

MINUTES OF THE TENBY TOWN COUNCIL
MEETING HELD 11TH MARCH 2025

Present: Councillor Dai Morgan Mayor
Councillor Charles Dale
Councillor James Phillips
Councillor Sam Skyrme-Blackhall
Councillor Laurence Blackhall
Councillor Tom Sloan
Councillor Dr Tara Carmody
Councillor Emma Lewis
Councillor Laura Crockford

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

The Mayor welcomed Cllr Dr Carmody our new councillor.

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189. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllrs Hallett (dispensation) and Evans.

190. TO DISCLOSE ANY PERSONAL ITEMS OF BUSINESS LISTED BELOW

None disclosed.

The Mayor proposed that Standing Orders relating to the taking of photographs be suspended as the two visitors from Greenhill school were attending to outline some of the work of the school Senedd and wished to take some pictures of their attendance. Cllr Skyrme-Blackhall seconded.

RESOLVED

That under Standing Order 26a, Standing Orders relating to the taking of photographs be suspended by consent of the council.

The Mayor said Cllr Sloan and he had spent time at Greenhill over the last few months liaising with their Senedd.

At their Senedd meeting on Monday he had asked if students would like to attend the council meeting to speak about the school and what is happening. Two members of the Senedd had agreed to attend and he welcomed them both tonight.

The students thanked members saying it was a privilege. Their role was to help foster strong connections between the school, Council and the town to ensure that the voices, concerns and ideas of the students received the widest possible audience.

There are 15 members on the Senedd ranging from Year 7 to Sixth Form. While predominately form representatives, the Senedd was open to anyone to attend. It was interactive and motivated and loves to be a part of the community.

The students shared the developing school reward systems which rewards achievements with 'points for prizes.' The school was hoping to partner with local businesses on this.

The Senedd was also currently looking at the school's mobile phone policy.

Haverfordwest High have already had a policy in place since September whereby students' phones are handed in to their form tutor in the morning and handed back at the end of the day.

They had talked to students and staff at Haverfordwest as to how the scheme was received. They were informed that there had been positive outcomes. Teachers believe students' concentration in class was a lot better while students found that they did not really miss out by not having their phones.

They would continue exploring this and how it can benefit the school environment at Greenhill as 85% of issues the school's staff member responsible for safeguarding dealt with were around bullying on social media. They were looking to possibly trial a scheme in May.

Cllr Skyrme-Blackhall said this was fantastic and was something she has wanted for years. The head of Greenhill, Mr Haynes had also trialled this when at St Davids. It focused interaction between teachers and students and there had not been much push back. It was also something PCC's education scrutiny committee were pushing forward as it was important for well-being.

Cllr. Blackhall felt that research using a mobile phone could be a useful teaching aid and some teachers may enjoy having them in classroom, but the potential abuse of social media needed to be addressed.

It would be interesting to see how people react once free from the desire to constantly check social media, he commented.

Greenhill will be hosting the Denmark Street Big Band on 4th April; prize giving for key Stage 4 would be on 10th April and the forthcoming school production of Chitty Chitty Bang Bang is being staged from 16th to 18th July.

It would be good to have local support, sponsorship etc, and it would also be lovely to see councillors at these events.

The school felt it was important that they have links with the community and businesses who could work with the school so that their needs are met within the community and

decisions made in school are supported. They thanked Cllr Sloan and the Mayor for their continued engagement with the Senedd.

Cllr. Blackhall felt the town council could help promote activities at the school through its electronic notice boards, scrolling boards, Facebook pages, monthly newsletter and the community engagement officer's weekly 'blog'.

Members could also share information on social media if you get this information to us, he said.

Cllr Blackhall also felt that the town council have contacts that could help with the school's Rewards scheme, whether it be sponsorship or support.

Cllr. Dale said that he was a trustee on the new Tenby and County Trust.

When the former Tenby and County Club was sold, the previous owners gave generously from the sale of the building to set up a trust fund to support young people from this area to pursue their ambitions. Those areas that don't necessarily get financial support e.g. the Arts and sports. Details of the Trust and eligibility criteria were available online and he asked the students to promote this Trust.

Council does have powers to co-opt youth representatives to town council, Cllr. Blackhall added. It would be useful to exercise these powers to have feedback on ideas from a youth perspective.

The students thanked the council for allowing them to attend.

191. 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 and seconded by Cllr Lewis.

RESOLVED

That items of correspondence and committee minutes, except those marked private and confidential, be given to the members of the press present.

193. TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD 11TH FEBRUARY 2025

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Tenby Town Council held 11th February 2025 be confirmed and signed as accurate.

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

Page 95 Item 183 and Page 96 Item 188 -: The Clerk had attended meetings about Castle Hill and the CEC and notes have been prepared. Members agreed to receive these notes at the next meeting.

195. TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE HELD 27TH FEBRUARY 2025

Noted.

196. TO RECEIVE THE NOTES OF THE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS WORKING PARTY HELD ON 27TH FEBRUARY 2025

Cllr. Skyrme-Blackhall noted the typographical error in the spelling of her name. This would be corrected.

Cllr. Blackhall felt this had been a useful meeting. It was worth flagging up, to members not able to attend, the concerns about the frames across Tudor Square and how adverse weather conditions made their safety questionable. Our contractors' advice is that they are not safe in the long term and need replacing.

Factoring in the weight of the frames, the weather and the fact that some anchor points are no longer available due to owners re-rendering their properties, the contractors will now use normal festoon across the square.

Cllr. Blackhall said there was the question of what to do with the frame displays. One option was against the town walls but this would require more investigation due to the walls being a listed ancient monument. The harbour walls, Upper Frog Street or Castle Hill were other suggestions.

Further discussion was also to be had around using projections. They were very impactful and cost effective in the long run.

Cllr. Skyrme-Blackhall felt our contractors did a good job but we had to look to the future from a health and safety perspective. The Square looks beautiful but we need to look at a safer alternative, she said. Festoon was used before and will still have an impact.

Cllr. Lewis liked the idea of projected images but agreed with our contractors that the siting was important to ensure that any light spill did not disturb those living above businesses.

197. TO CONSIDER ANY ITEMS OF CORRESPONDENCE AND AGREE ACTION IN RESPONSE TO PROPOSALS:

a. Meinir Williams, PCC Governors' Support Services – Additional Community Governor, Hafan-y-Mor

The Mayor explained that Cllr. Rapi's term as the town council nominated additional community governor has now come to an end and we were being asked if we could nominate him for a further four-year term.

He admitted that this was difficult as, while the town council's representative on the governing body, Cllr. Rapi was not reporting back to members due to his lack of attendance at council.

We have five councillors who have been here since May 2023 who have not met Cllr Rapi he said. It is difficult asking him to represent us if he doesn't report back in writing or in person.

The Clerk confirmed that, while Cllr. Rapi had been attending regular meetings of the school's governing body, records show that he had not attended any council meeting, council committee, sub-committee or Civic function since May 2023.

If we did not support his re-nomination, we would have to propose an alternative representative. However, it appeared the school was keen for him to continue in the role.

He outlined the legislation relating to the appointment of an additional community governor, explaining that, even though they were the town council's representative, they did not have to be an elected member.

Cllr. Blackhall felt there were a couple of issues. The first was Cllr. Rapi's attendance at council which he felt could be addressed at another time.

The second was Cllr. Rapi's role as a governor. We have restructured the council with sub-committees and working parties so we can draw people in from outside of the council with expertise in relevant fields, he said.

The job of being a governor is time consuming. Their valuable support and expertise help make a good school.

Cllr Rapi is apparently an excellent governor, Cllr. Blackhall continued. He has lots of expertise in education and brings lots to the party. In many ways it is a sensible nomination for him to support the school from school's point of view.

The question is how do we have those links between the school and council that our nominated representative should be providing?

The question of membership of this council is a separate issue. It needs to be resolved, as he has been non-attending since 2023, said Cllr. Blackhall.

However, perhaps he believes he has to be a member of this council to be a governor? There would be no jeopardy to his role as a school governor if he was not a councillor.

I would not want to take him away from the school. The welfare of the school is important but we can't assist in helping the school to thrive without feedback from our nominated representative.

We need to have a conversation with Cllr. Rapi about what we are thinking; a conversation that the council is minded to nominate him to continue but on the basis there is some feedback into council.

He proposed the Clerk writes to Cllr Rapi, saying that, as much as we would like to put him forward, it was difficult for him to be our representative if no feedback was provided to the council.

If he wishes to attend meetings and give reports, then we're more than happy to support his nomination. We could even make 'schools' part of the policy committee remit, as this has daytime meetings, Cllr Blackhall added.

Cllr Crockford seconded the proposal.

RESOLVED

That the Clerk write to Cllr. Rapi pointing out that while the council were minded to again nominate him as additional community governor at Hafan-y-Mor they needed reassurance that, as the town council's representative, he would provide regular interaction and feedback to council meetings.

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

In relation to a query from Cllr. Phillips, the Clerk confirmed that TTC's donation to Tenby Dolphins was for the operational costs of the club.

Cllr. Phillips also asked why we were paying for bedding plants last month. Was this an annual charge paid over 12 months?

The Clerk said that we paid PCC for the bedding plants in one lump sum. The costs in the February accounts were for switching over the flower beds in Croft Gardens and other areas to sustainable perennial planting. This would result in savings over the PCC bedding costs next year.

Proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Cllr Phillips and.

RESOLVED

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

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

Although not a representative of the town council, but a member in his own right, Cllr. Dale gave more details of the new Tenby and County Trust.

Grants are to individuals, not organisations. They can assist with things like travel costs for auditions, football trials, achieving qualifications or even purchasing instruments.

You have to be within the catchment area of Greenhill school. Those attending a different school but from within Greenhill's catchment (e.g. those learning through the medium of Welsh at Ysgol Preseli) were also eligible.

Funding is provided up to 21 years of age and each case is decided on its merits. He asked councillors to spread the word about the Trust and to encourage applicants if they knew of any.

Cllr Dale said he is also doing a charity round UK motorcycle ride to raise funds for Headway – the Brain Injury Charity and the Brain Tumour Foundation in memory of Shaun Griffiths, one of his oldest school friends and son of former Mayor, Denzil Griffiths.

Leaving Tenby, he will travel the length and breadth of the UK visiting approximately 100 'motorcycle cafes' before returning to Tenby on 22nd June.

There is a Givestar page, Shaun's TT One Hundred for donations which can be found on his Facebook page.

He will be holding his One Man Show at the De Valence on May 17th to help pay for trip.

He was also undertaking the annual charity motorcycle 'Gentlemen's Ride' for Prostate Cancer.

Cllr. Sloan commented that he was going to speak on his attendance at Greenhill's Senedd and what was discussed but felt the students present this evening had already done a better job.

He felt that both the Senedd meeting and the students' attendance this evening was very positive.

Cllr. Phillips had attended 'Under Milk Wood' and the production 'A Cocktail Mixed in Wales' during the recent St David's Festival. All involved in 'A Cocktail' should be congratulated on an excellent production. Thanks were also due to our Community Engagement Officer Anne for a successful festival week.

Cllr. Dr Carmody, who had attended three events agreed.

This was the second year of the St David's Festival, said Cllr. Blackhall who had also attended a couple of events in addition to compering the Noson Lawen. There was an excellent programme throughout the week and it is certainly becoming a feature of Tenby's calendar.

Cllr. Blackhall said that SEPCHN would be having a meeting soon, date to be confirmed.

He felt the two main topics of conversation will be the lack of progress on the new hospital and NHS dentistry.

With one Tenby dentist now ceasing NHS provision, the only NHS dentistry treatment available in the town was a once-a-week service operating within the Cottage Hospital's fully equipped dental surgery.

SEPCHN would be asking if it could be expanded and if the Health Board could look to utilise the facilities more to ensure there is access for those who need it most.

It was disappointing that NHS dentist patients now appeared to be left high and dry but he acknowledged that it could sometimes be challenging for dentists to comply with contract requirements.

Cllr. Skyrme-Blackhall said that the second Chamber of Trade/Greenhill business breakfast event would be taking place next week on Thursday, 20th March. Ross and Michael were kindly hosting this down at the Tap Room.

The Mayor had visited the Sea Cadets on Monday. It was always great to spend time down there. On 14th April at 7 pm the Sea Cadets were hosting an event in the De Valence and all were invited.

The Mayor then gave a progress report on the former café space. Work was underway and when completed we will have an information foyer for locals and tourist alike. There will be a screen with information, a large map with points of interest, highlighting retail food outlets, attractions and information on paper to take away.

In addition to council staff there will also be space to allow others the option to use it for community engagement e.g. PAVS, the Neighbourhood Policing Team or if banks wished to utilise/share space like they currently do in local hotels.

It will also be available evenings and weekends as the council will have a 'clean desk' policy. Towards the back of the room will be the Clerk's office and a 'confidential' meeting space.

We will continue to explore banking facilities and it may be an easier 'sell' when the room is completed and kitted out. The aim was to move in by mid-April.

Cllr Blackhall felt that once the move was made facilities could grow ‘organically.’ The space is very flexible and lots of really exciting things can come from that and be explored, he said.

Shane Roberts, chair of the Tenby Royal British Legion branch, and the Mayor had previously spoken about Legion memorabilia and how to make it more accessible for the public to view now the branch did not have a base in the town.

An area in the Mayor’s Parlour has now been dedicated to the Royal British Legion and they would be holding their meetings here.

On March 26th in connection with the Royal British Legion Institute which works for homeless veterans, the Mayor and Cllr Sloan will be joining others in a ‘Big Sleep Out’ in Tudor Square. Representatives of the VC Gallery and Greenhill will be joining in too.

Cllr. Skyrme-Blackhall said that a small working party was looking at options to trial compacting litter bins and was awaiting costs.

200. 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF VE DAY ON 8TH MAY 2025 – CLLR PHILLIPS

Cllr. Phillips had spoken to the chair of the Legion, Shane Roberts.

He felt the direction is that main celebrations are to be held on the Bank Holiday Monday, we need to decide if that’s when we will carry out our celebrations.

The Clerk said that his understanding was that the beacon lighting, official proclamation etc were on 8th May and he had seen nothing that altered this.

He too had spoken briefly with the Mayor and Mr. Roberts and a rough plan had been drafted for the working party to consider. This included the reading of the Proclamation by the Town Crier at 9 am immediately followed by the raising of the VE Day flag (we would need to purchase the official VE Day 80 flag at £40). The Mayor has asked for a wreath laying at the War Memorial at 11am. There is to be a peal of church bells at 6.30 but everything else could be centred around the beacon lighting at 9.30 pm with the Proclamation being read again, pipes and community singing of I Vow to Thee My Country as requested.

The Mayor said that Mr Roberts has suggested that the parade to the beacon start in Tudor Square, rather than Castle Square as it would make more people aware of what is going on. The Clerk said he was aware that Tenby Male Choir had a concert in St Mary’s that evening.

Cllr. Phillips commented that, although Tenby Male Choir may not be available, we were always planning to invite other choirs, like the church and schools, for the community singing.

He agreed that it made sense to condense everything into one event around the beacon lighting.

The Mayor asked in the Signing of Armed Forces Covenant could still be carried out as part of this. Cllr. Phillips said that he would confirm this.

It would be nice if the Chamber of Trade would encourage businesses to decorate individual frontages.

Cllr. Phillips and the Mayor would let the Clerk have some suggested dates asap for him to send out Working Party invites to relevant people.

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

a. To review the Annual Report for publication

We are legislated to provide an annual report and members have to agree it in draft form before it is published. A record of attendance will be inserted in to it before publication to ensure that all attendance is up to date.

Cllr. Blackhall thanked the Clerk and staff for the preparation of the report.

One noticeable difference in this report to earlier ones was the huge list of activities undertaken by the council over the last year which was very extensive.

He felt there were a couple of little things we can add to in the report and suggested a small group be delegated to make the necessary amendments and sign it off for publication as soon as possible after 1st April.

He proposed that the small group be set up to undertake this task and the Mayor seconded.

RESOLVED

That a small sub-group be set up with delegated powers to make the small amendments to the Annual Report and sign it off for publication.

b. To review the town council's Annual Financial Risk Assessment

This was the annual exercise where the Clerk, acting as RFO identified the potential financial risks to the council. He asked if they could be accepted if members are content that all risks have been identified

Cllr. Phillips was happy and felt that there was nothing identified this year in addition to last year's risk report.

However, he noted that the risk of running out of space for burial of ashes at the New Cemetery had been highlighted and asked for a progress report on bringing the new section on line.

The Clerk explained that work has commenced and suggested a site meeting of the Cemetery management sub-committee to have a look what has been done.

The meeting would also be able to look at the condition of one of the large popular trees which was causing our grounds maintenance contractor concern.

He would arrange a meeting soon.

The Mayor proposed the Risk Assessment be accepted, Cllr Skyrme-Blackhall seconded and it was:

RESOLVED

That the Annual Financial Risk Assessment for 2025-2026 be accepted.

c. Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales - Annual Report 2025 to 2026

This sets out what they feel councillors should be entitled to in terms of remuneration. All are entitled to £156, but the Clerk reminded members that they need to indicate in writing if they wish to decline this payment.

Cllr. Blackhall proposed, Cllr Phillips seconded and it was:

RESOLVED

That the circumstances in which a councillor can be remunerated remain as those agreed for 2024-25.

d. Civic Society – Place Plan

Tenby Civic Society are considering developing a place plan for Tenby. The Clerk explained the idea and supplied councillors with paperwork and a questionnaire that the Civic Society had asked councillors to consider and fill in. The next step would be the setting up of a Steering Group to which the council will be invited to appoint representatives.

202. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Planning committee – Tuesday 8th April 2025 at 7 pm

Full council -Tuesday 8th April 2025 at 7.30 pm.

203. TO PROPOSE ANY ITEM FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

None proposed.

204. 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”