

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 12TH NOVEMBER 2014

PRESENT: Cllr J Reaney (Chairman)
Cllrs: D Griffiths, C Hughes, A Khan, Mrs H Meredith, T Pearson,
Mrs V Perry, S Taylor, G Ward

OFFICER: Mrs C J Earley, Town Clerk

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs E Dowell and Mr M Frankcom, Conwy County Borough Council
Regulatory Services
Members of the Press

230/14 Apologies for Absence:

Apologies for absence were received from The Mayor, Cllrs Mrs V Smith JP, Cllrs J Davies, Mrs S Roy and P Richards.

231/14 Declarations of Interest:

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

232/14 Visitors:

The Chairman welcomed Emma Dowell and Matthew Frankcom, CCBC Regulatory and Housing Services, regarding a request for funding towards maintenance of CCTV services from 2014.

Mr Frankcom and Mrs Dowell gave a brief presentation regarding the overall costs of operating the CCTV scheme, numbers and locations of cameras, cost of crime, what action is being taken to reduce the costs of the service and numbers of incidents recorded in the past year, by neighbourhood. A copy of the presentation slides is included in Schedule 'A' to these Minutes, for information.

A request is being made to the eight Town and Community Councils in Conwy which have CCTV cameras to make an annual contribution covering the average cost of maintenance of each camera (currently £281 p.a.). This equates to £8,992 for the 42 cameras within the Bay of Colwyn area. The average total cost for each camera (including maintenance, monitoring costs and fibre rental) is £4,483 p.a.

Contributions at this level will enable CCBC to continue repairing and upgrading the current CCTV equipment, but will not cover costs for any new installations. Where validated requests are made for new cameras, re-deployable equipment will be used.

- Cllr C Hughes and A Khan arrived during the presentation.

A question and answer session followed, with questions from members covering the

following: funding for the new camera at Porth Eirias; the number of recorded incidents which result in prosecutions (information not currently available from N W Police); whether funding could be obtained from the proceeds of crime; whether enquiries from N W Police have increased; whether reduction in police numbers on the street may have contributed to the higher number of viewing requests; introduction of charges for evidence DVDs for the police, to help cover costs; camera types and pros and cons of each; whether incident information is available by camera, not just by neighbourhood.

Standing Orders were briefly suspended during the question and answer session to enable a member of the Press to ask a question of the CCBC officers.

Mrs Dowell and Mr Frankcom were then thanked for attending and retired from the meeting.

Members were then asked to consider the request for a funding contribution of £8,992 towards the maintenance of the 42 cameras in the Bay of Colwyn area.

Resolved unanimously to recommend that the Council agrees a contribution of £8,992 for 2015/16 and that provision be made for this in the draft budget.

233/14 Minutes:

- a. *Resolved to receive, approve and sign as a correct record the Minutes of the last meeting, held on 24th September 2014.*
- b. *Resolved to receive a copy of the Draft Minutes of a meeting of the Amenities Sub-Committee held on 20th October 2014.*

234/14 Matters Arising from Previous Minutes:

- a. **Min. 172/14(a) – Large Grant Application, Rhos on Sea Environmental Action Group:**

The Clerk submitted copy correspondence regarding the recent refusal of the application for funding made to Conwy CBC, due to the need for the project to fit within the current timescale for the Waterfront Project.

Cllr D Griffiths gave a quick verbal update, informing members that follow the recent Cabinet meeting, the Rhos on Sea Action Group had been advised to meet with an Officer from CCBC to re-write parts of the application and resubmit this for consideration, which may result in a request for a slightly higher funding amount from the Town Council. Cllr Hughes advised that the Council should request the official decision from Marianne Jackson.

Resolved to write to Marianne Jackson to request a brief update.

- b. **Min. 464/13(a) – Transfer of Rhiw Road Buildings:**

The Clerk gave a brief verbal update confirming that things were now progressing and the Working Group had recently met with the Council's solicitor to discuss the draft leases for CVSC and CC. Several minor amendments had been

suggested at this meeting and our solicitor has now forwarded a request for amendment to the solicitor representing CCBC. It is hoped that CVSC will soon be permitted access to the building to carry out some of the internal works (mainly redecoration and IT/telephone installation) which will need to be completed before they can move in. It is proposed that the signing of leases and transfer of freehold to the Town Council will take place concurrently and that all costs relating to the building will then be apportioned between the occupiers based on a 'fair contribution', which it is initially proposed will be calculate by floor area occupied.

Resolved to receive and note the update from the Clerk.

c. Min. 179/14 – Student Advisors:

The Clerk gave a brief verbal update, confirming that four of the new Student Advisors had now been appointed, but a response was still awaited from Ysgol Bryn Elian. It was hoped that induction training would take place very soon and that the new Advisors would be present at the next meeting.

i. Min. 181/14 – St David's Award Nomination:

It was noted that the submission of the proposed nomination had not been possible, due to a lack of sufficient detailed information for the citation. Cllr B Cossey had been informed.

d. Min. 210/14 – Amenities Sub-Committee recommendations:

Members were asked to consider the recommendations of the Sub-Committee, as detailed in Min. 210/14. It was noted that written confirmation of the £30,000 VVP funding should hopefully be received within the next week.

Resolved to endorse the recommendations of the Committee, as detailed in Min. 210/14, and proceed with launching the Participatory Budgeting Project, as outlined.

235/14 Finance:

- a. *Resolved to authorise payments made on behalf of the Council for the period 16/9/14 to 4/11/14, as detailed in Schedule 'B' attached.***
- b. *Resolved to receive and sign a copy of the latest bank reconciliations.***
- c. *Resolved to receive the income/expenditure report as at 30/9/14 and note that there are no current areas of concern.***

236/14 Conwy CBC:

- a. The Clerk and Cllr Mrs H Meredith gave a brief verbal report from the Clerks' Network and C&TCs Forum Meetings, held on 23rd October. It was noted that the main topics at the meetings had been the impact of budgetary cuts from the Welsh**

Government on local services (currently being contained by CCBC wherever possible) and the possible early voluntary merger of Conwy and Denbighshire, which is to be decided by each Council concurrently at 2pm on 17th November.

Concern was expressed about the inequality of council tax rates between the two authorities. It was noted that the proposed mergers had cross party support and that this was one of many issues which would need to be addressed as part of merger proposals, if any initial expression of interest was accepted by the Welsh Government.

b. BID Feasibility Report:

The Clerk submitted a copy of the initial feasibility report, which has now been approved by the Welsh Government. Concern was expressed about the BID in Chester, which it was felt had not been successful, and the Clerk advised members that there had been many successful BIDS across the UK, with some now having been renewed, by referendum, after their initial 3/5 year term had ended. Decisions on how any funds raised would be spent would be down to the Steering Group/Board appointed by member businesses and the priorities for spending would also be decided by member businesses. The Clerk informed the Committee that the Steering Group will be writing to all businesses within the business areas of Colwyn Bay, Old Colwyn, Rhos on Sea and Mochdre to introduce the BID and seek feedback, by way of questionnaire, about current concerns and priorities for improvement.

Resolved to receive and note the report.

c. Well Being and Future Generations (Wales) Bill:

The Clerk submitted a copy of a recent report to CCBC on the proposed Bill, for information. It was noted that the provisions in the proposed Bill will apply to any Town or Community Council with annual income in excess of £200,000.

Resolved to receive and note the report.

237/14 Welsh Government:

At the request of member(s), the Clerk submitted for consideration the following WG Consultation documents:

- a. Collection and management of devolved taxes in Wales.
- b. Draft Guidance on Housing Association Board Member Remuneration.
- c. Energy Efficiency – Call for Evidence

Resolved to defer these reports until the next Council meeting, to be held on 1st December, to allow members additional time to read them.

238/14 North Wales Fire & Rescue Service:

The Clerk submitted, for consideration, a public consultation regarding the levels of fire and rescue services for 2015-16 and beyond. It was noted that the consultation

contains three possible options regarding future funding levels.

Resolved that each member be encouraged to respond individually, given the differing views on the consultation document.

239/14 Gwynedd Pensions:

The Clerk submitted correspondence regarding the Annual Meeting.

Resolved to authorise the Clerk to respond to confirm that an annual meeting was not considered necessary in addition to the annual report.

240/14 Victoria Pier:

- a. The Clerk submitted a draft Memorandum of Understanding outlining the proposed roles and responsibilities of the Town Council and Colwyn Victoria Pier Trust, as agreed by the appointed Steering Group. It was noted that the document had been referred to the solicitor who had been pointed to advise the Council on its powers and had suggested that a written agreement outlining the roles of each partner was obtained. He had confirmed that he had no concerns regarding any of its content.

Resolved to authorise the Clerk to sign the Memorandum of Understanding, on behalf of the Council.

- b. The Clerk submitted a document regarding a legal advice service for local councils obtained from the recent annual Clerks' conference and members were asked to consider if there would be any benefit in securing a fixed fee legal advice service for future general (non-specialist) advice.

Resolved to request that the Clerk researches any similar services offered by other firms specialising in the local council sector, including One Voice Wales, and brings a report back to a future meeting of this committee.

241/14 Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales:

The Clerk submitted, for consideration, the draft Annual Report for 2015/16, which contains a number of proposed determinations in respect of payment of allowances for the 2015/16 financial year.

Resolved to recommend to the Council that all determinations be adopted at the Annual Meeting in May 2015, except those relating to the payment of up to £100 each year for members' costs incurred (telephone, IT, consumables etc) (42), and the payment of an 'Attendance Allowance' for attending approved duties outside of the Council area (45).

242/14 Training:

Resolved to receive:

- a. *Notes from the Clerk from the recent Society of Local Council Clerks National Conference.*
- b. *A brief verbal report and CD from Cllr H Meredith following the recent Information Commissioner's Office workshop.*

243/14 Grants:

- a. The Clerk submitted, for consideration, an urgent small grant application from Sure Hope Church (in respect of a proposed Christmas luncheon).

Resolved to refuse the application due to the levels of balances held.

- b. It was noted that several letters of thanks/reports for grants are available on request from the Clerk.

- c. **Additional Urgent Items:** The following additional items of correspondence were tabled with the permission of the Chairman, on the understanding that a final decision could not be made at this meeting:

- i. A report from the Town Manager, on behalf of the Chamber of Trade, regarding the proposed Christmas Activities for 2014 and seeking approval of the £6,000 grant previously earmarked by the Council for this purpose.

Resolved to receive details of the proposed activities and recommend approval of a grant of £6,000 to the Chamber of Trade.

- ii. A request from a Town Councillor for funding of £600 towards the costs of servicing/repairing the public clock on the former TIC office on the promenade at Rhos on Sea.

Resolved to recommend approval of a contribution of £600 towards the costs of servicing/repairing the clock.

- iii. A request for a letter confirming the commitment of the Town Council to provide £15,000 towards next April's Forties Festival (for the purposes of applying for match funding from other body(ies)).

Resolved to authorise the Clerk to send a letter of confirmation of funding.

- iv. A request for a letter of support in respect of an application to the RWE Rhyl Flats Wind Farm Community Fund for £10,000 for an outreach worker to work with local groups/schools etc to increase local community participation in the Forties Festival.

Resolved to authorise the Clerk to send a letter of support.

The Meeting Closed at 8.10 p.m.

..... Chairman