

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 23RD MAY 2018

PRESENT: The Mayor, Cllr S Williams
Cllr C Hughes, Chairman (see Min. 12/18 below)
Cllrs: A Khan, N Bastow (Deputy Mayor), T Pearson, M Pickard,
P Richards, K Swindon

OFFICER: Mrs C Earley, Town Clerk

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr Dilwyn Price, Chairman of the Colwyn Bay Area Fundraising Committee for the 2019 National Eisteddfod

12/18 Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Committee for 2018/19:

Nominations were invited for the Office of Chairman of the Committee for 2018/19.

It was proposed and seconded that Cllr Chris Hughes be elected Chairman of the Committee. There were no other nominations.

Resolved unanimously to elect Cllr Chris Hughes as Chairman of the Committee for 2018/19.

Cllr Hughes took the Chair and invited nominations for the office of Vice-Chairman.

It was proposed and seconded that Cllr Kate Swindon be elected Vice-Chairman of the Committee for 2018/19. There were no other nominations.

Resolved unanimously to elect Cllr Kate Swindon as Vice-Chairman of the Committee for 2018/19.

13/18 Apologies for Absence:

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs: H Fleet, A Kealey, M Jones and H Meredith.

14/18 Declarations of Interest:

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

15/18 Visitor:

The Chairman welcomed Dilwyn Price, Chairman of the local appeals committee for the National Eisteddfod 2019, to discuss the written request submitted last October for funding support for the local appeal. He reminded Members that the Conwy area had £320,000 to raise, which is 8% of the total cost of putting on the Eisteddfod. The

remaining funding comes from the annual contributions paid by all 22 Local Authorities, irrespective of where the event is held. The event will be held in Llanrwst in August 2019 and this will be the first time it has been in the County of Conwy, with the last local Eisteddfod being in Abergele in 1995 (pre local government reorganisation when the County was Clwyd).

The Colwyn Bay fundraising committee has been given a fundraising target of £25,000 and it covers the area of the town council, plus Llysfaen and Mochdre. The Committee has been busy in recent months and, through its efforts to date, it has raised/had pledges totalling £18,000, including over £1,000 from Llysfaen and Mochdre Community Councils. Once the target is reached, fundraising will continue, but more effort can then be put into raising awareness about the event, working with local businesses like the zoo to ensure that maximum benefit is obtained, and encouraging local residents to attend. It is estimated that the event will bring an economic benefit of around £6-£8m into the local economy. Dilwyn acknowledged the previous support given by the town council in support of bi-lingual activities, for which the committee are grateful.

A brief question and answer session followed, with questions about how much unallocated funding the town council has available.

Resolved to recommend that a donation be given to the local appeal and to request that the Clerk produces a brief report summarising the amount unallocated funding currently available (for 2018/19).

16/18 Minutes:

Resolved to approve and sign as a correct record the Minutes of the last meeting held on 14th February 2018.

17/18 Matters Arising from the Minutes:

a. Min. 382/17(a) – General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR):

The Clerk submitted, for consideration, advice from the Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC) together with draft policies, procedures and a completed data audit, highlighting the actions that are still outstanding. It was noted that the appointment of a Data Protection Officer is now discretionary, with parish, town and community councils having been removed from this section of the legislation. However, councils are being advised to conduct a risk assessment to determine if it would still be necessary/beneficial to appoint one, based on the amount and type of information being processed and the level of risk involved.

Resolved to adopt the relevant policies (2A to 2) and privacy notices (1A to 1E), as submitted by the Clerk, and to note that the staff will use these to continue to work towards full compliance in the coming weeks and months.

18/18 Finance:

- a. *Resolved to authorise payments made on behalf of the Council for the period 17/3/2018 to 30/4/2018, as detailed in Schedule 'A' attached.*
- b. *Resolved to receive and approve the signing of the bank reconciliations as at 31/3/2018.*
- c. The summary and adjusted year end Income/Expenditure account as at 31/3/2018 was received and it was noted that the internal audit for 2017/18 was completed on 11th May (report of the auditor awaited).
- d. *Resolved to authorise the carry forward of the following unspent budgets from 2017/18 to 2018/19:*
 - (i) *Councillors Local Members Ward Allowances - £5,773*
 - (ii) *Street Furniture (benches) - £1,461*
- e. The Clerk submitted information about the CCLA Local Authorities Property Fund, confirming that the income from the fund cannot be automatically re-invested and the minimum investment is £10,000. The Clerk reminded members of the previous decision of the Council to reinvest the income received, rather than spend it each year on smaller capital projects. Members were therefore asked to consider making an additional investment into the Local Authority Property Fund to reflect the income received in 2017/18, in accordance with that policy. It was noted that the income received last year was £7,303, so £2,697 would need to be found from reserves to bring this up to the minimum investment of £10,000.

Resolved to recommend that:

- (i) *£10,000 be invested into the LAPF in 2018/19, from the income received last year, plus general reserves.*
- (ii) *This is reviewed annually, in January, and included in the Annual Estimates.*

19/18 Welsh Government / National Assembly:

The Clerk submitted, for consideration, the following correspondence:

- a. **Strengthening Local Government: Delivering for People – green paper consultation.**

It was noted that this document outlined several options, all resulting in the merger of Local Authorities to provide fewer, larger authorities by 2022 or 2026. Cllr Hughes advised members that Conwy CBC had set up a working group to review the proposals and, together with the other 21 Local Authorities, had decided that it was not able to support the proposed mergers. The Welsh Local Government Association had also voted unanimously to reject the proposals and several professional bodies, including CiPFA, Deloitte and Price-Waterhouse Cooper had scrutinised the estimated costs of the mergers and thought the figures in the green paper to be unrealistic.

There were also concerns that the proposals would take democracy further away from the people and provide savings so that the Assembly can increase its own members and power. Local Authorities have received no answer to questions about

where the funding for the mergers would come from and their concerns that cost saving projections are based on all of the new Authorities being as efficient as the most efficient of the current Local Authorities, and are therefore unrealistic. Members also objected to the title 'strengthening local government', as it was felt that Local Authorities would be weakened by these proposals.

There is no reference to any changes to the town and community council sector in the green paper, due to the Welsh Government's current 'root and branch' review of the sector.

Resolved to recommend that the Town Council supports the stance of Conwy CBC in objecting to the proposed mergers, as outlined in the green paper, for the reasons stated.

b. Review of the Community and Town Council Sector in Wales:

The Clerk submitted a copy of the April Newsletter, for information.

20/18 Utility Bills:

The Clerk submitted correspondence from Corona Energy in respect of an increase in the price of electricity and gas supplies from April 2018, due to an increase in transmission costs (permitted under the terms of a fixed price agreement).

Resolved to receive and note the price increase.

21/18 One Voice Wales:

The Clerk submitted the agenda for the Innovative Practice Conference, to be held on 4th July.

Resolved to receive and note the agenda.

22/18 Colwyn BID:

The Clerk submitted notice of the AGM, to be held on 20th June.

Resolved to request that the Clerk forwards the information to the three representatives and seeks one attendee, to report back in due course.

23/18 CVSC Membership:

Renewal of membership for 2018/19 was approved, in accordance with the annual budget set aside for this purpose.

24/18 Town Hall Hire Charges:

The Clerk asked that members provide clarification for staff on the charging policy for booking of meeting rooms by Political Parties.

Resolved to confirm that meetings of Political Parties that include any non-members of the Town Council should be treated the same as other non-charitable organisations and charged the full hiring rate.

25/18 2018/19 NJC Pay Award:

Members noted details of the NJC pay awards for all staff, to be backdated to April 2018.

26/18 Ward Allowances:

The Clerk submitted a project proposal from Cllr G Baker for £100 for Rhos Rotary towards the maintenance of the Princess Diana memorial garden.

Resolved to approve payment of the allowance.

27/18 Grants:

a. It was noted that letters of thanks/ reports have been received from the following grant recipients:

- i. Old Colwyn Residents' Association
- ii. CCBC re: Prom Xtra

Resolved to send a reply to request that consideration be given to having a consistent date for the event in future, ideally the late May Bank Holiday weekend, to enable visitors to plan ahead.

b. The Clerk tabled a request from Orme Explorer Scouts to amend the purpose of the £900 youth grant received in 2017/18 to enable them to rent and adapt/improve a garage for storage, rather than purchase a container.

Resolved to recommend that this request be approved.

The meeting closed at 8pm

..... Chairman