

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BAY OF COLWYN TOWN COUNCIL, HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, RHIW ROAD, COLWYN BAY, AT 6.30 P.M. ON MONDAY 1ST DECEMBER 2014

PRESENT: The Mayor, Cllr Mrs V Smith, JP
Cllrs: W Bagnall; J Davies; Mrs L Edwards; R Foreman;
Mrs L Griffiths; C Hughes; Mrs M Jones; A Khan; Mrs H Meredith
(See Min. 261/14); J Pearson (see Min. 261/14); Mrs V Perry;
D Porter; J Reaney; P Richards; Dr S Roy; S Taylor; C Wood MBE

OFFICER: Mrs C J Earley

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs Cath Richards, Benefits Manager, CCBC
Several members of the public and press.

258/14 Apologies for Absence:

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs: N Bastow; D Griffiths; T Pearson;
C Perry; G Ward.

259/14 Announcements:

The Mayor announced that an invitation had been received for all Members to attend a holocaust memorial event in Llandudno on 25th January 2015, and that Cllrs D & G Griffiths had resigned from the Christian Party of Wales and were now independent members of the Council.

260/14 Declarations of Interest:

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

261/14 Visitor to the Council:

The Mayor welcomed Cath Richards, Benefits Manager, CCBC, to give an update on the current welfare reforms.

- Cllrs J Pearson and H Meredith arrived during the presentation.

A Powerpoint presentation was given by Mrs Richards providing an update on the Welfare Reforms introduced in 2013/14 affecting Housing Benefit, Council Tax Benefit (now the Council Tax Reduction Scheme), changes to the Single Fraud Investigation Service and the introduction of Real Time Information. Mrs Richards then went on to outline the proposed introduction of the Universal Credit from mid-2015 (beginning with single unemployed people), which will comprise of a single monthly payment including housing costs, and the actions being taken to mitigate/reduce the impact of this, where possible.

A question and answer session followed the presentation and concerns/queries were

raised about the following: how people would manage during the change from weekly to monthly payments; the lack of appropriate housing stock; whether any emergency funding is available to alleviate effects; possible increases to the 'discretionary housing payments' budget; availability of PC access for claimants; assistance for disabled tenants requiring room for equipment and/or carers; level of arrears required to prompt direct rent payments to landlords.

Mrs Richards was thanked for attending to give her informative presentation and she then retired from the meeting.

262/14 Minutes:

- a. Resolved to receive, approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of:**
 - i. A meeting of the Council, held on 13th October 2014.*
 - ii. A Special Meeting, held on 21st October 2014.*
- b. Resolved to receive a copy of the minutes of the following meetings:**
 - i. The General Purpose & Planning Committee, held on 21st October 2014.*
 - ii. The Policy & Finance Committee, held on 12th November 2014 (Draft)*
 - iii. The General Purposes & Planning Committee, held on 18th November 2014 (Draft)*

263/14 Matters Arising from Those Minutes:

- a. Resolved to endorse the recommendations of the Committees, as detailed in the following Minutes:**
 - i. Min. 232/14 – CCTV: To approve a contribution of £8,992 towards maintenance costs in 2015/16.*
 - ii. Min. 234/14 – WG Consultations: To consider the consultation documents deferred at the P&F meeting (copies previously circulated).*
 - iii. Min. 241/14 – Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales: To adopt all draft determinations for 2015/16, except those relating to the £100 allowance for members costs and the 'Attendance Allowance' for attending approved duties outside the area.*
 - iv. Min. 243/14 – Small Grants: To refuse an application from Sure Hope Church, due to balances held.*
 - v. Min. 243/14(c)(i) – Chamber of Trade Christmas Activities: To endorse approval of a grant of £6,000.
Further resolved that all bodies receiving grants from the Town Council will be required to acknowledge this support in any promotional and/or other appropriate literature.*
 - vi. Min. 243/14(c)(ii) – Rhos Prom Clock: To approve a contribution of £600 for service/repairs to the clock.*
 - vii. Min. 247/14(a) – Asset Based Community Development Worker: To work in partnership to seek funding for the proposal.*

- b. Resolved to note the resolutions of the Committees, as detailed in the Minutes.**

264/14 Colwyn Victoria Pier:

It was noted that the HLF Round One application was submitted on 30th November

and that a copy would be circulated to all members electronically.

The Meeting Closed at 7.20 p.m.

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