

MINUTES OF THE TENBY TOWN COUNCIL
MEETING HELD 5TH DECEMBER 2023

Present: Cllr Dai Morgan Mayor
Cllr Charles Dale
Cllr Sam Skyrme-Blackhall
Cllr Michelle Evans
Cllr Joe Criddle
Cllr James Phillips
Cllr Laura Crockford
Cllr Tom Sloan
Cllr Laurence Blackhall
Cllr Duncan Whitehurst

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

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130. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Cllrs Hallett and Lewis.

Cllr Skyrme-Blackhall has been in touch with Cllr Hallett's daughter and Trevor is much better. As long as care provision is in place, he should be home from hospital tomorrow. Councillors wished him well.

131. TO DISCLOSE ANY PERSONAL ITEMS OF BUSINESS LISTED BELOW

None.

132. 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

133. 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 Blackhall, seconded by Cllr Skyrme-Blackhall.

134. TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD 7TH NOVEMBER 2023

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Tenby Town Council meeting held 7th November 2023 be confirmed and signed as accurate.

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

Page 81 Item 120 – Community Kindness Awards – The Clerk told councillors that a sponsorship of £150 had been paid as the award that councillors had agreed to sponsor for £250 had already been allocated.

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

Cllr Skyrme-Blackhall thanked the Clerk for all his hard work. Cllr Dale proposed and Cllr Sloan seconded.

RESOLVED

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

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

Cllr Whitehurst reminded councillors that there will be a meeting of SEPCHN in New Hedges Village Hall at 5pm on Thursday. The Director of the Health Board and the Practice Managers of Tenby and Saundersfoot Medical Centres will be at the meeting. Narberth had been invited to next one. There will be an update on Withybush Hospital and dental services in area.

He has also had news that tomorrow in Cosheston, there will be a market style event with stalls representing the different services available. There should be 60 different providers and the plans are that the next one will be run in our area.

Cllr Dale had received a letter from a resident concerned about the future of the Avenue Centre.

At present the Centre was closed for repair and the clients were being provided alternative sessions in Narberth and Pembroke. These did not always cater to the needs of individual clients in the same way as at the Avenue Centre. The resident was concerned that this could be a way of closing the Centre permanently.

The Clerk said that he was aware that the Centre was closed due to a leaking roof, but nothing had been forthcoming from PCC regarding the future of the facility.

Cllr. Blackhall said he believed PCC were reviewing their whole provision of adult services and he was aware that there were ongoing serious problems with the building that need to be resolved. However, with a bit of imagination and funding it could be turned into an excellent community resource.

He felt the matter could go on the agenda for the next meeting allowing us to find out more details in the interim. He would also have a discussion with the Community Engagement Officer as to possible options.

TTC need more information before expressing too strong an opinion, agreed Cllr. Whitehurst. It would be nice to know what is happening and what alternative provision there is for clients.

If cuts are to be made there are quite often compromises that can be achieved.

Cllr Dale was happy for the matter to go on the next agenda but felt that the communication flow from PCC to TTC still needed to be better.

Cllr Blackhall said that discussions with PCC in relation to the market were continuing. One unit has now become available and will be used in the short term for pop-up stalls.

The long-term vision is that the market should include opportunities for long term and starter businesses and the pop-up idea was being trialled in the run up to Christmas to see how it goes.

He said the premise was how best to attract people into the market and making that first experience on entering the market better.

At the moment, the focus is on making what is there better while also exploring longer term development, he said.

The pop-ups are the first bit of that intent, let's see how it works, but the signs from PCC are encouraging. Cllr Morgan thanked the market liaison group for their ongoing work.

Cllr Crockford commented that there was no street light up from Westgate by the Five Arches. Cllr Skyrme-Blackhall said all the lights around the Five Arches has been off due to a circuit failure in Lower Frog Street and this is being rectified. There was one light still off, but this was because it was being changed to LED.

Cllr. Crockford commented that over the recent flooding at Gumfreston, there were times that the diversions were in place but the flooding had gone. This was very frustrating for drivers.

Cllr Skyrme-Blackhall told members that there has been issues with the digital boards, as both have been out. She had emailed Mr Darren Thomas at PCC who was under impression that they were all working but would look into it. She was awaiting an answer on this. She was also aware that signage was sometimes left out for longer than required but the flooding issues round Gumfreston this time had been unprecedented as the Ritec had been at its highest ever recorded level.

Cllr Evans told fellow members that as a resident in the Clicketts area, she was not advised that the road had been closed and was, like other residents, virtually stranded. She felt that it would have been courtesy for PCC to have informed residents of the situation.

Cllr Skyrme-Blackhall said that PCC rely on social media to get the message out which was not ideal.

Cllr Phillips enquired as to temporary accommodation provision in Tenby. Was TTC informed as to which B&B's and hotels were being used?

Cllr. Skyrme-Blackhall said that, as a county councillor, she was given this information, which she shared with the Clerk, but PCC did not share this with individual councils.

It would be good to have that information said Cllr Phillips. We have a number of B&Bs and hotels which could be used which would create a high density of temporary accommodation.

The Clerk said we could enquire if PCC could share this information with the council on a confidential basis. However, he was aware that PCC tried not to make too much information forthcoming as vulnerable people, e.g. those escaping domestic abuse, were often placed in this type of accommodation.

Cllr Criddle said that at the last meeting of the Harbour Users Association they had been told that the temporary gate installed on the pier during the summer had resulted in a positive impact on anti-social and dangerous behaviour. It had been confirmed that a permanent gate will be designed and this is welcomed by all harbour users.

Cllr Skyrme-Blackhall said she had been very busy at a county level over the recent flooding issues and had spent a lot of time liaising with PCC and NRW. She had also spent hours with the PCC team down by the Ritec on the night when its level was the highest ever recorded.

She felt that congratulations were due to the PCC teams for their efforts to make a bad situation much better.

It was a learning curve and PCC is taking this all very seriously.

Her other County duties have seen a lot of meetings about PCC's budget and helping residents with various issues and maintenance.

The Poppy Pebble Trail, now in its 3rd year, was another great success and she thanked those who attended. She also thanked Cllr Sloan for provision of Mayoral centrepiece. The new Gardens of Remembrance will be used annually for this commemorative event going forward.

I was very pleased with the number of youngsters who turned up said the Mayor.

Cllr Blackhall commented it is an activity people can get involved with and start a discussion on Armistice and what it means. It helps bring young people greater understanding.

Cllr. Skyrme-Blackhall added that it was not just youngsters involved. Residents from a local care home also participated. It brings all ages together and discussions as to what will happen next year are already being had, she said.

The Mayor had held a Reception in the parlour to say thank you to individuals for their work within the community.

The Christmas Light switch on was a great success. This year we tried something different by working with the Lions to provide a Christmas Market and it worked. There was a great atmosphere and people had travelled to the town from all over for it. With the Lions on board hopefully it will be bigger and better next year.

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

At the Christmas lights switch on our Sergeant at Arms, Mr. John Morgan, gave notice that, having completed over 25 years, his attendance in the role at the Boxing Day Swim will be his last.

We will have to find a replacement for this is a council appointment.

Cllr Skyrme-Blackhall said that Mr. Morgan was irreplaceable.

These will be big boots to fill, she commented. After all his years of service, he will be missed.

The Mayor said that he was already working on ways to recognise Mr. Morgan's exemplary service and he would give details in the New Year.

Christmas dinner in Billycan, Tuesday next at 7pm deposit to the Deputy Clerk please.

139. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved that the next planning meeting will take place on Tuesday, 2nd January 2024 at 7pm followed by a full council meeting on Tuesday, 2nd January 2024 at 7.30pm.

140. TO PROPOSE ANY ITEM FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

None were proposed at this time.

141. 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