

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE GENERAL PURPOSE AND PLANNING COMMITTEE OF THE BAY OF COLWYN TOWN COUNCIL, HELD AT 6.30PM ON TUESDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2015, IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM, TOWN HALL, RHIW ROAD, COLWYN BAY**

**PRESENT:** Cllr D Porter (Chairman)  
Cllrs W Bagnall, N Bastow, Mrs L Edwards, R Foreman, Mrs L Griffiths, Mrs M Jones, J Pearson (Tree Warden), Mrs S Roy, C Wood

**OFFICER:** Mrs C Earley, Town Clerk

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Mr John Hardy and Ms Caroline Jones, CCBC Leisure Service  
Several members of the public

**373/14 Apologies for Absence:**

Apologies for absence were received from The Mayor, Cllr Mrs V Smith; Cllrs: C Perry & S Williams.

**374/14 Declarations of Interest:**

Members were reminded that they must declare the existence and nature of any personal and/or prejudicial interests.

Cllr D Porter declared a personal (non-prejudicial) interest in agenda item 6, as an employee of CCBC.

**375/14 Visitors:**

The Chairman welcomed Caroline Jones and John Hardy from Conwy County Borough Council Leisure Services to address the Committee regarding:

**a. The Future of Eirias Boating Lake**

Caroline Jones, Leisure Development Officer, outlined the background to the review into the future use of the lake, which had resulted from an approach by the Model Boating Club which has to vacate the Civic Centre site. A number of other potential user groups were identified, which included Colwyn Canoe Club, Colwyn Watersports, Bay of Colwyn Bonfire Committee, Colwyn Environment Federation and a private venture. Following discussion with these groups, a number of common themes were identified, including concern about weed growth, a desire for more community use of the lake, environmental impact of proposed activities and the possibility of new pontoon(s).

The initial report and recommendations were put before the Eirias Board Meeting in January and it was agreed to line the lake and look to incorporate a separate environmental area, which would result in the annual bonfire needing to be relocated. This was subject to the agreement of the user groups and the identification of funding.

Since this meeting, discussions have taken place with WREN regarding funding

and an application was also submitted for £50,000 of Welsh Government Vibrant and Viable Places monies, which has been successful. This has to be spent by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015 and it is intended to use it for lining the lake.

Questions were then invited from Members and the following points were raised: What would happen to the annual bonfire? – this would depend on the extent of liner used in the lake, but alternative sites outside of the lake may need to be considered; concerns that re-lining the lake would not provide a sustainable solution, as it would continue to silt up again, and that the previously discussed gabion to separate a wildlife area and hold back silt in the shallow southern end of the lake would provide a better longer term solution; concern about not being able to use machinery to clear the bottom of the lake if a liner is used; the possibility of using an electronic device instead to inhibit weed growth, which would require the installation of a power supply to the lake; whether pedalos etc could be reinstated – CCBC currently have 5 which are usable and could be offered to a community venture if a suitable opportunity arose.

The Chairman suspended Standing Orders during the course of this discussion to allow several members of the public to contribute.

There was general agreement from those present at the meeting (including the public) that the proposed liner would not prevent the weed growth which currently limits use of the lake and that a better solution was needed.

***Resolved to ask that CCBC considers using the current funding to clear out the current weeds/silt, install a rock gabion wall to provide a wildlife area at the southern end of the lake and install a power supply to enable the electronic weed inhibitor to be trialled.***

**b. Concerns about the Deteriorating Condition of Colwyn Leisure Centre:**

Mr Hardy began by stating that CCBC is absolutely committed to both Colwyn Leisure Centre and Eirias Park, which play a central part in the regeneration strategy for Colwyn Bay. He announced that a commitment of almost £1m had been given for enhancements to the centre, in collaboration with Social Services and the Health Board. This would see improvements over the next 6 months to the ‘health precinct’ to bring together a range of health professionals on-site with the aim of using physical activity to manage chronic disease. This will include an increase in the activity space in the south-western corner of the centre and increasing the capacity of the stadium for events from 15,000 to 25,000.

He then addressed the specific concern about maintenance needed in the pool, which he accepts has gone on too long. Assurances were given that this would be tackled early in the new financial year. He added that the centre is very important for community engagement in sport and use by the schools.

Questions were invited from members and the following was discussed: Whether commercial providers could provide funding for improvements to the facilities – this could be possible, but would impact negatively on poverty and education, with an unacceptable level of exclusivity; whether the maintenance

budget has been cut in recent years – yes, leisure budget reduced by 5 to 7% p.a. over past 4 years; drainage work needed across the whole park; the need for play equipment for younger children nearer the skate park – will speak with mothers in the flying start pod to seek their views.

Mr Hardy and Ms Jones were then thanked for attending and giving their presentations and Mr Hardy offered to give Members a tour of the facility to outline the proposed enhancements.

***Resolved to request that the Clerk contacts Mr Hardy to make arrangements for the Committee to visit the facility to hear more about the proposed enhancements.***

**376/14 Minutes:**

- a. ***Resolved to approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the last meeting, held on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2015.***
- b. ***Resolved to receive the draft Minutes of a meeting of the Bonfire Sub-Committee, held on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2015.***

**377/14 Matters Arising from Previous Minutes:**

**a. Min. 271/14 – Ageing well in Wales:**

It was noted that Cllr Mrs Roy would attend the network event on 17<sup>th</sup> March and would report back to a future meeting of the Committee.

**b. Min. 247/14(a) – Asset Based Community Development:**

The Clerk gave a brief verbal update, following a recent meeting with Libby Duo and Shane Wetton. It was noted that Communities First will help to write a funding bid which can be used as and when suitable funding pots are identified. It was also noted that a base may be available in 10 Greenfield Road, should funding be found.

***Resolved to note the update from the Clerk.***

**c. Min. 323/14(d) – Skater Sculpture:**

The Clerk submitted a response from Peter Barton-Price confirming that the sculpture is unfortunately beyond repair. The response was noted.

**378/14 Conwy CBC:**

- a. **Pwllcrochan Woods Discovery Trail:** The Clerk submitted information about the discovery trail.
- b. **Temporary Traffic Regulation:** The Clerk submitted notice of a request for a temporary traffic regulation for the St David's Day Parade on 27/02/2015.

*Resolved to receive the notice.*

- c. **Min y Don Bowling Club:** The Clerk submitted plans for excavation works at Min y Don Bowling Club.

*Resolved to respond that the Committee has no objection to the works.*

- d. **Colwyn Avenue Parking Restrictions:** The Clerk submitted a proposal by Cllr Foreman that CCBC Highways be requested to alter parking restrictions on Colwyn Avenue, Rhos on Sea, to allow parking on the southern side of the road. The Clerk referred members to a response from a Highways Officer outlining the main reason for the restriction, which is to enable delivery vehicles to park without affecting traffic flow.
- e. **Bay Life Officer Group:** The Clerk gave a brief verbal report on a recent meeting of the Bay Life Officer Group, with particular reference to year one VVP deadlines (for invoicing), the Wales Index of Multiple Deprivation, the GB High Street award, Masterplan Review, Colwyn Bay Market, Colwyn BID and Ideas, People and Places feedback (bid declined).
- f. **Trolibocs:** The Clerk tabled an enquiry/concern from Cllr John Reaney, asking if members had received any complaints about the new trolibocs blowing over and if anyone knew the CCBC policy/procedures for dealing with these incidents.

It was noted that several other members had been made aware of concerns, some of which related to boxes not being stacked again once collected/emptied (probably to reduce the possibility of blowing over) or to bulk collections from flats etc, which require different vehicles.

*Resolved to write to CCBC to mention these concerns and query the policy/procedures relating to the emptying of the new trolibocs.*

### **379/14 Welsh Assembly:**

- a. The Clerk submitted a follow up letter from Aled Roberts AM regarding the review of Trunk Roads.  
*Resolved to note the letter.*
- b. The Clerk submitted a letter from Darren Millar AM enclosing information form one of his constituents.  
*Resolved to note the correspondence.*

### **380/14 Street Furniture:**

The Clerk submitted a report about noticeboards and cycle stands in Rhos on Sea.

- a. It was noted that a reply is awaited from the owner of the shop on Church Drive.  
*Resolved to defer consideration of recommendation 3.1 until a response is received.*

- b. *Resolved to authorise the seeking of quotations and written permission(s) (including Planning enquiry) for a new noticeboard to be provided on the forecourt between the newsagents and the vacant café premises on Llandudno Road (near Geordies).*
- c. *Resolved to:*
  - i. *Submit a pre-application planning enquiry to check if permission would be required to install cycle racks on the forecourt of the Spar shop, Colwyn Avenue, Rhos on Sea.*
  - ii. *Seek written permission from the store owner to install 5 no. traditional black 'Sheffield' type stands on the forecourt (to be located close to the wall to the right hand side of the forecourt).*
  - iii. *Defer placing any order until responses are received to the above.*

**381/14 British Weights & Measures Association:**

The Clerk submitted a letter regarding units of measurement,

*Resolved to note the information.*

**382/14 Burbobank Windfarm:**

The Clerk submitted an update on the Community Fund. It was noted that the map of the area of benefit has now been published and the fund is not relevant to the Bay of Colwyn area.

**383/14 Colwyn Bay Town Team:**

Cllr Don Porter gave a brief verbal report on the recent meeting, at which Rob Dix (CCBC) had given a presentation on the proposals to demolish the Victoria Pier. The Town Team confirmed that it supports the current bid for redevelopment of the Pier, but if that fails would support demolition as the only alternative. Cllr M Jones reported concern that CCBC may have jeopardised the bid by not being more supportive. The Town Team were also given an update on the Masterplan Review (architect now appointed) and the current parking charges review, with members not being happy about proposals for charges on the promenade.

*Resolved to thank Cllr Porter for attending and giving his report.*

**384/14 Other Correspondence:**

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

- a. Minutes of Bay of Colwyn Business Improvement District Steering Group held on 6.1.15.
- b. Minutes of a meeting of OC(E)RA, held on 11.2.15.
- c. Conwy Access Group - Minutes of last meeting held on 17.02.15
- d. Play Wales – Spring 2015

**385/14 Planning:**

- a. Members were asked to consider the planning applications received from CCBC.

*Resolved to submit observations on the applications, as detailed in Schedule 'A' attached.*

*Further resolved to submit strong objections to applications 0/41462 and 0/41463, to partially demolish Victoria Pier, and delegate authority to the Clerk and Cllrs D Porter and A Khan (members appointed to the Pier Steering Group) to write and submit a detailed response.*

- b. The Clerk submitted a copy of the Planning Decisions recently issued by CCBC.

*Resolved to receive and note the planning decisions.*

- c. Cllr Mrs M Jones gave a brief verbal report regarding Planning Application 0/41389 (Dolwen Road). It was noted that the site visit had looked at the woodland area with regards to its suitability for play equipment and that a proposal to remove 10 trees, fence off the ravine and add additional side windows to properties overlooking the area would be considered by the Planning Committee.

Cllr Mrs S Roy then gave a brief verbal report regarding Planning Application 0/41296 (Priory Grange), which it was noted may receive conditional approval.

- d. The Clerk informed the Committee that she had been invited to attend a meeting of the Conservation Advisory Panel in respect of 0/41462/3 – substantial demolition of Colwyn Bay Pier.

*Resolved to ask that the Clerk feeds back the views of this Committee that the application is premature, as the County Council are fully aware of the current HLF bid.*

- e. The Clerk submitted the following Draft SPG documents:

- i. Conservation areas
- ii. Tourism
- iii. Coastal Flood Risk.

*Resolved to note the documents.*

**386/14 Licensing Applications:**

None were submitted.

The Meeting Closed at 8.35 p.m.

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