

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE GENERAL PURPOSE AND PLANNING COMMITTEE OF THE BAY OF COLWYN TOWN COUNCIL, HELD AT 6.30PM ON TUESDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER 2016, IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM, TOWN HALL, RHIW ROAD, COLWYN BAY

PRESENT: Cllr S Williams (Vice-Chairman)
Cllrs: W Bagnall, Mrs G Baker, Mrs L Edwards, Mrs L Griffiths,
Mrs M Jones, J Pearson

OFFICERS: Mrs C J Earley, Town Clerk
Tom Owens, Student Advisor

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr Andrew Wilkinson and Mr Vic Turner,
CCBC Environment, Roads and Facilities Dept

168/16 Apologies for Absence:

In the absence of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman, Cllr S Williams, took the Chair and opened the meeting. Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs: N Bastow (Chairman), R Foreman, C Perry and C Wood.

169/16 Declarations of Interest:

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

170/16 Visitor:

The Chairman welcome Mr Andrew Wilkinson and Mr Vic Turner, CCBC ERF Department, in connection with a letter sent to the Town Council regarding the proposed introduction of charging for parking at Berthes Road car park, Old Colwyn. Mr Wilkinson advised members that the main purpose for their visit was to listen to any comments or concerns from the Town Council and seek a response to the questions outlined in their letter, to help inform the CCBC Task and Finish group before any final decision is made by CCBC.

It was noted that the proposal is to introduce charging across a number of currently free car parks in the County, where this is viable, and to look to dispose of others where charging would not be economically viable. A consultant was employed last year to undertake usage surveys of the car parks and provide information and advice to CCBC to help determine where charging would be viable. This comes against a backdrop of budget cuts and forced savings / cutting of services in an attempt to balance a reducing revenue budget in the ERF department. The estimated annual income from Berthes Road car park (according to the consultant) would be £29,082. Alternatively, the County Council would consider leasing the car park to the Town Council for £21,800 p.a., if the Town Council wishes to adopt its own charging tariffs or retain the car park as a free car park. National Non-Domestic rates may also apply, due to the increased value of the car park if it is leased out and/or charging is implemented.

The Clerk advised members that a copy of the letter form CCBC detailing the proposals had been sent to the Colwyn BID Manager, with a request that it be shared with businesses in Old Colwyn. A response from Claire Madders was tabled by the Clerk, for information. It was noted that, of the three businesses that had responded, two felt it would have no impact on them and one expressed some concern. Concern was also expressed about the poor condition of the car park, inadequate signage and current long stay use by some businesses and local residents.

Questions and/or comments were then invited from members and the following is a brief summary of the points that were raised/discussed: the timescale for the implementation of charging, particularly on the Promenade (as soon as possible, early November? – dependent on legal preparation and installation of machines etc and to be implemented on a phased basis, as each section of waterfront improvement work is completed); whether it is cost effective to collect and enforce a 50p overnight tariff (selective enforcement hours currently run from 6am to 10pm); concerns about use of the car park by parents at school drop-off and pick-up times and the wider impact on surrounding residential areas at these busy times if charging were to be introduced (other car parks in the county have no enforcement agreements in place for school drop-off and pick-up times and this could be considered); a lack of alternative safe on-street parking in the vicinity of the car park and the hazards that displacement parking may cause to local residents; use of the car park for recycling facilities and whether charging would apply (enforcement officers use their discretion for very short stays, e.g. for recycling); concerns about the inconvenience and potential cost of residents permits in the surrounding roads (these would only be implemented if requested by the residents living there and a policy has not yet been agreed as to whether charges for residents permits would apply); the flaws of paper based and consultant's studies, which do not supply the local knowledge and level of detail required for an informed decision to be taken (this is the reason for the consultation with the Town Council); whether this contradicts the County Council's own policy to provide free parking for its staff at the new office accommodation in Colwyn Bay (sustainable travel is on the agenda for the County Council too and charging for staff parking may be considered as part of this); how realistic the estimated income of £600 pw is (based on CCTV footage, modelling and drop out percentages from similar areas when charging is introduced); impact on local residential streets from commercial vehicles and vans that are currently parked overnight.

Mr Turner advised members that he needed to take all responses back to a Scrutiny meeting very soon, so a response by the end of September is necessary.

- Cllrs L Griffiths and L Edwards retired from the meeting at this juncture.

The Chairman then asked members to consider taking agenda items 5(a) and 5(e) next, as they also related to the Highways section of ERF.

171/16 Rhos Promenade:

The Clerk submitted a response from Mr Vic Turner declining the Town Council's request for temporary parking restrictions on the south/west side of the Promenade Road at Rhos on Sea, opposite the beach/harbour area, as two of the local County Councillors had not supported this.

Mr Turner confirmed that the process for considering such requests was to first consult with local members and the emergency services, prior to going out to any formal consultation, otherwise it could be called in for Scrutiny. Two of the local county councillors had not supported the request. The Clerk informed members that she had contacted both of the members concerned and hoped to establish the reason(s) for their lack of support. This could then be brought back to a future meeting for further consideration.

Resolved to await feedback from the two members concerned.

172/16 Zebra Crossing, Rhos on Sea:

The Clerk submitted a response from Vic Turner, advising that the County Council did not have funding (£40 - £50k) to replace the zebra crossing with a pelican crossing. Mr Turner added that works such as this rely on Welsh Government grant funding and strict criteria must be met (e.g. accident statistics or it's required to encourage active travel or economic growth).

Mr Wilkinson and Mr Turner were then thanked for their attendance and they retired from the meeting.

173/16 Proposals to Introduce Parking Charges at Berthes Road Car Park:

Members were then asked to consider and agree the formal response from the Town Council to the questions in CCBC's letter of 18th August.

Resolved to respond that:

The Town Council does not agree to the principal of introducing parking charges at Berthes Road car park, but if the Task & Finish Group is minded to go ahead with its proposals, it is urged to arrange a proper consultation with businesses in Old Colwyn in order to more fully understand the current use of the car park and the impact on residents and customers, as per the request received from the Colwyn BID Manager.

In response to the specific questions in your letter, I can confirm that the Town Council has no interest in leasing the car park from CCBC. Should it be decided to introduce charging:

- a. *The proposed tariff is considered to be appropriate (but see c. below).*
- b. *There should be a waiver of parking charges/agreement not to enforce for at least 20-30 minutes around school drop-off and pick up times.*
- c. *There is currently regular use of overnight parking for both privately owned and commercial vehicles. This is desirable as it prevents these vehicles parking in residential areas. We would therefore prefer free overnight parking to be retained (after 6pm) to discourage displacement of these vehicles.*
- d. *Please see BID response attached.*
- e. *Free residents parking permits should be considered.*
- f. *The main roads which would be impacted by displacement parking are Berthes Road, Min y Don Road, Kensington Avenue and Victoria Road.*

- g. *Residential parking permits should only be introduced if requested by a majority of those residents affected and should be provided free of charge.*
- Cllr J Pearson indicated that he needed to retire from the meeting at this juncture. As this would have left the meeting inquorate, the items requiring a decision to be made tonight were then considered before he left.

Resolved to recommend that any Councillor needing to retire early from a meeting makes this known to the Chair and Clerk prior to the start of the meeting, to help prevent future meetings from becoming inquorate part way through the proceedings.

174/16 Minutes:

- a. *Resolved to approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the last meeting, held on 26th July 2016.*
- b. *Resolved to receive a copy of the Minutes of the Christmas Lights Sub-Committee, held on 30th August 2016.*

The Clerk tabled three quotations received for the three year hire of 62 lamp column motifs. It was noted that there was not a significant difference in the cost between the three suppliers, but that one had expressed some concern about the width of some of the motifs chosen, due to the possibility of wind damage. An order would need to be placed this week to ensure the motifs are received in time for this year's display period.

Resolved to delegate authority to the Vice-Chairman of this Committee (and Chair of Christmas Lights), and the Clerk, together with any members who were willing/able to stay at the end of the meeting, to choose the preferred lighting scheme for the period 2016-2018.

175/16 Matters Arising from Previous Minutes:

- a. **Min. 70/16 – Eirias Park Bus Shelter:**

It was noted that the new shelter is due for installation in October.

- b. **Min. 147/16(d) – Youth Services:**

A response from Marianne Jackson, CCBC Head of Service, was received, confirming a continued commitment to the provision of youth services in Old Colwyn, Colwyn Bay and Rhos on Sea. Savings in the service will need to be made and the Town Council will be kept informed of any developments.

- c. **Min. 147/16(e) – Council Tax Premium on Second Homes Consultation:**

The Clerk submitted a response from Susan Plumb, Local Taxation Manager, for information. It was noted that the results of the recent survey would be published in due course.

176/16 Conwy CBC:

The Clerk submitted, for information, the following correspondence from CCBC:

- a. Notification of a request for a new bus shelter in Rhos on Sea.
Resolved to defer consideration of this until the cost of maintenance of the existing shelters is known.
- b. Notice of requests for temporary traffic regulations at Llanrwst Road & Wynnstay Road.
- c. Notice of Proposed adoption of Welsh Government drafted Byelaws relating to acupuncture, tattooing, semi-permanent skin colouring, cosmetic piercing and electrolysis (for information only).

177/16 Noticeboards:

The Clerk requested members' assistance with the quarterly inspection of noticeboards.

178/16 Other Correspondence:

It was noted that the following item(s) of correspondence are available on request from the Clerk:

- a. Welsh Government's Natural Resources Bulletin – Issue 8 – August 2016
- b. News from the Parish of Old Colwyn
- c. Welsh Ambulance Service NHS Trust Network News – Summer 2016

179/16 Planning:

- a. The Clerk submitted, for consideration the planning applications received from CCBC.

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

- b. The Clerk submitted, for information, a copy of the Planning Decisions issued by CCBC.
- c. Notice of the withdrawal of application 0/42938 was received.
- d. Notice of the Appeal Decision in respect of application 0/42522 was received.
- e. A consultation on LDP36 Shop Front Design (SPG) was received and noted.

180/16 Licensing:

The Clerk submitted notice of any licensing applications.

The Meeting Closed at 7.50 pm

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