

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THE BAY OF COLWYN TOWN COUNCIL, HELD IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM, TOWN HALL, RHIW ROAD, COLWYN BAY AT 6.30 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY 30TH SEPTEMBER 2015

PRESENT: The Town Mayor, Cllr Dr S Roy
Cllr D Griffiths (Chairman)
Cllrs J Davies, A Khan, Mrs H Meredith, T Pearson, P Richards,
V Smith, G Ward

OFFICER: Mrs C Earley, Town Clerk

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs Teresa Carnell, Chairman, Colwyn Chamber of Trade

171/15 Welcome & Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs V Perry and S Taylor.

172/15 Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman

Following the recent resignation of Cllr J Reaney, elections took place for the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Committee for 2015/16.

Resolved to elect Cllr D Griffiths as Chairman and Cllr Mrs H Meredith as Vice-Chairman for the remainder of the 2015/16 Municipal year.

173/15 Declarations of Interest:

Members were reminded that they must declare the existence and nature of any personal and/or prejudicial interests. None were declared.

174/15 Visitor to the Council:

The Chairman welcomed Teresa Carnell from the Colwyn Chamber of Trade / Bay of Colwyn Business Network to give a presentation on proposals for Christmas activities and events for 2015 (subject to funding support from the Town Council).

Teresa thanked the Committee for its support for Christmas activities in recent years and reminded members of their request that the Chamber consider different activities this year that would not be affected as much by bad weather. Having given much thought to this request, and following detailed discussions with Ali of the Laundry Studio, a proposal has been drawn up to include three elements: a Christmas Youth Concert, provisionally to be held in the late afternoon on Thursday 3rd December in conjunction with the Twilight Festival and late night shopping event; a Christmas Concert on Saturday 5th December, including soulful classics with a seasonal theme; vintage bus for rides on the Saturdays in the run-up to Christmas (route to be confirmed).

Teresa informed members that the provisional acts had been lined up for the concert,

but that it had been very difficult to find a suitable venue for the date required. St Paul's had been the first choice, but this was already booked. The Interchange is currently keeping the dates available, on a provisional basis, in case a suitable town centre alternative could not be found. A provisional budget for the event was circulated to members, showing the potential cost of the combined events/attractions and possible income sources.

Questions were then invited from members and discussion took place around: preference for a town centre location for the concerts and possible alternatives (Theatr Colwyn and St John's Church); involvement of local businesses in pre and post-concert food and drink offers; potential flexibility by Theatr Colwyn, which has a film showing booked that evening (Sat 5th); budget for the events/activities; ticket pricing (a small fee of £5-£8 is preferable to a free ticket for the main concert, to ensure people who have tickets do attend); possible links to an event currently being sought by the CCBC Events team, which could also bring large numbers into Colwyn Bay one evening that week; the budget included for 'lighting' for the town centre and the possibility of funding this from a surplus in the Christmas Lighting budget for 2015.

Cllr Khan declared a personal and prejudicial interest and retired from the meeting prior to any vote on the contribution from the Town Council, as a member of the Chamber of Trade.

Resolved to:

- a. ***Approve a contribution of £6,000 towards the Chamber of Trade's Christmas activities for 2015, as outlined above, subject to trying to secure Theatr Colwyn or St John's Church for the main concert, in preference to The Interchange (use only as a last resort).***
- b. ***Recommend a contribution of approximately £1,200 from the Christmas Lighting budget towards the lighting element of the bid, subject to further details being provided by Ingrid Lewis.***

Teresa was then thanked by the Committee for attending to outline the Chamber of Trade's proposals and for her hard work in co-ordinating the project and she then retired from the meeting.

175/15 Minutes:

Resolved to approve and sign as a correct record the Minutes of the last meeting, held on 12th August 2015.

176/15 Matters Arising from Previous Meetings:

a. Min 121/15(a) – Transfer of Freehold:

The Clerk gave a brief verbal update, confirming that the transfer of freehold had been completed on 14th September and discussions were ongoing with occupiers regarding responsibility for service provision (e.g. maintenance of fire alarm panel and detection equipment). A copy of the draft matrix outlining service responsibility was circulated to members, for information. It was noted that the boilers and air handling plant had now been serviced and that an electrical

installation inspection is still to be carried out, at CCBC's expense. The Clerk also advised members that some interest had been expressed in some of the vacant space in the rear building and that this would be reported to the next meeting of the Buildings Sub-Committee for consideration.

Resolved to note the report and welcome the update on the transfer of freehold.

b. Min. 121/15(d) – Student Advisors:

The Clerk gave a brief verbal report confirming that one nomination had been received from Ysgol Bryn Elian and that Eirias were awaiting a written role description before appointing its new advisors. The Clerk submitted a draft 'Working Agreement' document, outlining the role of the Student Advisors and responsibilities of the various partners.

Resolved to approve the Working Agreement and authorise this to be sent to the schools and college to help encourage nominations for the 2015/16 academic year.

c. Min. 121/15(e) – Locality / Place Plan:

The Clerk gave a brief verbal update, following a meeting with Shane Wetton, CCBC, to discuss his recent letter about Locality Plans and the links this has (if any) with the Local Area Wellbeing Plans (required to be drawn up by Local Service Boards on the commencement of the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act) and Place Plans introduced by the recent Planning Act. It was noted that a letter is due to be sent out in October to explain more fully what the Locality Plan is and what help will be needed from Town and Community Councils in keeping it updated. It is possible that the projects identified in the Locality Plan may eventually feed into a Place Plan, if and when each area develops one. A separate meeting has been arranged with James Harland (CCBC Planning Policy) to discuss Place Plans and the pilot project in Abergele and any link these may have with the local Area Wellbeing Plan. The Clerk offered to feedback on this at the next meeting.

Resolved to note the Clerk's report and await a further report following the meeting with James Harland.

177/15 Finance / Audit:

- a. *Resolved to authorise payments made on behalf of the Council for the period 25/7/15 to 18/9/15, as detailed on Schedule 'A' attached.*
- b. *Resolved to receive and sign a copy of the latest bank reconciliations.*

178/15 Conwy CBC:

- a. **Bay Life Programme:** Members received a brief verbal report from the Clerk on the Bay Life Officer Group meeting held on 14th September, giving a brief update on each of the Vibrant and Viable Places funded projects. Cllr Khan informed

members that the Colwyn Bay members were having a meeting with the Officers regarding the Office Accommodation Strategy and that it was important to keep in mind the positive impacts this project will have on the town centre.

- b. Colwyn Business Improvement District:** The Clerk gave a brief verbal update on progress, informing members that the BID would be going before CCBC Cabinet in October to seek support for the ballot (in respect of CCBC estate within the BID area), which is expected to now go ahead in November. The Clerk also submitted for approval draft Baseline statements, which had been requested from the Town Council to confirm the service it currently provides in respect of CCTV, Christmas Lighting, Floral Decorations (through Colwyn in Bloom) and Events. Members were informed that these are requested of the Town and County Council to set on record the existing service levels to ensure that these are not reduced/withdrawn in the future in the potential BID area disproportionately to areas outside of the BID but within the Council's area.

Resolved to note the report from the Clerk and approve the content of the Baseline Statements.

179/15 Welsh Government:

The Clerk submitted, for consideration, the following recent Welsh Government Consultation/Guidance documents:

- a. Shared Purpose: Shared Future – Draft Statutory Guidance for the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act**

The Clerk highlighted the key areas of the guidance applicable to Town and Community Councils, as follows:

The Public Services Board (PSB) will be responsible for the preparation and publishing of a local well-being plan in the 12 months following the next local elections (May 2017). Prior to this, it will need to undertake an assessment of the economic, social and cultural well-being of its area. The Local well-being plan will include individual assessment of 'community areas', which will be determined by the PSB, and set out objectives to maximise participants' collective contribution. During this process, there will be a requirement to engage with key partners, which will include town and community councils.

As it will be subject to S40 of the Act, the Bay of Colwyn Town Council must then form its own judgement of what steps it would be reasonable for it to take towards meeting the local objectives in its area, on the basis of its own knowledge and consideration of the circumstances and characteristics of its area. It will also need to publish a report for each relevant financial year, detailing the progress it has made in meeting the objectives contained in the local well-being plan. A useful flowchart to illustrate this is included in page 9 of the SPSF4 – Collective Role (Community Councils) document.

It was noted that the Clerk has registered to attend a consultation workshop in Llandudno on 4th November.

Resolved to note the consultation documents and to await a further report from the Clerk following the consultation event in November.

180/15 Town Council Vacancy:

- a. The Clerk submitted a copy of the public notice in respect of the vacancy in Eirias Ward and members were asked to decide, if the election is contested, whether or not to issue poll cards. A quote has been received from CCBC for £483.00 plus mileage for the hand delivery of poll cards to Eirias Ward (£1,069 by royal mail).

A discussion took place around the need to raise awareness about the election and the ability of poll cards to help do this. It was also noted that the turnout at the last Town Council bi-election, where poll cards had not been issued, had been very low and electors had complained that they did not know about it.

Resolved to authorise the issue of hand delivered poll cards for the election in Eirias ward, should it be contested, at an estimated cost of £483, plus mileage.

- b. The Clerk notified members that a letter of resignation had now been received for Rhos Ward and a vacancy had therefore been declared. An estimate of the poll card costs for Rhos Ward was tabled for members to consider, should an election be called and be contested.

Resolved to apply the same policy to Rhos Ward and authorise the hand delivery of poll cards, should there be a contested election, at an estimated cost of £756 plus mileage.

181/15 SLCC - Training:

Resolved to take this item earlier in the agenda, at the request of Cllr J Davies.

The Clerk submitted a request for the Committee to authorise her attendance at day one of the October 2015 SLCC National Conference, at a cost of £95 (with the suggestion that additional cost of dinner will be paid for by the Clerk).

Resolved to authorise the Clerk's attendance at the training event and also payment of the additional costs for dinner.

- Cllr J Davies retired from the meeting at this juncture.

The Clerk then tabled a copy of an article from the recent SLCC Clerk magazine, giving guidance on the new requirement from the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales for Town and Community Councils to publish annually details of members allowances. A draft copy of the proposed publication of Members' Allowances for 2014/15 was tabled by the Clerk for approval.

Resolved to approve the draft document confirming the allowances and expenses paid to members during 2014/15 for publication.

182/15 Building Maintenance:

- a. The Clerk submitted, for information, a copy of the draft matrix detailing the responsibilities for provision of services and confirming the method for the recharge of repairs and maintenance invoices to occupiers of the site.

Resolved to receive and note the draft matrix.

- b. The Clerk submitted a quotation from the Council's existing contractor, Hamilton Security Systems, for repairs to one of the Town Hall CCTV cameras, at a cost of £170 plus VAT.

Resolved to authorise the repairs.

183/15 Pensions and Automatic Enrolment:

- a. The Clerk submitted notice of the Annual Meeting of the Gwynedd Pension Fund and it was noted that a full copy of the annual report is available on request from the Clerk.
- b. The Clerk submitted notice from the Pension Regulator of the Council's staging date for automatic enrolment (1 October 2016) and informed the Committee that this would only affect one member of the Council's current staff, who would then receive a letter to advise them of their right to join a pension scheme.

Resolved to receive and note the correspondence.

184/15 One Voice Wales / NALC:

The Clerk submitted a copy of a recent legal briefing and the updated model financial regulations and standing orders. Members were advised that the Council's current documents needed updating.

Resolved to delegate authority to the Clerk to draft updates to both of these documents, clearly detailing any amendments, for approval by the Council.

185/15 Grants:

- a. It was noted that letters of thanks, reports or evaluations have been received from the following grant recipients:
 - i. Rhos Utd Junior FC (PB Grant)
 - ii. Uke-a-Bay (Event grant)
 - iii. CCBC Playday (Event grant)
 - iv. Homestart (2014/15 large grant)
 - v. THI – Twilight Festival (Event grant)
 - vi. NWAMI Interculture 2015 (Event grant)
- b. The Clerk submitted, for consideration, the draft Information Sheet and Application Form for 2015/16 PB Youth Grants. Members were asked to approve these for release and to agree the launch date and any publicity needed.

Resolved to approve these documents for release and to publicise the launch of the grant scheme through use of the council's website and social media, the new Student Advisors, the local press and posters on public notice boards.

- c. The Clerk submitted, for consideration, three small grant applications received during the current quarter, as detailed on Schedule 'B' attached.

Resolved to recommend the payment of grants, as detailed on that Schedule.

186/15 Additional Urgent Correspondence:

The following additional items of correspondence were tabled, with the permission of the Chairman:

a. North & Mid Wales Association of Local Councils:

Cllr H Meredith advised members that the Association had requested that its member Councils consider which services they may wish to take over from County Councils, for discussion at a future Association meeting.

Resolved to refer this request to the next meeting of the full Council for consideration.

b. Local Members Ward Allowances:

The Clerk tabled a project proposal form from Cllr H Meredith, seeking approval for up to £200 to cover the cost of hiring a skip from CCBC for residents in Rhiw ward to dispose of household items.

Resolved to approve the project proposal from Cllr Meredith.

The meeting closed at 8:20pm

..... Chairman