

**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 5<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2016**

**PRESENT:** The Mayor, Cllr J Davies (Chairman)  
Cllrs: W Bagnall; Mrs G Baker; Mrs L Edwards; D Griffiths;  
Mrs M Jones; A Mason; Mrs H Meredith; J Pearson; S Taylor;  
G Ward; C Wood MBE

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

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Mrs Bethan Jones, Area Director (Central) and Mrs Clare Darlington, Assistant Area Director for Primary Care and Commissioning, Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB)

**159/16 Apologies for Absence:**

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting and apologies for absence were received from Cllrs: R Foreman, Mrs L Griffiths, T Pearson, C Perry, Mrs V Perry, P Richards, Dr S Roy, S Williams

**160/16 Announcements:**

The Mayor made two brief announcements; confirming that £300 had been raised for the Mayor's charities at the recent Ukelele event and that the annual Civic Service will be taking place this Sunday at 10:30am in Rhos Methodist Church.

**161/16 Declarations of Interest:**

Members were reminded that they must declare the existence and nature of any personal and/or prejudicial interests. The following interests were declared: Cllr D Griffiths and Cllr G Baker declared a personal and prejudicial interest in agenda item 7 – Small Grant Application (£500), as members of the applicant body.

**162/16 Visitors to the Council:**

The Chairman welcomed Mrs Bethan Jones and Mrs Clare Darlington from BCUHB to respond to concerns expressed at the June Council meeting in connection with GP recruitment and retention.

Bethan Jones began with a brief introduction about her role as Area Director, confirming that one aim of the new area structures was to reconnect with and engage more with the areas that the Health Board serves. The Central area has existed for around 12 months now and she is pleased to be able to take up invitations to address Town Councils and other groups about any concerns they may have relating to health services falling under her jurisdiction. Although there are lots of challenges ahead for the health service, Bethan stated that she would like to come back to a future meeting to see if the improvements being made are having a positive impact and being seen to be effective by the local community.

Clare then introduced herself and outlined her role in looking after and supporting primary care services in the Conwy and Denbighshire area, including GP practices (34 of varying sizes), dentists and pharmacists. Clare informed the Council that BCUHB has a contractual relationship with GPs, most of which (apart from one Prestatyn practice) manage their own Practices. Part of her role is to meet with, support and help to develop these Practices. Both Bethan and Clare confirmed they were aware of the challenges facing some Practices in the retention and recruitment of GPs and they are providing ongoing support to those facing particular challenges. One way this is being done is by providing additional pharmacist and physiotherapy support, to help take some of the burden off the GPs. Follow up meetings are arranged to monitor the level of support needed. Other action being taken, as a result of the GMS contract and Welsh Government Policy, requires clustering arrangements and Practices working together on long term sustainability.

The Chairman commented that concerns had been expressed by GPs about bureaucracy, government policy and paperwork, together with increasing workloads due to an ageing population. Bethan responded that this was a UK wide issue, but that steps were being taken to lessen the workload of GPs by better organisation and use of other health professionals for delivering primary care, including using a mixed skilled workforce to manage the Practice workloads more effectively. Bethan also commented that communication between primary and secondary care is also key, for example whilst patients are on waiting lists, and improvements are being made.

The Chairman then invited questions and comments from members and the following is a brief summary of the topics and questions that followed: problems with discharges from hospital and notifying GPs and District Nurses – multi-disciplinary community resource teams are being developed through clusters or smaller group areas and electronic discharging notifications are being rolled out as part of a pilot project at Glan Clwyd Hospital (on a ward by ward basis); stress on GPs due to their increasing workloads – option available to be salaried GP at a practice run by the Health Board (Prestatyn Model); whether patients could be required to move between GP practices within a cluster to alleviate pressures – no, patients can choose which surgery they register with, within their locality, and the clusters are to help GPs share different ways of working and, in some cases, procure joint services; impact on out of hours services – this is managed by Secondary Care (Glan Clwyd) and national standards are now being met, although there is a desire to bring this back under area control and seek extended hours at local surgeries; what is the cause of the GP shortages – 1. Not enough training places and 2. Not enough qualifying doctors are choosing to go into general practice. The Health Board looks to recruit from overseas to meet the shortfalls, as it does with nurses and other specialist doctors and it would like to work more closely with schools to encourage medical students to want to return to their home area after qualifying/training; why the NHS does not include clauses requiring funded students to return and work in Wales – this is beyond BCUHBs control and they are therefore working at encouraging students to return instead; concerns that the ageing population will continue to grow but is not appealing to newly trained young doctors – the attractiveness and appeal of the local area and lifestyle is being used to try to attract young doctors to come to North Wales.

The Chairman thanked Bethan and Clare for their frank and informative responses and encouraged them to return at a future date for an update on progress.

### **163/16 Minutes:**

- a. *Resolved to approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the last meeting of the Council, held on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2016.*
- b. *Resolved to receive a copy of the minutes of the following meetings:*
  - i. *The General Purpose & Planning Committee, held on 26<sup>th</sup> July 2016*
  - ii. *The Policy & Finance Committee, held on 17<sup>th</sup> August 2016 (Draft)*
  - iii. *The General Purposes & Planning Committee, held on 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2016.*

### **164/16 Matters Arising from Those Minutes:**

- a. **Min.104/16(c)– Congolese Embassy:**

The Clerk submitted further correspondence about the proposed refurbishment of the Congolese graves in Llanellian Road Cemetery and a Black History Month celebration event in the town centre, and it was noted that a follow-up meeting of interested parties would be taking place on Wednesday afternoon in the Town Hall. It was noted that the graves are in the Free Church side of the cemetery and Cllr Brian Cossey, one of the Trustees, had been invited to attend.

*Resolved to request Cllr Mrs L Griffiths and the Clerk to report back after the meeting.*

- b. *Resolved to endorse the recommendations of the Committees, as detailed in the following Minutes:*
  - i. *Min. 109/16(c) – Bus Stop Champion: To confirm the appointment of Cllr R Foreman as Bus Stop Champion.*
  - ii. *Min. 112/16 – Commonwealth Day: To purchase a flag for Queens Gardens (and Rhos promenade, if CCBC agree – see (iii) below). Further resolved to set up a small working group if any members are interested in organising a small scale event in Queens Gardens In March 2017 to celebrate Commonwealth Day.*
  - iii. *Min. 112/16 – Commonwealth Day: To write to CCBC to enquire if the flagpole at Rhos Promenade could be used for a Commonwealth Day flag.*
  - iv. *Min.133/16(a) – County Conversation: To note that a briefing event for the Town Council is being held at 6pm on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> September in the Town Hall.*
  - v. *Min. 133/16(b) – Inspire Day: To purchase two good quality banners for use at future events (design/wording to be decided by P&F Committee).*
  - vi. *Min. 149/16 – Old Colwyn War Memorial: To write to suggest that the Committee seeks to strengthen its numbers.*

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

### **165/16 Urgent Small Grant Application:**

The Clerk submitted, for consideration, an urgent application from the Rhos on Sea Environmental Action Group for a small grant of £500 towards a project to replace the flat roof, timbers and spars of the shelter at Rhos on Sea Paddling Pool site. The total cost of the project is £9,500 and funding is also being provided by WREN,

CCBC and Cartrefi Conwy.

- Cllrs D Griffiths and G Baker, having declared a personal and prejudicial interest, retired from the meeting during consideration of the application.

*Resolved to approve the funding request of £500.*

**166/16 Proms in the Park Event:**

It was noted that three Councillors were no longer able to attend the event on 10<sup>th</sup> September and a draw was needed to reallocate the tickets. The Chairman suggested that one ticket should be offered to the Assistant Clerk, in thanks for the work she does for the Council.

*Resolved to allocate one ticket to the Assistant Clerk and a draw was then held to allocated the remaining two tickets to councillors who had expressed an interest in attending.*

**167/16 Additional Urgent Items:**

The following additional items, considered to be of an urgent nature, were tabled by the Clerk with the permission of the Chairman:

**a. School Governor Vacancy – Ysgol T Gwynn Jones**

It was noted that Cllr L Griffiths had recently resigned as the Town Council appointed governor to Ysgol T Gwynn Jones and that there was a vacancy for a replacement governor (Old Colwyn members).

*Resolved to circulate details of the proposed nomination of Cllr Gordon Ward to all Old Colwyn Members and ask if there are any other nominations.*

**b. One Voice Wales:**

Details of training courses for the period September to December 2016 were tabled by the Clerk.

**c. Notice of Conclusion of Audit:**

The Clerk tabled notice of the conclusion of the External Audit for 2015/16 and advised the Council that there had been one recommendation for consideration relating to the accounting procedure for the Public Sector Deposit Fund.

*Resolved to accept and approve the audited Annual Return and refer the matter arising to the Policy and Finance Committee for consideration.*

*Further resolved to advertise the conclusion of the audit in accordance with the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014.*

The Meeting Closed at 7.45 p.m.

..... Chairman