

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE GENERAL PURPOSE AND PLANNING COMMITTEE OF THE BAY OF COLWYN TOWN COUNCIL, HELD AT 6.30PM ON TUESDAY 3RD FEBRUARY 2015, IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM, TOWN HALL, RHIW ROAD, COLWYN BAY

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

OFFICER: Mrs C Earley, Town Clerk

IN ATTENDANCE: Cllr P Richards and a member of the local press.

319/14 Apologies for Absence:

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs: Mrs L Griffiths; C Perry; R Foreman. It was noted that Cllr Perry is still awaiting an eye operation.

320/14 Declarations of Interest:

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

The Clerk declared a personal and prejudicial interest in planning application 0/41397, as the applicant is her neighbour.

Cllr D Porter declared a personal (non-prejudicial) interest in agenda item 5(d) – Skater Sculpture, as an employee of CCBC.

321/14 Minutes:

Resolved to approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the last meeting, held on 13th January 2015.

322/14 Matters Arising from Previous Minutes:

a. Min. 296/14 – Eirias Boating Lake:

It was noted that Caroline Jones, CCBC, will be attending the next meeting of the Committee.

b. Min. 297/14(b) – Play Equipment:

It was noted that £5,000 of the budget for 2015/16 will be used as potential match-funding for a bid to Wren to upgrade Tan Lan play area. This will leave £7,500 to be spent on projects in the Bay of Colwyn area.

c. Min. 299/14 – Colwyn Leisure Centre:

The Clerk tabled an e-mail confirming receipt of the ‘complaint’ and advising that a response should be received within 10 working days.

323/14 Conwy CBC:

- a. Waterfront Project:** The Clerk submitted an e-mail update on the Colwyn Bay Waterfront Project and a response to a query about improvement work in Old Colwyn from Cllr V Perry.

Resolved to note the update, including details of footway resurfacing works to the west of the Pier (landward side) and the response to Cllr V Perry, confirming that other funding partners are involved in the Old Colwyn coastal defence works and that a follow-up meeting of all parties will be arranged.

- b. Parking Charges Review:** The Clerk submitted correspondence from Ingrid Lewis, Town Manager, to include a report on Parking and Toll Charges recently considered by the Customers Overview and Scrutiny Committee of CCBC.

Concerns were expressed that the introduction of any parking charges on the promenade in Colwyn Bay would have a negative impact on both local residents and visitors and that considering the introduction of charges is premature, given that there are still few attractions. Concern was also expressed that local taxpayers have contributed to the improvement works and should not now be charged again for using the waterfront. However, members agreed that there was a need for restrictions to prevent vehicles (including motorhomes etc) from parking overnight, i.e. from 12 midnight to 8am, but that this should not affect fishermen who park for periods of up to 4 hours during this period.

Resolved to write to CCBC to state that the Town Council objects to the introduction of any parking charges on the promenade, as this would be detrimental to efforts to increase tourism, but to request consideration is given to the introduction of restrictions on overnight parking from midnight to 8am, if possible with an exception of up to 4 hours to enable local fishermen to park.

- c. Applications for Social Housing:** The Clerk submitted a letter from Sam Parry, CCBC, outlining recent changes to the housing allocations policy which has resulted in the need for changes to the procedure for applications for social housing, to take effect from April 2015. It was noted that from this date there would be a single housing register (waiting list) for each County and changes to how social housing is allocated, with applicants added to one of four ‘bands’ according to the urgency of their housing need. Bands one and two (top priorities) will both require a local connection (with one exception), therefore ensuring priority is given to local people with a recognised housing need.

Members welcomed the priority for people with a local connection.

Resolved to note the correspondence and wait to see if the new policy works better for local people needing affordable housing.

- d. **Skateboard Sculpture:** The Clerk submitted correspondence from Cllr Paul Richards regarding the damaged skater sculpture removed from Eirias Park. Cllr Richards was invited to address the Committee and he informed members that he believed the sculpture had been pulled over and damaged accidentally (broken at the wrist) and that he would like to see it repaired, if possible, and reinstated.

Resolved to write to Parks to query if the sculpture can be repaired (possibly with use of a metal stake) and reinstated, with any costs being referred to the Policy & Finance Committee for consideration.

- e. **Temporary Traffic Regulation:** The Clerk tabled notice of a request for a temporary traffic regulation at Princes Drive, from its junction with Carlton Road to Conway Road, for BT works from 2/3/15 to 20/3/15.

Resolved to receive the notice.

324/14 Victoria Pier:

- a. The Clerk submitted a copy of the CCBC Officer's Report and gave a brief verbal report on the presentation given to CCBC on 29th January. It was noted that Sasha Davies gave an opening presentation, confirming the content of the Officer's report, and that Jess Steele then gave a presentation on behalf of CVPT and the Town Council, which appeared to be well-received. One of the engineers working on Hastings Pier was present and he reported that the pier was in no worse a condition than Hastings had been. Jess referred to the 'health and well-being' themed approach and outlined the financial and other support that would be requested of CCBC, should the round one bid be successful. A question and answer session followed the presentation and the Chief Executive suggested wording of a resolution to the County Council that would confirm a 'twin-track' approach: to continue with the application to seek to demolish the pier whilst acknowledging and awaiting the outcome of the HLF bid, which, if successful, would then be referred to Council/Cabinet to consider the matters referred to by Jess regarding funding and ownership etc. This resolution was passed by the Council.

Several Town Councillors had been present at the meeting and it was also possible to watch it on-line. Cllr D Porter summarised by saying that it is now up to the people of the town to get behind the HLF bid.

- b. The Clerk submitted correspondence from CCBC publicising the recent exhibition and the demolition proposals for the Pier. It was noted that an e-mail had been sent to all Town and Community Councils in Conwy inviting their views.

A discussion took place about the exhibition and the proposals by CCBC to leave 66% of the cast iron columns in situ on the beach. It was noted that no costings had been produced for demolition options and that the columns had had to be blown out when Rhos Pier was removed. Members could not see any benefits of leaving the columns in place.

Resolved to write to CCBC to object to the proposal to retain 66% of the iron columns in place and to request further discussions about reasonable mitigation should the current HLF bid be unsuccessful and permission be granted for demolition.

- c. The Clerk submitted a copy of a letter from D Jones, MP, sent to the County Council prior to the meeting on 29th January raising several points of concern regarding the proposals for demolition and suggesting that the County Council would be better placed supporting CVPT and the Town Council in their efforts to seek funding to restore the Pier.

The Clerk advised members that a request had since been received from Mr Jones for members of the Pier Steering Group to attend a meeting he was hoping to convene between Mr Hunt and CCBC, provisionally to be held on 27th February.

Concern was expressed about the rising cost to local taxpayers in respect of the ongoing claims by Mr Hunt against the Trustee in Bankruptcy and CCBC and that the Town Council should not be involving itself in any meetings between parties involved in a legal dispute of this nature.

Resolved to request that the Clerk responds to Mr Jones to advise him that the Town Council representatives on the Steering Group would not be present at the proposed meeting, as the Town Council does not feel it is appropriate for it to get involved in an ongoing and long-standing dispute that will ultimately be decided by the Courts.

325/14 Welsh Government:

The Clerk submitted a copy letter outlining current trunk road improvement works.

Resolved to receive and note the correspondence.

326/14 Gwynt y Mor Wind Farm:

The Clerk submitted a copy of the recent community investment update.

Resolved to receive and note the update.

327/14 North Wales Police:

The Clerk submitted a press release regarding renewal of fire arms certificates.

Resolved to receive and note the content of the press release.

328/14 Heart FM:

The Clerk submitted a booklet giving examples of services provided by Heart to support local events. It was noted that support and advertising on the radio is provided free of charge for some events, in order to help Heart to raise its profile locally.

Resolved to receive and note the information.

329/14 Other Correspondence:

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

- a. Conwy Access Group - Agenda and minutes of last meeting.
- b. Minutes of a meeting of OC(E)RA, held on 14.1.15.

330/14 Planning:

- a. Members were asked to consider the planning applications received from CCBC.

Having declared a personal and prejudicial interest, the Clerk withdrew from the meeting during the discussion and decision regarding application 0/41397.

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

- b. The Clerk submitted a copy of the Planning Decisions recently issued by CCBC.

Resolved to receive and note the planning decisions.

- c. The Clerk submitted notice of the withdrawal of application 0/41324.
- d. The Clerk tabled details of the CCBC Planning Site Visits taking place on Tuesday 10th February. It was noted that Cllrs Mrs M Jones and Mrs S Roy will be attending the site visit for applications 0/41389 and 0/41296 respectively.

331/14 Licensing Applications:

The Clerk tabled notice of several recent 'TENS' licensing applications.

Resolved to receive details of the temporary events.

The Meeting Closed at 7.45 p.m.

..... Chairman