

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE GENERAL PURPOSE AND PLANNING COMMITTEE OF THE BAY OF COLWYN TOWN COUNCIL, HELD AT 6.30PM ON TUESDAY 17TH MARCH 2015, IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM, TOWN HALL, RHIW ROAD, COLWYN BAY

PRESENT: Cllr D Porter (Chairman)
Cllrs N Bastow, Mrs L Griffiths, Mrs M Jones, S Williams, C Wood

OFFICER: Mrs C J Earley, Town Clerk
Mr I Carrie, Street Lighting Manager, Conwy CBC

398/14 Apologies for Absence:

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs: W Bagnall; L Edwards; R Foreman; J Pearson; S Roy

399/14 Declarations of Interest:

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

400/14 Visitor:

The Chairman welcomed Ian Carrie, CCBC Street Lighting Manager, to respond to the Town Council's queries about the lamp column replacement programme.

Mr Carrie advised members that the funding CCBC had previously received through the Local Government Borrowing Initiative to replace 'at risk' concrete street-lighting columns had now ended and the capital budget for the coming year was just £250,000. A five year rolling testing programme results in prioritising column replacement using scores of 1-5, where 1 requires replacement and 5 is structurally OK. This follows the Institute of Lighting Professionals' inspection programme and columns are re-inspected as required (i.e. after 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 years). If no funding is available to replace category 1 columns, then they may have to be removed on safety grounds. Members were advised that most of the concrete columns in Colwyn Bay had been 'sleeved' to prevent concrete spoil. These are, therefore, not a high priority for replacement.

Funding is also being used to change lanterns to the new lower energy white light type, in an effort to meet carbon reduction targets of -25%. However, complaints have been received about some of the lower wattage lanterns and these will have to be boosted (from 11W to 18W). This programme is funded from borrowing, which is then repaid from the savings in the cost of electricity. The cost is approximately £1,000 per column and takes around 6.5 years to repay.

Members were invited to ask questions and a discussion followed regarding whether some street lighting could be switched off during the night, such as those at Porth Eirias. Mr Carrie advised that some lighting could be dimmed to 50%, but that it is not current Council policy to switch off lighting and complaints/claims have followed

in some of the Counties where this has been trialled – there is a liability issue.

Questions also arose about: whether there is any funding for replacing road signage (IC is only responsible for illuminated signs, but regulations are changing and some of these may be able to be switched off); whether reflective signage could be used to save the costs of lighting signs (a rolling programme to do this is underway); what the total energy consumption per annum is for street lighting, together with the average lighting hours (around 19% of the total CCBC annual consumption is for street lighting, with over 16,800 street lamps across the County).

Resolved to recommend that a letter is sent to CCBC to request a review of street lighting levels, including in public places such as Porth Eirias, with any savings to be used for reinvestment in street lighting and/or a reduction in council tax.

Mr Carrie responded that the number of complaints that had been received from the public when lanterns were changed to a lower wattage had been phenomenal.

He was then thanked for attending by the Chairman and he retired from the meeting.

401/14 Minutes:

Resolved to approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the last meeting, held on 24th February 2015.

402/14 Matters Arising from Previous Minutes:

a. Min. 323/14(b) – Parking Charges Review:

The Clerk submitted an e-mail response from Andrew Wilkinson, ERF, Conwy CBC, confirming that a study will be undertaken into the feasibility of introducing a controlled parking zone on Colwyn Bay promenade. This will take into consideration a number of factors, including existing and projected demand, impact on trade and displacement of parking into residential streets, before making any recommendation.

Resolved to receive and note the response.

b. Min 375/14(a) – Eirias Boating Lake:

The Clerk informed members that the Bay Life Officers Group had met yesterday and she had been informed that the bid for funding for improvement works had not been successful.

Resolved to contact John Hardy to ask for a further update.

c. Min. 375/14(b) – Colwyn Leisure Centre:

The Clerk submitted information on the Colwyn Bay Health Care & Wellbeing Project and it was noted that a visit to the Centre for Members of the Town Council to hear about future developments had been arranged for 6pm on

Wednesday 1st April.

Resolved to receive and note the information.

d. Min. 385/14 (d) – Conservation Area Advisory Panel:

The Clerk gave a brief verbal report from the Clerk on the Meeting held on 4th March 2015 (minutes awaited), informing members that, after some debate, the planning application by CCBC to demolish the Pier had not been supported.

403/14 Conwy CBC:

The Clerk submitted:

- a. Notice of a Traffic Regulation Order to introduce changes to speed limits on A547 Old Colwyn to Llanddulas.
- b. Pictures of the new tarmac area and gate at Tan Lan Play area.

Resolved to receive and note these items of correspondence.

- c. It was noted that no report had been received from any member(s) who attended the Communities First ‘Wake up to Well Being’ event information sessions.

404/14 North Wales Joint Local Transport Plan:

Members were asked to consider the North Wales Joint Local Transport Plan, submitted by the Clerk.

Resolved to receive the Plan and welcome the priorities identified within it for the Bay of Colwyn area, which include the Colwyn Bay Waterfront Strategy phase 3 (Old Colwyn), Colwyn Bay Station interchange improvements and the Active Travel Route old Colwyn to Rhos NCR 5 improvements./

405/14 North Wales Health Study:

The Clerk submitted a copy of a letter from the Executive Director of Strategy, BCUHB, to the North & Mid Wales Association of Local Councils expressing interest in the results of the recent survey.

406/14 Local Democracy and Boundary Commission:

Resolved to receive the spring newsletter.

407/14 War Memorial:

The Clerk informed Members that she had received a report about damage (graffiti) on the memorial and that arrangements had been made for this to be cleaned off the next day. A site visit confirmed that it had just been chalk drawings by very young children and not vandalism, as first feared. No charge had been made by the cleaning company.

Resolved to note and endorse the action taken.

408/14 Conwy Bean Timebank:

The Clerk submitted an information sheet about the scheme, which is scheduled to launch in May 2015. Members were asked to consider and approve draft content for the Town Council's 'Bean Host' page on the Conwy Bean website, giving a link to the Town Council's own website where information regarding any volunteering opportunities, e.g. in connection with events would be posted.

The Clerk also informed members that the Town Council would be given 15 standing tickets to allocate for the Vamps Access all Eirias Concert on 7th June and it was suggested that, if the Timebank was launched in time, these could be offered to bean participants in return for 5 beans (one bean per hour).

Resolved to recommend that the Town Council offers to distribute the fifteen standing tickets to bean participants, at the rate of 5 beans per ticket (equivalent to 5 hours).

409/14 Ageing Well in Wales:

The Clerk submitted a copy of the Ageing Well Newsletter-issue 1 and it was noted that no report is available as yet from Cllr Mrs Roy, who attended the first network event.

410/14 Other Correspondence:

It was noted that the following items of correspondence are available on request from the Clerk:

- a. Llandudno & Colwyn Bay Tramway Society – March 2015 newsletter
- b. Conwy Access Group – minutes of a meeting held on 17/2/15
- c. Flyer for Armed Forces Day – to be held in Eirias Park, Colwyn Bay on 20/6/15 from 10am to 5pm.

411/14 Planning:

- a. The Clerk submitted, for consideration, the planning applications received from CCBC, as detailed on Schedule 'A' attached.

Resolved to submit observations on these applications, as detailed on that schedule.

- b. *Resolved to receive a summary of the Planning Decisions recently issued by CCBC.*
- c. *Resolved to receive a copy of Planning News - Positive Planning - Planning For a Better Future (newsletter).*

- d. On-Shore Wind Turbine Development Supplementary Planning Guidance:**
The Clerk submitted notification of the consultation.

412/14 Licensing Applications:

The Clerk tabled notice of one recent licensing application.

The Meeting Closed at 7.45 p.m.

..... Chairman