

MINUTES OF THE TENBY TOWN COUNCIL
MEETING HELD 8TH APRIL 2025

Present: Councillor Dai Morgan Mayor
Councillor Charles Dale
Councillor Michelle Evans
Councillor James Phillips
Councillor Dr Tara Carmody
Councillor Laurence Blackhall
Councillor Tom Sloan
Councillor Joe Criddle
Councillor Emma Lewis Zoom
Councillor Sam Skyrme-Blackhall Zoom

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

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208. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES

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

209. TO DISCLOSE ANY PERSONAL ITEMS OF BUSINESS LISTED BELOW

None declared.

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 and seconded by Cllr Sloan.

RESOLVED

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

211. TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD 11TH MARCH 2025

RESOLVED

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

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

Nothing was raised.

213. TO RECEIVE THE NOTES OF THE CASTLE HILL MEETING HELD 7TH MARCH 2025

Some work has now been undertaken. We anticipate a progress update upon Mr Owen's return from leave.

214. TO RECEIVE THE NOTES OF THE VE DAY CELEBRATIONS WORKING PARTY HELD ON 25TH MARCH 2025

The Clerk suggested further meetings for action updates. He has already spoken to Rev Brett, the Salvation Army, liaised with Harbour Master, and passed on the song words to Mrs Williams. He has heard nothing from the MOD regarding the Armed Forces Covenant. Cllr. Phillips said he would follow this up. Cllr. Dr. Carmody noted a few spelling corrections to be made in the report.

215. TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE TENBY NEW CEMETERY MANAGEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 27TH MARCH 2025 AND AGREE ACTION IN RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS

RESOLVED

That the recommendations contained within the minutes be actioned.

Cllr Skyrme-Blackhall asked if it would be possible to get Rhys Thomas there at next meeting. It was a good meeting had but it would be better to have him present next time. Cllr Phillips agreed.

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

The Clerk has no issues, documents have gone to our accountants for finalising End of Year.

Cllr. Phillips queried the payment for broadband at Church House. The Clerk explained that this had been part of the EPG Grant project. This has come to an end and Church House will be paying for their own broadband from now on.

Cllr Blackhall asked the Clerk if there were any budgets that had been pressurised or significantly unspent. This may be a topic for the next Policy and Finance committee.

Proposed by Cllr Dale, seconded by Cllr Sloan and

RESOLVED

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

217. TO CONSIDER ANY GRANT REQUESTS AND AGREE ACTION IN RESPONSE TO PROPOSALS:

a. Sandy Bear Children's Bereavement Charity

The Clerk and Cllr Sloan indicated that they would withdraw from this discussion and left the room.

Cllr Blackhall is aware of organisation and the support they offer. He is very impressed with the very important work they do. They also undertake preventative and preparatory work which assists in stopping significant problems later and do a lot of work in Tenby.

They not only work in families at home but also go around schools doing substantial work in helping children to deal with adverse life experiences.

He proposed a donation of £1000 and the Mayor seconded.

RESOLVED

That under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972, a contribution of £1000 be made to assist Sandy Bear Bereavement Charity with their work in Tenby and area.

The Clerk and Cllr Sloan returned to the chamber.

b. Tenby Church in Wales VC Primary School – Greener Growth

Having spoken with our Community Engagement Officer, there are funds out there for programmes such as these, commented the Mayor.

He suggested, before the council commit to a financial amount a meeting be arranged with the school to explore these.

Cllr. Blackhall added that, if access to a grant was dependant on a small contribution from the town council, then we could be prepared to go down that route.

He felt what was being proposed was really good.

Cllr Dale seconded the Mayor's proposal.

RESOLVED

That a meeting be arranged between the school and our Community Engagement Officer to explore grant funding opportunities.

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

Cllr Skyrme-Blackhall felt it was a good cemetery meeting, very positive, Cllr Phillips's input was invaluable.

The Steampunk weekend was another success with lots of good feedback.

She felt however, that there was a case to have our Community Engagement Officer at our meetings to allow two-way feedback and be constructive where we feel things could be addressed.

Time for Tenby had undertaken their first seasonal beach/town clean. There were 17 volunteers. Another is planned for Easter Saturday, and then throughout the season every two weeks.

They will start weighing litter collected from next week and targeting areas where most need was identified.

The Mayor apologised as he had been working that day and would like to have been there.

Cllr Sloan outlined the progress on the redevelopment of the front office and the follow up with the Ysgol Greenhill Senedd following attendance by two members at the last meeting. Tenby Arts Events were also putting on another Tenby Community Art initiative.

He had attended the Big Tommy Sleep Out along with the Mayor, Cllr Dale, Cllr Phillips and members of the Tenby Branch of the Royal British Legion. This had raised over £1000 towards assistance for homeless veterans.

Cllr. Blackhall praised the relationship developed with the British Legion, particularly allowing them memorabilia display space within the Mayor's Parlour.

This is another step that shows we are here for the whole of Tenby, he said.

Cllr Dr Carmody had been a volunteer at Steampunk. There were substantial positives and many opportunities to capture feedback. She felt there should be an aspect of co-creation with Steampunkers going forward as it was a whole lifestyle for some.

These were interesting aspects to think about, commented Cllr. Blackhall and best practice when putting on events.

It would be good to get dialogue going on ways to build on momentum as this year was busier than last. A lot came to Tenby especially for the event.

It would be good to say what went well and look at how to make it better, he said.

It may be worth having a look at all sorts of things our Community Engagement Officer is working on, he continued. When we went through the list of what the Engagement Officer was working on, those in the room did not realise what was going on.

How do we take things to the next stage in community engagement, he asked? How can we carry on the good work and find where the bits that are missing are?

Our Community Engagement Officer is a Tour de Force in getting things going but I think a more detailed discussion outside of this meeting is needed as to how we reach more people about the breadth of stuff we are doing, he said. Perhaps a link councillor was required to support the Engagement Officer?

Cllr. Dr. Carmody added that she had taken part in the Time for Tenby Beach Clean and attended the Castle Hill meeting with Marc Owen.

She had also attended the Community Forum in Augustus Place, but sadly only she and the Community Engagement Officer had been there.

Cllr. Blackhall said he wished more would come along to the Community Forum as it was an opportunity to liaise with the council. Perhaps it needed a rebrand or different location. This could also be something to discuss.

Cllr Phillips was unaware of the recent Y Lle Da festival and wondered if there is a way that councillors could be informed of events going on in Tenby.

Cllr Blackhall does not yet have a date for the next meeting of SEPCHN but will announce it once arranged. It will be an interesting time to be discussing the proposed new hospital with Senedd elections coming up next year.

Cllr Lewis said that Steampunk weekend was lots of fun, and she had enjoyed contributing to the planning and construction of the event in Tenby.

She was also assisting with the Nearly May Fair at the end of April and a Tudor Festival was being planned.

The Mayor together with Roland Fury, President of Tenby District Lions had recently presented money raised at the Christmas Light Switch On Market. Three hundred pounds had each gone to the Mayor's chosen charities, The Old Chapel and Tenby Sea Cadets while £300 had been kept by the Lions for charities of their choice.

The Mayor would be attending the Upper School Awards at Greenhill School and all councillors were welcome to join him.

He was also attending the Sea Cadets Annual Inspection at the De Valence on 14th April from 7pm. Again, all councillors were welcome to join him.

219. TO CONSIDER THE APPOINTMENT OF TWO YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES TO TENBY TOWN COUNCIL UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE LOCAL

GOVERNMENT (WALES) MEASURE 2011 AND AGREE ACTION IN RESPONSE TO PROPOSALS – THE MAYOR CLLR. MORGAN

The Mayor said that, following the two Greenhill representatives attending the last council meeting he and Cllr. Sloan had met with the school Senedd again and were overwhelmed at the positive response.

After years of trying, we now have a valuable connection to the youth of the town and, while there is an appetite for it, perhaps we should make that connection official, he said.

The Clerk explained the policy outlined in the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011, with youth representatives having to be aged between 16 and 25 and the publishing of a Notice of Intent to appoint locally. Youth representatives did not have voting rights.

Other than that, the policies seemed to be light on details as to how to implement them.

Cllr. Blackhall said he genuinely believed the liaison with Greenhill was due to 2 years groundwork by the Mayor and others.

While he was happy to propose action through the Wales measure the fact that youth representatives had to be between 16 and 25 precluded the students who had attended the last meeting as they were only 15.

He wondered if we could appoint two youth representatives under the Measure and also invite Greenhill Senedd to send along two members. That way there could be a potential four youth representatives feeding back to us, he suggested. There is also nothing wrong with them attending as members of the public and speaking at the discretion of the chair.

It would be a shame not to involve the two students who attended the last meeting, he continued. They were bright, articulate and represented the school so well.

Cllr Skyrme-Blackhall believes our closer relationship with the school is the result of the Mayor and Cllr Sloan's work and the time they have put in.

It has been a battle for years to try and get any connection and having a connection is so important. The headmaster, David Haynes is very keen; the two students who came to our meeting are very enthusiastic. How to get balance going forward and keep interest there is the question.

Becoming Youth Representatives is being given a specific role within the town not just within the school and it shows younger members we are serious about bringing the youth voice into town and listening to them.

Cllr Phillips suggested the school appointing youth ambassadors may be an approach. If we go along the official way of doing it, there is no guarantee as to who we would get, he suggested.

If we want to adopt the powers within the Measure, we do that, but it is a separate issue to getting Greenhill representatives attending council meetings. Maybe the school should elect who they want to represent them around this table as ‘ambassadors.’

We have to also think about how to build in longevity, commented Cllr. Blackhall. Those students broke the ice, experienced what it was like and were enthusiastic that we were prepared to listen to them.

More should be involved too. Perhaps not specifically at full council meetings but maybe on specific tasks or projects. If more seats are needed round the table, then so be it.

We are two years from the end of this council cycle, said Cllr. Blackhall. One definition of success is, if they are 18, they are starting to consider standing for election.

Official youth representatives are governed by age. However, whatever age they are they are welcome to come to the table and participate.

While supporting proposals to advertise under the terms of the Measure, I would suggest we also ask Greenhill Senedd to suggest 2 people to come here in line with what Cllr Phillips proposes.

Other youth organisations could also do the same, with support, this table could be full of guides, cadets, etc having their own discussions.

The challenge is to enable people to come to talk to us, but also to go their own way. We could end up with a pool of consultants from the youth of the town to attend meetings and feedback. They are the experts on what the youth of the town need.

Cllr Blackhall proposed, Cllr Dale seconded and it was:

RESOLVED

That under the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 the town council looks to appoint two youth representatives to council.

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

- a. To receive the Notice of Conclusion of the 2023/24 Audit and consider any points raised by the Auditor General for Wales**

The Clerk said it has taken a long time for Wales Audit to get back to us on this.

We have an unqualified audit, which means there are no concerns raised by the Auditor General.

The only thing flagged up was an issue over discrepancies in accounting figures on the 2022/23 and 2023/24 returns.

The Clerk said that, to meet legal timescales the 2023/24 Return had been sent off before we had received the 2022/23 Auditor's opinion so the discrepancies identified in the 2022/23 Return had not been amended. These discrepancies will be rectified for this year's Audit.

Cllr. Blackhall felt that there was nothing wrong with our process, it is those of Wales Audit that have failed this time.

He believed quite a few councils do not respond on time creating a backlog. This was probably why our 2023/24 Return was not completed in time, resulting in the discrepancy. This required no action on our part.

RESOLVED

That the Audit Return for 2023/24 be received and the Auditor General's comments noted.

221. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Annual General Meeting and Mayor Making – Friday 9th May 2025 at 6 pm

Planning committee – Tuesday 13th May 2025 at 7 pm

Adjourned Annual General Meeting -Tuesday 13th May 2025 at 7.30 pm.

222. TO PROPOSE ANY ITEM FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

Cllr. Dale asked for the next meeting to consider the Electric Bikes scheme due to complaints of them being left all over the town. Who is supposed to be collecting them and why is it not being done, he asked?

Cllr Skyrme-Blackhall had an update for Cllr Dale which she would give after the meeting.

223. 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"