

**MINUTES OF THE TENBY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**  
**HELD 2<sup>ND</sup> APRIL 2024**

Present: Cllr Dai Morgan Mayor  
Cllr Charles Dales  
Cllr James Phillips  
Cllr Laurence Blackhall  
Cllr Duncan Whitehurst  
Cllr Sam Skyrme-Blackhall

In attendance: Mr Andrew Davies Clerk to the Council/Financial Officer  
Sharon Thompson Deputy 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.**

**207. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES**

Apologies received from Cllr Evans, Crockford, Lewis, Criddle and Sloan.

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

Cllr Dale has a tenuous connection with Studts Funfairs as he is acquainted with the family but feels this would not prejudice his involvement in any discussions.

Cllr Whitehurst told members that while he is the TTC's representative on the De Valence CIC they have asked if he would like to become a full member of the Board of Directors. He wondered, if he accepted, would he have declarable interest and have to seek dispensation from the Standards Committee to speak and vote on CIC matters at council.

The Clerk felt there could be a perceived conflict of interest. However, Cllr. Whitehurst would have to make any application for dispensation himself. This was not something the town council could do on his behalf.

Cllr. Blackhall felt the process needs to be gone through with PCC standards committee, but felt that, providing all are aware of interest, he could see no conflict as we all fully understand that Whitehurst is on the CIC to offer up points to aid our process.

Historically we have a representative to feedback between the two bodies.

The Clerk said that other councillors (on the former Trust) had previously asked for dispensation but this was because they had been invited to serve as individuals not as a council representative.

The issue arises should the CIC ask something of the town council. As a Board member voting on the decision to make that request, Cllr. Whitehurst could be perceived as already having a pre-judged opinion,

Cllr. Whitehurst said he would seek clarity with the PCC Monitoring Officer and could always decline the offer if it gets in the way of the smooth running of the relationship between the council and the CIC.

209. **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**

None present.

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

Proposed by Cllr Skyrme-Blackhall, seconded by Cllr Phillips.

211. **TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF TENBY TOWN COUNCIL HELD 5<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2024**

**RESOLVED**

**That the minutes of the Tenby Town Council meeting held 5<sup>th</sup> March 2024 be confirmed and signed as accurate.**

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

There were no matters arising.

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

- a. **Henry Studt – Observation Wheel Proposal**

All have read the letter.

Cllr Phillips believes this to be an exciting idea but it will have significant impact. There are many considerations as to location, the effect of wind etc. In principle it could be a tourist magnet, but it is complicated and the letter is light on detail.

Cllr Blackhall thought it could be interesting to be involved in further discussion with Mr Studt as there was not enough information in the letter.

‘What have similar wheels brought to other locations?’ asked Cllr Blackhall. PCNPA will certainly have an opinion as this will not be a small structure. While it could be a tourist attraction there is nothing about a proposed location. Unless

it goes into a car park...where there will be no view... is likely to be obtrusive and affect the coastline. There is just not enough information so it would be worth having a conversation to get more detail.

Cllr Skyrme-Blackhall agreed with having a conversation with Mr Studt but urged caution.

We do not want Tenby to become like Disneyland, she said. TTC have bigger things to consider, and there are not many locations within the town where this could go.

Tenby is not like Mumbles with their long seaside road which can accommodate something like this. We certainly need our car parks left alone. More explanation about the idea and possible locations are needed, she stressed.

Cllr Whitehurst agreed it would be wise to have a meeting with Mr Studt. 'We have no idea of the scale of this,' he commented.

#### **RESOLVED**

**That a meeting be arranged between the Council and Mr Studt to discuss his proposal in more detail.**

**b. Cllr Jon Harvey, PCC – Brynhir**

At the last meeting members agreed that Cllr Jon Harvey be contacted and this was his reply, commented the Clerk.

Cllr Blackhall thanked Cllr Harvey for his swift reply.

There are things worth exploring further with PCC and we should accept the offer of meeting with Cllr Harvey and officers to have detailed discussions on timeline, management, etc, he said.

#### **RESOLVED**

**That Cllr. Harvey be asked if he could arrange a meeting between TTC and PCC to enable further discussions on the timelines of the development and other associated matters.**

**c. One Voice Wales – Membership of One Voice Wales**

TTC joined last year as OVW had a special introductory price of 50% off the normal membership fee.

Membership was now due for renewal with the annual fee being £1,069.

Cllr Phillips said that he had been impressed with the training offered by OVW last year which, he believed, were at reduced rates due to us being members. We had also benefited from free legal advice over the year.

Cllr. Blackhall agreed it was beneficial to be a part of the organisation.

The Clerk said that, while he was a member of SLCC there are some things that are not always picked up on that are pertinent to Wales only. He would advise members that we renew our membership. We have made provision in the budget to do so.

Cllr Morgan proposed and Cllr Phillips seconded.

**RESOLVED**

**That TTC renews its membership of One Voice Wales for 2024/25.**

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

The Clerk apologised to members that he had not been able to send the accounts to them online until earlier that day due to the Bank Holiday and some ‘end of year’ technicalities he had had to resolve.

Paper copies were available for members to have a look at too.

Cllr Blackhall thanked the Clerk.

Regarding the work around the Community Engagement Officer budgets, it is sometimes difficult to see them within the accounts. There are so many fantastic things running but from a monitoring perspective they are not easy to pick up, he said.

He was happy to have a conversation with the Town Clerk as to how we could do this.

The Clerk said that he has started to account for various projects differently in the accounts but this is what had caused his ‘technical’ issue which he had had to resolve via our accounts package provider earlier in the day.

Going forward he would be sorting all grant aided projects and events into respective different budget headings.

Cllr Phillips proposed accepting, Cllr Dale seconded.

**RESOLVED**

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

**215. TO CONSIDER THE VACANT TOWN COUNCIL APPOINTED POSTS OF SERGEANT AT ARMS AND TOWN CRIER AND AGREE ACTION IN RESPONSE TO PROPOSALS**

Cllr. Skyrme-Blackhall said that she had had another conversation with the gentleman who had expressed an interest in the role of Sergeant at Arms. He was still interested and Cllr Morgan had also been in communication with him.

The gentleman was now officially retired and had bought property in the area.

It was suggested that the Clerk have a conversation with him with a view to him being officially recommended to Council.

In relation to the post of Town Crier, Cllr. Dale said that he had had conversations with two generations of the late Mr. John Thomas's family and neither were prepared to follow in their father's and grandfather's footsteps.

Cllr Skyrme-Blackhall said she was happy to step in to the role as and when needed in the interim. All thanked her for this offer.

It was suggested that we keep asking and hopefully someone will come forward.

Cllr. Phillips noted that the late John Thomas travelled round the world taking part in competitions. He was a member of the Guild of Town Criers. It might be worth offering subscription to the Guild to someone who takes on the role. They may also be able to help in recruitment.

The Clerk pointed out that our last Crier was also a member of the Guild.

Cllr. Phillips asked if there was an age limit. Could we approach Greenhill to see if anyone was interested?

It was pointed out that the Town Crier before last was a gentleman in his 20s so there was no real age restriction.

**216. OVERVIEW OF STEAMPUNK WEEKEND – CLLR PHILLIPS**

Cllr. Phillips said that the recent festival had received a really positive reaction, and he was surprised how it was greeted by all.

He had spoken to our Community Engagement Officer as to how to take it forward, as many were already looking to book again for next year.

He wondered how we manage this going forward to look at what bits we did and didn't need and asked how other members felt.

Cllr Blackhall agreed with the remarks. It was a positive event, a bit different, fun and brought people to Tenby. Congratulations were due to all involved.

While it was good on lots of levels it was right to have a look at what went well and what may not have worked.

He suggested a meeting be arranged with the Community Engagement officer to discuss this, the Nearly May festival and other things being planned.

Cllr Skyrme-Blackhall echoed the views expressed. The Community Engagement Officer and team did a fantastic job and there was a lovely buzz in De Valence, she said.

We need to make sure it is advertised even more next time as this is definitely one for the calendar, she continued.

One tiny observation received from people was disappointment that the Peacock Parade had not gone down High Street.

While she appreciated the need to light the stalls at the Emporium, the hall had lost a little of the 'Steampunk' atmosphere due to the lighting.

She also felt more could have been made to 'dress' the entrance foyer. Let's have the event start at the main door, she suggested.

Cllr Blackhall felt the council should formally congratulate the CEO on her work and set up a framework for feedback on this year to move forward and encourage another event next year. Cllr Morgan seconded.

**217. TO REQUEST AN UPDATE FROM PEMBROKESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL AS TO THE FUTURE OF THE AVENUE CENTRE BUILDING – CLR MORGAN**

The Avenue Centre is now closed and there is concern that PCC will leave it go to rack and ruin, said the Mayor.

If is not as bad as what they say, it could be put to good use he continued explaining that he had met with a well-established Pembrokeshire community organisation that was looking to expand its educational and well-being work into Tenby and this would be the ideal place.

Cllr Blackhall said that he and the Community Engagement Officer had had conversations over a piece of work done by the Civic Society some years ago, looking at the whole of the site and how it could be used collectively for the good of both community and individual wellbeing.

He felt it would be beneficial to have a scoping discussion with PCC as to their future intentions and what might be done in relation to the building.

If the building is viable, it could be an asset transfer to TCC which will give us more of a say in what building is used for, he said. If not to ourselves we could be part of a group, a community interest company, similar to the De Valence.

It would be a crying shame to see the building sitting empty. This could be a great opportunity, he said, proposing that a meeting be arranged with PCC.

Cllr Dale seconded.

## **RESOLVED**

**That TTC arrange a meeting with PCC to discuss their intentions for the Avenue Centre building.**

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

Cllr Blackhall told members that the Rector of St Mary's had taken his last service. Canon Grace has been chaplain to council several times and there had been over 500 attendees throughout the Easter day's services. The thanks of the town were passed on to Rector.

Cllr Skyrme-Blackhall had attended Canon Grace's last service and the RNLI service as a councillor.

Cllr Whitehurst had attended a meeting with Dwr Cymru and National Resources Wales. It had been an interesting meeting as research done had found certain assets in Saundersfoot, Manorbier and Tenby were behaving rather badly.

There are four pumping stations in Saundersfoot which are really struggling and every time it rains, they go to overflow, which means there is the potential to affect us, he said. The same for the one in Manorbier.

There is a pumping station in Oakridge Acres, a small one for the estate, which it appears few people knew about which is also overflowing on a regular basis.

The worry is that they are not certain where it goes but the suspicion is into the marshes.

Dwr Cymru accept they are in breach of their permits in relation to these and are planning investment and ways of improving the situation.

The Ritec culvert collapsed but the cause is unknown. It could possibly be wear and tear as it's about 150 years old. Remedial work has been completed but its results are not known yet.

There is a small treatment works in St Florence with wastewater emptying directly into The Ritec. There have been instances of it tipping sewage when water levels are low. It should not have been doing it and this is also currently under investigation.

It's no surprise then that there have been random spikes of bacteria. However, the good news is that Dwr Cymru are aware and are making investment to resolve the problems.

Further good news is that North Beach water quality testing results have all been positive and as long as all the paperwork is in order the Blue Flag should soon be returned, Cllr. Whitehurst concluded.

Cllr Skyrme-Blackhall said it was encouraging news about the Blue Flag. She believed PCC were sorting out all the relevant paperwork and we should hear back by the end of May.

She was aware that the Ritec outflow works had been carried out but had no further information.

Cllr. Blackhall added that Dwr Cymru have invited councillors to visit the sewage works at Gumfreston on 15<sup>th</sup> May.

Questions were asked if the system could cope with the proposed Brynhir development.

Cllr. Blackhall explained that the plans include a proposal for a new extended sewer along Narberth Road which will also benefit Upper Hill Park. There will also be some significant works as part of the new entrance to the estate.

There are plans to also separate the clear water and sewage wastes. Dwr Cymru were quite happy with the Brynhir plans and had expressed no concerns.

Cllr Whitehurst told members that he has not been to a SPRAG meeting yet. He is feeling overstretched at the moment and if any councillor wishes to attend the meeting in his place he would pass on contact details. He was being kept up to date with what was going on and it was a very laudable campaign.

Cllr Morgan had welcomed the Tenby Project to the Parlour which had been a very nice afternoon.

He had attended the Sea Cadets presentation evening where he presented awards. I continued to be floored at what they do, he said. I did not know you could achieve BTEC qualifications via them.

It was an, honour and privilege to be at the evening and speak to the cadets, parents and volunteers and I have accepted the offer to be on their Board of Trustees.

As Mayor I will also be getting a new Mayor's Sea Cadet for next year, which is a lovely new tradition.

Cllr Skyrme-Blackhall felt all those involved in the Sea Cadets should be congratulated.

I cannot stress how much they have done in the town and it's so good to see they have gone from 6 members to over 40. They are in our veins as a town, she said.

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

**a. To consider the draft Annual Report for publication**



The Clerk told members that TTC is legally bound to issue an Annual Report and must agree the draft prior to publication. He hoped all members had had the chance to read it.

Cllr Blackhall referred to the 'meetings attended' schedule and asked if the schedule could also show the percentage of meetings members were eligible to attend, which would allow for members joining the council mid-way through the year.

Attendance figures for some members however, can be reflected upon another time, he commented.

Cllr. Blackhall also felt the report should be 'beating the drum a bit more' about the work of the community engagement volunteers in gardens.

Overall, it is a very good summary of our activity over the year and I am happy to work with the Clerk to make a couple of minor tweaks before publication, he said.

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

Resolved that the TTC AGM will take place on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at 6pm.

The next planning meeting will be on Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at 7pm following by a full council meeting on Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at 7.30pm.

**221. TO PROPOSE ANY ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA**

None proposed at this time.

**222. 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**