

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE GENERAL PURPOSE AND PLANNING COMMITTEE OF THE BAY OF COLWYN TOWN COUNCIL, HELD AT 6.30PM ON TUESDAY 23RD AUGUST 2016, IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM, TOWN HALL, RHIW ROAD, COLWYN BAY

PRESENT: Cllr N Bastow, Chairman
Cllrs W Bagnall, Mrs G Baker, Mrs L Edwards, R Foreman, Mrs L Griffiths,
Mrs M Jones, S Williams, C Wood

OFFICER: Mrs C Earley, Town Clerk

142/16 Apologies for Absence:

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies for absence were received from Cllrs: J Pearson and C Perry and from Student Advisor Tom Owens.

143/16 Declarations of Interest:

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

144/16 Minutes:

- a. *Resolved to receive, approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the last meeting, held on 26th July 2016.*
- b. *Resolved to receive the minutes of the Bonfire Sub-Committee, held on 17th August, and note the main resolutions therein.*

145/16 Supporting the Resettlement of Syrian Vulnerable People:

Resolved to take agenda item 10 earlier in the meeting, as Cllr Roy had arrived to give a joint report with Cllrs: G Baker and C Wood, who had also attended the Communities First stakeholder event. It was noted that all Counties had been asked to house 5 or 6 Syrian families during 2016/17, but that the size of these families was not yet known. Several areas in the County had been identified as suitable, with Colwyn Bay being one of these, subject to the availability of suitably sized private sector rental property(ies). Some of the more rural and Welsh speaking communities had been ruled out from taking families, due to the anticipated difficulties for the families in settling and finding work there. A local Syrian spoke about the difficulties being faced by the families and stakeholders were asked to consider what support could be given them, to help them to integrate into the local community. However, it was noted that it was not yet known whether any of the 5 or 6 families would be housed in the Bay of Colwyn area. The scheme is being supported by the Home Office with 100% funding support in year one, but thereafter reducing on a sliding scale for a five year period. Members felt it was right to offer assistance to vulnerable families, but felt that this should be wholly funded by Central Government for the full five year period.

Resolved to defer any further discussion until it was know if any of the families

would be housed in the Bay of Colwyn area.

146/16 Matters Arising from Previous Minutes:

a. Min. 70/16(d) – Bus Shelters:

Cllr Wood and the Clerk gave a brief verbal report following the recent survey of shelters. It was noted that a written report and quotation for the work identified would be submitted in due course.

Resolved to await the report and quotation.

b. Min 70/16(f) – Spar Cycle Racks:

The Clerk submitted correspondence from the freehold site owner informing the Council that they usually only place two bike stands outside their new sites. It was noted that a reply has been sent requesting permission for three (reduced from five), as the stands will also serve other shops in the locality. It was further noted that one additional quotation has been received for installation and a third will be sought, once permission is confirmed for either two or three stands.

c. Min. 109/16(e) – Roadside weed spraying and street cleaning:

The Clerk submitted a detailed response from Tom Gravett, CCBC, confirming the routes and frequency of roadside weed spraying and litter picking. It was noted that requests outside of these routes should be submitted to ERF via the dedicated phone or e-mail contact details, so that a work number is allocated and action can be followed up.

147/16 Conwy CBC:

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

a. Notification of temporary traffic regulation at Wynnstay Road, Old Colwyn.

b. Waterfront Phase 2 update:

Members queried why the plant hadn't yet arrived on site, but the road had been closed for almost 2 weeks now.

Resolved to contact the Project Officer to query why it didn't seem that much was happening on site yet.

c. Bay Life Officer Group meeting, held on 8th August:

It was noted that the Clerk had not been able to attend the meeting but that she had received a brief update from R Dix regarding the Masterplan review, CCBC plans to submit an application under the Welsh Government's Town Centre loan scheme and Bay of Colwyn Town Management (no financial contribution will be requested this year, as Ingrid now has a wider remit).

d. Youth Services:

It was noted that no reply had been received to the query sent to CCBC regarding

possible changes to youth clubs / youth service provision.

Resolved to note the concerns and request the Clerk to follow this up with the Head of Service and report back.

- e. Consultation on proposals for Council tax premium on second homes:
It was noted that the CCBC consultation had closed on 16/8. Details had been forwarded to all members by e-mail prior to this date, after several councillors had been contacted by people with second homes in the area, who were complaining about the proposal to increase their council tax to up to 100% more than that paid by full time local residents. Correspondence had also been circulated by two councillors with past/present experience of social housing, both commenting that second and empty homes were putting pressure on the demand for housing, which inflates prices and makes it more difficult for local people to get on the housing ladder. A debate took place about the issues surrounding this new power, which it was recognised could be beneficial in areas of Wales with a large percentage of second homes, many of which are not used as holiday lets and are empty for most of the year. It was questioned whether this was a problem in Colwyn Bay or the wider Conwy area and some members were of the view that tourism, whether it be by second home ownership or hotel/B&B accommodation, should be welcomed/encouraged as it plays such a significant role in our local economy. It was noted that members had had the chance to make their individual views known during the consultation period, but this had now closed. Concern was expressed that the consultation had not been well publicised and councillors had only become aware of it following contact from concerned home owners.
One member stated concern that the whole council tax system was unfair and should be reviewed.

Resolved to request that the Clerk contacts CCBC to query why the Town Council was not informed of the consultation and it was not publicised more widely to local residents, so that their views could be sought.

Further resolved to request a summary of the survey results and recommendation(s) in due course.

- f. A response to a concern about closure times of public conveniences. It was noted that the ladies and gents (Rhos Point) are usually closed at the same time (between 7pm and 9pm) and there was no explanation, other than human error, for one being locked and one remaining open on the date mentioned. It was noted that the toilets by the Pier will be reopening (hopefully much improved) once the next phase of waterfront works have been completed.
- g. Concerns regarding the zebra crossing by Ninos, Rhos on Sea promenade and the traffic build up during the busier summer months, when there is a regular stream of people using the crossing. It was noted that this had been raised with highways in the past (several years ago), but that there had been no action taken.

Resolved to write to ERF to state concerns about the traffic build-up due to the regular stream of pedestrians using the crossing during the summer months and to request that it be replaced with a pelican crossing with a minimum time

interval, to allow traffic to flow more freely in between.

- h.** CCBC Car Parking Asset Strategy Review – Berthes Road Car Park: The Clerk tabled a letter from ERF chasing a response to a letter dated 3rd June, which had gone astray. The original letter had been consulting on proposals to introduce car parking charges at Berthes Road car park in Old Colwyn, or alternatively to lease the car park to the Town Council or other organisation for an agreed price, which would be less than the estimated income that would be generated by introducing fees.

It was noted that Mr Vic Turner would be attending the next meeting of the Committee to discuss the proposal and answer any questions from members. The Clerk had also informed the BID Project Manager and representatives from the Old Colwyn BID project group may also attend.

148/16 Play Wales Street Play Workshop:

Members were asked to consider a request by Cllr G Baker to attend the one-day workshop, to have a clearer understanding of the ‘playing out’ model, at a cost of £99 plus return travel to Cardiff. It was noted that Town and Community Councils were specifically included on the distribution list, but that Cardiff was not a particularly accessible venue for councils in North Wales.

Resolved to first enquire if Millie Boswell (CVSC based Play Development Officer) is attending and, if so, to invite her to give a presentation to the Town Council.

149/16 Old Colwyn War Memorial:

The Clerk submitted a letter from the Old Colwyn War Memorial and Armistice Committee (currently comprising Cllr B Cossey and Canon Bellamy), asking that the Town Council takes over responsibility for the Old Colwyn War Memorial and Armistice Service. Concern was expressed that the memorial was in the grounds of the now closed St Catherine’s Church and that there had been some discussion about whether it should be moved to another public location in the future, although the letter stated that there was currently ‘no plan of any kind to move it’. Concern was also expressed about the possibility of the Town Council subsequently becoming responsible for the annual Remembrance Sunday parade to the memorial, as well as any Armistice Day service, due to the additional pressure this would place on staff already involved in the organisation of the main Colwyn Bay parade and service on the same day.

Resolved to recommend that a response is sent stating that, if the committee currently has insufficient manpower for its responsibilities, then it should first look to strengthen its numbers, rather than seeking to pass responsibility on to others in its entirety. It was noted that this could include asking the Church, British Legion, Town and County Councils to formally nominate representatives. A partnership approach such as this, rather than transferring responsibility to a single body, was considered to be the best way to safeguard the memorial in the long term.

150/16 Use of Google Maps:

Members were asked to consider a proposal by Cllr Foreman that a working group be set up to explore the potential of google maps to help publicise what the Bay of Colwyn has to offer.

Resolved to ask a small working group, comprising Cllrs R Foreman, N Bastow and S Williams, to consider the potential of adding local landmarks and information to Google maps and to report back with any recommendations in due course.

151/16 Other Correspondence:

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

- a. Minutes of OC(E)RA meeting, held on 10th August.

152/16 Planning:

- a. The Clerk submitted, for consideration, the planning applications received from CCBC. A written objection from a resident of Abergele Road, Old Colwyn, was tabled in respect of application 0/42998.

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

- b. *Resolved to receive a copy of the Planning Decisions issued by CCBC and to note that the applicant is appealing the refusal of 0/42896 (53 Marine Drive, Rhos on Sea).*

- c. It was noted that applications 0/42870, 0/42871 and 0/42555 had been withdrawn.

- d. Planning Aid Wales Community Engagement Network Event:
It was noted that three places have been reserved for the ‘Place Plans- from concept to reality’ event and members were asked to consider who should attend.

Resolved that Cllrs Mrs G Baker, Mrs L Griffiths and the Clerk would attend.

- e. Cllr Mrs M Jones gave a brief verbal report from the site visit held on 9th August regarding the Dolwen Road application. It was not yet known what the decision on this application had been.

- f. The Clerk submitted, for consideration, a WG consultation document on new planning advice (TAN) for the historic environment.

Resolved to receive and note the draft TAN, which was considered to be very comprehensive.

153/16 Licensing: It was noted that there were no licensing applications for consideration.

The meeting closed at 8:15pm

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