

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE GENERAL PURPOSE AND PLANNING COMMITTEE OF THE BAY OF COLWYN TOWN COUNCIL, HELD AT 6.30PM ON TUESDAY 7TH JULY 2015, IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM, TOWN HALL, RHIW ROAD, COLWYN BAY

PRESENT: The Mayor, Cllr Dr S Roy
Cllr D Porter (Chairman)
Cllrs: W Bagnall, N Bastow, Mrs L Edwards, R Foreman, Mrs L Griffiths,
Mrs M Jones, J Pearson (Tree Warden), S Williams, C Wood

OFFICER: Mrs C Earley, Town Clerk

83/15 Welcome and Apologies for Absence:

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr C Perry and Charlotte Gardner, Student Advisor.

84/15 Declarations of Interest:

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

85/15 Minutes:

Resolved to approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the last meeting, held on 16th June 2015.

86/15 Matters Arising from Previous Minutes:

a. Min. 30/15(a) – Illegal Parking at Road Junctions:

The Clerk submitted a brief response from Highways and a detailed response from Sgt Keene, N W Police, confirming that failure to observe a provision of the Highway Code (such as parking within 10m of road junctions) shall not render a person directly liable to criminal proceedings. Police Officers therefore need to use their discretion to decide if an obstruction is being caused, in which case a fixed penalty can be imposed under other available legislation. These powers are not available to PCSOs. The advice given to members/public is to report any vehicle considered to be causing an obstruction to the police and an officer will attend, if available. If a particular junction is causing regular cause for concern, the best way to tackle it would be to request Highways to install yellow lines. This not only acts as a deterrent but makes enforcement easier too.

Resolved to receive and note the advice and information from Sgt Keene.

Cllr Foreman advised members that he has been working closely with Highways Officers for a number of years on parking enforcement matters. He proposed that the Officer he has had a lot of assistance from (Emma) should be invited to a future meeting of the Committee to discuss any members' concerns about parking

and enforcement matters.

Resolved to write to invite Emma (Highways) to attend a future meeting of the Committee.

b. Min. 65/15 – Victoria Pier:

- i. The Clerk submitted a brief response to the letter sent to Carl Sergeant, Minister for Natural Resources, confirming that an application has not yet been received from CCBC to demolish the Pier and informing the Council of which legislation/regulations will apply when this is received. It was noted the application by CCBC will be submitted to Cadw in the first instance, before being reported to the appropriate Minister(s) for a decision. The response received did not help to clarify the position regarding a request for a planning inquiry. It was noted that the Clerk has since sent a reply to request further information about this and concern was expressed that such an inquiry may result in costs, which could be chargeable to the person/body requesting it.

Resolved that the Clerk will report any further response to the Committee as soon as it is received and seek clarification regarding who would be responsible for the payment of costs for any planning inquiry.

- ii. The Clerk provided a copy of the report submitted by the Pier Steering Group to the Special Meeting of CCBC held on 30th June (via Cllr A Khan, as neither the Town Council or CVPT were permitted to make direct representations to the Council) and Members noted the outcome of that meeting, in that the proposal put by Cllr Khan on behalf of the Steering Group was lost by 18 votes to 16 and the original proposal in the CCBC report was carried. Some County Councillors had been under the impression that both positions were very similar and the meeting had been reassured by both the Chief Executive and Leader that talks would continue to be held with CVPT once more detailed feedback had been received from the HLF. It was also noted that the web-cam recording of the meeting is available to view on the CCBC website.
- iii. The Chairman and Clerk then gave brief verbal feedback on a conversation between the Steering Group and Martin Buckridge, HLF, held last Friday. It was noted that the feedback received had done nothing to dispel the concerns of the group that the lack of support from CCBC was the main reason for the refusal. The HLF Board had recognised that the bid had a lot of potential and that redevelopment of the Pier would be good for both community engagement and economic regeneration. However, the potential for cost escalation, given the two differing conclusions of the engineers, and the obvious lack of support from the County Council (with the impact this could have on attracting the match funding required) were considered to be too great a risk. The group were given advice on the action they would need to take in order to be in a position to resubmit a bid.

It was noted that a written report and recommendations for next steps would

be submitted to the Town Council on 20th July, for consideration.

Resolved to recommend that the Council sends a further letter to Cadw (copied to relevant WG Ministers) to outline the feedback received from the HLF and highlight the impact that the lack of support from CCBC has had on the bid.

87/15 Conwy CBC:

- a. The Clerk submitted, for consideration, a consultation letter on the future of Registration Services in Conwy. It was noted that the Colwyn Bay office had been closed since December 2010 and Llanrwst office since May 2013 and that it was now wanted to make these closures permanent, with the main office remaining in Llandudno.

Resolved to recommend that the proposals be supported.

- b. The Clerk submitted a written report from Cllr B Bagnall on a meeting of the Bay Life Board, held on 29th June. Cllr Bagnall made particular verbal reference to: discussions about the feasibility of turning the Imperial into a Social Enterprise run hotel; improvements needed to the access from Eirias Park to the promenade; the need for a CPO for a property on Lawson Road to complete a housing project; a request from Wetherspoons for land for a beer garden.

Resolved to thank Cllr Bagnall and receive and note his report.

88/15 One Voice Wales:

The Clerk submitted, for information, a briefing note on Shale Gas and Hydraulic Fracturing (fracking) in Wales received from One Voice Wales.

Resolved to receive and note the information.

89/15 Other Correspondence:

It was noted that the following items of correspondence are available on request from the Clerk:

- a. U3A – Introductory letter and selection of brochures
- b. Llandudno and Colwyn Bay Tramway Society – Newsletter June 2015
- c. Colwyn in Bloom:
 - i. It was noted that a meeting had been held yesterday and draft minutes would be available later this week. The Wales in Bloom judge will be visiting Colwyn Bay on the morning on Monday 13th July.
 - ii. The Clerk tabled an e-mail received by the Committee outlining concerns about flower borders in St Johns Church, which had been funded by grants from Wren and others, being grassed over due to a lack of volunteers to maintain them.

It was queried whether the PCC had made any attempts to involve local

groups like the Old Colwyn Environment Federation, Old Colwyn Scouts or the Mens Shed to help ongoing maintenance.

Resolved to write to Canon Bellamy to remind the Church of the conditions of grant funding bodies, which would require ongoing maintenance for a minimum of 10 years, and ask if efforts have been made to contact local groups, including those mentioned, to see if any assistance may be available.

90/15 Planning:

- a. The Clerk submitted, for consideration, the planning applications received from CCBC.

Resolved to submit observations on these applications, as detailed in Schedule 'A' attached.

- b. The clerk submitted, for information, the Planning Decisions issued by CCBC for the period 22/05 to 5/7/15.
- c. It was noted that application 0/41680 has been withdrawn.
- d. The Clerk gave a brief verbal update on the planning training events being held on 15th and 21st July and encouraged members to attend.

Resolved that the Clerk would forward a summary of who would be attending each session.

91/15 Licensing Applications:

The Clerk submitted, for information, a list of any licensing applications listed by CCBC.

Resolved to receive notice of the licensing applications listed.

The Meeting Closed at 7.25 p.m.

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