

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 22ND AUGUST 2018

PRESENT: Cllr C Hughes, Chairman
Cllrs: H Fleet, D Howcroft, M Jones, A Khan, T Pearson, M Pickard,
P Richards, K Swindon

OFFICER: Mrs C Earley, Town Clerk

131/18 Welcome and Apologies for Absence:

The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting and apologies were received from Cllrs: A Kealey; A Mason; H Meredith.

132/18 Declarations of Interest:

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

Cllr D Howcroft declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest (due to amount) in respect of agenda items 11(a) and 11(b), as a Trustee of the Llandrillo yn Rhos Charities and a member of the Friends of Rhos on Sea.

133/18 Minutes:

- a. Resolved to approve and sign as a correct record the Minutes of the last meeting held on 4th July 2018, subject to one minor amendment: the addition of apologies for absence from Cllr D Howcroft.*
- b. Resolved to receive the draft Minutes of the Buildings Sub-Committee meeting, held on 18th July 2018.*

134/18 Matters Arising from the Minutes:

a. Min. 72/18 – Play Equipment Contribution:

The Clerk submitted a follow-up response from Bryn Shiland to several points raised at the previous meeting. It was noted that there had been no indication as yet from CCBC that they would be willing/able to find other sources of funding and/or match-fund the contribution from the Town Council themselves. However, Cllr C Hughes advised members that the Conwy Youth Council were having a meeting with officers later this week, so hopefully this will be high on the agenda. Concern was expressed that any match-funding found or approved by CCBC may be spent elsewhere in the County, where other town or community councils had not provided additional funding. Reassurances would be needed to ensure this wasn't the case. It was also suggested that the Town Council could do more to assist the request for funding from local Housing Associations.

Resolved to note the response and to recommend that the Council writes back to Bryn Shiland to:

- i. Request assurances that any funds obtained from other sources, e.g. match-funding for the contribution from this Council or from CCBC resources, would be allocated fairly and include Bay of Colwyn play areas.*
- ii. Provide a letter of support that he can use to accompany any grant or funding applications to other bodies, such as Housing Associations.*

b. Min 72/18 – Play Equipment:

It was noted that approval has been given for Bryn to arrange to carry out urgent repairs to swings at Rhos Park from the funds allocated by this Council.

c. Min 101/18 – Coast Community and Media:

Resolved to endorse the recommendation that a ‘Tenancy at Will’ is negotiated for use of two rooms on the first floor of the rear annexe by Coast Community and Media, in return for a financial ‘service charge’ based on occupational costs (as per the Mens’ Shed occupation of the rear garage).

135/18 Finance:

- a. Resolved to authorise payments made on behalf of the Council for the period 1/6/2018 to 31/7/2018, as detailed in Schedule ‘A’ attached.*
- b. Resolved to receive and authorise the Chair and Clerk to check and sign the bank reconciliations as at 31/7/2018.*
- c. Resolved to receive the Income and Expenditure Report for Q1 and note that there are no particular items of concern at this stage of the financial year, with expenditure generally being as expected.*
- d. Resolved to confirm that Min. 54/17 (June 2017) also applies to the accounts/investments held with CCLA and to request that the Clerk contacts CCLA to make arrangements to update the signatories, to remove the Councillors that were not re-elected in 2017 and to add Cllr G Baker and Cllr M Worth to the mandate, together with the Clerk, Cllr T Pearson and Cllr H Meredith.*

136/18 Welsh Government:

The Clerk submitted, for consideration, the following correspondence:

- a. Review of Community and Town Council Sector in Wales:**
 1. A summary report detailing the outline findings and recommendations of the Panel.
 2. The Clerk gave a brief verbal report on a screening of a live presentation by the Panel on the main findings of the report, confirming that this had covered the main aspects of the outline finding of the Panel and there had been little opportunity for additional comment or discussion.

Members expressed concern about a perceived underlying intention by the Welsh Government to transfer responsibility for some local services to town and community councils to raise additional funding, via the precept, to compensate for the pressure on services due to a net decrease, in real terms, in the revenue support grant given to the Local Authorities. It was noted that there have been some examples of town councils running local services more cost effectively at a local level, but that a detailed survey needs to be conducted to clarify the position across Wales.

There was a general feeling that the Town Council needs more detailed information on experiences of devolved services, so that it can prepare to make an informed decision as and when the need arises.

Resolved to recommend that a request be made to the N&MWALC for a study into the experiences (pros and cons) of town and community councils that have taken on devolved services or assets.

- b.** The Clerk submitted, for consideration, an invitation to submit evidence to the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee on the general principles of the Autism (Wales) Bill, to include brief comments from Cllr B Barton.

Resolved to request that the Clerk submits a response covering the brief comments submitted Cllr Barton.

137/18 Conwy & Denbighshire PSB:

- a.** The Clerk submitted a report following the recent workshop for Town & Community Councils, held in Llandrindod Wells on 17th July.

Resolved to receive and note the report.

- b.** The Clerk submitted a case study template for public bodies wishing to share good practice / innovation.
- c.** The Clerk submitted a copy of the draft annual report for Cwmbran Town Council (as guidance for councils looking at producing their first annual reports in 2019), a checklist for use by T&CCs and asked members to note the intention to look at a NW regional event for PSBs and T&CCs.
- d.** The Clerk submitted a report on a recent half-day workshop to explore Environmental Resilience. It was noted that only two representatives had attended from the town and community council sector, but that it had been worthwhile to discuss how our sector might get involved in sharing good practice around environmental sustainability.

138/18 Energy Contracts:

The Clerk tabled, for consideration, quotations received for a new fixed term contract for the supply of gas and electricity to the Rhiw Road site. It was noted that energy prices are expected to continue to rise in the short/medium term and a fixed price

contract for two/three years would give some protection and certainty.

Resolved to delegate authority to the Clerk to approach Corona Energy to enquire if they would price match the best quotation received for a three year fixed rate energy contract and, if not, to move to British Gas, via Every Aspect (broker).

139/18 Member Proposals:

The Clerk submitted, for consideration, the following policy proposals received from Council members:

- a.** Development of a Family/Wellbeing Centre and Community Hub at Douglas Road – Cllr P Richards (see Schedule ‘B’ attached).

Members were generally supportive of the proposal to create a family centre and community hub at the Douglas Road site, rather than a retail store.

Resolved, by a majority of 7 in favour, with one against (Cllr A Khan) and one abstention (Cllr T Pearson), to recommend that the Council supports the proposal, as submitted by Cllr P Richards.

Further resolved to recommend that the Council works with CCBC and other partner organisations to seek to progress this.

- b.** Disabled Friendly Bay of Colwyn – Cllr C Hughes (see Schedule ‘C’ attached).

Members generally supported efforts to improve access to enable people with wheelchairs, mobility scooters or pushchairs to move more easily around the centre of our communities.

Resolved unanimously to recommend that the Council supports the proposal, as submitted by Cllr Hughes.

Further resolved to recommend that the Clerk is asked to keep a record of any access issues identified by local members or residents, highlighting these to the responsible landowner/local authority and that the Council assists with seeking funding to make the necessary improvements.

- c.** Improving Wellbeing of our Young People by Providing Safe Places for Children to Play – Cllr C Hughes (see Schedule ‘D’ attached)

A discussion took place about the detail of the proposal, with members supportive of the need for safe places to play, but cautious about making a commitment that could result in ongoing requests for funding to maintain facilities which are the responsibility of the local authority. It was suggested that a commitment such as this may be better included in the proposed Place Plan, which would then clearly identify the responsible authority.

Resolved to support the proposal with one minor addition, as marked on Schedule ‘D’ attached, to address these concerns and to recommend it to the Council for adoption.

140/18 North & Mid Wales Association of Local Councils:

- a. The Clerk submitted a brief written report from Cllr Barton on the recent annual meeting of the association. It was noted that Cllr Meredith had been re-elected as one of two Vice-Chairmen and that both Cllr Meredith and Cllr Barton were appointed to the Executive Committee, which meets four times a year in Rhyl.

The Clerk advised members that the budget for members' travel expenses may need to be increased this year, due to the anticipated additional claims that would result from representatives attending eight meetings each year instead of the usual four. It was also noted that travel costs could not be shared this year, due to special travel needs/location of home address of the representatives.

Resolved to request that the Clerk writes to the N&MWALC to query whether the Association should be responsible for the travel costs for the Executive Committee, which provides advice, support and leadership to the Secretary in preparing the agenda for quarterly meetings.

- b. Resolved to defer the renewal of membership for 2018/19, at a cost of £80, until a response regarding the additional expenses above is received and considered.

141/18 Ward Allowances:

The Clerk submitted, for consideration, project proposals from:

- a. Cllr D Howcroft - £100 donation to the Llandrillo Charities

Resolved to approve payment of the LMWA.

142/18 Grants:

- a. The Clerk submitted, for consideration, requests for funding for Christmas activities/events from Colwyn BID (for activities in Colwyn Bay and Old Colwyn) and ROSTA (for activities in Rhos on Sea), for which a separate budget of £6,000 is allocated.

- Cllr K Swindon declared a personal (non-prejudicial) interest in the application, as her husband is CEO of TAPE, which is one of the organisations contracted to assist with the Christmas events.

Resolved to recommend that the Council supports the proposals and contributes £5,000 to Colwyn BID and £1,000 to ROSTA, on the understanding that Colwyn BID will match-fund both of these amounts.

- b. It was noted that letters of thanks/ reports had been received from the following grant recipients:
 - i. Parkway Coffee Club (ward allowance)
 - ii. Clwyd & Gwynedd Army Cadets (small grant)
 - iii. Colwyn Bay Watersports (youth grant)

iv. National Eisteddfod Bro Colwyn Appeals Committee

c. The Clerk tabled the following additional funding requests and members were asked to consider these and make any recommendations to the Council:

i. Large Grant Application – Old Colwyn War Memorial

A request for a grant of up to £1,575 towards the costs of adding names missing from the war memorial prior to this year's 100 years Remembrance Day services.

Resolved to recommend that the Council approves this request, with funding to come from General Reserves.

ii. A request for a small grant of up to £300 to crown reduce a large tree in the grounds of St Paul's, to improve visibility from the nearby CCTV camera in an effort to reduce the anti-social behaviour taking place in the vicinity of the Church. It was noted that this recommendation had resulted from a meeting between the Mayor, the Vicar and a local police officer and that permission will be needed from the County Council before the work can be carried out.

Resolved to recommend that the request for funding be approved.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm

..... Chairman