

**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> MARCH 2018.**

**PRESENT:** The Mayor, Cllr J Pearson  
Cllrs: Mrs G Baker; B Barton; D Bradley; C Brockley; G Campbell; H Fleet;  
C Hughes; M A Jones; Mrs M Jones; A Kealey; H Meredith; M Pickard;  
P Richards; K Swindon; M Tasker; S Williams; M Worth

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

**IN ATTENDANCE:** County Cllrs: Cheryl Carlisle, Brian Cossey and Don Milne

*The meeting commenced with a minute's silence in memory of Cllr John Davies, who sadly passed away on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2018, aged 69 years.*

**355/17 Apologies for Absence:**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies for absence were received from Cllrs: A Khan; A Mason and T Pearson and County Cllr Mary Doyle.

**356/17 Announcements:**

The Mayor made a public retraction and apology for personal comments made using social media (Facebook) that may have caused offence to officers or members of Conwy County Borough Council, in relation to their recent decision to move to four weekly wheelie bin collections, or given the impression that he was not in favour of increased recycling. Personal views were expressed, but he realised that he had spoken out of line and made immediate efforts to delete any inappropriate comments. He also confirmed that he is very much in favour of efforts to increase recycling.

The Mayor confirmed the details of his upcoming charity events: Barn Dance to be held on Friday March 16<sup>th</sup> at Colwyn Bay Football Club; tickets £12 and a Variety Show to be held in Theatr Colwyn on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> May. More details to follow. The Mayor requested that the members support both of these charity events.

It was noted that public notices for the vacancy in Dinarth Ward will go up in Rhos later this week. This will give 14 days for 10 or more electors to call for a by-election.

**357/17 Declarations of Interest:**

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

**358/17 Visitors to the Council:**

- a) The Chairman welcomed Inspector James Keene (Acting Insp for West Conwy) NW Police, to give a report to the Council. It was noted that Inspector Kelly Isaacs had been scheduled to attend, but that recent changes had resulted in her commencing a new role with NW Police last week. Insp. Julie Sheard is expected to take up

permanent post on 4<sup>th</sup> June.

Acting Insp Keane informed members that he had been working alongside Kelly for the past 12 months and he will revert to his supporting post when Insp Julie Sheard takes up her post. He has worked in West Conwy since 2013 and, although the year end statistics are not yet available, is aware that there has been increase of approximately 11% in recorded crime. This is at least partly attributable to recent changes in the way crimes are recorded and his own experience on the ground has not highlighted any sharp increase in this area, with the exception of numbers of violent crimes. There has been a focus on event planning in West Conwy, due to the number of high profile public events now being attracted to the area. This is expected to continue with the Armed Forces Day and other planned events this year. Modern day slavery is also a key focus area, with significant resources being used to target organised crime groups. Some of those responsible are now in jail, with more arrests and prosecutions likely. On the neighbourhood policing level, Sgt Lee Openshaw has recently taken over responsibility for the Colwyn Bay area and Environmental Visual Audits (EVAs) are likely to recommence shortly, to help address and local areas/issues of concern.

A question and answer session followed the presentation, with questions or concerns expressed about the following matters: members being told on the doorstep (last elections) that residents do not report low level crime, as they feel the neighbourhood police are too stretched to respond or take any action; Insp James Keane responded that all crimes that are reported are allocated a priority status and would be followed up in due course. Organised crime has a higher focus and can sometimes take resources away from neighbourhood policing, as it can cause more harm. The EVAs give an additional opportunity for low level issues to be raised, e.g. hotspots for anti-social behaviour etc; concerns about the reduction in numbers of local neighbourhood policing teams, compared to 2010 levels – Insp Keane does his best to fairly share the resources available; views on the Police & Crime Commissioner's recent comments about heroin users – large scale operations have seen a significant impact (reduction) in the supply of class A drugs in the area. The problem does seem to move around and this is very much work in progress; tribute was paid to the efforts of our local officers; concern about the speed of some lorries in the restricted 50mph zone of the A55 – officers have to be 'fast road' trained, so not all vehicles are able to enforce this. Policing relies on traffic and firearms officers, who are fast road trained, together with cameras and dedicated crime vehicles. His priority is organised crime, as this has the potential to cause significant harm.

The Chairman then thanked Insp Keane for attending and he retired from the meeting.

**b) County Councillor Liaison:**

The Chairman welcomed County Councillors Cheryl Carlisle, Brian Cossey and Don Milne and invited them to give any report. Cllr Don Milne thanked the Council for the invitation to attend and gave a presentation to members in response to questions submitted about the County Council's decision to move to four weekly bin collections. He began by explain the Government and EU's targets for increasing recycling and the importance of doing this and consequently reducing landfill, for the benefit of future generations. He also gave details of the current

cost of landfill in the County (£2.5m per annum) and the results of the pilot project run across all Monday bin collections in the Conwy area for a 12 month period. This had resulted in an increase in recycling rates of 14%, compared to 5% increase in non-pilot areas, and a reduction of 31% in wheelie bin refuse (20% in non-pilot areas). There had been few issues with the move to four weekly collections and officers had been sent out to educate residents, where necessary.

He then took the opportunity to put right ten common misconceptions that he had seen reported in the press or social media recently, as follows:

1. Residents can have any number of recycling containers for sorted waste.
2. Assisted collections are available for those with mobility problems.
3. None of the separated recycled waste goes to landfill.
4. Street bin waste is sorted and recyclables extracted.
5. All plastics apart from thin plastic bags and hard/brittle containers can be recycled.
6. Cardboard will be collected if left separately.
7. Single bin/bag recycling causes contamination and reduces the value of recycled waste.
8. Contamination can result in loads being rejected. This does not happen in Conwy due to kerbside sorting.
9. No recyclables have been rejected in Conwy.
10. Fly tipping has increased across the whole county and not just in four weekly areas. This is mainly builders' rubbish.

The claim that some people refuse to recycle is, unfortunately, the only statement that is true. Some mitigation measures are being introduced to lessen the impact, e.g. free single collections of larger items, visits by officers where problems are being experienced and additional bins where there is a proven need, plus additional collections where one has been missed due to holidays etc., separate nappy collections are to be extended to grandparents with childcare responsibilities, extra recycling containers are available on request and recycling boxes are being redesigned with larger plastic sections and sturdier stacking.

A brief question and answer session followed, with comments and questions about: problems with containers being blown away in more exposed areas (report to officers); larger communal bins not being returned to their designated spot; stacking bins not fit for purpose (being redesigned); public litter bins overflowing (due to resources needed elsewhere in bad weather); problems quickly being sorted once reported; a perceived u-turn on pledges made at the last elections (due to new evidence coming to light following completion of pilot); concerns about the validity/accuracy of fly tipping data (based on stats from ERF); concerns regarding a statement this 'could' work and about the lack of education regarding recycling (95% confident it will work).

The County Councillors were then thanked for attending and they retired from the meeting.

**359/17**Minutes:

- a) *Resolved to approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the last meeting of the Council, held on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2018.*
- b) *Resolved to receive a copy of the minutes of the following meetings:*
  - i) *A Special Meeting of the Policy & Finance Committee held on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2018 .*
  - ii) *The General Purpose & Planning Committee held on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2018.*
  - iii) *The Policy and Finance Committee held on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2018.*
  - iv) *The General Purposes & Planning Committee held on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2018.*  
*(Draft)*

**360/17 Matters Arising from Those Minutes:**

- a) **Min. 306/17(a) – Welsh Government Review of Town and Community Councils:** The February 2018 Newsletter issued by the Review Panel was received and it was noted that Cllrs J Pearson and S Williams would be attending a workshop with Panel members tomorrow in Caernarfon.

- b) **Min. 337/17 – NW Community Health Council:**

The Clerk submitted a response from the CHC about attending a future meeting.

*Resolved to note that a representative from the CHC will be attending a future meeting of the Council.*

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

- i) *Min. 337/17 – Grants: To approve the payment of an additional events grant (2018'19) and youth grants for 2017'18 as detailed in Schedule B to those minutes.*

- ii) *Min. 339/17 – Volunteer Awards: To agree that the Large Grants/Volunteer Awards be presented at a special ceremony in the Town Hall on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> April commencing at 7pm.*

A discussion took place regarding the recommendation of the Committee to appoint a representative from Colwyn BID to replace the Chamber of Trade representative, due to concerns that the BID is a company in its own right and not a voluntary/nor for profit organisation.

*Resolved to defer appointing a representative to replace the Chamber of Trade and to encourage all members to submit any alternative suggestions to the Clerk, for consideration at a later date.*

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

**361/17 Colwyn Bay Town Centre Masterplan Review:**

The Clerk gave a brief verbal report on the recent workshop, which had included an

introductory presentation on the 2010 Masterplan and reasons for the review, defining the town centre, strategy and work streams. Five potential ‘transformation areas’ had been identified and each table was asked to look at these in turn and to feed in any thoughts or suggestions on the proposals put forward by Rob Dix.

*Resolved to receive and note the report.*

**362/17 Conwy CBC Clerks Network and Community and Town Council Forum:**

The Clerk and Cllr J Pearson gave a brief verbal report on the recent meetings of the Network and Forum. It was noted that the Clerks’ network meeting had discussed Place Plans, members allowances and payroll providers, GDPR and external audit. The Forum meeting had agenda items covering budget preparation and the financial pressures the County Council was under and the Car Park strategy, with representations from Abergele Town Council about the overstating of projected income should charging be introduced (upon which a lease fee for any Town or Community Council would be based). It had also discussed the future of the Forum, with consensus that meetings should resume quarterly and alternate between a rural and coastal venue.

*Resolved to receive and note the report.*

**363/17 CCBC Major Events 2018:**

The Clerk submitted a brief message of thanks from Rachel Gill and asked members to note that hospitality will be available at upcoming events. An announcement is expected in May re: September event.

**364/17 One Voice Wales:**

The Clerk submitted details of an innovative practice event, being held in Builth Wells on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March. It was noted that sessions were being held on a number of topics, but that innovative use of websites, youth engagement, annual reporting and community engagement were of particular interest/relevance.

*Resolved to authorise the Clerk to attend and report back.*

**365/17 Fly a Flag for Commonwealth:**

The Clerk submitted information about this year’s Commonwealth Day (Monday 12<sup>th</sup> March) to include a suggested format for a brief service and flag raising ceremony. The Clerk asked members if they would be supportive of a small scale event.

*Resolved to request that the Clerk seeks to arrange a brief event for 12<sup>th</sup> March, to include readings by the Mayor and flag raising at 10am. Local schools would be invited to send along small delegations of pupils. Further resolved to request that the Clerk diarises this event for future years, so that more notice could be given to prospective participants.*

The meeting closed at 8:30 p.m.

..... Chairman