

**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 22<sup>ND</sup> JANUARY 2017**

**PRESENT:** The Mayor, Cllr J Pearson  
Cllrs: Mrs G Baker; D Bradley; C Brockley; Mrs G Campbell; J Davies;  
Mrs H Fleet; C Hughes; M A Jones; Mrs M Jones; A Kealey; A Khan;  
A Mason; C Matthews; M Pickard; P Richards; M Tasker; S Williams

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

**IN ATTENDANCE:** County Cllr Brian Cossey

**301/17 Apologies for Absence:**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies for absence were received from Cllrs: B Barton; H Meredith; T Pearson; K Swindon; M Worth and also from County Cllr Cheryl Carlisle.

**302/17 Announcements:**

The Mayor gave a brief verbal announcement about two forthcoming Mayor's Charity Events: the Mayor's Variety Show, provisionally to be held on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> May at Theatr Colwyn, and a Charity Barn Dance, to be held at Colwyn Bay FC on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> March. Members were asked to note both dates in their diaries and support these events, if possible.

He also requested that all Members respond to two e-mails sent out recently by the Clerk, one in connection with a visit to the new Coed Pella office building in February and one about the proposed 'Visioning day'.

**303/17 Declarations of Interest:**

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

It was noted that several members of the Policy & Finance Committee had declared interests in respect of large grant applications (refer to the Minutes) and that these would need to be declared again if members wish to discuss any of the large grant applications/recommendations.

**304/17 Visitors to the Council:**

- a) It was noted that Inspector Kelly Isaacs, NW Police, will be attending the next meeting to give an update on local policing matters.
- b) The Chairman welcomed County Councillor Brian Cossey and invited him to give any report. Cllr Cossey thanked members for the opportunity to address them and expressed his concern that other Colwyn County Cllrs had not taken up the

opportunity to attend and improve the dialogue between our two sectors of local government. He then took the opportunity to inform members of the council about the budgetary decisions currently being considered by the County Council. Information was circulated about the forecast expenditure and income for 2018/19 and the need to identify a further £387,000 of savings, on top of the £10,196,000 already identified in November. This, together with an anticipated increase of 5% in Council tax, is needed to meet budgetary pressures due to nationally agreed pay increases, new business cases for statutory services and a reduction in the settlement from the Welsh Government (including loss of some specific grants).

A brief question and answer session followed Cllr Cossey's presentation, to include: concern about some household's struggling to afford the 5% increase; whether members allowances can be reduced (agreed nationally by an independent body); very low number of queries/objections to increases in previous years; statutory duty to provide some services, e.g. refuse collection, (but not at a 'platinum level' when a silver service would do); pay increases for senior staff.

Members were then invited to ask any general questions, not relating to the budget, and questions were asked about the recent bus service consultation and about the commencement of the installation of parking meters on the Promenade and the extent to which this will continue.

Cllr Cossey was then thanked for attending and giving an informative report and he retired from the meeting.

### **305/17 Minutes:**

- a) *Resolved to receive, approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the last meeting of the Council, held on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2017.*
- b) *Resolved to receive a copy of the minutes of the following meetings:*
  - i) *The General Purpose & Planning Committee held on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2017.*
  - ii) *The Policy & Finance Committee held on 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2018 (Draft).*
  - iii) *The General Purposes & Planning Committee held on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2018. (Draft)*

### **306/17 Matters Arising from Those Minutes:**

- a) **Min. 251/17(a) – Welsh Government Review of Town and Community Councils:**

The Clerk gave a brief verbal report, following a meeting with three of the Panel members held on 19<sup>th</sup> January. It was noted that members of the Review Panel, appointed by the Welsh Government, were visiting a number of different sized Councils in different locations across Wales to find out more about the way they operate, what they are responsible for, whether seats were contested at the last elections, whether members come from diverse backgrounds, any innovative projects they may be involved in, to what extent we collaborate with neighbouring councils etc.

The Mayor, Cllr J Pearson, then gave a brief verbal report on the breakout sessions from the recent meeting of the North and Mid Wales Association of Local Councils, which had looked at some of the possible actions outlined in the 2015 White Paper, prior to the announcement of the year long review. It was noted that concern had been expressed about the threat of forced mergers and much fewer, larger councils and the impact this may have, especially on more rural areas.

*Resolved to note the reports and await the next stage of the review.*

**b) Min. 253/17 – NW Community Health Council:**

The Clerk submitted a response from the CHC about its role and members were asked to consider an offer to attend a future meeting.

*Resolved to request that the Clerk invites a representative from the CHC to attend a future meeting of the Council.*

**c) Resolved to endorse the recommendations of the Committees, as detailed in the following Minutes:**

i) *Min. 263/17(b)(iii) – New Benches: To approve a request for £820 from reserves to purchase two new benches for ‘Tucky park’, Church Road.*

ii) *Min. 281/17(a) – Small Grants: To approve payment to applicants A and C.*

iii) *Min. 281/17(b) – Events Grants 2018/19: To approve the event grants, as detailed in Schedule D to the minutes, and retain a total budget of £40,000 for 2018/19 (£3,200 as yet unallocated).*

**d) Resolved to note the resolutions of the Committees, as detailed in the Minutes.**

**307/17 Annual Estimates:**

a) The Clerk tabled a summary of the recommendations of the Policy and Finance Committee in respect of the Large Grants applications received for 2018/19.

*Resolved to endorse the recommendations of the Policy & Finance Committee and approve the Large Grants for 2018/19, as detailed in Schedule ‘A’ to the Minutes of the Policy and Finance Committee meeting, held on 22<sup>nd</sup> January.*

b) Members were then asked to consider and approve the Annual Estimates, as detailed in Schedule ‘B’ of the P&F Minutes of 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2018.

*Resolved to approve the projected income and expenditure estimates for 2018/19, as per that Schedule.*

c) Members were then asked to consider the three options presented to the Committee in respect of the level of precept to be charged for 2018/19 and the recommendation of the Committee, as detailed in Minute 275/17(d) of the Policy & Finance meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> January, to approve a 3% increase for 2018/19, which is equivalent to an increase of £1.12 for the year for an average Band ‘D’ property.

A debate ensued about the recommended percentage increase in the precept and concern was expressed by several members about the perception of the public in relation to reports of an increase of 3%, despite it being very little increase monetary terms.

It was proposed and seconded that a 2% increase in the Band 'D' precept be agreed for 2018/19.

An amendment was proposed and seconded that the recommendation of a 3% increase be accepted.

***Resolved, by a majority of 15 in favour to 2 against (with one abstention), to approve an increase in the precept of 3% for 2018/19, equivalent to an increase from £37.50 to £38.62 for an average Band 'D' property. This would result in a total precept income of £435,300 for 2018/19.***

### **308/17 Room Hire Charges:**

The Clerk submitted details of the current charges for room hire and photocopying and members were asked to consider whether to apply any increase in these charges for 2018/19.

***Resolved to retain the current level of charges for 2018'19.***

### **309/17 Timetable of Meetings:**

The Clerk submitted a Draft timetable of meetings for the 2018/19 municipal year (for ratification at the Annual Meeting).

***Resolved to receive and note the draft meeting timetable for 2018/19.***

### **310/17 Bay Life Strategic Management Board:**

The Clerk submitted the minutes of a recent meeting and Cllr C Hughes gave a brief verbal report, as he had been in attendance. It was noted that Cllr P Richards had now been added to the e-mail circulation list and should be able to report on future meetings. Cllr Hughes made particular reference to the ongoing review of the Colwyn Bay masterplan, which is being presented to a meeting at the end of this month.

***Resolved to receive the minutes and note the verbal report from Cllr Hughes.***

### **311/17 GP Recruitment Issues:**

- a) The content of a confidential e-mail from the Area Director of Primary Care and Commissioning, forwarded by the Clerk on 3 January, was noted.
- b) The Clerk submitted, for consideration, correspondence from the CHC regarding proposals by the Welsh Government to improve the process for the registration of GPs in Wales to remove unnecessary bureaucracy. It was noted that the CHC's preferred option was Option 3 and that it was seeking support from other

organisations to endorse this response.

***Resolved to request that the Clerk submits a response to the consultation paper to support the CHC's preference for Option 3, given the current GP recruitment crises in North Wales and the impact this is having on our local surgeries.***

**312/17 Older Persons' Day 2018:**

The Clerk submitted correspondence regarding an Older Person's day, which is being arranged by David Jones MP and will be held in St Paul's Church on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> March.

Members were asked to consider if they wished to have a Town Council stand at the event (with members and staff manning it), following the success of the stand at the Rhos on Sea Christmas fayre in December.

***Resolved to request that the Clerk books a stand and that all Councillors are invited to assist on the stall for part of the day.***

***Further resolved to request that leaflets are printed (similar to those used in Rhos) to include Cllr contact details.***

The meeting closed at 8:00 p.m.

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