

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

**Present:** Councillor Dai Morgan Mayor  
Councillor Charles Dale  
Councillor Laura Crockford  
Councillor James Philips  
Councillor Joe Criddle  
Councillor Duncan Whitehurst  
Councillor Laurence Blackhall  
Councillor Sam Skyrme-Blackhall (Zoom)

**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.**

**58. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Lewis, Evans, Hallett and Sloan.

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

Cllr Whitehurst declared his interest in matters relating to the De Valence. Cllr Blackhall proposed accepting his expression of interest and that it be treated as previously. The Mayor seconded.

**60. 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.

**61. 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 Dale.

**62. TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD 4<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2024**

**RESOLVED**

That the minutes of the Tenby Town Council meeting held 4<sup>th</sup> June 2024 be confirmed and signed as accurate.

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

**Page 24 Item 38 – New Town Crier:** The Mayor quipped that the council had made a wise choice with our new Town Crier. It had attracted a lot of media attention which was good for the town. Well done, Erin.

64. **TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 13TH JUNE 2024**

Private elements will be taken later. Cllr Skyrme-Blackhall told councillors that regarding a glazier, she has spoken to officers at PCC and they are returning to her with quotes shortly.

**RESOLVED**

That the minutes of the Policy and Finance Committee meeting held 13<sup>th</sup> June 2024 be received.

65. **TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 27TH JUNE 2024 (ON THE TABLE)**

Councillors were happy to receive.

**RESOLVED**

That the minutes of the Policy and Finance Committee meeting held 27<sup>th</sup> June 2024 be received.

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

a. **Tenby resident – Helipad**

Cllr Blackhall proposed noting the letter and the Mayor seconded.

67. **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)**

The Mayor asked if there were questions.

The Clerk pointed out that the Upper Frog Street Toilet annual payment to PCC had been made in its entirety. The Library staffing contribution is to be paid in three

instalments. Proposed by Mayor and seconded by Cllr Philips that accounts be accepted.

Cllr Blackhall referred to TTC's meeting on the first Tuesday of the month and the difficulties in getting accounts in time due to statement only being available at the end of the previous month. He asked if it is worth moving the council's meetings to the second Tuesday of the month.

It is a struggle as it does not give members much time to study them said the Clerk. Cllr. Blackhall said it was not something the council needed to determine tonight but was worth thinking about.

## **RESOLVED**

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

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

Cllr Whitehurst told councillors that there will be a meeting of SEPCHN at New Hedges Village Hall on 23<sup>rd</sup> July between 5.30 and 7pm. Updates on the new hospital, dental surgeries and other matters were to be discussed. Mayor asked for a reminder a couple of days prior to 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Cllr Whitehurst then referred to the pollution incident that had occurred earlier in the day which had resulted in warnings being issued for all our beaches.

He said Dwr Cymru has said this is due to the rising main at The Clicketts springing a leak. This is the second time this had occurred as in June last year, the pipe cracked.

He did not know why they had declared an emergency and the test results need to be seen, but to be putting signs on beaches it must be serious.

What frustrated him was that Dwr Cymru had identified the rising main as a problem last year and had said that a replacement was necessary.

However, they have sat on it, he said. We have played nice and worked as partners with Dwr Cymru and NRW but I do not think NRW are holding Dwr Cymru to account. They are in breach of pollution permits and they should be acting.

We do not seem important to them. We are a major holiday destination, and not a priority? We need some proper investment in our system.

Cllr Blackhall said Dwr Cymru knew there was a weakness in the system. They even told us this previously, he said.

This delayed action now creates a greater concern, Cllr. Blackhall continued. TTC want to know how they intend to remedy this and not be so complacent. The North Beach

now has its Blue Flag back and something like this creates a threat that it could be taken away.

Did they just patch it last time asked Cllr Philips? We need urgent priority action on this. Yes, it takes a long time to arrange large scale works but we need contingencies put in place.

We are a major holiday destination and do not need this sort of publicity, particularly as it appears it did not need to happen, he said.

The relationship Cllr. Whitehurst has helped develop between TTC, Dwr Cymru and NRW is important said Cllr Blackhall, and, in some ways, it has helped. He felt a reasonable approach would be a letter to Dwr Cymru stating that TTC are constructive and critical friends, but Dwr Cymru have not got it right this time and immediate action to remedy the situation was required. Cllr Phillips seconded.

Cllr Whitehurst suggested that this could result in a separate pressure group. There are many local people who feel very strongly and there is plenty of support, he said

Cllr Skyrme-Blackhall said she was informed late last night of what was going on. All agencies are trying to work together but we need clarity. Our town cannot afford any of this.

She agreed with a 'very stern but polite' letter to get answers.

Cllr Phillips enquired if there is there an environmental committee at PCC who were dealing with this?

Cllr. Skyrme-Blackhall said that there was not a committee. This was being dealt with 'from the very top.'

It was proposed that we engage with Dwr Cymru at town council level, and Cllr Skyrme-Blackhall working NRW, DCWW and partners engage at PCC level.

We still don't know exactly what was going on, said Cllr. Skyrme-Blackhall who was waiting on the outcome from more meetings and hoped to have more information tomorrow.

There were elevated levels of E Coli recorded on 5<sup>th</sup> June on South Beach, commented Cllr. Whitehurst. This could have been when the problem started. Cllr Whitehurst said he was happy to compose a letter on behalf of the town council in liaison with the Mayor and Clerk. Cllr. Blackhall felt this was perfectly reasonable given the work that Cllr Whitehurst has done with Dwr Cymru over the years.

Cllr. Skyrme-Blackhall congratulated the Mayor and Cllr. Sloan on the new art exhibition space at the front of the building. Hopefully this would be the start of something bigger.

Cllr Crockford referred to two different signs regarding dog ban boundaries on the South Beach and that fines were being issued within areas where people believed they could take their dogs.

She commented that the owners of Salties seemed to be taking the brunt of the anger. She believed PCC had spoken to their enforcers but because the restrictions in place are zonal this creates difficulties. The signage appears to have moved the start of the separate zones from the original byelaw commented Cllr Crockford. People don't want to break the law and need clarity.

It is impossible to see the demarcation for dogs, agreed Cllr. Dale. Why do we not have flags, 6 maybe following the line down the beach it would be much simpler.

Also, there is a ludicrous online conversation regarding dogs on Castle Beach. This also needs clarifying.

He proposed that we ask PCC for officers to meet councillors on the beach to discuss how to clarify the situation.

Cllr. Crockford also felt that there were less bins on the South Beach resulting in dog waste bags being put in recycling bins.

Cllr. Dale felt this was just as bad as people hanging dog waste bags on trees or fences. You have taken the time to pick up the waste, take it to an appropriate bin, he commented.

If a bin has been in a certain place for years and then it is removed, people still put their rubbish where the bin was situated, commented Cllr. Blackhall. If you cannot find an appropriate bin, take it with you until you do or take your rubbish home. Do not just dump it in the car park etc. It is difficult to manage stupidity.

It costs the people of Tenby, he continued. The stuff that could be recycled goes on the litter lorry then into landfill. Every ton sent to landfill is more money on our council tax. If people were not so lazy it would save everyone money.

While I agree, we need to make it easier for them, commented Cllr. Dale. The answer is not to take bins away because when we had more bins, we had less of this.

However, it also not the right thing that Airbnb and some other holiday let people are still being told to put their rubbish in, or next to, the street bins, he added.

Cllr Crockford asked if Pedestrianisation dates have been extended and will they keep on being extended.

She felt that this was the earliest start of Pedestrianisation she had seen.

Cllr Blackhall explained that Pedestrianisation start and finish times used to be aligned with Long Course Weekend and Ironman. It started the day after LCW and ended the Friday before Ironman.

However, as these events move in the calendar due to tides etc it was decided to assign set start and finish dates. The Clerk believed these now to be the first Monday in July and second Friday in September.

The Clerk pointed out that, if pedestrianisation was still aligned to the two events this year it would have started a week before the end of June and would not conclude until nearly the end of September.

The Mayor said there had been a nice turn out for D-Day Beacon Lighting on Castle Hill. The new Sergeant at Arms and Town Crier had been in attendance along with councillors, members of the RBL, Sea Cadets, Guides, Air Cadets and members of the public.

The new art events that he and Cllr Sloan had worked on was well received with good feedback. Next market on 17<sup>th</sup> includes work from St Teilo's and Greenhill.

The Paint Castle Hill Day tomorrow had been postponed due to rain but would now be taking place on Thursday. Teachers will be accompanying students. The work being done will be exhibited at the De Valence with the café area now a popup gallery for local artists and schools. It also provided workshop possibilities.

Cllr Blackhall said this is hugely positive and fill a gap before work starts on TTC's main plans. That they were able to do it so quickly meant a huge amount of effort.

It sent a fantastic message that creativity was encouraged and developed in the town, that Tenby naturally pushed, promoted, and empowered others to have a go.

The Mayor and Cllr. Sloan had an idea, presented their idea to council for approval and ran with it to make it happen. Likewise, Cllr Whitehurst's liaison work with Dwr Cymru. Once he had the backing of council he ran with it.

The change in the way council is set up, with less 'formal' meetings and more working groups gives us more time for doing things. While the council still has oversight it provides the freedom for councillors to take responsibility and make things happen for the good of the town.

The Mayor said that he and Cllr. Sloan were looking at a booking system for the 'gallery' area. It would be a free resource if one wants to book, unless it was for a making money enterprise

There would also be another art market in August, the idea being to try to generate enough revenue to pay for next year's market license for South Parade and Tudor Square.

Cllr Evans had given the Clerk a brief report of the Chamber of Trade meeting she attended. Our MS Sam Kurtz and the prospective Conservative parliamentary candidate Stephen Crabb had been present and discussions were had around the second homes council tax, the minimum wage, public transport, and the lack of available staff in Tenby.

The Chamber had asked her to again raise the availability of cashpoints in the town. As the Chamber were keen to try and get another cashpoint within town walls.

Councillors noted that a private business had installed a cashpoint and wondered if there was an opportunity along those lines. There was also a proposal for a cashpoint in the Five Arches car park.

The Clerk noted that the new cashpoint and the proposed one were both outside the main town centre There was only one in Tudor Square whereas we used to have this one and one at each of the five banks that were within this area

The use of cash has reduced somewhat added Cllr Phillips.

**69. 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**

**RESOLVED**

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

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

Planning committee – Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September at 7 pm

Full council meeting – Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September at 7.30 pm

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

None were proposed but, in light of comments made earlier in relation to litter problems, Cllr Blackhall suggested a feedback session from the season to look at issues that arose.

Cllr. Dale wondered if the new 5G mast provision would be able to cope with the additional summer influx. Would they be fit for purpose?

**72. 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"**