

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 28TH SEPTEMBER 2016

PRESENT: Cllr J Davies (Town Mayor),
Cllr D Griffiths, Chairman
Cllrs: A Khan, Mrs H Meredith, P Richards, S Roy, S Taylor

OFFICERS: Mrs C Earley, Town Clerk
Mr B Armstrong-Beattie, Student Advisor

181/16 Welcome & Apologies for Absence:

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs: A Mason, T Pearson and G Ward.

182/16 Declarations of Interest:

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

Cllrs D Griffiths and H Meredith declared a personal but non-prejudicial interest in the small grant application by the Colwyn Bay, Abergele and District Twinning Association, as they are both members.

183/16 Minutes:

Resolved to approve and sign as a correct record the Minutes of the last meeting, held on 17th August 2016.

184/16 Matters Arising from the Minutes:

a. Min. 130/16(b) and (c) – Property Maintenance and Facilities Management:

The Clerk gave a brief update on progress with the Asbestos Management Report (in progress), flat roof and rear annexe repairs (contractor appointed), gas servicing (contractor appointed) and gutter cleaning and inspection (final quotation awaited).

b. Min. 130/16(d) – Facilities Management Consultancy:

The Clerk gave a brief verbal updated on the work done to date by Dr Ian Gardner, who has now met with each of the building occupiers to discuss the obligations under their leases and clarify areas of responsibility. Some follow-up questions are now being answered and a full report will then be prepared.

c. Min. 133/16(b) – Pop-up Banners:

Members were asked to consider the wording required for the two pop-up banners for use by the Council at Public Events.

Resolved to request that the Clerk orders two large pop-up banners with the Town Council logo (round) and the wording “Serving the community” above and below, in Welsh and English.

d. N&MWALC Consultation:

The Clerk submitted, for consideration, the recent consultation document regarding the proposed Local Government Boundary Commission review of town and community councils and a recent SLCC Report.

Resolved to submit a response to the consultation, as detailed in Schedule A attached.

e. Min. 138/16 – Colwyn Victoria Pier:

Cllr D Griffiths, Cllr A Khan and the Clerk gave a verbal report on a recent meeting between the CCBC Pier Board, CVPT and Town Council representatives.

It was noted that CCBC intends to resubmit an application for the partial demolition of the Pier by December, with the intention now being to retain a small section of boardwalk under the existing landward building, which will be removed along with the rest of the sub-structure, deck and buildings, leaving only the stanchions in situ. If consent is given by the Welsh Cabinet Secretary, this would still need to be taken back to the full Council (CCBC) before it could be implemented. Any alternative proposals (e.g. redevelopment of the entire Pier) would therefore need to be sufficiently developed by that time to convince the Council that there is another option.

CVPT are still pursuing proposals to redevelop the entire Pier (in three zones), but these have been hampered by not being able to gain access to date for the Royal Commission to carry out an independent detailed measured survey of the Pier (free of charge) and by the owner (CCBC)'s continued pursuit of permission to partially demolish the listed structure, which is proving a barrier to potential funders. In order to assist the Trust, CCBC agreed to give access to the Royal Commission, providing that their own access protocol is met, and also to provide a letter to clarify the twin-track approach that was agreed by CCBC in an attempt to overcome the concerns of potential funders.

Cllr Griffiths has agreed to assist the Trust in its efforts to find potential private developers who may be able to assist with zone 2 – redeveloping the Pavilion into an income generating attraction. A brief discussion then took place around future sustainability and the need to improve the links between the Pier/Promenade and the town centre, particularly around the Station.

185/16 Finance:

- a. *Resolved to authorise payments made on behalf of the Council for the period 1/8/16 to 20/9/16, as detailed in Schedule B attached..*
- b. *Resolved to receive, check and sign a copy of the bank reconciliations as at 31.8.16.*
- c. The Clerk submitted correspondence from CCLA regarding the Local Authorities Property Fund.

186/16 Welsh Government:

The Clerk submitted details of a consultation on the establishment of a Flood and Coastal Erosion Committee.

Resolved to receive and note the consultation.

Further resolved that Cllr P Richards would find out the details of the previous regional flood and coastal erosion group which he had attended meetings of and forward this information to the Clerk to ensure that all previous surveys and relevant documentation are passed on to the proposed new Committee.

187/16 Conwy CBC:

- a. The Clerk submitted notice of an extension to the consultation on council tax premiums on long term empty and second homes in Wales. It was noted that individual members had strong opinions on this matter and that several of those present may have to declare an interest, if the Committee were to consider sending a formal response.

Resolved to encourage Members to read the on-line survey (link provided) and submit their views individually.

- b. Xmas Event:

The Clerk gave a brief verbal report from a recent CCBC led planning meeting for this year's Christmas event, which is to take place on Friday 2nd December and be along similar lines to last year's very successful Coca-Cola truck event.

188/16 Scheme of Delegation:

Members were asked to consider the adoption of a scheme of delegation, in accordance with a draft document provided by One Voice Wales. This would help to clarify what delegated powers are given to the Clerk and other staff members and avoid any areas of doubt.

Resolved to ask the Clerk to update it in line with the draft amendments and to recommend to the Council that it be adopted in its entirety.

189/16 External Audit:

The Clerk submitted, for consideration, the report from the External Auditor following conclusion of the audit for 2015/16. It was noted that the Clerk had made enquiries with the Welsh Audit Office and the SLCC and that their advice is to await the publication of the updated Practitioners Guide in Wales and auditors' opinions on the new wording in relation to the definition of short term investments, prior to making any changes to the way in which the Public Sector Deposit Fund is currently accounted for.

Resolved to note the advice and to request/await further guidance prior to the end of the current financial year.

Further resolved to thank the Clerk for her work in achieving an unqualified audit report and for obtaining advice on the recommendation received.

190/16 Training:

The Clerk gave a brief verbal report following her attendance at the SLCC Regional Conference for Wales, held in Llandudno on 14th September 2016.

191/16 Local Members Ward Allowances:

The Clerk tabled two project proposals from members:
Cllr C Wood - £150 for 'Tart up the Park' (to Rotary) and
Cllrs P Richards and A Khan - £940 for the future maintenance of the new reed bed at Llyn Eirias (to Colwyn Environment Federation)

Resolved to approve the two project proposals.

192/16 Grants:

- a. The Clerk submitted for consideration the small grant applications for quarter two (4 in total).

Resolved to approve payment of small grants, as detailed in Schedule C attached.

- b. It was noted that letters of thanks have been received from:
- i. Parkway Luncheon Club
 - ii. Conwy Arts Trust
 - iii. Venue Cymru (Events Grant)
 - iv. CVSC Play Development Team (Events Grant)

The Meeting Closed at 7.55 p.m.

..... Chairman