

**MINUTES OF THE TENBY TOWN COUNCIL**  
**MEETING HELD 3<sup>RD</sup> OCTOBER 2023**

**Present:** Cllr Dai Morgan Mayor  
Cllr Sam Skyrme-Blackhall  
Cllr Trevor Hallett  
Cllr James Phillips  
Cllr Emma Lewis  
Cllr Laurence Blackhall  
Cllr Laura Crockford  
Cllr Michelle Evans  
Cllr Duncan Whitehurst  
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.**

**95. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES**

Apologies received from Cllrs Dale and Sloan.

**96. TO DISCLOSE ANY PERSONAL ITEMS OF BUSINESS LISTED BELOW**

Cllr Whitehurst declared his personal interest in Item 11.

**97. 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**

**98. 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 Skyrme-Blackhall.

**99. TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD 5<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2023**

**RESOLVED**

**That the minutes of the Tenby Town Council meeting held 5<sup>th</sup> September 2023 be confirmed and signed as accurate.**

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

**Page 60 Item 86 - Allotment Sites**

The Clerk has asked for a meeting and councillors were unable to attend on the date proposed. He has requested a further date and will chase again.

**101. TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE HELD ON 19<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2023**

Standing up was removed from the Standing Orders. A copy of the new Standing Orders had been emailed to councillors said the Clerk. Hard copies were available on request.

The Clerk referred to Item 5 and the discussion of toilet provision. Are members happy to proceed as discussed at the policy meeting. It was agreed that we write to PCC in the terms agree for them to consider making North Beach toilet an exception to the policy and TTC may then consider taking over Upper Frog Street.

Following the Clerk's letter, Mr Cavanagh has said he will do his best to let TTC know of any potential areas where additional funding from them may be required but cannot promise due to timings of government funding decisions.

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

Cllr Blackhall congratulated all on the Belgian celebrations and was sorry he had been unable to be present. He asked if the additional amount vired from the Coronation budget had been sufficient.

The Clerk stated that it was. It was fortunate that the council had agreed the virement however, as the road closure costs, and associated traffic management, had used up over two thirds of the original budget.

Cllr. Phillips felt that there had been very little outside support from PCC with them being very late in coming off the area outside church for the Lord Lieutenant's vehicle.

He did not see very effective traffic management for the parade at the War Memorial and noticed cars slipping down Park Road from Trafalgar Road. He felt this should be raised with the traffic management firm before Remembrance Sunday. The Clerk pointed out that the police manage traffic on Remembrance Sunday.

Cllr Skyrme-Blackhall asked about a cemetery sub-committee meeting. The Clerk said he will arrange a meeting for his return.

Cllr Hallett moved accepting the accounts and Cllr Blackhall seconded. Thanks to both for work.

**RESOLVED**

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

**103. TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING REQUESTS FOR GRANT AID AND AGREE ACTION IN RESPONSE TO PROPOSALS:**

**a. Tenby Sea Cadets**

Cllr Lewis asked how grant applications have been dealt with in the past. TSC are a very supportive organisation that attends most events for the town. Their work is incredible and all work so hard for the youngsters of the town. Phenomenal.

Cllr Morgan wishes to support. The Clerk advised £3K in grant budget yet to be spent.

Cllr Skyrme-Blackhall reminded councillors how, during her time as Mayor, there were only 6 members and now the organisation has been built up, all have worked really hard to bring back this town tradition.

Cllr. Phillips asked what the likelihood of other requests for funding being received from other organisations before the end of the financial year. The Mayor replied that there was no knowing what future requests may be made, but we had dipped into reserves to top up the grant budget to support organisations if we felt it was merited.

Cllr Lewis has no problem supporting to the full extent of their request. Being involved with the Scout movement for many years she understands that raising money is part and parcel for ensuring that these organisations continue. TSC do have days of fundraising and support local events.

Cllr Blackhall proposed making a grant in the full amount requested and that council also mentions this is being done partly as a tribute to Lt. Roy Broxham who died recently. All in favour.

**RESOLVED**

**That under Section 19a of the Local Government (Misc. Provs) Act 1976 donation be given to Tenby Sea Cadets in the sum of £2,500. Councillors wish it to be known that this is being done partly as a tribute to Roy Broxham who died recently.**

**104. TO RECEIVE ANY UPDATES FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

Cllr Whitehurst told members that on 12<sup>th</sup> October Dwr Cymru, PCC and NRW are attending a meeting to discuss, amongst other things, beach water quality results. They make interesting reading with improvements on last year but underlying worrying results.

There is a slight decrease on North Beach, but a big spike on South Beach. He felt TTC needed clarity as to when the 4-year threshold of good quality water was met to get our Blue Flag back on the North Beach. Hopefully South Beach doesn't lose its flag due to these results. This meeting was a good opportunity to get some clarity, and challenge Dwr Cymru on their monitoring and reporting.

Cllr Whitehurst suggested inviting members from Saundersfoot and Amroth Community Councils as it is of interest to all in Carmarthen Bay. Meeting 2pm to 4pm 12<sup>th</sup> October.

He has also contacted Hywel Dda regarding the next meeting of SEPCHN. They have asked to delay meeting until 7<sup>th</sup> December due to the ongoing situation at Withybush i.e. losing two floors to RAAC. He will ask for a report and press release for us to send out about the situation.

SPRAG have held meetings and are continuing to challenge rail services to West Wales. They are hoping to increase the 'Saturday Special' service and are continuing with their pressure.

In relation to the recent Belgian visit, Cllr Phillips had visited 3 schools to talk about why the visit was so important to the town and he thanked the Clerk for his tireless work in helping to arrange the event. The Clerk in turn thanked Cllr Phillips for his assistance in arranging the military side of the event. All also wished to thank Tim for his work at the war memorial.

The Clerk told council members of the feedback received from our Belgian visitors, that they were overwhelmed by the reception from the people of Tenby. They felt it was a tremendous tribute paid to their forefathers.

The Mayor said it had been such a significant occasion. You could tell what it meant to the Belgian visitors. It was something he would not forget as with the more time spent with them, he realised that an honour it was to host them.

He felt we should now try to keep memories of this Belgian link going. He personally would like to see a special wreath laying ceremony annually on 28<sup>th</sup> May to mark when the Belgian troops first arrived in the town. He would hope that members of each school would lay a wreath to keep the history alive with youngsters.

Cllr Phillips asked why we do not have a forum which includes all organisations to sit down and look at events. If we did, they may be able to provide assistance in things like dressing the town etc. We don't have that coordination, he commented.

The Mayor agreed that this is something we should look into.

Cllr Skyrme-Blackhall told members that the Poppy Pebble Trail will take place again this year at St Mary's Church on 11<sup>th</sup> November. Last year there were about 200 present.

Cllr Blackhall reminded members that Anne and Sharon have been working on organisations contact list and this may help to reconnect with organisations and offer support.

Following the Belgian visit, he suggested using space in the parlour to properly record the weekend and the history behind it. He suggested we ask Mr Mark Lewis to create an interpretation board display featuring pictures of the event.

The Mayor said he and Anne had been in the Parlour for the Open Doors on Saturday. Questions were asked and not all the answers not known. He had found an album with military pictures of 1965 Freedom of the Town to Royal Artillery School at Manorbier. This information will be lost if not documented. The Clerk said he would speak with Mark Lewis, who has shown interest in 'curating' the artefacts in the Parlour previously.

**105. TO CONSIDER OPENING A DIALOGUE WITH NATIONAL RESOURCES WALES REGARDING THEIR ADDITION OF MERLIN'S GARDENS TO THE HIGH-RISK FLOOD AREA FOR THE TOWN – CLLR WHITEHURST**

Cllr Whitehurst told members this had come from a conversation some time ago with Cllr Blackhall; Cllr Hallett has been alerting us to this in previous years as historically boats used to tie up not far from Cllr Hallett's home.

In November last year the NRW published their new high flood risk maps for the whole of Wales. This has gone unheralded, but they have changed the flood risk rating for the Merlin's Gardens area to high. This risk is not from the sea but from surface water and poor drainage.

Referring to the map on the screen Cllr. Whitehurst commented that The Green is not so much a surprise due to the Ritec but it would be interesting to see where decision to raise the risk for the Merlin's Gardens area had come from.

Is it that drainage is poor, is it blocked drains, is it that road resurfacing over years has now raised the level on the road so that water now spills over curbs into houses, he asked?

We know water runs down Narberth Road, through Merlin's Gardens on to St Johns Hill. There is a pond there. There is also run off from Slippery Back and from Butts Field. If you are in Merlin's Gardens one can hear rushing through the culvert.

We need to find out more and what to do about it in the future Cllr. Whitehurst continued. Drains on The Green are very poor. In general, the whole infrastructure needs an overhaul.

Cllr. Skyrme-Blackhall added that the drains on The Maudlins were solid with silt and weeds until only recently, which led to excess water run off down the hill.

Hopefully if it is a drainage problem this can be rectified if we raise our concerns, said Cllr Whitehurst who added he would ask someone from NRW to come along to the meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> October to discuss this.

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

Nothing other than the Clerk has spoken to Canon Andrew Grace regarding Armistice Day and the Rector would like the format to be the same as last year. The 10am church service then on to War Memorial for wreath laying.

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

Resolved that the next planning meeting will take place on Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at 7pm followed by a full council meeting on Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at 7.30pm.

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

None were proposed at this time.

**109. 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**