

TENBY TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE TENBY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD 16th April 2013

PRESENT

Councillor T Hallett	Mayor
Councillor Mrs Rossiter	
Councillor Dr P Easy	
Councillor P Rapi	
Councillor Mrs Durham	
Councillor Mrs Thomas	
Councillor Mrs Brown	
Councillor Mrs Putwain	
Councillor W Rossiter	
Councillor L Blackhall	
Councillor M Evans	
Councillor A Brown	

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr A. Davies	Clerk to the Council/Financial Officer
Mrs L Hensman	Assistant Clerk

ALSO PRESENT Mr P Prosser – St Catherine’s Island.

The Clerk outlined that unfortunately the Police Inspector for South Pembrokeshire and the Neighbourhood Policing Team had not arrived having, in light of their work, probably been called out on an operation. However Mr P Prosser was in attendance to provide an update on the proposed project for St Catherine’s Island and provide answers to any concerns TTC may have.

The Mayor welcomed Mr P Prosser and invited him to join Councillors at the table to deliver his update.

Mr Prosser explained he had recently read the comments made by TTC in relation to St Catherine’s Island planning application that will now be going before PCNPA planning committee next month. He wanted to take this opportunity to alleviate the concerns, allow questions to be asked and provide any additional information to assure Councillors and local residents of the proposed intentions of the project.

Councillor W Rossiter, Councillor Blackhall and Councillor M Evans joined the meeting.

In relation to the concern that 70% of the internal space is not determined, he explained under planning rules internal layout is not required for planning consent. However he felt that to be open and discuss his proposals would squash rumours of a nightclub or casino being sited on the island. He continued by outlining the facilities and exhibitions he hopes to provide initially, expanding on additional ideas and hopes for the future including an educational aspect involving local schools and colleges.

Councillor Mrs Brown asked why no bridge application was submitted with the application when, in the original documentation he provided last year, the bridge was highlighted and discussed in depth. He explained that the bridge is a complex structure and, at present, progress is being stalled on an archaeology report that highlighted a number of issues. Hours of document research has, and is, being undertaken. However, no clear answers have been found to solve these issues delaying any bridge planning application being presented at present.

Following discussion Mr Prosser clarified that, at present, he would not be applying for an alcohol license for St Catherine’s Island.

Councillor Blackhall recalled that during the last presentation Mr Prosser stated that the scheme would not be viable without the bridge to allow a constant footfall of visitors. In view of this why was only part of the application submitted? He continued by asking why would work on a project that is not financially viable without a bridge be commenced in isolation?

Mr Prosser said the bridge application was delayed due to the archaeology report and he felt they could commence some work if part of the application was submitted. However if PCNPA committee decision is 'no' to the planning application consent they have only two options, either walk away from the project or appeal and as a lot of work and money has gone into the project already the choice would be to appeal. The appeal would be likely to take one year. Hence the idea was to go forward with this application to clear the first hurdle and then follow with the bridge application.

Mr Prosser explained that 10 years ago permission for a bridge in principle to be situated from Castle Hill to St Catherine's Island was granted by a Welsh Government inspector following appeal, therefore only the design and type of bridge would require planning approval.

The broadness of the term 'exhibition space' within the planning request was to allow movement of exhibits within the development, including a rolling programme of new ideas and attractions to encourage people to visit again and again. The ability to stage events such as a wedding on the island is an idea that would extend the seasonal usage.

Councillor W Rossiter felt it was a large expenditure of money on a project that was hoped to be recoup within 10 years and requested any confirmation on proposed visitor costs to visit the attraction. Mr Prosser said they had anticipated a fee of £6-£8 per person.

Mr Prosser felt through advertising he envisaged an increase of footfall to Tenby and providing an attraction sited in Tenby itself would keep tourists local as well as providing an attraction for all ages to enjoy together. Creating this attraction would mean visitors walking through the centre of Tenby to access the site and create a benefit for all local businesses as well.

Councillor W Rossiter asked if he as the developer proposed changing the name of the Island to 'Tenby Island'. Mr Prosser said they had no intentions of calling it anything other than St Catherine's Island however for internet search reasons people do not know the name of the Island so typing in Tenby Island will take people immediately to St Catherine's Island home page.

Mr Prosser added he felt the bridge would enable many more people to access the island not just disabled. A high proportion of visitors to Tenby are the older generation. The fort steps are steep and not easily negotiated when wet therefore the bridge would be a safe level walk in. Pushchairs and small children would have easier access along with the less able and wheelchair users. The Golf buggy transport around Castle Hill would in addition increase accessibility for certain categories of visitors, ultimately providing accessibility to St Catherine's Island for 98% of the general public. Brief discussion took place in relation to the type and size of the proposed buggy in relation to walkers just wishing to visit Castle Hill.

Councillor A Brown joined the meeting.

Councillor Mrs Rossiter said many residents living in St Julian Street whose properties overlook the island have concerns about the proposed plans and suggested he consider arranging to meet personally with them to try and reduce their personal fears and anxieties. Mr Prosser said this was a valid point and he had already sent a personal letter to all residents in this vicinity suggesting he would meet with them individually to view the plans, discuss concerns and he would try to accommodate their view, ultimately

preventing any further rumours or fears of the proposed end usage of the Fort. Following the letters he had successfully met with a few residents already with some positive outcomes and others that still expressed reservations as they did not wish any changes to happen to the fort.

Councillors asked for clarification if any large corporate investors were behind the scheme backing the project, he replied only his wife and brother were working alongside him on the project, it was totally his risk and investment.

Councillor Mrs Putwain read in section 14 of the Planning application document the question: - “in relation to Biodiversity and Geology is there likely to be any adverse effects to the structure of adjacent sites”, to which the answer was ‘yes’. She asked Mr. Prosser if he could explain what effects this was referring to? Mr Prosser explained that where the low water landing stage is to be sited they planned to use a galvanised structure that the sea waves pass freely through and it meant it has to be secured to the rock. This would mean drilling approx. 16 bolt holes, removing the rock and replacing it back barnacle side up. However it was felt it is impossible to say no impact will occur therefore it had to be documented that minimal impact may occur.

Councillor Mrs Putwain said that at present exhibition space is allocated to the main building space at present however if sadly something occurred and someone else continued the project would they be able to overturn the project and replace the space with alternative activities. Mr Prosser said yes they could use the space in an alternative way; however he was aware no one had actually progressed an application for the fort to this stage before due to the cost and vast amount of work involved.

The Clerk highlighted concern in relation to the long and late opening hours and asked if he was able to clarify the reason behind the application. Mr Prosser explained that the tidal window is six hours twice a day allowing access to the fort from the beach. This window shifts by approximately 20 minutes every day. In view of this to allow maximum usage of the accessibility window, opening times needed to be as broad as possible. In addition it is hoped to encourage people to view the night sky via large telescopes, encouraging budding astronomers to view the Cosmos and Galaxy and obviously this would need to take place at night when dark.

Councillor Blackhall felt that if a site visit could be arranged this would give a better sense of awareness of the proposed exhibition space layout. Mr Prosser said he would love to but due to health and safety restrictions and insurance cover he is unable to do group visits, however if Councillors wished to visit on a one to one basis he would endeavour to accommodate this on his next visit to Tenby.

The Mayor thanked Mr Prosser for his honest update and said he felt many fears and concerns had been allayed by his visit.

478. APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Councillor Mrs Lane.

479. DISCLOSURE OF PERSONAL INTERESTS

Councillor Mrs Rossiter declared a personal interest in items 7d, 10, and 14. Councillor Mrs Durham and Councillor Mrs Putwain declared personal and prejudicial interests in item 7c. Councillor L Blackhall, Councillor T Hallett and Councillor Mrs Brown declared a personal interest in item 10.

480. ITEMS TO PRESS

Proposed by Councillor Mrs Rossiter, seconded by Councillor Mrs Brown.

Resolved that items of Correspondence and Committee Minutes other than those items marked Not for Publication be given to members of the Press present.

481. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Resolved that the Minutes of the Tenby Town Council held 3rd April 2013 be confirmed and signed as accurate with the following amendment:

Inclusion of apologies from Councillor P Rapi and Councillor A Brown.

482. MATTERS ARISING

465 – Rear Tesco Express, Crackwell Street

Councillor T Hallett asked if any further information had been received in relation to the work proposed at the rear of Tesco Express. The Clerk reported nothing had been received. Councillor Evans reported that the properties above Tesco Express are at present allocated for social housing; however the Housing Association has been served with 18 months notice of termination of this lease.

471 – Tenby Horse and Carriage

Councillor Mrs Putwain reported that on the day she attempted to park in Tudor Square on double yellow lines (with her blue badge clearly displayed), the proprietor of the horse and carriage came over and informed her she could not park there because the carriage would be returning to this spot. On suggesting the horse park on the opposite side of the road the owner said the horse gets 'freaked out' by the scaffolding.

Councillor Mrs Putwain expressed concerns as to by what authority the carriage operator could tell people where they can and cannot park whether it was safe to use the horse around the town if it was scared of scaffolding.

The Clerk reported the horse and carriage owner had telephoned and offered to attend a TTC to have a question and answers session to reduce the concerns being discussed by the locals. She clarified that they possess all the relevant licences required and have had an animal welfare assessment by PCC.

It was noted that advertising signage for the horse and carriage was chained onto the church railings; this was felt to be unacceptable. Earlier in the day it had been tied around the memorial fountain but the operators had removed it when requested to do so by the Clerk. Councillor Rapi said the previous horse and carriage provider had used a cast iron sign that had served the purpose.

Following further discussion it was

Resolved that all concerns are passed to the appropriate department at PCC for clarification.

483. PLANNING APPLICATION

The Clerk asked Councillors if they wished to discuss item 7d first as Mr Findley was present to hear his application discussed. Councillor Rapi approved discussion on item 7d be brought forward at this point, seconded by Councillor Mrs Brown.

Resolved that item 7d be discussed as the first planning application on the agenda.

Councillor Mrs Rossiter left the chamber.

d.NP/13/0153 – Mr Neil Finlay, 11 St David’s Close, Tenby – Replace rear conservatory with 2 ground floor extensions, one to rear, one to front with a first floor extension over existing garage 11 St David’s Close, Tenby.

Councillor Evans asked if any letters of objection had been received by TTC. The Clerk reported he had received none. The Clerk informed Councillors this was a new application as the previous one submitted by Mr Findley had been withdrawn. In depth discussion and consideration of the planning application took place noting that the plans had been modified in relation to concerns expressed over the previous application. Councillor Dr Easy proposed approval as the plans are appropriate and fitting for the site, additionally noting TTC welcomed the removal of the flat roof, seconded by Councillor A Brown.

RECOMMEND

Approval as it is appropriate and fitting for the site and TTC welcomed the removal of the flat roof.

Councillor Mrs Rossiter re-joined the meeting.

a.NP/13/0130 – Listed Building – Mr Gary Subbiani, Flat 1, St Catherines, Castle Hill, Tenby – Internal re-arrangement of space; new window to basement, Flat 1, St Catherines, Castle Hill, Tenby.

Councillors discussed and viewed the listed building planning application noting that the full application had been approved at the previous TTC meeting. The Clerk explained that the main application and listed building applications are not always sent together. Councillor Evans proposed approval in line with the main application as the window will be unobtrusive and in keeping with the character of properties in the area, seconded by Councillor Mrs Durham.

RECOMMEND

Approval as the window will be unobtrusive and in keeping with the character of properties in the area.

b.NP/13/0128 – Mr and Mrs Wayne Vaughan, 8 Primrose Hill, Twynyrodyn, Merthyr Tydfil – Proposed single storey rear extension 13 The Glebe, Tenby.

Councillors discussed and viewed the planning application. Concerns were expressed in relation to the full length window positioned on the north side of the property that may be overlooking the neighbouring property. Councillor A Brown proposed approval of the extension but had concerns in relation to the window on the north side overlooking the neighbouring property, seconded by Councillor Mrs Rossiter.

RECOMMEND

Approval of the extension but with concerns in relation to the full length window situated to the north elevation may affect the privacy of the neighbouring property.

Councillor Mrs Durham, Councillor Mrs Putwain and the Clerk left the chamber as they all declared a personal and prejudicial interest on the following application as members of the Trustees of the Tenby Charities Committee.

c..NP/13/0081 – Listed Building – Trustees of the Tenby Charities, County Chambers, Pentre Road, St Clears – Replace existing slate and concrete with smooth concrete render at rear, 5 South Parade, Tenby.

Remaining Councillors discussed and viewed the planning application in depth. The Mayor said the Tenby Charities Committee do sterling work and they have been advised to remove the slates for health and safety reasons. Councillor W Rossiter felt the slate should be preserved and remain in keeping with the character of the buildings. Following further discussion Councillor A Brown proposed approval to remove the slate and replace with smooth concrete in line with the planning application, seconded by Councillor Mrs Rossiter.

RECOMMEND

Approval to remove the slate and replace with smooth concrete in line with the planning application.

Councillor W Rossiter requested it be noted he was against this proposal.

Councillor Mrs Durham, Councillor Mrs Putwain and the Clerk re-joined the meeting.

484. PLANNING CORRESPONDENCE

a. PCNPA – NP/13/0031 – Amend existing and install new safety railings, re-open windows to former generator house, fit timber door and raise doorway lintel, St Catherine’s Island, Castle Beach, Tenby.

Councillors reviewed the information, it was

Resolved that the information be noted.

The Clerk informed Councillors he had received a Tree Works application that required a decision before the next TTC meeting. Councillor P Rapi proposed acceptance of the Tree works TPO 62, seconded by Councillor Mrs Brown.

Resolved that the Tree Works TPO 62 is accepted for consideration.

b. PCNPA – Tree works TPO 62 – The Salterns, Tenby

The Mayor as tree warden gave a report to Councillors of why the tree required attention on health and safety grounds. Following further discussion The Mayor proposed TTC have no objections to the tree works for health and safety reasons, seconded by Councillor Dr Easy.

Resolved that the work be carried out for health and safety reasons.

485. ACCOUNTS FOR MARCH 2013

Councillor Mrs Brown expressed concern that TTC have spent £3952.00 on dog waste bags in the last year and yet there is still a dog fouling problem in Tenby. She felt the general public should be aware of the amount TTC have to pay for the dog waste bags.

Councillor W Rossiter felt TTC should not be spending this amount when the responsibility for clearing up the dog waste lies with the dog owners.

Councillor Mrs Thomas felt the problem would be so much worse if TTC did not provide this service.

The Clerk reported he had met with one of PCC's Dog Warden to discuss the proposed plan to tackle dog fouling hotspots. Tenby is not on the hot spot list however it has been chosen to trial PCC's response to tackling the dog fouling hot spot areas. He explained he had been asked to compile a list of dog fouling problem areas frequently highlighted by the general public to TTC. The plan will be to arrive and tackle an area of Tenby without warning, challenging, offering advice and fining offenders as applicable. Following the outcome of the pilot scheme the plan is to roll it out to all the nominated hot spot areas. However they cannot be everywhere and request the public to still be vigilant and report any incidents to PCC if they are prepared to take it further. In relation to car owners parking by green areas and just allowing their dogs to exercise and defecate unattended, they advise taking a note, or photograph of the car number plate as well as the dog and sending it to PCC who will investigate the matter.

Councillor Mrs Putwain felt the fixed £75 fine for dog fouling is not very high and if PCC have control over the setting of the fine she suggested it could be increased to £200. The Clerk said he was led to believe the legislation is set nationally, however he would check with Mr Hayes PCC.

Resolved that the Clerk would contact Mr Hayes PCC and check the legislation relating to dog fouling fixed penalty.

Councillors discussed the accounts. Councillor Mrs Brown proposed acceptance of the accounts for March 2013, seconded by Councillor A Brown.

Resolved that the accounts for March 2013 be accepted.

486. DE VALENCE

The Clerk reported that unfortunately the artist booked for one of the Arts Festival events in the De Valence has cancelled. At present the Arts Festival committee are retaining the date but this may be a lost hire.

The main hall heating is completed and working although a wall heat sensor is faulty and being investigated by the heating engineers. The Clerk reported unfortunately an additional cost not quoted for will be incurred to make good the hole in the boiler room wall, which was created to provide access for delivery of the new boiler.

The old boiler supplying hot water to the bar and kitchen area situated above the De Valence bar has been removed and replaced with a combination boiler. This has now eradicated any legionnaire problems occurring in the whole building and will save the annual legionnaire testing fee.

487. REPORTS BY COUNCILLORS ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Councillor Mrs Thomas reported on the meeting she attended relating to the proposed closure of Tenby MIU. In attendance was Mr M Thomas Chairman SEPCHN, County Councillor J Preston, Rebecca Evans AM, and Joyce Watson AM. The Local Health Board is in discussion with the CHC at present; however Mr Thomas felt SEPCHN should be taking the next positive step and looking into additional usage of the Tenby Cottage site. The Assembly members listened; taking notes. It was felt to be a very positive meeting.

The Mayor reported he attended the opening of the new Brunel Statue in Neyland. Sadly the first statue was stolen but all additional safety measures have been made to keep this one secure.

488. MEDIA ITEMS

Councillor Mrs Rossiter noted Councillor W Rossiter had used his TTC title on a letter in the Tenby Observer suggested that he may not be aware Councillors do not use the title while writing personal views and suggested he leaves off the Councillor title in future.

Councillor Mrs Brown responded to a letter in Tenby Observer from Mr K Clarke titled 'Let's hope reason prevails'. She expressed how angry she was when realising what the word pusillanimous meant in relation to TTC decision to support the Royal Gate House developer's application for change of use criteria from D2 to A1, A2 and A3 on the old cinema site. Tenby Town Council is not cowardly (the meaning of pusillanimous), the decision was not made lightly. Everyone would love to retain a cinema in Tenby, however at this stage of the huge development, which has taken 5 years to get to this point, instance that a cinema be retained could, due to complex funding issues, jeopardise the project and cause delay for months, if not years. Within Tenby one development site is on hold and to be the cause of another would not be good for the town. TTC are looking at the bigger picture for progress to be made.

PCNPA Officers agreed with Tenby Town Council's decision to support the change with the suggestion to retain the D2 clause alongside A1, A2 and A3 to broaden the ability to let or sell the site. However a small majority of the PCNPA Development Management Committee disagreed with one member making a comment that Tenby Library could be accommodated on the site. She asked would PCC be able to fund the leasing or purchase of the cinema site. Answering the question she said in her view PCC would not have the funds for this site. TTC discuss and clearly make decisions for the people and visitors of Tenby who want progress.

Councillor Evans reported that Tenby Castle Beach had been voted one of the top ten beaches in Wales in a recent survey and requested the Clerk clarify where Tenby was ranked.

Resolved that the Clerk would research to find where Tenby came in the survey.

Councillors noted that following Tenby pictures being used as a background on the BBC weather report, ITV have now used a picture from the South Beach with St Catherine's Island in the background.

Councillor Mrs Rossiter noted in the Mail on Sunday stating 4 true and 1 false facts about the actor Tom Cruise. Stating he knows his leeks and daffodils, his mother emigrated from Tenby at the age of 6 and on St David's Day he wears a daffodil. While this fact was not true, she was delighted that they have picked Tenby out of all the places in Wales as the fictional birthplace of the actor's mother.

489. STREET TRADING IN TENBY TOWN – PARTICULARLY FIVE ARCHES

Councillor Blackhall requested to commence discussion with PCC in relation to past problems of street trading particularly in the Five Arches area before the start of the forthcoming season. He proposed a meeting with PCC Street Care Officer to make it clear where we are in the process to reduce the amount of street trading, seconded by Councillor Mrs Thomas.

The Clerk said PCC colleagues have and are trying to resolve the problems with street trading, service providers and pedlars.

Resolved that a meeting is arranged with Mr Marc Owen, Street Care, PCC, to discuss Street Trading before the start of the forthcoming season.

Councillor Mrs Rossiter and Councillor M Evans left the chamber.

490. 'A' FRAMES ON TENBY PAVEMENTS

Councillor W Rossiter reported that 'A' frames have been debated before and are again causing concern as to how many are situated around the town. Tudor Square has been enhanced and yet there are more 'A' frames on the pavement and he personally witnessed locals and visitors having to walk around the 'A' frames when the town was busy over the Easter period. Even on the way to the Council meeting he had to step off the pavement into the road due to an A frame on the footpath. Councillor Mrs Brown proposed the 'A' frame problem be included in the meeting with Mr Marc Owen PCC on street trading, seconded by Councillor W Rossiter.

The Clerk reported Mr M Owen had held a meeting last year with Tenby Chamber of Trade and Tourism. At this meeting it was agreed that the Chamber of Trade would self-regulate the problem of 'A' frames and report back to PCC. TTC in addition wrote and distributed a polite letter pointing out the legal obligations and responsibility for businesses putting out 'A' frames; however this was met with some very angry verbal comments from local shop keepers and the problem continued.

Councillor Mrs Durham said that PCNPA had an Enforcement Officer who used to visit Tenby regularly and personally have a word with shop keepers in a diplomatic way. Could PCNPA be requested to continue this service? The Clerk reported that 'A' frame issues are now classed as a highways problem and not a PCNPA concern.

Councillor Mrs Putwain felt the 'A' frame problems did improve following the last enforcement by PCC but as a user of crutches she noted the personal difficulties experienced negotiating such frames.

Councillor Hallett noted that Café Culture tables and chairs are spreading out further onto the street and requested that the areas the cafes are allocated to use during pedestrianisation be clearly defined.

Resolved that 'A' frame issues and Café Culture are included in the meeting to be arranged with Mr Marc Owen.

Councillor Mrs Rossiter and Councillor M Evans re-joined the meeting.

491. FINANCIAL OFFICER/CLERK'S ITEMS

The Clerk reported notification of a traffic road closure in Upper Frog Street, Tenby on 21st April 2013 to allow gas main connection. Alternative traffic routes will be sign posted.

A note of thanks was read from Miss A Jeremias who had received a donation from TTC towards her Girl Guide venture to Sangam, India, in addition she will provide a report on her experiences on her return.

Arriva trains had reported improvements they are making to the South West railway line service. From May 2013 all single carriage trains coming through Tenby will be replaced with two carriage trains.

Following previous discussions with Arriva to provide planters for the station platforms for which they required a financial contribution from TTC which was not achievable in the short time scale given, Arriva had agreed to fund four planters for Tenby Railway Station with TTC requested to provide soil and man power to fill the planters. Delivery of the planters will take place on 19th April 2013, TTC are providing the soil for these which has been sourced and donated at no cost, with the manpower provided by TTC employees and Councillors.

The Clerk reported information on the International Communities in Bloom had been received. The two judges, one from California USA and the other from Canada, will be in Tenby from 13th August to 15th August 2013.

492. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved that the next meeting will take place on Tuesday 30th April 2013 at 7.00 pm. (This will be a quarterly meeting).

The Mayor outlined the format during a Quarterly meeting for new members of TTC. Councillor Mrs Durham asked if there are records kept denoting who has been presented with certificates of achievements to prevent duplication. The Clerk noted that records are kept for medallions, plaques, ties and scarf presentations but not certificates of achievement. Following further discussion it was noted that records would be helpful but each Mayor can award achievements as and when they feel they are needed, this may mean an individual may receive several for longer service in the same field of achievement.

493. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

None noted.

494. PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

Resolved that the Council (or Committee) moves into private session under the Public Bodies (admission to Meeting) Act of 1960 by virtue of the business to be transacted would be prejudicial to members of the Public.

495. MINUTES

Resolved that the Private and Confidential Minutes of Tenby Town Council Meeting held 3rd April 2013 be confirmed and signed as accurate.

496. MATTERS ARISING

None noted.

497. DE VALENCE

Councillor Mrs Brown outlined the planned events taking place in the De Valence during the month of May 2013, requesting assistance from any Councillors available to help on the following dates, 3rd, 4th, 10th and 11th May either during the day or evenings to let her know.

Mayor _____

Town Clerk _____

Date _____