

TENBY TOWN COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF THE TENBY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD 4<sup>th</sup> February 2014

**PRESENT**

Councillor Mrs Lane	Mayor
Councillor H Johns	
Councillor Mrs Thomas	
Councillor Mrs Putwain	
Councillor Dr Easy	
Councillor W Rossiter	
Councillor T Hallett	
Councillor Mrs Brown	

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

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

The Mayor started the meeting by saying what a great loss has been felt by Tenby and the local District following the passing away of Mr. Robert Main, partner of serving Councillor Mrs. Tish Rossiter, and a former Mayor's Consort. The loss was very evident by number of people who attended his funeral. As a mark of respect Councillors held a minute's silence.

Following the minute's silence the Mayor expressed Councillor Mrs Rossiter's heartfelt thanks to her fellow Councillors for their support to her at this sad time, for attending the funeral and for escorting the cortege to the edge of town which she found very touching especially on a very wet and windy day.

A warm welcome was given to Councillor Hayden Johns who was attending his first Tenby Town Council meeting. The Mayor explained briefly the format for the evening including specific items such as disclosure of personal interests; however she encouraged him to ask if there was anything he did not understand and she would explain at any time during the meeting.

**352. APOLOGIES**

Apologies received from Councillor Mrs Rossiter, Councillor Mrs Durham, Councillor L Blackhall and Councillor P Rapi.

**353. DISCLOSURE OF PERSONAL INTERESTS**

Councillor Dr Easy, Councillor Hallett, Councillor Mrs Brown and the Mayor declared a personal interest in item 8 De Valence.

**354. ITEMS TO PRESS**

Proposed by Councillor Hallett, seconded by Councillor Mrs Putwain.

**Resolved that items of Correspondence and Committee Minutes other than those items marked Not for Publication be given to members of the Press present.**

**355. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

**Resolved that the Minutes of the Tenby Town Council meeting held 21<sup>st</sup> January 2014 be confirmed and signed as accurate.**

**356. MATTERS ARISING**

Mr S Fry – Update on the Royal Gate House and associated developments

Councillor Mrs Brown asked if the Clerk had received any communication from Mr S Fry in relation to attending to provide an update on the Royal Gate House and associated developments for TTC.

The Clerk reported unfortunately Mr Fry had sent his apologies and hoped he would be in a better position to provide more information at the 18<sup>th</sup> February 2014 council meeting.

336 – (324 – Tenby Market Hall)

The Clerk reminded Councillors of the joint meeting arranged to discuss Tenby Market Hall, scheduled for 5<sup>th</sup> February 2014 at 4.30pm in the Mayors Parlour. Tenby market stall owners, Tenby Development Trust and Tenby Chamber of Trade and Tourism will all be in attendance.

The Mayor asked as many Councillors as possible to attend this meeting to show support for the local market stall holders, listen to their concerns and discuss a possible way forward. TTC and the other groups can then support and tackle issues with the authority.

339b – Tenby Civic Society – Fingerpost information

The Clerk reported he had passed the Civic Society information relating to Tenby fingerposts on to Ms Sined Henahan, Regeneration Department, PCC. She agreed to liaise with Ben Blake Traffic Engineer, PCC to obtain costings for the itemised work. Once the costings are available the project can be discussed further with Tenby Regeneration Committee.

The Clerk explained that funding is available for regeneration of town projects; however Tenby regeneration committee has not put any bids forward as yet. In light of this information and the projects Tenby have in mind it was suggested that Tenby put forward funding requests as soon as possible. Councillor Mrs Brown felt Tenby needed to be more forceful with their requests and arrange a meeting to put Tenby project ideas forward for funding. She reminded Councillors that to obtaining grant funding the application requires secured match funding. TTC has allocated some reserves funds within the 2014/5 budget that could possibly be allocated towards effective regeneration projects in Tenby.

**357. CORRESPONDENCE**

a. PCC – Consultation on Welsh in Education Strategic Plan

Councillor Dr Easy reported he had read the consultation on Welsh in Education Strategic plan in great detail. He felt TTC should be supporting the plan as it provides a choice for young people of secondary age to be taught through the medium of Welsh closer to home. This service does not exist at present; therefore it would add something that would have many advantages.

Councillor W Rossiter said the document was talking about small numbers of children in Tenby being taught through the medium of Welsh, and he felt very few actually speak Welsh locally on a day to day basis. He expressed that he was a strong supporter of the Welsh language but felt the money could be better spent on improving the standard of general education locally.

The Mayor said this plan was actually giving Tenby the opportunity to raise educational standards and give locals the choice to learn through the medium of Welsh at secondary level closer to home. She felt providing this opportunity would attract more young people to be stronger Welsh speakers, therefore she supported the consultation.

Councillor Mrs Brown agreed with Councillor Dr Easy's views and felt as Tenby Infant and Junior Schools have classes taught through the medium of Welsh already, secondary pupils should be given the same opportunity to continue their education locally and not have to elongate their day by travelling to Crymych to attend a Welsh medium secondary school. Therefore she felt if the facility was available closer to home many more young people would possibly continue their studies through the medium of Welsh.

Councillor W Rossiter agreed that choice was important, however numbers are low and the facility could be sited nearer Narberth where Welsh is spoken regularly within the local community.

Councillor Johns said he was aware the Dosbarth unit in Tenby Infants had high numbers and for these children to carry on their education at secondary level locally would be positive. Crymych is available at present; however we need a provision in the south of the County.

Councillor Hallett applauded the plan for a Welsh provision at secondary level in the south of the county as personally he did not have the choice to learn Welsh as a child and would be pleased to see others have all opportunities available.

Councillor Dr Easy proposed TTC welcome the strategic plan on Welsh in Education and support the principals of establishing a Welsh Medium School locally, seconded by Councillor Hallett.

**Resolved that TTC respond by letter welcoming the strategic plan on Welsh in education and support the principals of establishing a Welsh Medium School locally.**

Councillor W Rossiter abstained from the vote.

b. PCC – Proposals for changing the way mobile library services are delivered in Pembrokeshire

Councillor Hallett felt the way services are being cut in the community Tenby should support all aspects of service provided by the library whether static or mobile. However Councillor Mrs Thomas did not feel the questions within the document were applicable to Tenby.

The Mayor felt that TTC were not in a position to comment at this time on the mobile library service as Tenby has a static library at present. Therefore it was

**Resolved that Tenby Town Council note the information as they are not in a position to comment on mobile library services at this time.**

#### c. Tenby and District Lions Club – Beach wheelchairs

The Clerk outlined that this letter was in response to the questions of concern expressed by TTC, following Tenby and District Lions Club proposal to donate four beach wheelchairs to be used in Tenby.

The Mayor explained she initially felt the donation was a service that would be welcomed by visitors' to the town; however following TTC discussion concerns were expressed in relation to weekend access, insurance and maintenance of the wheelchairs. However she still felt the idea would be advantageous to wheelchair users; therefore she requested if anyone locally could come forward with a suggestion of an alternative place to store the wheelchairs etc it would be appreciated and forwarded to the Lions for consideration.

#### d. PCC – Road closure, Bridge Street

The Clerk highlighted the road closure for Bridge Street from its junction with St Julian Street west to its junction with Crackwell Street on the 14<sup>th</sup> February 2014. He added a second road closure for Upper Frog Street on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February at 5.30pm, to enable a water main connection at the Normandie Restaurant.

Following incompleteness of water main works in White Lion Street this week the Clerk was aware of a possible additional road closure occurring on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February, from the junction of Upper Frog Street to High Street. As and when official confirmation of this road closure arrives it will be posted on the De Valence notice board.

#### e. PCC – Review of fees and charges at Tenby and Lower Fishguard harbours

Councillor W Rossiter reported he had talked to people associated with the harbour about the increase of fees and received feedback highlighting several issues.

- They pay £35 for a harbour parking permit per year and when events are held during the summer they are unable to use the parking facility.
- In relation to Bay Moorings he was made aware that six of these moorings have disappeared.
- In relation to Harbour personnel, he said the Harbourmaster now has an assistant and felt that the work load in the winter was limited.

The Mayor responded to Councillor W Rossiter outlining that he was in no position to discuss or comment on anyone's livelihood.

Councillor Mrs Brown pointed out there are only 12 days harbour permit holders are unable to use the parking facility due to events, and actually during 2013 only 10 events were held. She continued highlighting if harbour users are concerned about the loss of six mooring, why have they not reported the matter to the correct person ie the Harbourmaster who would find them?

Councillor W Rossiter added that even though harbour users pay for permits they still pay the £2 daily parking fee and if visitors have parked in these spaces they are unable to use their permits. The Mayor added the same principle applies to residents parking bays within the town,

holiday makers can apply for a weekly permit when staying in holiday accommodation and have the same rights as a permanent resident to park.

Councillor Mrs Brown felt she was not in a position to comment on the fee changes as she did not know how Tenby compared to the fees paid in Fishguard. Therefore she would like to receive more information and requested if the Harbour users had received this same information as she would like more feedback from them.

It was noted that TTC has representatives on the Harbour Users Committee; however they are not invited to the meetings. Councillors felt they would be more aware of the harbour concerns and could speak out on their behalf if they are more informed by being invited to meetings.

Councillor Johns felt some of the increases i.e. the Moorings equated to a 90% increase, noting the increase was not consistent and the private hire was increased more than commercial. Councillor W Rossiter felt concern about the steep increases should be included in any response sent from TTC.

Councillor Mrs Putwain declared an interest on this matter as the Sea Cadets have a mooring. However she did notice that the Sea Cadets as harbour users had not been copied into the e-mail and could this be included in TTC response to PCC review of Tenby Harbour fees.

Following in depth discussion it was

**Resolved that TTC write and request an extension on the review of fees and charges at Tenby and Lower Fishguard harbours response deadline to allow addition research and information to be obtained.**

**358. ACCOUNTS FOR JANUARY 2014**

Councillors reviewed and discussed the accounts. The Clerk highlighted that he had transferred £20,000 into the reserve account as resolved at the last TTC meeting. Councillor Hallett thanked the Clerk for his efficient book keeping and proposed acceptance of the accounts for January 2014, seconded by Councillor Mrs Brown.

**Resolved that the accounts for January 2014 be accepted.**

**359. DE VALENCE**

The Clerk reported he was aware a letter had been written to the De Valence Trust in the form of a proposal to lease the café. The letter had been addressed to acting De Valence Chairman Councillor L Blackhall and as he was not in attendance TTC would await further information from the De Valence Trust on this request.

**360. REPORTS BY COUNCILLORS ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

Councillor Mrs Thomas requested that all Councillors make a special effort to join her at the next South East Pembrokeshire Community Health Network meeting on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2014 at 2pm in New Hedges Village Hall. Items for discussion on the agenda would be very informative and included the following:

- The future of Tenby Cottage Hospital building and Mrs Sue Lewis, Hywel Dda had agreed to attend to answer questions
- Mr A Davies, Tenby Town Clerk will provide feedback on the feasibility of a Judicial Review following the closure of Tenby MIU decision
- Presentation by Natalie Strain, Health Lead Officer on Pembrokeshire Community First

Councillor Mrs Brown and Councillor W Rossiter said they would be attending the meeting along with Councillor Mrs Thomas.

The Mayor reported on the recent Britain in Bloom Finalist Seminar held in Sunderland. Although it was a long way to travel the opportunity to network with judges and others was beneficial. It is the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Britain in Bloom this year; therefore they would like to see this theme included.

Secondly following attending the Harriet Trust Team Annual Coffee morning, Kit and John Davis had written to thank Councillors and herself for attending the charity event, noting they raised £600.81. The Mayor commented that the facilities the Trust provides is well worth a visit and fully deserves all the funding support they receive.

### **361. MEDIA ITEMS**

The Clerk updated Councillors on the Williams Report (the report of the commission on public service and governance) delivered to the Welsh Assembly Government. He was aware that the First Minister Carwyn Jones had requested his party respond by the end of March and suggested that other parties do the same. The Welsh Local Government Association has recently stated that they would like to have talks with the First Minister to discuss alternatives to reorganisation as they did not favour amalgamation of councils.

The Mayor thanked the Clerk for keeping abreast of the information and relaying it to Councillors as it is important that everyone keeps up with information and proposed changes being discussed at the Welsh Assembly.

### **362. TENBY TOWN WALLS**

The Mayor reported that Tenby Town Walls was high on the agenda of Tenby Regeneration Committee. Sadly information provided by Cadw states that there seems to be no recent full structural survey carried out on the town walls; however sections may have previously been assessed in isolation. She felt that South Pembrokeshire District Council would have had a schedule of assessments and carried out regularly work to maintain the walls to a high standard and now it seems no one is taking the lead. Therefore it is important that Tenby move forward and get support to assess the town walls.

Councillor Hallett wondered if there are any records of surveys carried out on the walls stored at the museum. However he would not know where to start looking if it is documented within old copies of minutes.

Councillor Mrs Thomas asked if TTC could contact Melissa Howells PCC and request information from her as to what survey she carried out, approximately 13 years ago with TTC members, when they knocked on doors to gain access to the walls at the rear of properties.

Councillor W Rossiter felt the walls should be maintained and carefully looked after.

Councillor Hallett was aware Tenby Camera Club carried out a photographic survey of the town walls in 1991.

The Mayor recalled previous TTC plans to light up the town walls, however they were turned down because there may be a bat present near the Imperial Arch. She felt this response was ludicrous as every Cathedral and Church that is lit up may have a bat presence. The lighting would have been situated on the floor and not positioned on the walls themselves. The Tenby Regeneration Team had considered reviving this idea and she called for the proposal to be supported by the Council as a priority.

Councillor Mrs Thomas felt it was time to contact people and get them together to preserve our walls and the regeneration team are the link for this process.

Councillor Mrs Putwain disagreed with the lighting up of the town walls and would rather be looking at the stars instead of increasing light pollution. She felt people could look at the town walls during the day and find them 'spooky' at night.

The Mayor explained that regeneration projects can be used to make the town more appealing and lived in, as well as increasing tourism footfall. Funding can be accessed from various sources including European funds depending on the type of project. Towns are encouraged to have schemes in place to apply for this money and Tenby needs to push forward with preparing a plan.

Councillor Mrs Brown explained that the regeneration team will help with the work involved to access funding for projects; however applicants need to have match funding to secure the grants. Therefore TTC has allocated money in the 2014/15 budget reserve account that can be allocated for worthwhile Tenby regeneration projects.

Councillor Mrs Brown proposed the regeneration committee discuss possible town projects like the lighting of the town walls and report back to TTC, seconded by Councillor Mrs Thomas.

**Resolved that the regeneration committee discuss possible town projects like the lighting of the town walls and report back to TTC.**

One vote against the resolution was recorded.

### **363. TENBY ROAD GULLIES**

Councillor Hallett explained he had personally received many complaints about blocked gullies in Tenby; therefore he had commenced a detailed street survey plotting all the gully drains blocked on a map. He was aware that some of the gullies have been blocked for several years and surely, despite cut backs, PCC need to provide this maintenance to prevent other problems occurring. Once the map is complete it can be forwarded to PCC for their attention to the increasing problem.

Councillor Mrs Brown added that blocked gullies leads to damage of the tarmac on roads creating a larger repair expense when the gullies could just be cleaned.

**364. FINANCIAL OFFICER/CLERK'S ITEMS**

The Clerk reported Tenby Chamber of Trade and Tourism have informed TTC that Mr Christopher Salmon, Dyfed Powys Police Commissioner will be visiting Tenby on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2014 to hold individual meetings with anyone who has concerns they wish to discuss with him. He will be available at the Fourcroft Hotel from 3-5pm. Following this session there will be a round the table discussion with Chamber members that TTC are welcome to attend. Councillors were requested to inform the Clerk if they wish to attend so a place can be reserved. It was

**Resolved that Councillors wishing to attend the round the table meeting with Mr Salmon, Police Commissioner should inform the Clerk so he can reserve individual places.**

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

**Resolved that the next meeting will be the Christmas Lighting Committee on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2014 at 7.00pm. Full Council meeting on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2014 at 7.30pm.**

The Mayor outlined that all Councillors are welcome to attend the Christmas Lighting Committee meeting.

Councillor Mrs Putwain gave her apologies for the Christmas lighting meeting in advance.

**366. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA**

None noted.

**367. 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.**

**368. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

**Resolved that the Private and Confidential Minutes of Tenby Town Council Meeting held 21<sup>st</sup> January 2014 be confirmed and signed as accurate.**

**369. MATTERS ARISING**

315 – (213 – De Valence)

The Clerk reported the De Valence handyman was working hard to complete the painting of the building frontage despite the weather.

In relation to the concerns expressed about the rubbish stored on the De Valence roof by the neighbouring property the owner visited the office on the receipt of the letter, assessed the items being stored and arranged removal within three days. The only item still present is the steps to allow access from the apartment in the event of a fire as agreed in the contract.

South Beach Stones and Sand Movement

Councillor W Rossiter asked if the Clerk had received any communication from the gentleman TTC asked to visit to provide any information or advice in relation to the sand movement and increase in stones on the South Beach. The Clerk said he had not even had acknowledgement for receipt of the letter.

Mayor \_\_\_\_\_

Town Clerk \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_