

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BAY OF COLWYN TOWN COUNCIL, HELD  
IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, RHIW ROAD, COLWYN BAY, AT  
6.00 P.M. ON MONDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2015**

**PRESENT:** The Mayor, Cllr Dr S Roy (Chairman)  
Cllrs: W Bagnall; J Davies; R Foreman; D Griffiths; Mrs L Griffiths;  
Mrs M Jones; Mrs H Meredith; J Pearson; Mrs V Perry; Mrs V Smith;  
S Taylor; G Ward; S Williams

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

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Mrs Sasha Davies and Mr John Hardy, CCBC  
Cllr Graham Rees, CCBC  
Mr Rupert Moon, WRU/CCBC  
Mr Darren Millar, Assembly Member

**137/15 Apologies for Absence:**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs: L Edwards, A Khan, T Pearson, C Perry and P Richards.

**138/15 Announcements:**

There were no announcements from The Mayor.

**139/15 Declarations of Interest:**

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

**140/15 Visitors to the Council:**

- a. The Mayor welcomed Sasha Davies, John Hardy and Cabinet Member Cllr Graham Rees (CCBC) and Rupert Moon (WRU) to the meeting to provide an overview of the partnership between CCBC and WRU and an update on future plans for developing Eirias Stadium.

A presentation was delivered, covering the following key aspects:

- the recent signing of a new 5 year contract with WRU (after the expiry of the initial 3 year contract)
- Rupert Moon's position as General Manager and his work for 2 days a week which raises the profile of the centre and provides media coverage nationally and globally, helping to put Colwyn Bay on the map.
- Vision for Eirias Stadium to be the North Wales Centre of Excellence for sport and events.
- Investment by WRU of circa £1m throughout North Wales, in addition to the grant support given to individual clubs.
- Academy to develop young talent across the region – based on education and linking to Rydal Penrhos and Llandrillo College.

- the development of RGC's U16 and U18 teams and success of the senior team (now one league away from the Premiership) and support for girls and womens' rugby.
  - Regular fixtures including several high profile events (e.g. International U20s rugby and recent visit by World Cup squad)
  - Work with young offenders and NW Police to help those with challenging backgrounds and also with the Prince's Trust.
  - Work with Cartrefi Conwy by taking staff out into the community.
  - Senior players sign up to 15 hours per week of voluntary work, e.g. working in local libraries to help young people write CVs and get e-mail addresses to seek employment.
  - Young people used as 'disciples' to go back into schools as good role models to benefit the wider community.
  - Economic benefits brought about by the larger events, e.g. Access all Eirias (£295k), Rugby (£230k) and Triathlon (£170k)
  - Improved facilities available for use by local schools and clubs
  - Potential/future events, including U16 international rugby festival which will bring families from across Europe to stay in the area (from April 2016) and other sports (e.g. Gaelic football, hockey)
  - Lots of good press and positive publicity to put Colwyn Bay back on the map and quotes shown from local businesses confirming benefits to the town.
- Cllrs H Meredith, V Smith and S Williams arrived during the presentation.

A question and answer session followed, with questions asked about: what stage the academy is at; whether there is enough accommodation locally in Colwyn Bay for academy/team players; whether the work of local rugby clubs is being undermined by the best players leaving to join the academy/RGC; concerns about touting for players from some local clubs for what is an 'amateur' sport.

The guests were thanked for attending the meeting and giving an informative presentation and they then retired from the meeting.

- b.** The Mayor then formally welcomed Darren Millar AM to the meeting to address Members about current issues and respond to any questions/concerns.

Mr Millar thanked members for the opportunity to attend and asked to put on record his recognition of the excellent work that has been taking place over the past few years towards regenerating Colwyn Bay. He stated that the whole area is seen to be 'on the up', with the developments at Parc Eirias, the new beach and the award-winning high street getting particular mention. This is the result of people working together, including the Town Council, Conwy CBC and the Welsh Government. He then referred to the tricky issues still to be sorted out, including Colwyn Bay Pier and the need to capitalise more on the investment in central Colwyn Bay to spread the benefit further afield to Old Colwyn and Rhos on Sea. He also made reference to a recent meeting about Colwyn Bay station, which is the first point of welcome for many visitors to Colwyn Bay and is in need of refurbishment/modernisation. Network Rail, Arriva and CCBC had been involved in initial discussions, but there is much more work to be done. Discussions had included the possibility of connecting the station to the Prom,

either by re-opening an exit or re-orientating the station.

He went on to refer to several current health matters, including the prospect of further downgrading of services at Ysbyty Glan Clwyd (YGC), referring to the current consultation on the future of maternity and womens' clinical health services and encouraging all members to respond to this. He also referred to a visit to Colwyn Bay Hospital last week, where he 'bent the ear' of the Chair of the Betsi Cadwaldr University Health Board about the possibility of reintroducing a Minor Injuries Unit (MIU), due to the negative impact its closure has had on YGC. He also mentioned that Llandudno MIU is due to re-open in a couple of weeks.

He finally paid complements to the Clerk and Mayor for the Council's Civic Service last Sunday and welcomed any questions from Members.

A brief question and answer session followed, covering the following: concerns about shortages of GPs and the need for a Medical School to attract more junior staff to North Wales; lack of training posts for junior doctors and no research opportunities to attract/retain staff; the need to partner with Liverpool/Manchester Universities to get more local training posts/opportunities to develop specialisms; proposed 7 day week working for GPs in England and whether there was a need for this in Wales; concerns about abuse of health service, e.g. missed appointments and minor ailments taking up emergency appointments; the need to re-open the 'road' to the promenade and re-open Station Road for vehicles/parking; the possibility of a glazed wall at the Station to give view of beach/promenade.

Mr Millar was thanked for attending and he retired from the meeting.

#### **141/15 Minutes:**

- a. *Resolved to approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the last meeting of the Council, held on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2015.*
- b. *Resolved to receive a copy of the minutes of the following meetings:*
  - i. *The General Purpose & Planning Committee, held on 28<sup>th</sup> July 2015.*
  - ii. *The Policy & Finance Committee, held on 12<sup>th</sup> August 2015 (Draft).*
  - iii. *The General Purposes & Planning Committee, held on 18<sup>th</sup> August 2015.*

#### **142/15 Matters Arising from Those Minutes:**

- a. *Resolved to endorse the recommendations of the Committees, as detailed in the following Minutes:*
  - i. *Min. 124/15 – Draft public Health (Minimum Price for Alcohol)(Wales) Bill: To respond that the Council does not agree with the proposal to introduce a minimum unit price for alcohol.*
- b. The resolutions of the Committees, as detailed in the Minutes, were noted.

### **143/15 Councillors:**

- a. It was noted that a vacancy has been declared in Eirias Ward following the recent resignation of Cllr J Reaney, and that it should be known later this week if an election has been called.
- b. Members were asked to consider filling the vacancies for representatives on outside bodies caused by the resignation of Cllr Reaney.

*Resolved to make the following appointments, with immediate effect:*

- i. *Colwyn and Abergele Twinning Association – Cllr D Griffiths*
- ii. *Conwy Youth Forum - remove from list as it is dormant*
- iii. *New bank signatory – Cllr D Griffiths (as Vice-Chair of the Policy & Finance Committee).*
- iv. The Clerk submitted, for information, an update on status received from Cllr Paul Richards to confirm that he is now a member of the Cooperative Party.

### **144/15 Annual Return:**

It was noted that the external audit has now been satisfactorily completed and the notice of conclusion of the audit will be publicised.

### **145/15 Colwyn Victoria Pier:**

The Clerk submitted draft notes from a recent meeting between the Town Council / CVPT Steering Group and CCBC and, on behalf of Cllr A Khan who could not be present tonight, asked Members to consider whether any funding could be made available to help CVPT with the costs of strengthening the HLF application ready for re-submission to the HLF in November. Members were informed that a budget of £20,000 had been allocated in 2015/16 towards the potential development phase of the project, but that it would not be possible to proceed with this without CCBC and HLF support for a strengthened bid. It was estimated that the total costs for the professional support required could be in the region of £2,000 to £3,000 and it was noted that CVPT would also be making a contribution towards the costs of this work, by way of both cash (amount to be confirmed) and volunteer time in attending meetings and re-writing sections of the bid. It was noted that a series of meetings were planned with CCBC during the coming months to seek to find ways to overcome their concerns with the initial bid.

A discussion ensued about the pros and cons of the ongoing efforts to save the Pier and the potential future cost to local taxpayers. However, it was noted that the significant partial demolition costs would also have to be met by local taxpayers and that very few people were happy with the current application to partially demolish the structure and leave 76 stanchions on the beach.

*Resolved by a vote of 8 in favour to 5 against (1 abstention) to agree in principle to release funding of up to £2,500 from the budget set aside this year for the potential development phase, to enable the strengthening of the bid.*

**146/15 Events Grant:**

The Clerk submitted, for consideration, an extract from the Minutes of the Amenities Sub-Committee meeting, held on 2/6/2015, and Members were asked to consider an application for an Event Grant (Christmas Twilight Festival) received from Colwyn Bay Townscape Heritage Initiative.

***Resolved to approve a grant of £2,400 towards the costs of this event from the remaining unallocated Events budget for 2015/16.***

The Meeting closed at 8.05 p.m.

..... Chairman