

Tenby Civic Society Annual General Meeting

Saturday 17 September 2pm Augustus Place Community Hall

1.Present: Albie Smosarski, Trevor Hallet, Kate Telford, Harry Gardiner, Sue Gardiner, Neil Westerman, Chris Osborne, John Perrett, Jim Cornwell, Lawrence Hourahane, Murray John, Caroline Thomas, Keith Clarke, Gillie Evans.

Apologies: Dr Toni Griffiths, Lorna Bedford, Tudor Thomas, Howard Rawson-Humphries, Edna Greenhalgh, Julie Sutcliffe, Chris Sierwald

2.Minutes of last AGM: Agreed

3.Matters Arising: None

4.Financial Report: the largest costs are for Allens View and the insurance. There is a standing order still going to the Civic Trust and then being refunded, as it needs to be cancelled. The balance in the bank is similar to last year.

5.Annual Report:

Planning: rather than a subcommittee, the whole executive committee has been commenting by email and Harry has been sending in the combined comments. There have been some changes made to plans as a result of Civic Society comments – some architects take notice and others do not.

Allen's View: Richard Reed has been volunteering and making a big difference. Thanks to others as well – Neil W., Anne D. and Chris O. There has been trouble from some local lads moving things around and setting fires etc which poses a risk of damage occurring to the teak benches. It might be possible to put a CCTV camera there using a solar panel and a mobile network connection.

6.Election of Officers: all officers are willing to sit again, with the exception of vice chairman where Neil Westerman was nominated. Unanimously voted in en bloc.

7.Election of Executive Committee members: all nominees voted in unanimously.

8.1 Resolution to raise annual subscriptions by £5 to £12.50 and £15 respectively for email and postal subscription was passed.

8.2 A long discussion was held about the proliferation of second homes in the area, considering the balance between second home owner rights and private renting locals. It was felt that the assembly's suggestion of making a second home a planning requirement was a step in the right direction.

At the moment council tax is raised for locals in Tenby, but there is still a lack of accommodation for locals in Tenby, and Trevor Hallet felt that internet shopping has had an impact on local shops. Caroline Thomas wondered if the flats above shops could be brought back into use.

Chris Osborne felt this could be suggested to the county council as a pro-active policy, and also to encourage the county council to implement measures to make homes available to locals. The Welsh Government is putting forward the possibility of putting second home council tax up by 400% but this would not necessarily be taken up by the county council.

Murray John stated that he is a second home owner as he inherited his family home, and he is now trying to sell due to the rise in council tax. He is an architect and when working in Tenby has been

worried by the bad feeling towards second home owners. He felt that prices were reducing quickly for more expensive houses after the sharp rise during the pandemic. Another second home owner felt that there was a lack of decent pensionable jobs in Pembrokeshire which would help people to be able to live here.

Jim Cornwell said that the population has gone down by 500 and Chris Osborne said that his has a knock-on effect on education provision and more. Caroline Thomas and Harry Gardiner felt a balance needed to be found. There was discussion about the lack of social housing on many of the local redevelopments.

Chris Osborne proposed a resolution to encourage housing for local needs in Tenby, which was passed.

The meeting closed at 3pm.