Mrs Rossiter asked if there had been vandalism in relation to the Edible Garden. There had been none.

Councillors felt congratulations were due on the Green Flag award for the Edible Garden.

Cllr Whitehurst referred to the walkabout around the town undertaken by councillors some time ago. At that time he had remarked on the eyesore garden next to Battery Gardens, but now, it has all been tidied up. Initially he thought it had been a group of volunteers but it was just the one, Mr Tim Caddy. The Mayor felt Mr. Caddy deserved great praise as he works incredibly hard all over town. He was also tidying up in the War Memorial Gardens.

Cllr Brown had noted several different volunteers around town doing things. There are many pockets of volunteers in Tenby.

Cllr. Ronowitz asked if a new bat survey was needed which could impact the timescale of the lighting of the town walls. Ms Draper replied that the existing survey was still deemed current and the loss of the trees since it was carried out meant there was even less likelihood on bat activity in the vicinity.

Cllr Mrs Rossiter asked if there was an update on the proposed Heywood Lane footpath. Ms Draper has received many letters of support and now has confirmed the Deeds to the land being donated by the rugby club. A detailed plan of the path was now needed from Highways and then the application could be submitted. Mr Howe will liaise with Highways as September 19<sup>th</sup> was the deadline for submission.

Ms Draper had also been looking at 'Live Well' winter funding. Up to £2500 was available to provide somewhere warm to go. We could use it to use Augustus Place, one day a week to be open for the day as somewhere warm to go.

She was also working with the museum on a 'historic benchmark's project. This would provide 10 different QR codes on different benches at various sites around the town which accessed a 2-minute podcast explaining what you are looking at. Match funding for this from the TTC EPF allocation would be £88.52.

Cllr Blackhall thanked Ms Draper for the report. It is really positive, there is so much going on, he said. Ms Draper is engaging with, and drawing people in, to the benefit of the community.

**99. TO REQUEST THAT PEMBROKESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL AGAIN LOOK AT WAYS OF RESOLVING PARKING ISSUES ON SLIPPERY BACK**

As Cllr Mrs Lane was not in attendance the item will be held until the next meeting.

**100. TO REQUEST A PROGRESS REPORT FROM PEMBROKESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL ON GRANT BIDS FOR THE ENHANCEMENT OF TENBY HARBOUR**

The Mayor told councillors that, in her capacity as a county councillor, she had found out that the money had gone back to the Welsh Government, as the work was not able to be progressed in time. Cllr. Dale accepted this explanation with thanks.



**101. TO CONSIDER THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE, WATER SHORTAGES AND THE COST-OF-LIVING CRISIS ON TENBY. TO FURTHER CONSIDER WAYS IN WHICH THE COUNCIL CAN ADAPT, CHANGE AND OFFER COMMUNITY SUPPORT**

Cllr Blackhall felt there were a number of things we need to consider. How we manage energy, our energy cost and our water use needed to be looked at but also how organisations that we support including De Valence are being impacted. What can we do as a council?

Looking at costs, just in the Rotary Gardens the amount of water used is equivalent to a hot tub every other day. Our EPF plans and the work done with Cllr Mrs Lane last year will reduce that in these gardens but how do we look at water usage elsewhere.

TTC has a Biodiversity Policy, one of the questions is how do we use this to enhance areas but reduce costs and reduce the impact on natural resources.

The Clerk has already indicated potential increased energy costs at Augustus Place but what about the De Valence? While they receive a certain grant amount each year, there may be additional pressures and we need to offer our support to ensure this building remains viable for the community. We need to start conversations so we're ahead of the curve. If there are particular areas or pressures, we should be looking at planning ahead.

Long term plans are needed. The roof of the De Valence, for example, is a potential resource for solar energy.

How can we offer support to groups encountering hardships?

Cllr Dale had received a suggestion from the Beynon family, that those who do not need the additional funding from the government may like to offer it to a Tenby Financial Hardship Fund. Cllr. Dale felt the legality of this needs looking into.

Cllr Mrs Rossiter recalled a company coming in to talk about solar panels at the De Valence but it was let go. The Clerk said the problem then was that, as the majority of the De Valence energy is used at night time a way to store the solar energy produced was needed.

At that time battery technology was not up to this but times had moved on. Ms Draper confirmed that she is in talks with Mr. Jones, at the De Valence on this. She asked if councillors had any solar panel contacts as she had struggled to get quotes.

Cllr Blackhall would like councillors to go away and think about ways we could reduce costs to redirect into other things and use our resources more effectively in the future.

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

**a. Christmas Events working party – Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> September at 7pm**

The Clerk has arranged a Christmas Events working party meeting. This is not solely a town council committee, all councillors are welcome to come but representatives from other organisations will be in attendance.

Everything that will cost needs to come back to Council as councillors need to sign off on expenditure. The working party would be able to look at for the event and allocate tasks.

The Clerk proposed Saturday, 26<sup>th</sup> November, for the switching on of the Christmas Tree lights.

**b. Work on Ritec Culvert**

The Clerk had received notice from NRW that work is to be carried on the Ritec Culvert. There will be some noise which may affect Battery Road residents. Residents will be notified. The culvert remediation scheme starts on 13<sup>th</sup> September taking 6 weeks to complete.

**103. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

**Resolved that the next meeting will be a planning committee on Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> September 2022 at 7.00pm.**

**The next meeting of Full Council will be on Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup> October 2022 at 7.30pm.**

The Mayor advised councillors that there will be a Quarterly Reception on Tuesday, 20<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30 pm, to show gratitude to those members of the community who have gone above and beyond in helping others over recent times. This is a social evening to thank members of the public for their services to our town.

She would welcome suggestions from members as to who may need to be invited.

**104. TO PROPOSE ANY ITEM FOR THE NEXT AGENDA**

Brother Thomas Garden – Cllr Mrs Rossiter

**105. 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"**