

TENBY TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE TENBY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD
12th NOVEMBER 2019

PRESENT: Cllr Mrs S Lane
Cllr H Whitehurst
Cllr P Rapi
Cllr L Blackhall
Cllr Mrs T Rossiter
Cllr Mrs S Skyrme-Blackhall
Cllr Mrs T Evans
Cllr D Morgan
Cllr T Hallett

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr A Davies Clerk
Mrs S Thompson Assistant to the Clerk

The Clerk asked, as both the Mayor and the Deputy Mayor were absent from the meeting, that a proposal be put forward under Section 12 of the LGA 1972 for someone to chair the meeting. Cllr Blackhall proposed Cllr Mrs Lane with Cllr Mrs Rossiter seconding the motion.

RESOLVED

That Cllr Mrs Lane take the chair.

255. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES

Apologies received from the Mayor, Cllr Mrs Brown, Cllr Ronowitz and Cllr Evans.

256. TO DISCLOSE ANY PERSONAL INTERESTS IN ITEMS OF BUSINESS LISTED BELOW

Cllr Mrs Rossiter declared interest in item 11.

257. TO AGREE ITEMS OF CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMITTEE MINUTES OTHER THAN THOSE MARKED NOT FOR PUBLICATION BEING GIVEN TO MEMBERS OF THE PRESS PRESENT

Proposed by Cllr Blackhall and seconded by Cllr Mrs Rossiter.

RESOLVED

That items of Correspondence and Committee Minutes other than those items marked Not for Publication be given to members of the Press present.

258. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Resolved that the Minutes of the Tenby Town Council meeting held 29th October 2019 be confirmed and signed as accurate.

259. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES FOR INFORMATION ONLY

a. Page 117 Item 237b

Following the parking problems being experienced outside schools in the Heywood Lane area during opening and closing times, a meeting had been suggested by council to be held on 7th Thursday. However, Mr Ben Blake had been unable to attend this meeting and so it had been rearranged for Thursday 14th at 2.45pm in the area of the Tenby Church in Wales and Ysgol Hafan y Mor schools. Cllr Mrs Rossiter was unfortunately not aware of the proposed date of the original meeting as she had not been at the previous meeting. The Clerk apologised and said that he would remember to telephone those councillors not on email about future meetings outside of scheduled council meetings in future.

b. Page 120 item 246 – Tyssul Court, Tenby

The Clerk read a response from PCC to Councillors. The repairs to the wall were in hand and a power wash/repainting of the building was programmed for the next financial year. PCC are happy to remove shrubbery and lay to grass but they were concerned about the loss of privacy to the residents. Cllr Mrs Rossiter suggested that if the shrubs were to be kept pruned that may be enough. The problem would be alleviated and grass will still need cutting. Cllr Mrs Lane proposed the shrubs be taken away and the area grassed. Cllr Rapi seconded.

RESOLVED

That Area Maintenance be asked to remove the shrubbery in Station Road and lay the area to grass.

260. TO DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND TO AGREE ACTION IN RESPONSE TO PROPOSALS:

a. NP/19/0574/FUL – Alterations to rear boundary to form new terrace area – Flat 1 Windsor House, 4 Crackwell Street, Tenby

b. NP/19/0574/LBA – Alterations to rear boundary to form new terrace area – Flat 1 Windsor House, 4 Crackwell Street, Tenby

Cllr Mrs Lane suggested that both these items be taken together.

Cllr Blackhall feels that the comments from the Civic Society are very helpful in relation to the condition of the cliff. Good advice is needed before the work is carried out to the area as there could be knock on effects, this application needs serious consideration he said. Cllr Hallett said historically this area is not stable due to sandstone and limestone and there is no report is available on the current cliff stability even for the benefit of those carrying out the work. Cllr Hallett proposed that until more information is available there can be no decision made. Cllr Blackhall seconded the proposal.

RECOMMEND

Deferral. Given a rear garden cliff fall last year at the other end of Crackwell Street, members have questions as to whether an engineer's report is needed relating to the construction method, the structural load on the cliff and the building foundations.

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

Cllr Mrs Rossiter queried the buffet payment and the Clerk explained that this was the buffet arranged for the official opening of St Matthew's Fair and had had to be cancelled due to the weather forecast. Cllr Mrs Lane couldn't understand why the reception had been cancelled as this was to welcome the Showmen to our town and to thank them for coming. She felt that a lot hard work had been put in to getting them back and we were lucky they still wanted to come back. The venue this year was not great she added, hoping that we can provide better facilities for next year. The question was asked what happened to the buffet. The Clerk told councillors that the buffet had been distributed as otherwise it would have gone in the bin. Cllr Hallett asked who had organised the event. The decision to cancel the event was taken by the Mayor in consultation with the Showmen and the Clerk felt the Mayor would be better placed to answer the questions being put. Could the matter be put on the Agenda for the next meeting Cllr. Hallett asked? Cllr Blackhall thanked the Clerk and proposed accepting the accounts. Cllr Hallett seconded the proposal.

RESOLVED

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

262. ELECTION OF REPRESENTATIVES ON VARIOUS OUTSIDE BODIES AND COMMITTEES

Cllr Blackhall proposed that the Personnel Committee be alternated each year between A-Z and Z-A.

Cllr. Mrs. Lane pointed out that Tenby in Bloom was separate from the Council and had no vacancy. Cllr Blackhall suggested that this be removed from the list.

Cllr Hallett wished to be removed from PLANED and Cllr Blackhall said he would be happy to go on. However, it was proposed that PLANED be asked why councillors appear not be invited to events.

With regard to the Tenby Charity Trustees, Mr Mathias will be in touch with regard to the forthcoming vacancy.

Mrs Rossiter has now come off the Tenby (DVP) Trust thus creating 2 possible vacancies. Cllr Mrs Skyrme-Blackhall and Cllr Mrs Evans wished to be considered.

Cllr Whitehurst will join the Tenby Regeneration Team.

With regards to the Christmas Festivities Committee Cllr Blackhall said nothing precludes anyone from turning up on the day as the Clerk would welcome assistance. Cllr Rapi gave his apologies for 30th November.

263. TO RECEIVE REPORTS BY COUNCILLORS ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr Rapi had attended the memorial unveiling service in Carew which was very good.

Cllr Mrs Lane had attended the Cenotaph on Sunday and said what a fantastic turn out there had been. It was so lovely to see children at the occasion, making it very special. Thanks to all those organisations who attended, for supporting the town at the War Memorial. Cllr Blackhall said it was fantastic and it was nice to see the organisations attending the remembrance service at church. Monday was the Act of Remembrance to mark the 11th November but unfortunately TTC were informed it was taking place at very short notice. Cllr Mrs Lane and he had attended the service with the Clerk but it may be useful to plan ahead, perhaps the introduction of a written protocol for the various special days and to keep councillors informed as to the events that they may be expected to attend.

Cllr. Blackhall suggested that we look at the various events and activities on the Tenby calendar and give guidance including the Mayor Making. He proposed Cllr Mrs Lane with her wealth of experience chair a Protocol committee in order to get something down in writing in order to avoid future issues.

Cllr Mrs Evans said she would give her 100% support as she, as a relatively new committee member, would welcome the guidance and protocol expectations. Cllr Mrs Evans seconded the proposal.

Cllr Mrs Rossiter said it was a very moving ceremony on the Sunday, especially when the Roll of Honour is read out to the congregation. The late Mr John Griffiths had put a lot of time and effort into the collation of information and it should not go unnoticed. Cllr Mrs Evans, Cllr Blackhall and all members are welcome to join the Protocol committee as and when and believes that the history to a lot of the events that the Mayor is invited to will be very interesting to all.

264. TO CONSIDER ANY MEDIA ITEMS RELATING TO TENBY TOWN COUNCIL OR TENBY AND AGREE ACTION IN RESPONSE

Cllr Mrs Rossiter applauds the PCC for the recycling initiative but she has been approached by several residents who find it rather embarrassing having to put the purple bag out with the rest of the rubbish. It is a sensitive area and visually it is most noticeable, she wondered if there was an alternative. She proposed a letter be written to PCC asking if they could look into an alternative as it is a very personal issue. Cllr Mrs Evans seconded the proposal.

RESOLVED

That a letter be written to PCC asking if there was alternative to the usage of purple bags or a less obvious method of collection.

Cllr Hallett congratulated Mr. Raschke and thanked him for the sculpture of the fisherman carved from a log of wood. It was fantastic.

265. TO RECEIVE UPDATES AS TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF LAND AT BRYNHIR (IF ANY)

Nothing new at this time.

266. TO RECEIVE UPDATES ON SOUTH PARADE (IF ANY)

None at present.

Cllr Mrs Lane would like councillors to consider a bench commemorating the war to be situated near to the War Memorial. She showed councillors a photo of a wrought iron bench she had seen in another town and asked the Clerk to try and locate a manufacturer and a price.

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

a. BT Consultation on removal of payphones

Members noted the proposal to remove the payphones in Heywood Lane and Knowling Mead but felt the phones are there for emergency purposes.

They appreciated that BT are looking to cut costs but the argument is that not all have mobile smart phones and definitely not the older members of the community.

Cllr Mrs Evans said she would be interested to know if any of the calls made in the last months were to emergency numbers.

Cllr Mrs Skyrme-Blackhall believes a signal can often not be had especially in the height of the season. Often it is difficult to even text and she believes this would not be a great move. Cllr Mrs Lane said that the phones are in the area of the three schools.

Cllr Rapi said that they wanted to get rid of these public phone boxes in the past and members then had concerns for the box outside of Greenhill. In an area containing 3 schools, children need a back-up if they can't use their mobile devices. If students are on a trip and return to school, their phones may be flat. For the sake of security and peace of mind they should remain. Also, there are some elderly residents in the area who may need to use it.

Cllr Hallett said these are iconic symbols that should not be removed. Cllr Mrs Lane felt it was vital that both are kept.

RESOLVED

That TTC write to PCC informing them that we do not support BT's proposals.

- b. Remuneration Panel for Wales – draft proposals for the remuneration of members' expenses for 2020/21

Cllr Blackhall proposed agreement in line with the past 12 months. Cllr Hallett seconded.

Cllr Blackhall pointed out that the £150 payment to councillors remains as mandatory with each councillor required to sign to say that they do or do not want to accept it.

The remaining determinations set out a pattern as needed e.g. if a carer was required to enable a councillor to attend meetings then payment should be taken.

Members had agreed along these lines last year and he suggested that TTC follow these previously agreed determinations, Cllr Mrs Skyrme-Blackhall seconded.

Cllr Hallett felt that the payment should not be taken out of the system in case councillors changed their mind. The Clerk explained that, as no councillor took the payment last year the amount originally precepted had been earmarked in reserves to be drawn down on should this be the case.

Cllr Blackhall said it is important to recognise the Remuneration Panels' offer. But it was equally important to recognise that councillors chose not to take payment.

Cllr Mrs Rossiter agreed, commenting that members were councillors because of their love of the town and they received no payment.

Members agreed the following resolutions:

42 - All community and town councils must make available a payment to each of their members of £150 per year as a contribution to costs and expenses.

No decision needed as the payment of £150 is mandated for every member unless they advise the appropriate officer in writing that they do not want to take it.

43 – Community and town councils in Group A must make available an annual payment of £500 each to a minimum of 1 and a maximum of 5 members in recognition of specific responsibilities. This is in addition to the £150 payment for costs and expenses.

RESOLVED

That Council agreed that no payments will be made.

44 – Community and town councils in Groups B or C can make an annual payment of up to £500 each to up to 5 members in recognition of specific responsibilities. This is in addition to the £150 payment for costs and expenses.

RESOLVED

That Council agreed that no payments will be made.

45 – Community and town councils can make payments to each of their members in respect of travel costs for attending approved duties.

RESOLVED

That Council agreed that this payment be allowed subject to attendance being given prior approval by the whole Council.

46 – If a community or town council resolves that a particular duty requires an overnight stay, it can authorise reimbursement of subsistence expenses to its members.

RESOLVED

That Council agreed that this payment be allowed subject to attendance being given prior approval by the whole Council.

47 – Community and town councils can pay financial loss compensation to each of their members, where such loss has actually occurred, for attending approved duties.

RESOLVED

That Council agreed that this payment be allowed subject to attendance being given prior approval by the whole Council.

48 – All community and town councils must provide for the reimbursement of necessary costs for the care of dependent children and adults (provided by informal or formal carers) and for personal assistance needs up to a maximum of £403 per month.

No decision required as the payment is mandated for every member if they are eligible to claim, and wish to do so.

49 – Community and town councils can provide a Civic Head payment to the mayor/chair of the council up to a maximum of £1,500.

RESOLVED

That there will be no payment to the Civic Head this year.

50 – Community and town councils can provide a Deputy Civic Head payment to the deputy mayor/deputy chair of the council up to a maximum amount of £500.

RESOLVED

That there will be no payment to the Deputy Civic Head this year.

51 - Members in receipt of a Band 1 or Band 2 senior salary from a principal council (that is Leader, Deputy Leader or Executive Member) cannot receive any payment from any community or town council, other than travel and subsistence expenses and reimbursement of costs of care.

No decision required. Members in receipt of a Band 1 or Band 2 senior salary from a principal council (that is Leader, Deputy Leader or Executive Member) can only receive travel and subsistence expenses and reimbursement of costs of care; if they are eligible to claim, and wish to do so.

c. Lexden House Planning Application

Cllr Blackhall had attended a site meeting with Murray John, The Mayor, Cllr Morgan and the Clerk the previous afternoon. A couple of councillors queried as to why not all councillors had been invited. Cllr Mrs Lane was not aware of any meeting and she was sat in the office the morning it was being arranged.

Cllr. Blackhall felt that the proposal is fabulous and in keeping with history of the building. This was an improvement which also involved the cliff being secured. A seating area is being created where previously there was bare wall and there is a real sense of respect for the history of the building, bringing the property back to where it once was. This is a sensitive development in a beautiful location, the work of the architect, Mr. John should be appreciated and he and the applicants should be congratulated. Cllr Blackhall felt the proposal should be accepted and he looks forward to working with them. Cllr Hallett seconded the proposal.

Cllr Mrs Rossiter added that she would have to take Cllr. Blackhall's word for it as she didn't know about the meeting

The Clerk apologised to Cllr. Mrs. Rossiter but it is often very difficult to co-ordinate getting all councillors and the necessary other people in the same place at a mutually convenient time. This particular meeting was not finally confirmed until 10.30 am on the day in question and was to take place at 12 noon.

Cllr Blackhall said he was fully supportive of the Clerk and the difficulties of arranging meetings to suit everyone. He personally took responsibility for the meeting being called at very short notice. As the councillor who had asked for the meeting, he knew of his obligation to be present but, unfortunately, he had not been able to confirm his availability until that morning. Mr John was only

back in the area for a very short period and PCNPA were waiting on TTC's opinion.

RECOMMEND

Approval. Having met with the applicant and his architect on site and considered the application in relation to all relevant policies in the Local Development Plan, members feel that this proposal shows real respect and sensitivity for the building, its history and its setting.

d. Tenby in Bloom

Cllr Mrs Lane explained that she had been asked to attend a meeting with Mr. Neil McCarthy, of PCC and the Clerk to discuss floral commitments for next year.

She gave a little bit of background information explaining that Tenby in Bloom is separate to the town council. Although they do work with the council on certain initiatives, they are a completely separate entity.

The gardens of Tenby belong to the county council and TTC has been told that PCC can no longer afford to maintain standards to previous levels. The town council are already paying for bedding plants and watering costs to maintain floral displays as first impressions are vital to the economy and very important to our town. It may be that we could be told by PCC that they are only going to carry out bare minimum maintenance or even that they are not doing it at all anymore.

Cllr Mrs Lane said that she is invited along to these meetings with Mr McCarthy as she has the knowledge about the town's floral displays and then she relays that information back.

Mr. McCarthy said he was conscious of the expenditure being contributed by TC and wondered if consideration could be given to reducing some of the floral beds. However, Cllr. Mrs. Lane felt that she was not in a position to make that decision herself.

She felt the town council needed to look at ways to reduce cost, particularly in case more things could be coming on board from PCC that they would expect TTC to pay for.

Ideas were needed, she said. The types of plants need to be looked at including the length of time they were in bloom and whether different plants would be easier to maintain. Consideration could also be given to decreasing the size of the flower beds All ideas would be gratefully received.

Mr McCarthy needs to order plants now but we need to look for solutions. TTC spent £7,500 last year on bedding plans before watering costs were added. Our floral impact is still necessary but at lower cost. We had received a cost of provision of bedding plants for each of the gardens, but we really needed to look

at the type of plant and individual cost of each plant to see if the cost could be reduced.

Cllr Blackhall commented that TTC would soon be agreeing its budget for the year. We needed to commit to continue to support the provision of bedding plants but agreed that cost reduction would be needed to be considered in detail.

Cllr Hallett said historically there had been sponsorship of flowerbeds by businesses and organisations. Cllr. Mrs. Lane commented that The Freemasons very kindly sponsor the War Memorial gardens and the Lions sponsor the Green.

Cllr Blackhall said we must commit now in advance of our budget preparation. Cllr Mrs Skyrme-Blackhall seconded the proposal.

RESOLVED

That TTC commit to include expenditure on the town's floral displays in their budget for 2020/21 at this year's budget level and enter into negotiations with suppliers.

268. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved that the next meeting will take place on Tuesday, 26th November 2019 at 7.30 pm.

269. TO PROPOSE ANY ITEM FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

Groynes at South Beach – Cllr. Mrs. Skyrme-Blackhall

270. 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"

271. TO CONFIRM THE PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES OF THE TENBY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD 15th OCTOBER 2019

Resolved that the Private and Confidential Minutes of the Tenby Town Council meeting held 29th October 2019 be confirmed and signed as accurate.

272. MATTERS ARISING FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Tenby Tourist Information Centre

The Clerk informed members that Mr Ashley-Jones had been informed of the resolution of the previous meeting.

RESOLVED

That the Clerk be authorised to engage the necessary legal advice in relation to lease negotiations over Tenby TIC with PCC.

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

- a. To consider tenders for the contract for the erection, dismantling and maintenance of Tenby’s Christmas Lighting Displays for 2021/22/23

Three enquiries were received with two tenders being returned. These were opened by the Clerk in the presence of members.

RESOLVED

That the contract for the erection, maintenance and dismantling of Tenby’s Christmas Lighting displays for the next three years be offered to G and I Roofing and PSE Electrical.

Mayor _____

Town Clerk _____

Date _____