

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 18TH FEBRUARY 2015

PRESENT: Cllrs V Smith (Town Mayor)
Cllr J Reaney (Chairman)
Cllrs: D Griffiths, C Hughes, T Pearson, Mrs V Perry, P Richards,
Mrs S Roy (Deputy Mayor); G Ward

OFFICER: Mrs C Earley, Town Clerk

354/14 Welcome & Apologies for Absence:

The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting and apologies for absence were received from Cllrs: J Davies; H Meredith; A Khan; S Taylor.

355/14 Declarations of Interest:

Members were reminded that they must declare the existence and nature of any personal and/or prejudicial interests and the following declarations were made:
Cllr C Hughes – agenda items 4(b) – Prom Xtra and Access all Eirias and 13 – Colwyn BID – CCBC Cabinet Member (non-prejudicial)
Cllr D Griffiths – agenda item 19(b) – Grant application – Madoc Project (personal and prejudicial)

356/14 Minutes:

- a. *Resolved to approve and sign as a correct record the Minutes of:*
 - i. *The last meeting, held on 7th January 2015.*
 - ii. *A Special Meeting held on 19th January 2015.*
- b. *Resolved to receive a copy of the Draft Minutes of the Buildings Sub-Committee, held on 9th February.*

357/14 Matters Arising from Previous Meetings:

- a. **Min. 335/14(c) – Lease to CVSC:**

Resolved to endorse the recommendation of the Buildings Sub-Committee that an option to renew for a further seven years be included in the lease for CVSC.

- b. **Min 291/14(b) – Access all Eirias and Prom Xtra:**

- i. Members were asked to consider a proposal to renew the three year agreement for funding towards these events of £20,000 and £10,000 respectively for a further three year period (subject to annual satisfactory evaluation of the events).

Resolved to recommend that a new three year commitment be given for funding of £20,000 and £10,000 for Access all Eirias and Prom Xtra,

subject to satisfactory annual evaluation.

- ii. Members were asked to consider how the Council's ten tickets for the Access all Eirias events should be allocated.

Resolved to hold a draw for all interested members/staff at the next Council meeting.

358/14 Finance:

- a. *Resolved to authorise payments made on behalf of the Council for the period 19/12/14 to 10/2/15, as detailed on Schedule 'A' attached.*
- b. *Resolved to receive and sign a copy of the latest bank reconciliations, as at 31st January 2015.*
- c. The Clerk submitted, for consideration, the latest income/expenditure report, as at 31/1/15.

Resolved to receive the latest summary of income and expenditure.

- d. The Clerk submitted, for consideration, correspondence relating to outstanding payments for the Council's Bangor University scholarships. It was noted that the recipient of the award for a three year course starting in September 2013 had not been included on our list, or invoiced for, but the award had been presented (Cllr V Perry attended). An invoice would therefore be raised for this award for 2013 and 2014, together with the new award for 2014 and the final payment of the last award, made in 2013 (total £2,000 to be invoiced against a budget of £1,000).

Resolved to receive notification of the outstanding scholarships and approve payment of £2,000.

359/14 Conwy CBC:

- a. The Clerk submitted, for consideration, correspondence relating to Bus Shelter maintenance. It was noted that £14,242.61 remains in the earmarked fund for maintenance for shelters in the Bay of Colwyn area.

Resolved to write to request repayment of the contribution made for 2014/15, as suggested.

- b. The Clerk gave a brief verbal report on the Clerks Network and CCBC/T&CC Forum meetings held on 29th January.

A brief discussion took place about the presentation given on the programme to replace outdated street lighting across the County.

Resolved to write to invite the Head of Street Lighting to request that he attends a future meeting of this Committee to explain how the lamp column replacement scheme will be prioritised and request that he gives consideration,

as a matter of urgency, to updating the columns on Conwy/Abergele Road.

360/14 Welsh Government:

The Clerk submitted the following WG Consultation documents:

- a. Reforming Local Government: Power to Local People** (summary report) – full version available to view via link in e-mail from CCBC.

It was noted that a Special Meeting of the CCBC/T&CC Forum is being held on Weds 25th February to consider the White Paper and its implications for Town and Community Councils.

Resolved to defer considering any response to the White Paper until the next meeting, when a report will be available on the T&CC Forum meeting's views.

Further resolved that the Clerk circulates a copy of the consultation questions for the next meeting.

- b. Local Government (Wales) Bill:** It was noted that this Bill includes the enabling legislation required to give powers to the Welsh Government to make the reforms suggested in the White Paper, such as the mergers of Local Authorities.

361/14 National Assembly for Wales:

Cllr Viv Perry gave a brief verbal report on a recent engagement event, which had been part of the 'Big Voice' initiative. The first part had been a 'Government for beginners' session which had explained how local government works and who is responsible for what. This had been followed by encouragement for attendees to look out for 'strand 4' meetings or consultations (in connection with the Tackling Poverty agenda).

Resolved to thank Cllr Perry for attending and giving her report.

362/14 Colwyn Counts Participatory Budgeting:

- a.** The Clerk submitted, for endorsement, the results from the recent voting event.

Resolved to note and endorse the results from the recent PB event, as detailed on Schedule 'B' attached.

- b.** The Clerk then asked members to consider whether PB should be used for any budget lines for 2015/16.

Cllr Hughes suggested PB could be used to prioritise projects included in the Old Colwyn and Rhos on Sea Locality Plans. However, it was noted that no budget had been provided by the Town Council for implementation of these projects.

The Clerk advised members that the Youth grants budget had proved the most difficult to fully allocate in recent years.

Resolved:

- i. To recommend that PB is used again in 2015/16 for allocation of the Town Council's youth budget of £12,000, with the proviso that the Policy & Finance Committee is given the opportunity to consider and approve the criteria/guidance for applicants.***
- ii. That the Clerk contacts Shane Wetton to ask for a copy of the Locality Plans for Old Colwyn and Rhos on Sea (and Colwyn Bay when finalised), for consideration in respect of any future funding provision.***

363/14 Local Members Ward Allowances:

The Clerk submitted project proposals from:

- a. Cllr B Bagnall (£300 for Table Tennis equipment for Colwyn Bay Youth Club)**
- b. Cllr R Foreman & Cllr Stewart Taylor (up to £600 for perch style bench at Cricket Club bus stop – Penrhyn Avenue).**

Resolved to approve both projects.

364/14 Mayor's Chain of Office:

The Clerk gave a brief verbal update confirming that the insurance claim had been approved and the pendant was currently being repaired.

Resolved to receive and note the update from the Clerk.

365/14 Gas Supply:

It was noted that the current fixed price gas contract for the Town Hall is about to end and the Clerk submitted three quotations for a new fixed term agreement for consideration. It was noted that all of these were considerable cheaper than the terms offered for renewal by our current supplier.

Resolved to request that the Clerk contacts the Council's current supplier to enquire if they would be willing to price-match the cheapest quotation obtained, but otherwise to switch to the cheapest of the two year fixed rates.

366/14 Colwyn BID:

The Clerk submitted, for information, a copy of the information sent to all business premises within the area, including a survey for completion by every business.

Resolved to note the information and to leave the completion of the survey to individual businesses.

367/14 One Voice Wales:

- a. The Clerk submitted, for consideration, an invitation to join One Voice Wales at a reduced fee of £1,769 for 2015/16.**

It was noted that the reduced fee was significantly less than the quotations received in b) below for a fixed-price legal service only (which is included in the One Voice Wales membership) and would include other services such as general advice and support (including access to website for members only), reduced rate training for members, quarterly sector specific newsletter and greater representation / collaboration opportunities.

Resolved to recommend that the Council joins One Voice Wales for an initial one year trial period, at the reduced subscription rate of £1,769.

- b. Members received and noted a confidential file tabled by the Clerk containing alternative quotations received for provision of legal advice, both of which were significantly higher than the fees in a) above.

Resolved to receive and note the confidential quotation file.

368/14 Victoria Pier:

Resolved to authorise payment of expenses of £619.05 relating to additional meetings that Jess Steele has been required to attend.

369/14 Local Government Pension Scheme:

Resolved to authorise the Clerk to attend a training session for employers on 24th February.

370/14 Hustings for General Election:

- a. It was noted that a request had been received (via Twitter) for the Town Council to arrange a hustings event for the forthcoming parliamentary elections. The Clerk submitted advice from the Society of Local Council Clerks confirming that the Council should not get involved in organising local hustings.

Resolved to receive and note the correspondence.

- b. It was noted that the Clerk has received a request (not in any official capacity) to help Chair a hustings event at Upper Colwyn Bay Community Centre.

Resolved to note this information and to confirm that it is for the Clerk to decide if she wishes to be involved in the event in a personal capacity.

371/14 BCUHB:

The Clerk submitted information and recent press reports following the announcement of the temporary closure of the consultant-led obstetric services at Ysbyty Glan Clwyd.

Resolved to recommend that the Council writes to the First Minister to request a review of the proposals, due to concerns that the proposed closure could have a severe impact on the safety of both mothers and babies in this area.

372/14 Grants:

- a. The Clerk submitted additional information and Members were asked to reconsider the small grant application from Conwy Connect, deferred at the last meeting.

Resolved to recommend approval of a small grant of £500 to Conwy Connect.

- b. The Clerk submitted, for consideration, an application for an additional £650 in connection with the Madoc Project (in addition to the £4,550 previously approved by the Town Council).

- Cllr D Griffiths gave a brief verbal update on progress with the application for support from CCBC and he then retired from the meeting, having declared a personal and prejudicial interest.

It was noted that the funds would not be required/paid unless the application for support from CCBC was also successful.

Resolved to approve the additional grant of £650, subject to the approval of funding by CCBC and other funding partners.

- c. The Clerk submitted completed Event Evaluation reports from:
 - i. CCBC (Wales GB Rally Event)
 - ii. Colwyn Bay Celtic Winter Fayre

Resolved to receive and note the evaluation reports.

- d. It was noted that letters of thanks have been received from the following small grant recipients:
 - i. Conwy County Sea Cadets
 - ii. Cerdded Conwy Walks
 - iii. Y Pentan
- e. It was noted that letters of thanks have been received from the following large grant recipients:
 - i. Côr Meibion Colwyn
 - ii. Home Start Conwy
 - iii. Benefits Advice Shop
 - iv. Beulah Brass
 - v. Relate
 - vi. Carers Outreach Service
 - vii. NW Deaf Association

The meeting closed at 8.05 p.m.

..... Chairman