

MINUTES OF THE TENBY TOWN COUNCIL
MEETING HELD 4TH JULY 2023

Present: Cllr Dai Morgan Mayor
Cllr Charles Dale
Cllr Sam Skyrme-Blackhall
Cllr Tom Sloan
Cllr Duncan Whitehurst
Cllr James Phillips
Cllr Laurence Blackhall
Cllr Laura Crockford
Cllr Emma Lewis
Cllr Trevor Hallett
Cllr Joe Criddle

In attendance: Mr Andrew Davies Clerk to the Council/Financial Officer
Sharon Thompson Assistant to the Town Clerk

UNDER STANDING ORDERS ADOPTED BY THIS COUNCIL, PHOTOGRAPHING, RECORDING, BROADCASTING OR TRANSMITTING THE PROCEEDINGS OF A MEETING BY ANY MEANS IS PROHIBITED WITHOUT THE COUNCIL'S PRIOR WRITTEN CONSENT.

61. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES

No apologies received.

62. TO DISCLOSE ANY PERSONAL ITEMS OF BUSINESS LISTED BELOW

None disclosed.

63. PUBLIC PARTICIATION: AN OPPORTUNITY FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO ASK QUESTIONS AND MAKE REPRESENTATIONS ABOUT ANY ITEM OF BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED DURING TONIGHTS MEETING AND WHICH IS OPEN FOR PUBLIC DISCUSSION. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS OF BUSINESS ARE EXCLUDED

Mayor welcomed all to the meeting and explained the evening to prospective candidates present.

a. To meet with prospective co-option candidates

Three prospective co-option candidates explained in more detail their reasons for wishing to join Tenby Town Council and responded to questions from Councillors.

The Clerk advised that Agenda number 8 could be brought forward if all were in agreement to allow the candidates to leave if they so wished. Cllr Blackhall proposed and Cllr Hallett seconded that this be done. Cllr. Blackhall also proposed that Standing Orders be suspended to allow a written ballot to take place. The Clerk explained procedure in relation to the requirement for a substantive majority again.

Following the vote it was

RESOLVED

That Mrs Michelle Evans be co-opted to fill the vacant seat in the South Ward.

Cllr. Blackhall felt all the candidates had been interesting. He felt TTC could work with Mr Dunlop in the future on harbour issues. Everyone knows how angry we all were about money for harbour improvements that was lost. He suggested that in a letter to Mr Dunlop we should express TTC's hope to work with him in the future.

On another point TTC has now constructed a full council again with policy, personnel and planning committees. We can invite those from outside organisations to, in a non-voting capacity, to join sub-groups on related topics. With people contributing this council is getting stronger as we draw more people in.

64. **TO AGREE ITEMS OF CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMITTEE MINUTES, EXCEPT THOSE MARKED PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL, BE GIVEN TO THE MEMBERS OF THE PRESS PRESENT**

Proposed Cllr Hallett, seconded by Cllr Blackhall.

65. **TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD 6TH JUNE 2023**

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Tenby Town Council meeting held 6th June 2023 be confirmed and signed as accurate.

66. **TO CONSIDER ANY MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

Page 22 Item 39a - Belgian Visit: The Clerk told members that he had put the road closure applications in for the parade. This was for High Street, White Lion Street and South Parade.

However, there did appear to be a slightly confusing situation on the Belgian side as aside from the group lead by Col Le Hardy, another gentleman, who had the initial idea, seemed to also be contacting the Belgian authorities about the visit. This was creating some confusion in the Belgian Defence Ministry as to what is going on and he and Col. Le. Hardy were trying to resolve this.

Cllr Lewis has spoken with a few residents who are excited by this visit and suggested TTC let people in town know. It would be a shame if it happens, and no one has been informed, she said. Once finalised then details will be shared, said the Clerk.

A Belgian firm who has been tasked with sending Belgian flags for the town had been in contact with the Clerk.

Cllr Hallett believes if it is happening then PR is needed. The Mayor assured we will. PCC, TTC and Col Le Hardy are working together on details.

Page 29 Item 49 – Welsh Water: The Mayor had now had the chance to read Cllr Whitehurst's Report in full and felt it was a fine effort from Cllr Whitehurst.

Page 32 Item 51 - Business Planning: Cllr Blackhall confirmed that a staff session has been diarised for 18th July and an evening 7-9pm session same day for councillors. There will then be a further Saturday 22nd July session from 11 til 1pm for councillors. All ideas can then be put together and sent to Policy ready for September's meeting, if not before.

Page 32 Item 52 - Decisions of Council: Cllr Blackhall referred to the Decisions of Council hoping that the template will be ready for September. He offered his assistance to the Clerk in preparing one.

Page 33 Item 53a – Provision of Dog Warden: The Clerk has been in contact with Saundersfoot Community Council on this but has yet to receive a reply.

Cllr Skyrme-Blackhall was waiting on Cllr Chris Williams to return to her.

The decisions on who will pay for what and for how long needed to be sorted out, she continued. Saundersfoot appear to be keen but what we will end up with will depend on how much we pay.

We will need to get everything in order and agreed before December in readiness for the setting of TTC's precept as it will not be happening this year.

The tender put out by PCC only covers up to September. We want a longer period for Tenby and Saundersfoot. We need enforcement for a longer period as the problem is not just seasonal.

The Clerk told members that the signage previously discussed is now on Castle and South Beach, Tenby. The Beaches Manager did not feel these to be appropriate on North Beach but would look at other signage. He was keener to see how the pilot scheme goes first as, as soon as locals get fines, it may change people's attitude.

Cllr Skyrme-Blackhall still feels Tenby needs its own enforcement because the summer pilot was too small a window being just six weeks of the summer holidays.

Cllr Whitehurst thanked Cllr Skyrme-Blackhall for wading through such a difficult process.

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

- a. **Charlotte Blythe, PCC – Proposal to establish a Federation between Mary Immaculate Catholic School and St Teilo's Catholic School**

The Clerk said that it appeared that it was difficult to find Catholic headteachers so a formalised federated approach for these two schools, where they would share one head, but still have separate budgets had been proposed. Do we have any views as statutory consultees, he asked?

Has there been any input from school governors asked Cllr Whitehurst? Sometimes schools are closed or amalgamated not long after federation takes place. This may cause concern, he pointed out.

Cllr Skyrme-Blackhall who has experience working within a federated school recalled that pupil numbers went up. It works if they get it right, she commented adding that it can result in schools getting new buildings.

Cllr Sloan said he had been very sceptical at first but the current arrangement had been fantastic since the new 'head' has been in post and it was very positive.

Cllr Skyrme-Blackhall had spoken to staff at the school who, while not sure initially now feel a real change for the better is being made.

Cllr Blackhall said he had concerns previously with federations. However, in the current climate, with difficulties in recruiting school leaders, this a good solution. It provides opportunity to senior leaders within schools for their future development. It appears to be a good solution for St Teilo's going forward and there is a strong commitment to make federations work.

b. Mark Hooper, PCC – Disabled Resident Permit Bay, The Glebe

Members examined the plan.

Cllr Skyrme-Blackhall felt this was a good move. It was difficult for people with disabilities to park on their estates and more are needed.

We all know what parking is like in Tenby, there just is not enough, and it is even more difficult for those with disabilities and the elderly she added.

Cllr Hallett pointed out, sadly, that a lot of Tenby was not designed for modern vehicles.

Cllr Whitehurst seconded what Cllr Skyrme-Blackhall said adding this proposal was welcome. He personally approves and feels that the pilot scheme should continue.

However, he felt that application forms were really long with intrusive questioning. It was a rigorous procedure and he was aware that some who could have benefited from a similar scheme in their area had given up on it.

I feel PCC need to look at how they could make it an easier process, he said.

Cllr Dale said he had been told there were a distinct lack of disabled bays in the multi-storey. Cllr Lewis explained that, while there could always be more, there were a number of bays located adjacent to the lifts on every floor.

Cllr Blackhall commented that the walk from the 30-minute short stay disabled space to Sainsburys was twice as long as from the non-disabled space which is difficult for some. Things could be better, but the scheme is rigorous, he said.

Cllr Dale asked what the position was over our request for PCC to cease issuing residents parking area permits to holiday visitors in favour of encouraging visitors to utilise the Puffin permit.

The Clerk explained that our North ward county councillor, Cllr. Michael Williams, had put a notice of motion to PCC asking for the issuing of visitor parking permits in residents bays to be discontinued.

The Notice of Motion had been considered by Cabinet on Monday. The background paper on the scheme however, did not seem to statistically bear out the problem as local residents see it. Culver Park, which we have identified as a problem area, only had 13 visitor permits issued over a six-month period for example.

As such Cabinet had resolved not to support the Notice of Motion but had agreed to continue to monitor the situation for a follow-up report in six months.

Cllr Phillips believes this is a toxic issue and it is difficult for those who live in town.

He wondered if this was something PCC could devolve to us.

The Clerk did not believe TTC had the powers of enforcement and PCC were responsible for parking on street and off.

Cllr. Phillips said that Cabinet had agreed to monitor the situation and we must build a case to stop the issuing of visitors' permits. Other towns must have similar issues over the number of tickets given out and not enough bays. Perhaps we should band together to provide a stronger voice, he suggested.

Cllr Blackhall said TTC had made constructive suggestions. We should build on these suggestions and make the case in a concrete way. We should get the public behind it and find out what they would support and what they would not, he said. The zonal approach is not favoured by all, for example.

He wondered whether it would be useful to set up a working group who can put together case studies to build a strong, robust argument. Forget what statistics say, during certain times there is a problem, he continued. I personally cannot see why the simple solution of only giving residents permits to council tax payers cannot be adopted.

Cllr Dale said at the last meeting he had proposed setting up an informal liaison between coastal villages which he was going to pursue after the summer.

He felt we needed a 'straight down middle approach' to banish visitors permits in favour of Puffin permits to get visitors out of the residents parking bays and residents in.

He felt a working party to build case studies was a sensible approach.

These are needed for Cabinet to understand the problem, he suggested. Cabinet just don't understand Tenby. They can't keep kicking this can down the road, they must see this from the view point of residents of Tenby.

Cllr Skyrme-Blackhall agreed it was a very frustrating situation. When she had spoken to Marc Owen in the past, both as county councillor and in meetings between him and TTC, he had appeared to support getting rid of holiday permits, although he had suggested that residents permits charges may have to go up.

Cllr Lewis had an interesting experience whilst at an event at the Eden Project recently. Most attending had been from bigger cities but the general feeling from the smaller communities was that they were being 'destroyed' by the increase in Air BnB.

In addition to the more publicised concerns like lack of affordable housing, those who live in places with increased Air BnB are also experiencing parking problems.

She was sure that people would be happy to jot down what is happening to create citizen diaries recording what the problems are. Residents feel very strongly, she said.

We have to be very careful about demonising Air BnBs, cautioned Cllr. Dale. We are a holiday destination and they are important to our economy, However, it is about getting the balance right to preserve residents' bays for residents.

Cllr Blackhall proposed establishing a group to look at proposals and monitor the issues over the next six months. Cllr Whitehurst seconded.

Cllr. Blackhall proposed TTC support the provision of a disabled permit bay at The Glebe. Cllr. Lewis seconded.

RESOLVED

That TTC support the provision of a disabled permit bay at The Glebe.

Further

That TTC look to set up a working group to continue to look at developing a strong case to PCC for improvements to the current situation.

c. CWBR youth project – Newsletter (for information)

The latest newsletter was for information.

The Mayor added that a meeting had been held together today which had resulted in very positive, plans and ideas to improve youth engagement.

Cllr Sloan felt it was important that the youth of the town had a voice on the future of their town and there had been some interesting feedback from teachers and pupils.

68. TO CONSIDER AND PROPOSE CANDIDATES FOR CO-OPTION TO THE COUNCIL VACANCIES AND AGREE ACTION IN RESPONSE TO THOSE PROPOSALS

Dealt with earlier in meeting.

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

Cllr Hallett moved accepting the accounts for June. Cllr Phillips asked if the War Graves income was from the War Graves Commission. The Clerk confirmed it was and advised that the Sea Cadets tend the graves as a project. We traditionally gift them the finances received from the War Graves Commission to assist them in this work. Councillors were happy for this arrangement to continue. Cllr Phillips seconded approval of the accounts.

RESOLVED

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

70. TO RECEIVE ANY UPDATES FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr Whitehurst informed everyone that a SEPCHN meeting is coming up on Wednesday, 19th July from 5 pm to 6.30 pm at New Hedges Village Hall. Guests will include members from Hywel Dda Health Board and Practice Managers from Tenby and Saundersfoot. Cllr Phillips asked if there was a possibility of someone from dental services being present. Cllr. Whitehurst said he would make the request.

Cllr Blackhall together with the Clerk and Cllr Skyrme-Blackhall had attended the Armed Forces Day wreath laying with the Royal British Legion.

Cllr Skyrme-Blackhall informed members she has started a scheme 'Time for Tenby' and had been up at 5.30 am for the last few days power washing the pavements in High Street with the assistance of Mr Sion Brace and the Mayor. The fire station was also assisting with the provision of water.

Our pavements are filthy but PCC have no money and no manpower to do it, she explained. County have loaned the equipment and she was building a band of volunteers

to help. The project was starting with the pavements but she was hoping to expand it to other aspects where the town required some TLC, estates as well as the town centre. Sainsburys were already offering gardening equipment for example.

Hopefully this will set a trend, colleagues in Narberth are already asking how they can set up something similar.

It will take time and I would like more volunteers to get on board, she said. At the moment they were only able to tackle things in short bursts but as more volunteers come on board we can carry on for longer and we are also encouraging businesses to try and look after their own frontage.

Cllr Sloan added that, following on from the launch of the idea he was aware of one business, the Guides and Brownies and a local care home had come forward to offer assistance.

Mencap has also asked to come on board as have Greenhill, added Cllr. Skyrme-Blackhall.

Members felt it would be interesting to have a breakdown of what PCC is actually spending in the town.

The Mayor had been on the Waverley. The trip had provided stunning views of our coast and he hoped their ambition to come back next year would be realised.

He had also been a guest of the Tenby and District Lions at their annual hand-over dinner. They do not shout about what they do but the amount of people they help is phenomenal, he said, adding he hoped to engage them in a couple of joint ventures in the future.

The Mayor had met with Ian and Rebecca at The Old Chapel. The work they do is remarkable and he is pleased to share that The Old Chapel will be this year's Mayor's Charity.

The Mayor reminded members that his Civic Service is to take place on Sunday, 30th July at 4pm at St Julian's Church followed by refreshments at Tenby Sailing Club.

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

a. Confirmation that urgent matters will be decided under the Town Council's Scheme of Delegation during the summer recess

This was the last meeting before the August recess. As the Scheme of Delegation lays out, any urgent council matters are discussed by the Clerk and the Mayor, with the Mayor deciding how the matter should be dealt with.

Cllr Blackhall proposed and Cllr Dale seconded.

RESOLVED

That urgent matters will be decided under the Town Council's Scheme of Delegation during the summer recess.

b. Portable PA system

The Clerk was grateful to Cllr Whitehurst for his valuable assistance in compiling the report. Our current PA is not good enough for our needs and has played up recently. The Clerk was asking if he could go ahead and get a new system. Cllr Dale offered to look into availability of the three suggested systems through his contacts.

Cllr. Phillips asked what we would do with the old PA. It was suggested it may be worth keeping for the Santa Drive rather than exposing new equipment to potentially bad weather.

It was proposed that the council confirm the purchase of a new PA within the price range of the three proposed with the exact make and model to be determined by Cllr Dale, Cllr Whitehurst and the Clerk.

RESOLVED

That under Section 145 LGA 1972, the council confirmed the purchase of a new PA system within the price range of the three proposed in the Clerk's report with the exact make and model to be determined by Cllr Dale, Cllr Whitehurst and the Clerk in consultation.

c. Long Course Weekend

The Clerk told members that Marc Owen of PCC is looking for feedback on last weekend's LCW by 14th July. Please jot down thoughts and let the Clerk know for him to respond to Mr Owen. Cllr Phillips felt that some indication of what benefit it brought to the town's businesses may be useful.

72. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved that the next planning meeting will take place on Tuesday, 5th September 2023 at 7pm followed by a full council meeting on Tuesday, 5th September 2023 at 7.30pm.

73. TO PROPOSE ANY ITEM FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

Cllr Blackhall suggested that, for new members a brief report on planning including section 106, affordable homes etc would be useful and asked the Clerk to prepare one for the next meeting

Cllr Lewis asked if she could give an update on the Free Fun Day at the next meeting.

74. 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