

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 4TH JULY 2018

PRESENT: Cllr K Swindon, Vice-Chairman (Temporary Chair)
Cllr C Hughes, Chairman
Cllrs: H Fleet, M Jones, H Meredith, T Pearson, M Pickard

OFFICER: Mrs T Earley, Town Clerk

70/18 Welcome and Apologies for Absence:

Cllr K Swindon, Vice-Chairman, welcomed members to the meeting and apologies for absence were received from the Chairman, Cllr C Hughes (due to arrive late), and from Cllrs: A Kealey, A Khan and A Mason.

71/18 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:

- a. Cllr M Jones declared a personal interest in the small grant application by Colwyn Bay Football Club, as a shareholder in the Club. As this is for £500 or less, an exemption applies and it is not therefore a prejudicial interest.
- b. Cllr M Pickard declared a personal interest in the small grant application from NWAMI. As this is for £500 or less, an exemption applies and it is not therefore a prejudicial interest.

72/18 Visitor:

The Chairman welcomed Bryn Shiland, CCBC, to address the Committee regarding maintenance of playgrounds and play equipment.

Bryn gave a brief verbal presentation, informing members that the County Council has 144 playgrounds across the County, with 15 play areas in the Bay of Colwyn area. As a result of pressures on the Council's capital budgets this year, he has a maintenance budget of just £5,500 to maintain all 144 playgrounds. Following annual inspections earlier this year, work required to rectify low and medium risk defects on the Bay of Colwyn playgrounds alone is estimated at £67,500. There is a small amount of carried forward budget from last year, which has been used for essential repairs to the wet pour play surfacing at the lower Eiras Park playground (costing £7,000). Despite trawling through grant finder software, no potential grant funding sources have been identified, leaving potential S.106 funding (from developments) as the only other potential source of funding. It is possible that some funding for Bay of Colwyn area playgrounds may be available from this source, but this would require local members support and is likely to be less than £20,000.

Where funding cannot be identified for essential repairs, equipment may have to be isolated, or, if this cant be done, playgrounds may have to be closed. Work will be

prioritised based on the risk assessment scores, with higher risk repairs being done first. Playgrounds in urban areas are likely to have higher risk scores, due to more footfall increasing the likelihood of injury.

- Cllr C Hughes arrived during the presentation and took over the Chair from Cllr K Swindon.

A brief question and answer session followed, with questions and comments about: the reason Cabinet declined the business case for capital for playgrounds in 2018/19; the level of vandalism in playgrounds (minimal); the new zip wire in Rhos paddling pool play area (funded last year); problems many years ago with broken glass; the reason lots of swings were padlocked earlier this year (crossbar safety defects had to be rectified); damaged benches / tables (these come under ERF – separate budget); the statutory rights of young people for adequate play provision; concerns raised by Conwy's youth council; whether sponsorship could be obtained for some repairs, e.g. Zip World for Eirias Park; whether the Town Council could provide more funding to help plug the gap, as it has done previously; a view that around £16K only could be available from S.106 funding for this area (BS to check this and any legal conditions); the benefit of Place Plans being adopted to help fast-track decisions on S.106 spending; the statutory duty for play sufficiency, which is around space to play and not necessarily play equipment; whether Housing Associations could be asked to contribute towards playgrounds in the vicinity of a high percentage of social housing; the possibility of asking families to contribute to fundraising activities; whether groups like the Mens Shed could help with repairs to wooden furniture/equipment;

Bryn Shiland was then thanked for attending and he retired from the meeting.

Resolved to recommend that the Town Council increased its contribution to play equipment from £17,500 to £30,000 for 2018/19 (balance to come from reserves) and that it is agreed this can be used for maintenance and repairs to existing equipment and not just replacement/new equipment.

Further resolved to recommend that CCBC continues to look for funding from other external sources, such as grants, sponsors and local Housing Associations, together with S.106 funding, where this can be used for playgrounds.

73/18 Minutes:

Resolved to approve and sign as a correct record the Minutes of the last meeting held on 23rd May 2018.

74/18 Matters Arising from the Minutes:

a. Min. 15/18 – National Eisteddfod Fundraising Committee:

The Clerk submitted a detailed report on the current / forecast reserves and members were asked to consider the deferred request for funding support from the local fundraising committee.

It was noted that general reserves were approximately £23,000 higher at the year

end than was cautiously forecast when the 2018'19 budget was prepared in December. These funds can be accumulated to reduce the budget deficit next year, or used for unforeseen expenses in the current financial year.

It was noted that it has already been recommended that the play equipment budget be increased by £12,500 this year.

Resolved to recommend that the Town Council pledges £7,000 to the local fundraising committee, to be paid over two financial years: £3,500 in 2018/19 and £3,500 in 2019/20. The fundraising committee can then concentrate on publicising and raising awareness and involvement in the event for the next year.

75/18 Finance:

- a. *Resolved to authorise payments made on behalf of the Council for the period 1/5/2018 to 31/5/2018.*
- b. *Resolved to receive and authorise the Chairman to check and sign a copy of the bank reconciliations as at 31/5/2018.*

76/18 Welsh Government / National Assembly:

The Clerk submitted, for consideration, the following items of correspondence:

- a. Review of Community and Town Council Sector in Wales – June Newsletter
- b. Consultation Document: Student Support Arrangements for Health Related Education and Training Programmes in Wales

Resolved not to respond to all 20 questions, but to support option 6 in Qu18 – that healthcare students continue to receive the current NHS bursary arrangements, subject to agreeing a post-qualification employment period (2 years).

- c. Consultation on Diversity in Local Government

Resolved that members be encouraged to respond individually, should they have any written evidence to contribute.

77/18 Conwy County Borough Council:

Cllr C Hughes gave a brief verbal report from the Bay Life Strategic Management Board meeting, held in June, informing members that Rob Dix had given a presentation similar to that given to the Town Council last Monday.

78/18 GDPR:

- a. The Clerk submitted, approval, a Data Processing Agreement from Microshade Ltd (IT service provider).

Resolved to note the agreement and authorise the Clerk to sign and return it.

- b. The Clerk submitted, for information, a Memorandum of Understanding from Gwynedd Pensions.

Resolved to receive and note the agreement.

79/18 Standing Orders:

The Clerk submitted a copy of the new model Standing Orders (Wales), recently issued by NALC / OVW.

Resolved to recommend that the Council considers adoption of the updated Model Standing Orders, subject to the Clerk producing a report on any additional SOs previously adopted by this Council, which may need to be incorporated.

80/18 Telecoms Account:

The Clerk submitted three quotations for a new fixed price contract for the Council's broadband and landline.

Resolved to proceed with quotation 1 – Onecom, at a total cost of £49.90 per annum for five years, subject to confirmation that the annual review does not allow them to increase the fixed term contract price during the five year fixed period.

- Cllr HM retired from the meeting at this juncture.

81/18 Gwynt y Môr Community Fund:

The Clerk submitted, for information, the second annual report.

82/18 Joint SLCC & One Voice Wales Conference:

The Clerk gave a verbal report on the recent conference, outlining the key points from each of the sessions, all of which had been relevant and informative.

83/18 Ward Allowances:

The Clerk submitted, for consideration, project proposals from:

- a. Cllr G Baker - £200 for new flower troughs at Happy Faces – Rhos Promenade and £100 for Dementia Friendly Rhos on Sea, to raise awareness
- b. Cllr M Pickard - £300 for a Summer Club at Echo Youth Club (Woodhill Baptist Church)

Resolved to approve these for payment.

84/18 Grants:

- a. The Clerk submitted, for consideration, the small grant applications received for Q1.

Resolved to recommend that grants be approved, as detailed in Schedule 'B' attached.

- b.** The Clerk submitted, for consideration, a late request for funding for an events grant and/or an early request for a youth grant for 2018/19 from Le Sport Junior Squash for sponsorship of a major PSA Challenger Tour 30 event. The total cost of running the event is estimated at £24,000, with facility hire and ongoing childrens' coaching sessions being offered free of charge by Le Sport.

A discussion took place about the potential benefits of the event to the local area, in terms of the number of young people likely to benefit from the free coaching sessions and whether this represented good value for money (£5,000 requested). Concern was expressed that the Events Grant budget is already fully allocated for 2018/19 and the youth grants budget of £10,000 is intended to support a number of projects and not just one or two larger activities/events with potentially limited ongoing participation. Members did not feel able to consider using reserves to support the application, due to other pressures on these funds (e.g. play equipment).

Resolved to recommend that the late Events application be declined on this occasion, due to other funding pressures such as play equipment contributions, but to recommend that the Club considers applying for a small grant and/or a youth grant for the provision of free coaching sessions for local youngsters, when these are opened to applications later in the year.

- c. Resolved to receive letters of thanks/ reports from the following grant recipients:**
- (i) Tudno FM (small grant)***
 - (ii) Nacro Cymru (large grant 17'18)***
 - (iii) ROSTA – Creative Rhos Events Grant***
 - (iv) CCBC – Women's Tour Events Grant***
- d.** The Clerk submitted, for information, a response from CCBC to the request that Prom Xtra be held on a fixed date in May. It was noted that the event will be held on the same weekend next year and that the date for this has already been publicised.

The meeting closed at 8.50 p.m.

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