

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BAY OF COLWYN TOWN COUNCIL, HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, RHIW ROAD, COLWYN BAY, AT 6.30 P.M. ON MONDAY 2ND JUNE 2014

PRESENT: The Mayor, Cllr Mrs Val Smith J.P. (Chairman)
Cllrs: W Bagnall; N Bastow; J Davies; Mrs L Edwards; R Foreman; D Griffiths; C Hughes (see Min 27/14); Mrs M Jones; A Khan; Mrs H Meredith; A Pearson; J Pearson (see Min 28/14); C Perry (see Min. 33/14) ; Mrs V Perry (see Min 28/14); D Porter; J Reaney; Mrs S Roy; S Taylor; G Ward; S Williams

OFFICER(S): Mrs C J Earley, Town Clerk
Mrs R P Dudley, Assistant Clerk

IN ATTENDANCE: Rob Dix, CCBC
Shane Wetton, CCBC
Richard Baddeley, Town Team
Member of the local Press
Mr John Fotios, Administrative Assistant

25/14 Apologies for Absence:

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs: M Burrows and Mrs L Griffiths.

26/14 Announcements:

The Mayor made the following announcement:
Tickets are still available for the RGC Gala dinner to be held in the Barn, Eirias Park on 7th June 2014, priced at £62.50.

27/14 Declarations of Interest:

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

Cllr Chris Hughes arrived at this juncture.

28/14 Visitors to the Council:

The Chairman welcomed Mr Rob Dix & Mr Shane Wetton to address the Town Council regarding the Colwyn Bay Masterplan and Neighbourhood Management.

Mr Dix addressed the Council first regarding the Colwyn Bay Masterplan, which was approved in 2010 after extensive consultation and forms the basis of the physical regeneration in the town. There has been significant development in some areas, such as the waterfront, but in other areas such as housing and the town centre there has been slower progress.

The proposed improvements to Station Square were dependant on Arriva Wales and Network Rail obtaining funding from the Welsh Government, which had not been successful, so the plans for that area are having to be rethought and scaled down. The Local Authority has purchased the building on the corner of Coed Pella Road and Conwy Road and staff will be relocated to that central point. The Masterplan had originally included this as part of further development to the Bay View Centre, but the decline on the economy had impacted on the owners plans to further develop that site. There is a need, therefore, to review the Town Centre section of the plan and the Design Commission for Wales are assisting facilitating this process.

This review will address questions such as whether Station Road should be opened up again to traffic and any proposals will be subject to a full public consultation. This is expected to happen over the summer period with a report back in September to the Bay Life Board and Conwy CBC. The consultation will include all aspects of the community; businesses, residents and visitors. Stakeholder meetings have already taken place to develop options to form the basis of the consultation. Mr Baddeley, Chair of Town Team is very enthusiastic about involvement in the review.

Cllr Mrs Viv Perry arrived at this juncture

The Chairman thanked Mr Dix for his informative presentation and questions were invited from Members. The following matters were discussed: Car parking in the town centre, particularly with the expected office relocation; opening Station Road up to traffic; a clear vision for the town; Station Square; timetable for improvements; the new beach; finish and cleaning of Station Road paving.

Cllr J Pearson arrived at this juncture.

Mr Shane Wetton then addressed the Council, explaining that Neighbourhood Management was a process to bring local communities together, with service providers working with those that live there to create sustainable communities. He has been working with Glyn Ward since 2011 and hopes to use the experience gained from this as a model to take forward. Ideally he would want other organisations involved: Police, Fire Service, Housing Associations etc, but there is still some work to do with this. He referred to the recent Williams report, which recommends a NM approach. The Glyn group is the only one in North Wales at this time. Cllrs Hughes & Khan have attended meetings and agreed it was a worthwhile project, giving residents from individual streets and neighbourhoods the opportunity to contribute to the decision making process and reversing the top-down approach often seen.

The Chairman thanked Mr Wetton for his informative presentation and questions were invited from Members. The following matters were discussed: jargon used; significant contributions residents can make; changes to Glyn Ward North in the last 3 years; quality of housing stock; giving the community a voice; Rhos Point Project; Communities First; percentage of privately owned property in Glyn Ward.

Mr Rob Dix & Mr Shane Wetton were then thanked for attending and both retired from the meeting.

29/14 Minutes:

- a. *Resolved to approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the last the Annual Meeting of the Council, held on 12th May 2014.*
- b. The Clerk submitted a copy of the minutes of the following meetings:
 - i. The General Purpose & Planning Committee, held on 22nd April 2014
 - ii. The Policy & Finance Committee, held on 30th April 2014.
 - iii. The General Purpose & Planning Committee, held on 20th May 2014.*Resolved to receive the Minutes of the Committee meetings.*

30/14 Matters Arising from Previous Minutes:

- a. *Resolved to endorse the recommendations of the Committees, as detailed in the following Minutes:*
 - Min. 465/13 Finance: To approve budget increases in respect of items carried forward from 2013/14, as listed in the Minutes.*
 - Min 466/13 Mayor's Allowance: An Amount of £200 was approved for the Mayor's Clothing Allowance, which will be subject to PAYE deductions.*
 - Min 470/13(c): To adopt the H&S Policy, as detailed in Schedule 'B' to those Minutes.*
- b. *Resolved to note the resolutions of the Committees, as detailed in the minutes.*

31/14 Casual Vacancy in Rhos Ward:

The Clerk submitted the applications received for the co-option of a member to fill the current vacancy in Rhos Ward. In accordance with the Council's Standing Orders, a secret ballot took place to fill the vacant seat.

Resolved, by a majority of 12 votes to 9, to co-opt Mr David J E Wood to fill the vacant seat for Rhos Ward.

32/14 Representatives on Outside Bodies:

Members were asked to consider the appointment of representatives to the following Outside Bodies:

- a. 271 (Colwyn Bay) Air Training Corps:
Resolved to appoint Cllr Mrs Val Smith J.P.
- b. Andrew Fraser Memorial Trust:
Resolved to appoint Cllr A Khan.
- c. Conwy Access Group:
Resolved to appoint Cllr Mrs V Perry
- d. Colwyn in Bloom:
Resolved to defer to next meeting.
- e. Conwy Sea Cadets:
Resolved to defer to next meeting to ask the newly co-opted Cllr Wood, as he is already involved with the group.

33/14 Victoria Pier:

The Clerk submitted a report following the informal meeting which had been held on 14th May to discuss the future of Victoria Pier. A copy of the slides from the presentation by Jess Steele was also submitted. The report presented two options to the Council:-

1. To pledge support to working in partnership with CVPT to resubmit a bid to the HLF, on the understanding that ownership and management of the Pier would need to be transferred to the new Partnership Board should the bid be successful and that CCBC would remain responsible for its maintenance and insurance in the interim period, OR
2. To decline the request to work in partnership with CVPT and await due process with regards to the application by CCBC to the Welsh Government to demolish the Pier.

It was proposed that the Town Council should await due process with regards to the application by Conwy CBC before deciding anything, with a member stating that he has grave concerns over the cost implications to the council.

Documents were tabled showing the costs of maintaining other Piers in the UK.

A counter proposal was made that the Town Council supports working in partnership with Colwyn Victoria Pier Trust to resubmit a stage 1 bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund and allocates £30,000 towards the potential development phase of the project, to see if it is feasible to save the 120 year old structure. It was also suggested that the development phase should look at other options rather than just whole renovation or demolition of the Pier.

A full debate on the two proposals followed, with concern expressed that there are still uncertainties with regards to the pier: permission from WG to demolish has not been granted yet, HLF has not confirmed if it would consider another bid and the ownership of the pier has not yet been resolved.

Several members referred to their own consultation with local residents, which had indicated that the majority support attempts to try to save the Pier. Members were also reminded of the high numbers of residents who attended meetings about the Pier and how residents had had to be turned away due to room capacity. One of the County Councillors stated that the Conwy CBC decision had been hasty and that members regretted not having seen Jess Steele's report.

Concern was expressed about the potential future liability of the Town Council should a HLF bid be successful and the restoration project proceed, but then not meet its revenue projections. It was also queried whether involvement in a project of this nature was ultra-vires (outside of the Council's powers). The Clerk referred to the powers of the Council to attract visitors and to provide entertainments and confirmed that legal advice could be sought, if required, to confirm that any partnership with CVPT would be within the Council's powers.

Cllr C Perry left the meeting at this juncture.

Several members stated that the Pier is a key focal point on the promenade and they were keen to see it restored, if it were possible.

A vote was then taken on option 1, as amended: “*To pledge support to working in partnership with CVPT to resubmit a bid to the HLF for funding for the Development Phase of the project to restore the Pier, (but not to agree to any future ownership arrangements until that stage is completed).*”

The results of the vote were:

- 16 in favour
- 3 against
- 1 abstention

Resolved to adopt Option 1 of the report, as amended above.

34/14 Year-end accounts 2013/14:

- a. ***Resolved to receive and approve the Statement of Accounts for 2013/14***
- b. ***Resolved to approve the Annual Return for the year ended 31st March 2014, including the governance statements in Section 2 of that Report.***

35/14 Action Plan 2014/15:

Resolved to approve the updated action plan.

The Meeting Closed at 8.10 p.m.

..... Chairman