

**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 6<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2016**

**PRESENT:** The Mayor, Cllr J Davies  
Cllrs: Mrs G Baker; Mrs L Edwards; R Foreman; D Griffiths;  
Mrs L Griffiths; Mrs M Jones; Mrs H Meredith; A Pearson; J Pearson;  
Mrs V Perry, P Richards; Dr S Roy; S Taylor; G Ward; S Williams

**OFFICER:** Mrs C Earley

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Dr Singh, Dr Nagarej and Mr Anderson, Penrhyn Bay Surgery  
Dr Parry, Dr Ratchford and Dr Roberts, Cadwgan Surgery  
Member of the Press

**53/16 Apologies for Absence:**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs: W Bagnall, C Hughes, A Khan,  
A Mason, C Perry, Mrs V Smith, C Wood

**54/16 Announcements:**

There were no announcements from the Mayor.

**55/16 Declarations of Interest:**

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

**56/16 Visitors to the Council:**

- a. The Mayor welcomed representatives from Penrhyn Bay and Cadwgan GP surgeries, who had been invited, along with other surgeries serving Bay of Colwyn residents, to address the Council regarding any concerns they may currently have about GP recruitment.

Dr Singh was invited to speak first and he outlined the issues raised in the surgery's recent newsletter, which had been brought to the attention of the Town Council and which had highlighted the difficulties being experienced due to the numbers of retiring GPs, difficulty recruiting new GPs, increased patient/GP ratios and the challenges in providing a good standard of care. He made reference to reducing healthcare budgets and increased in demand for primary care, due to an ageing population. Dr Singh explained that his surgery had decided to take a proactive approach in explaining these difficulties and challenges to patients and supporting health board initiatives to provide closer links with nursing, physiotherapy, social care services and occupational therapy etc., to relieve pressure on GPs.

Questions were then invited from Members and these covered the following matters/concerns: the loss of 'family doctors' and difficulty in getting appointments to see a GP – Dr Singh responded that society has changed and there is now more

monitoring of care and encouragement of complaints to help raise standards, which has lots of positives but has led to a slow degradation of the value that the profession once enjoyed, he also commented that policies are dictated by guidelines, but that these are made for one condition and do not take into account the complex medical history of patients; it was queried whether free prescriptions had added to pressures on GPs – Dr Singh responded that in his view people come to see him with stories and problems and are not necessarily looking for prescriptions; how close are GP surgeries to breaking point? – Dr Singh responded that they are quite close and he is concerned that patients are aware of this and do not come to the surgery, even when suffering; it was queried whether the funding per head that surgeries receive has gone down – Dr Singh responded that the Health Board's funding is being cut year on year and surgeries are very stretched with the funding per head that they currently receive.

The Mayor then invited Drs Parry, Rashford and Roberts from Cadwgan Surgery to address the Council. Dr Roberts opened by saying he was not here to defend General Practice, as there are many areas across the UK feeling the same pinch as surgeries in this area. However, it is a worrying sign that more doctors are retiring early and the required number of new doctors are not coming forward to replace them. He added that he was not sure this was within the Health Board's control, as they are governed by budget pressures. He instead referred to his personal fears of an unspoken Government agenda and stated that concerns need to be taken to the highest level. He referred to the 'Alaska' model, which is being piloted in several areas but is still largely untested across the UK.

Dr Parry then spoke about efforts to encourage newly qualified GPs to come to North Wales and stated his concerns that reinstating prescription charges would just cause extra administration and bureaucracy and result in little real savings. He added that continuity of care is by far the most important thing in general practice. He accepts that nurses and physios etc all have a role to play, but stated concerns that funding for GPs has dropped from 11% of the NHS budget to 7-8% since new GP contracts were issued in 2004. Fragmented care is not best for patients and the priority needs to be keeping patients out of hospital wherever possible. Moving budgets from secondary to primary care would help this.

Questions then followed, including: concerns about why the government didn't seem to be listening to GPs concerns – Dr Roberts responded that Doctors are not known to whinge and are instead resorting to leaving the profession, some in their forties (some twenty years early); does government want to see more people paying to go privately? – Dr Roberts responded that it was his personal view that this was the case; how far advanced were plans for a medical school in North Wales? – Dr Parry responded that they were not advanced at all and it will not happen anytime soon, however, more training posts would help to keep those from the area who want to stay and work here, but being a trainer is tough on the GP who has to do lots of work in his/her own time; how has the Health Board responded to / helped efforts to attract new GPs to North Wales? – there has been a positive response on social media, which is being used to encourage people to think about North Wales as an option, however, if BCUHB were to commission this work, it would seem like just a marketing ploy. Dr Parry stated that there needed to be a balance between honesty and reasons for making changes and promoting the positive aspects of GP practice.

The Mayor thanked all of the GP representatives for their attendance and sharing

their views and concerns and they and the press then retired from the meeting.

- b. The Clerk submitted a response from one other local Surgery, stating they were not experiencing problems with recruitment at the present time and it was noted that the other surgeries had been unable to send representatives.
- c. The Clerk submitted e-mail correspondence from the BCUHB offering to attend this or a future meeting.

***Resolved, in the first instance, to invite a representative from BCUHB to a future meeting to respond to the concerns raised by the GPs.***

**57/16 Minutes:**

- a. ***Resolved to approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of:***
  - i. *The last meeting of the Council, held on 18<sup>th</sup> April 2016.*
  - ii. *The Annual Meeting of the Council, held on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2016.*
- b. ***Resolved to receive a copy of the minutes of the following meetings:***
  - i. *The General Purpose & Planning Committee, held on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2016.*
  - ii. *The Volunteer Awards Committee, held on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2016.*
  - iii. *The Policy & Finance Committee, held on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2016.*
  - iv. *The General Purposes & Planning Committee, held on 5<sup>th</sup> April 2016.*

**58/16 Matters Arising from Those Minutes:**

- a. **Min. 415/15(a) – Long Service Award:**

***Resolved to defer presentation of a long service award to Cllr Chris Hughes to the next meeting, due to his attendance at a CCBC Scrutiny Committee meeting this evening, and to note that there is another member of part-time staff who also qualifies for a long service award which could be presented at the same time.***

- b. **Min. 412/15& 9/16 – Appointment of representatives to Outside Bodies:**

***Resolved to make the following changes to appointments of members to Outside Bodies:***

- i. *Colwyn Bay Chamber of Trade: Cllr Mrs G Baker to replace Cllr D Griffiths*
- ii. *Conwy Access Group: Cllr P Richards to replace Cllr Mrs V Perry*
- iii. *Conwy Sea Cadets: Cllr J Pearson to replace Cllr G Ward*
- iv. *Fair Glen Management Advisory Group: Cllr Mrs L Edwards to replace Cllr G Ward*
- v. *Rhos on Sea Traders Association: Cllr Mrs G Baker (new appointment)*
- vi. *Wellbeing of Future Generations Champion: Cllr S Williams (new role)*

***Further resolved to request that all appointed representatives report back regularly on any meetings they attend.***

- c. **Recommendations of the Committees:**

***Resolved to endorse the recommendations of the Committees, as detailed in the***

*following Minutes:*

- i. Min. 22/16 – Appointment of Deputy Mayor: To amend Standing Orders 2(i) to 2(l) in connection with the appointment of the Deputy Mayor, as detailed in Schedule ‘A’ attached.*
  - ii. Min.28/16 – Pay Policy: To approve and adopt a brief statement on Pay Policy, as detailed in Schedule ‘C’ to those minutes.*
  - iii. Min. 30/16 – Mayoral Robes: To authorise the purchase of two new Mayoral robes with fake fur trim and two replacement hats (ladies and gents), at a total cost of £2,940.*
  - iv. Min. 45/16(e) – Closure of Pinewood Products: To write to CCBC to state concern about the proposed closure.*
  - v. Min. 48/16 – The Lifeguarding and Aquatic Rescue Agency: To send a letter of support in principle, as detailed in the minutes.*
  - vi. Min. 49/16 – Christmas Lights Sub-Committee: To accept a nomination for Cllr Dr S Roy to fill the vacancy on the sub-committee and note that a meeting will be arranged soon to discuss the hire of lamp column motifs for 2017-2019.*
  - vii. Min. 50/16(c) – Empty Shop Windows: To support the THI initiative for charity shop displays in empty shop windows.*
- d. Resolved to note the resolutions of the Committees, as detailed in the Minutes.**

**59/16 Meeting Dates 2016/17:**

The Clerk submitted, for information, a copy of the previously approved timetable of meetings for 2016/17.

**60/16 Committees:**

- a. Resolved to re-appoint the following Committees:**
  - i. Volunteer Awards*
  - ii. Colwyn in Bloom*
- b.** At the request of Cllr Dr S Roy, members were asked to consider ways in which more members could have the opportunity to act as Chair or Vice-Chair of Committees or Sub-Committees. It was noted that it was custom and practice for the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of the two main committees to be re-elected annually, but to serve a two year term. All committee members are able to be nominated for these positions every two years, but the Vice-Chairman would usually succeed the Chairman. The sub-committees elect their own Chairman annually and any member can usually be nominated. It was noted that many members have chairmanship experience outside of their Town Council role and all members were therefore encouraged to put their names forward when these positions are being considered.

**61/16 Annual Accounts and Audit:**

- a. The Clerk/RFO submitted a copy of the Draft Statement of Accounts for 2015/16 and invited any questions from Members.
- b. The Clerk submitted the Draft Annual Return for the Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016 and referred members to the Annual Governance Statement (parts one and two).

*Resolved to approve the Council's Annual Return Accounting Statements and Governance Statement for year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016 and instruct the Clerk to forward these to External Audit by the required date.*

- c. The Clerk submitted, for information, the Internal Audit Report for y/e 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016. It was noted that the Asset Register had been updated prior to completion of the Accounting Statements for year ended 31/3/16.

*Resolved to receive and note the report of the Internal Auditor.*

**62/16 Action Plan 2016/17:**

*Resolved to defer updating the Action Plan to the next meeting, due to be held on 18<sup>th</sup> July.*

**63/16 Request for Official Visit:**

The Clerk submitted, for consideration, a request for an official visit by representatives of the Congolese Embassy. It was noted that there are certain protocols that would need to be followed for an official ambassadorial visit.

The Clerk then tabled a follow-up e-mail suggesting a possible visit on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> June. It was noted that the Clerk would be on annual leave that day.

*Resolved to appoint a small delegation, to include the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Cllrs S Roy, L Edwards and D Griffiths and to seek to arrange a convenient time for an official visit, possibly to include hire of a minibus to visit some of the local Congolese sites of importance.*

**64/16 Councillor ID Badges:**

It was noted that a request has been received for ID badges for newer members and the Clerk queried how many are required (expiry date to be same as existing members badges).

*Resolved to authorise the purchase of new Cllr ID badges for Cllrs: Mrs G Baker, A Mason, P Richards and C Wood.*

**65/16 Proms in the Park:**

A draw was held to reallocate two tickets for the Lionel Ritchie concert and ten tickets for the Proms in the Park event in September.

The meeting closed at 8.00pm

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