

TENBY TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE TENBY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD
16th April 2019

PRESENT: Councillor Mrs S Lane Mayor
Councillor Mrs C Brown
Councillor Mr P Rapi
Councillor Mr L Blackhall
Councillor Mr M Evans
Councillor Mr T Brown
Councillor Mrs T Rossiter
Councillor Mrs S Skyrme-Blackhall
Councillor Mrs T Evans
Councillor Mr T Hallett
Councillor Mr V Perry

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

462. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Cllr Mr W Crockford. The Clerk then read a letter of resignation from Mrs S Williams. The Mayor said it was a shame and that she had worked closely with Mrs Thomas for a while on SEPCHN. The Clerk asked Councillors if all were happy for him to start the process of declaring a vacancy. Members agreed.

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

Cllr Mrs Rossiter declared her personal interest in item 12.

464. TO AGREE ITEMS OF CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMITTEE MINUTES OTHER THAN THOSE MARKED NOT FOR PUBLICATION BEING GIVEN TO MEMBERS OF THE PRESS PRESENT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 Mr Hallett 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That items of Correspondence and Committee Minutes other than those items marked Not for Publication be given to members of the Press present.

465. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Resolved that the Minutes of the Tenby Town Council meeting held 2nd April 2019 be amended at paragraph 2, item 458a to read ‘This presents the right way forward’ then confirmed and signed as accurate.

466. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES FOR INFORMATION ONLY

435. Tenby Market Facade

Cllr Mr Evans told Councillors that Mr Sullivan, PCC had met builders at the market.

451 b. Mrs R Batchelor – Disabled Access, Tenby

The Clerk told Councillors that he had yet to receive a reply from the Pembrokeshire Access Group but that Mr A Hunt, PCC Access Officer was happy to come to a Council meeting anytime to talk to Councillors. Access to a beach wheelchair 24/7 and storage were previous problems raised as this was looked into some years ago. Cllr Mrs Skyrme-Blackhall asked where Saundersfoot store the beach wheelchair and it is believed to be stored at the Harbour Commissioners office. Members wondered if there would be any storage available at the harbour. Could we write to PCC and ask if they could offer a facility asked the Mayor. Cllr Mr Hallett seconded the proposal.

RESOLVED

That PCC be asked if there was a suitable location around the harbour to store a beach accessible wheelchair.

458. a. Town Walls Preservation Project Terms of Reference

Cllr Mrs Rossiter offered her congratulations to Cllr Mr Perry on the Report and is looking forward to seeing the formation of a Trust. However, she reminded Councillors that Cllr Mr Perry was only tasked with looking into the formation of a Trust. Cllr. Perry explained that in looking into setting up of a Trust, he needs to look at how much work was required, funding the Constitution and Management. He had little initial understanding of the requirements and meetings organised with the Stakeholders was an attempt to gain this understanding.

He was not rushing into creating a Trust as it was important to create a Constitution on what the Trust would be and how it would be managed. This could not be established until complexities over ownership and maintenance of the Town walls were determined.

Cllr Mrs Brown felt it is difficult to understand the complexities of setting up a Trust and it would take time to draw up things like a Constitution. She also felt a Regeneration Team meeting is needed to input into this process.

She was grateful that Cllr M Perry has taken this on and stressed that this would be a long haul. The position on setting up a Trust will be revealed on completion of Cllr. Perry's investigation.

Cllr Mr Blackhall said we are dealing with years of neglect. For a number of years we had been asking for the latest CADW Report on the condition of the walls but nothing had been forthcoming.

He totally understands the frustrations and it is valuable to engage in a scoping exercise, the awareness of virtually no resources and not a huge interest from CADW in past. However we need to understand the scope and what is included is it the Town Walls from the Esplanade to White Lion Street or does it include all around Castle Hill. It needs in depth analysis.

Cllr Blackhall told Councillors that Cllr Hallett has probably forgotten more about the Town Walls than he will ever know. Former Councillor, Mrs Thomas would be a good person to contact and may be get a group of folk together to tap in to their knowledge base.

Cllr Mr Perry is to speak with a representative from Pembroke Town Walls Trust. While preservation is separate to lighting, if we get it right this can be integrated collectively. Cllr Mr Perry had thrown the net wide in relation to discovering all the relevant stakeholders and has recently met with Mrs Thomas. Also he would have attended the Civic Society meeting last Saturday had he known about it.

He had met Civic Society chair Tudor Thomas in the office and he is one on the target list. He would be approaching all stakeholders who are interested but all is still investigatory at this stage.

Cllr Mr Perry then read a piece from 'Tenby through Time' dated 22nd May 1998 in which Town Councillors' concerns over the Town Walls were raised.

467. TO CONSIDER TO REPORT OF THE MEETING WITH PEMBROKESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL TO DISCUSS TENBY TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE HELD 29TH MARCH 2019

Members were glad there has been a stay of execution. The Clerk had received an email in response to questions raised after the meeting including costs incurred by other town councils and staff salaries and this information will be available to Councillors at the next meeting.

The Mayor said we needed to have views and ideas ready for the next meeting with PCC to look at ways of generating enough money to keep TIC.

Cllr Mrs Brown said a meeting is needed as soon as possible.

Cllr Mr Blackhall agreed, the boats will be back in the water before you know it, time is limited and positive ideas are needed as there will need to be an awful lot of cups of coffee sold to keep it open otherwise. We needed to all look creatively as to how to maintain the facility.

Cllr Evans felt we needed a strategy. PCC's strategy is to close the TIC, the ball is now in our court. It is entirely up to us to move forward.

Cllr Mr Perry felt the biggest concern is loss of expertise, salaries were £45,000 without the cost of running the facility. He wondered about looking at the location, suggesting the museum may be a suitable place.

Cllr Mrs Evans was at the meeting and feels that the current location is the perfect place. The museum was not viable as access was limited. The TIC is currently next to the bus station, the car park and Sainsbury's. She felt the meeting was very positive and we now needed to find a way forward.

The Mayor agreed the current location is perfect and that it is one we were not looking to change. Cllr Mr Perry suggested Augustus Place but Cllr. Mrs. Skyrme-Blackhall also felt also that the current location is ideal. The building was purpose built and relatively new.

Cllr Mrs Brown asked if TTC could gain grant funding that perhaps PCC would not be able to access.

Cllr Mr Evans said that on the 1st October 2019 the TIC will close if there is still a £45K shortfall. If TTC raised the precept by £45K to cover this it would stay open but where are hotel owners and other tourism stakeholders? All these benefit, this is not just a TTC problem to resolve. We need to ask what the minimum service we require would be. PCC have a strategy, we need one too.

The Mayor pointed out that this was why an open meeting was initially called. Another was needed. Cllr Mrs Evans also asked for a meeting as soon as possible. We could look at the opening hours prior to the meeting to decide what minimum was needed.

The Mayor suggested inviting Kiln Park, Folly Farm, Heatherton etc to the meeting. They were the big stakeholders in the area and they were signposted as attractions by the TIC.

Cllr Mr Blackhall said there is no wish to waste Paul Ashley-Jones's time until we have options to put forward - realistically the town and tourism sector needed a serious and honest conversation. He said if we were to imagine there was no TIC in town, would we be looking to open one.

He said TTC will work with all to support the scheme with Cllrs. Hallett and Perry both pointing out that not all visitors are keen on using the internet to glean holiday information, many still like the personal contact.

RESOLVED

That a meeting with local tourism sector stakeholders be arranged as soon as possible to discuss the issue further.

468. TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND TO AGREE ACTION IN RESPONSE TO PROPOSALS

The Mayor asked if items A and B could be taken together as they related to the same property. Cllr Mrs Rossiter proposed that they be taken together and Cllr Mr Brown seconded the proposal

- a. NP/19/0126/FUL – Alteration of third floor sash window to French door, involving vertical enlargement of wall opening. Addition of Juliet balcony – Flat 3 Gunfort Mansions, Cresswell Street, Tenby
- b. NP/19/0125/LBA – Replacement of window with French doors and Juliet balcony. Replacement of bay windows to side and front elevations. Adjustment of location of gas pipe. Internal reconfiguration - Flat 3 Gunfort Mansions, Cresswell Street, Tenby

While he had no objection to the application Cllr Blackhall felt that the building stood out as one of the few unpainted properties on the sea front. He believed that, unlike many flat complexes, there was no overall management committee and he encouraged all residents of the flats to get together and enhance the building.

RECOMMEND

Approval. Considered against all the relevant policies within the LDP members consider this proposal to be acceptable.

- c. NP/19/0186/FUL – Change of use to holiday let of ancillary residential accommodation – Sea Haze, Heywood Lane, Tenby

Cllr Mrs Skyrme-Blackhall told Councillors that this is already being advertised as a B&B on the roadside and that this is another case of a retrospective application. Cllr Mrs Rossiter said that this had come before Council a while ago for living accommodation. Cllr Mr Blackhall suggested possible 'game playing' describing it as salami planning, slice by slice until the original end goal was achieved. He recommended refusal on the same grounds as that of the previous application in that it would have an adverse effect on neighbours. Cllr Hallett seconded the proposal.

RECOMMEND

Refusal. Considered against all the relevant policies within the LDP, members feel that, while it would be acceptable for this building to be used as ancillary residential accommodation for the main dwelling, they consider its use as a holiday let would have an adverse effect on the amenity of neighbours contrary to Policy 30 of the LDP.

469. TO DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING ITEMS OF CORRESPONDENCE AND AGREE ACTION IN RESPONSE:

- a. Institute of Welsh Affairs – Understanding Welsh Places website (also attached is the information on Tenby on TTC website which may be suitable for submission if amended as over maximum word count)

The Clerk had supplied Councillors with what is written on the Council's website but has been told by the Institute of Welsh Affairs that, while it is on the right lines, it is too long and some areas are subjective when they should be objective. Cllr Mr Perry commented that Tenby has a wealth of history and asked at whom this is targeted. He suggested that more information is needed so that we know who to target. It was felt that the website information met the brief of Understanding Welsh Places and the Clerk was asked to make necessary amendments. Cllr Blackhall commented that 150 words is just not enough to describe Tenby.

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

Cllr Mr Hallett proposed accepting the accounts and Cllr Mr Brown seconded the proposal. The Clerk told Councillors that Mr Broxham will carry on tending the War Graves with the Sea Cadets.

RESOLVED

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

471. TO RECEIVE REPORTS BY COUNCILLORS ON OUTSIDE BODIES

De Valence

Cllr Mrs Brown told Councillors that the lighting rig had now been installed and that the dressing rooms were finished with showers having been installed. There are events every week up until Christmas with some weeks having 3 or 4 events. Events brochures have been printed and are currently being distributed around the county. A monthly comedy club has been set up 'A Barrel of Laughs' with sponsors Templeton Beer and Wine.

Skate Park

Cllr. Mrs. Brown explained that unfortunately the project appeared to be at a standstill at the moment as the committee were unable to find contractors prepared to extend the existing facility. There has been a suggestion that the Battery Gardens be developed as a new skate park and she asked if Tenby Town Council would agree to allow the Skate Park Committee to write to PCC to ask if this site could be used. She added that there is nowhere else with space to house a skate park. The fund raising is going very well with several events coming up and support from both Lions and Round Table. As an individual, Jim Cornwell, the committee treasurer, was one of the biggest fund raisers, having raised over £1,000 with a half-marathon. Anyone interested in joining the committee would be most welcome.

Tenby New Cemetery

Cllr Mrs Skyrme-Blackhall told Councillors that work had started on the new cemetery and that the old train carriage was in the process of being removed. It was hoped all the work would be completed by June. She felt really pleased with the progress being made.

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

None at this time.

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

Nothing to report at this time.

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

Cllr Blackhall told Councillors that there are still blue bins on the South Parade. PCC are aware of this problem but are struggling to find a remedy the Clerk replied. Cllr Mrs Brown added that some properties with internal storage were leaving their bins out on the Parade.

Cllr Mr Blackhall said businesses elsewhere that do not have storage work out how to dispose of their rubbish daily. What would one imagine our iconic walls to look like with blue food waste bins everywhere?

475. UPDATE ON PLASTIC FREE TENBY INITIATIVES

Nothing to report at this time.

476. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON TENBY WALL PRESERVATION PROJECT – CLLR MR PERRY

Cllr Mr Perry offered his thanks for being asked to undertake this project and admitted that it has been a steep learning curve. Members had previously been given his proposed Terms of Reference as he had been struggling with the scope of the project.

He felt it was a 2 tier walls proposal with the multiple agencies involved all having different concepts over the walls. He wondered if the scope should include just the Town Wall or also cover what he termed non-monument walls e.g. the overgrown Brother Thomas's Garden, Dead House Steps, the sea wall and the Croft wall.

Did he trim the Trust's remit or include these? Were we just looking at the monument wall? The Mayor pointed out that the 'monument wall' (from White Lion Street to The Esplanade) should be referred to as Tenby Town Walls as this is what they had always been referred to as historically.

Cllr. Perry said that it appeared that there were some funds in PCC's budget for 2019 to tackle some of the issues raised following Mrs. Thomas's walkabout with Mr. Richard Lawrence last year. He was also to meet with Mr. Richard Tree to ascertain what work was undertaken by him last year in regard to weed removal.

However, this survey had not looked at the interior of the walls. Rob Scourfield had undertaken a review in 2017 but could not lay his hands on the report at the moment.

Cllr. Rapi pointed out that when he had scaffolding on his building he had had a good vantage point over the interior of the walls and he had been shocked to see all the weeds growing on them and air conditioning units and 'junk' nailed to them.

Cllr. Perry said that his research had uncovered a number of issues including question marks over ownership and oversight of legal deeds of those properties backing onto the interior of the walls may be needed to clarify matters.

He added that the different stakeholders, e.g. CADW, PCC and PCNPA had differing views on what constituted the walls and there were three different plans outlining varying remits and how they were referred to legally. Cllr Mrs Skyrme-Blackhall said Tenby Town is framed by walls. Irrespective of how they are termed legally they should be considered to be Tenby Town Walls.

CADW had agreed to undertake a new survey of the walls, but this was only likely to be what they termed the perimeter wall (the 'L' shape down White Lion Street and along the Parades to The Esplanade) and the castle keep.

Members agreed that the whole perimeter, included walls on Castle Hill and near the Lifeboat Station needed attention. Cllr Mr Perry said he had hoped to find routine inspections by PCC under duty of care needs but these did not appear to be being undertaken.

Any Trust needs to establish who is responsible for this, who needs to be involved, who is in control and Cllr. Perry said there was still a lot to be done to gain understanding.

He was meeting with the chair of the Pembroke Town Walls Trust and he had further meetings lined up with PCC. There was still lots to do and he will update members regularly.

Cllr Mrs Brown said that she recalled that when she owned the Prince of Wales CADW did visit the property to ensure that all was in order. Cllr Mr Blackhall said a meeting of the Regeneration Team will be called to make use of expertise and knowledge that may be beneficial to the Project.

477. CONSIDER UNDERTAKING A REVIEW OF PLAY AREA PROVISION IN TENBY AND AGREE ACTION IN RESPONSE TO PROPOSALS – CLR M EVANS

Cllr Mr Evans ask permission to undertake a review of play area provision in the town. Members had seen our finances and he asked if there was a wish to upgrade play parks or even take them on ourselves. We need to safeguard our open spaces

Questions that needed to be asked were a) are you interested in Parks, b) if yes, would you like to be involved and c) which areas?

TTC need to find ways of doing something in the community. He agreed we need to be very careful over monies for the up keep of town and taking on more and more on. Care needs to be taken but perhaps small amounts could be found to start play area projects off.

He was asking TTC for permission to utilise staff time to assist him in undertaking a review. Cllr Mrs Evans said she would like to be involved. Cllr Mr Perry entirely supported the idea and would also like to help

Cllr Mr Rapi commented that TTC had discussed this 5 years ago and one of the issues was the costly insurance and ongoing maintenance. Even if PCC undertake the insurance there are lots of liabilities and we cannot afford to take them all on.

Cllr Mrs Brown felt it was good idea that a review was undertaken although she was concerned over the issue of insurance She felt a large proportion of our precept went to support tourism and we tend to forget local folk on estates.

The Mayor advised to be aware of the cost but had no issues with a review being undertaken with a report back.

RESOLVED

That a review of play area provision in the town be undertaken.

478. TO CONSIDER LONG TERM DREDGING OPTIONS FOR TENBY HARBOUR AND NORTH BEACH AND AGREE ACTION IN RESPONSE TO PROPOSALS – CLLR. BLACKHALL

Cllr Mr Blackhall thanked the Harbour Master and Pembrokeshire County Council in getting some dredging done although it must be recognised that 2 days of south easterly winds were already taking effect. A long term plan was needed for dredging. Do we have plans in place for a long term solution?

He asked if TTC could facilitate a meeting between PCC and a group from the Harbour Users to agree a 3 to 5 year plan so we are not in same situation in the future.

Cllr Mr Rapi agreed that an action plan is needed. He also felt we needed to come up with a plan of action for the South Beach where he felt replacement groins were needed to stop erosion.

Cllr Mrs Brown questioned who a long term action plan would belong to? She agreed with the suggestion to get the relevant people in the room together but TTC should not take it on as TTC could not finance such operations.

Cllr Mr Hallett believes that groins on the South Beach are a waste of time. Wind and tide patterns change and there had been a huge change in the weather in the past 5 years. It is just a matter of time before the South Beach situation righted itself.

Cllr Mrs Brown seconded Cllr. Mr. Blackhall's proposal to facilitate a meeting on the proviso that TTC did not lead.

RESOLVED

That TTC contact PCC to arrange a meeting to discuss future dredging options.

479. TO CONSIDER PUBLIC GARDENS IN TENBY AND AGREE ACTION IN RESPONSE TO PROPOSALS – CLLR. MRS. LANE

The Mayor started by saying that first impressions are vitally important, and more and more this was now becoming the responsibility of Tenby Town Council. We pay for all the bedding plants, although this was partly supported by the Freemasons within the War Memorial Gardens and the Lions in relation to The Green. We were very grateful for such support but the cost of watering the bedding plants was astronomical, particularly now that PCC are looking for full cost recovery. The cost would be £18 per hour just for watering and did not include the actual water costs.

She said that to ensure the funding was sustainable, TTC needed to have a walk about to seriously look at whether we needed to cut the size of flower beds in some area and look at other ways in which the money could be better spent e.g. more tubs to retain water. We were committed this year as the flowers had already been ordered but we needed to look towards next year.

The Mayor also raised the issue of the fence damaged in Gilroy Philip Gardens. This had blown down in January and PCC had no money to replace it. Tenby in Bloom have offered to pay but the quote received was £3,000. She wondered if the Town Council could meet this cost. Cllr. Mrs. Rossiter felt more quotes were needed but the Clerk advised that it would be unfair now to go out to tender as the person submitting the initial quote could be placed at a disadvantage as their price was now in the public domain.

Cllr Mr Hallett suggested we nominate gardens and ask for sponsors. The Mayor believes regular meetings of the Gardens Committee were needed.

Cllr. Perry noted that there was money in Battery Garden enhancement fund, could we not use this for the fence as there was no movement on this project? The Clerk pointed out that this money was Section 106 money from the former Tenby Cottage Hospital site which was specifically provided towards the Battery Gardens.

Cllr Mrs Rossiter, as a member of Tenby in Bloom, said under the circumstances, she would be happy for Tenby in Bloom to pay to renew the fence.

Cllr. Mrs. Brown referred back to earlier in the meeting, pointing out that no decisions had been made in relation to the Skate Park committee's request that the Battery Gardens be considered as a location for additional skate facilities.

The Mayor apologised for not putting this to members earlier and proposed from the Chair that PCC be asked to consider this. She was seconded by Cllr. Blackhall.

RESOLVED

That PCC be asked to consider if the Battery Gardens could be utilised to provide extra skate facilities in the town.

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

None.

481. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved that the next meeting will take place on Friday 3rd May 2019 at 6 pm.

482. 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"

There were no private matters to consider.

Mayor _____

Town Clerk _____

Date _____