

**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 23<sup>RD</sup> JANUARY 2017**

**PRESENT:** The Mayor, Cllr J Davies (Chairman)  
Cllrs: W Bagnall; Mrs G Baker; Mrs L Edwards; D Griffiths;  
Mrs L Griffiths; C Hughes; Mrs M Jones; Mrs H Meredith; J Pearson;  
Mrs V Perry; P Richards; Dr S Roy; Mrs V Smith JP; S Taylor;  
S Williams

**OFFICER:** Mrs C Earley, Town Clerk

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Rachael Gill and Millie Gilbert, CCBC

**317/16 Apologies for Absence:**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs R Foreman, A Khan, A Mason and T Pearson.

**318/16 Announcements:**

The Mayor announced the receipt of a letter of resignation from Cllr Chip Wood with effect from 16<sup>th</sup> January, for personal (family) reasons.

*Resolved to send a letter of thanks and best wishes to Chip, on behalf of the Council.*

**319/16 Declarations of Interest:**

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

**320/16 Visitor to the Council:**

The Mayor formally welcomed Rachael Gill and Millie Gilbert, CCBC, to the meeting to give feedback on events for 2016 and preview plans for 2017 events.

Rachael, Head of Communications and Marketing at CCBC, began by thanking the Town Council once again for its on-going funding support for local events, despite the criticism received by CCBC from some quarters. She reiterated the importance that the major events have in promoting the whole county as an attractive and dynamic place for visitors and the knock-on affect of this on local business, referring specifically to the high profile rugby game the previous week and the increase in footfall in the town centre when major events are held in the park. A number of images were shown and a verbal report was given on each of the major vents that had taken place this year, including Prom Xtra, Glamorgan Cricket, Lionel Ritchie, Proms in the Park and the Wales GB Rally. Statistics were given on several of these events, demonstrating a good level of return on investment (e.g. £4.50 for every £1 spent on Lionel Richie and 3 million viewers for the Proms in the Park event).

A short video clip was also shown of the Christmas event in the town centre, which had attracted large crowds once again. Local businesses were asked about the benefits of having large events in the park after the Lionel Richie concert and 100% had responded that CCBC should continue to support/encourage these.

Rachael then went on to talk about the events planned for 2017, referring to strong ticket sales for Bryan Adams and Little Mix now being sold out. A business case has been put in to CCBC for continued support for events for the next couple of year and confirmed they were also seeking on-going support from the Town Council.

A brief question and answer session followed the presentation, with comments/questions regarding the following: the success of smaller / lower cost events such as the Rhos Christmas event and the Uke-a-Bay event last summer (RG confirmed that the events team at CCBC could help with promotion of these type of events via their social media pages); concerns about traffic congestion for Prom Xtra this year, due to the on-going waterfront works (CCBC looking at connectivity with the town, including land train or charabancs, and intends to speak to traders); possibility of helicopter / hot air balloon rides; opportunity for local traders to make offers available to attract extra custom on the day; possibility of other beach events, e.g. kite festival; the possibility of the Forties event being the same weekend as Prom Xtra (not planned) and opportunities this may give to improve connectivity.

Rachael closed the presentation by referring to the possibility of other major events which could be attracted to Eirias this year, which may need Town Council support. Rachael and Millie were then thanked for attending and for the work done by the CCBC events team throughout the year and they then retired from the meeting.

### **321/16 Minutes:**

- a. ***Resolved to approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the last meeting of the Council, held on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2016.***
- b. ***Resolved to receive a copy of the minutes of the following committee meetings:***
  - i. ***The General Purpose & Planning Committee held on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2016.***
  - ii. ***The Policy & Finance Committee held on 4<sup>th</sup> January 2017 (Draft).***
  - iii. ***The General Purposes & Planning Committee held on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2017. (Draft)***
- c. **Matters Arising from Those Minutes:**
  - i. **Min. 214/16(a) – Congo Links:**

The Clerk submitted, for information, e-mail correspondence from Norbert Mbu-Mputo, requesting a letter of support. It was queried whether the Town Council should also contact the Ghanaian Embassy to ask if it would consider paying for the refurbishment of the grave of a young person from the former Gold Coast.

***Resolved to send a general letter of support to Norbert.***

**ii. Min. 272/16(b) – Colwyn Bay FC visit:**

The Clerk submitted a fixture list and members were asked to show by raising their hands if they would be interested in attending a future home game.

*Resolved that the Clerk circulates details by e-mail to those members who have expressed an interest to decide on an alternative fixture for the visit and consider how the 8 places will be allocated.*

**d. Resolved to endorse the recommendations of the Committees, as detailed in the following Minutes:**

**i. Min. 298/16(d) – Christmas Bonus for Staff:** It was noted that the proposal had since been withdrawn, following discussion with staff members.

**ii. Min.300/16 – CCTV Upgrade:**

*Resolved to agree a contribution of £30,000 over two years (£15,000 per annum) to upgrade all of the CCTV cameras in the Bay of Colwyn area to digital.*

**iii. Min. 303/16(b) – Small Grants:**

*Resolved to approve payment of two small grants, as detailed in Schedule ‘B’ to the minutes.*

**iv. Min. 307/16(a) – Queens Gardens / Commonwealth Day:**

The Clerk gave a brief report on the recommendations from the Working Group, to include the proposed format for the event and a list of invitees.

*Resolved to endorse the proposals of the Working Group and to inform the Commonwealth Secretariat in London of the intention to participate.*

**v. Min. 309/16(c) – Rhos Point re-development:**

*Resolved to send a letter of support for the request made by Colwyn Bay Heritage Group for greater protection for the former Pier Toll House during any redevelopment of the site.*

**vi. Resolved to note the resolutions of the Committees, as detailed in the Minutes.**

**322/16 Annual Estimates:**

**a.** The Clerk tabled a recommendation by the Policy & Finance Committee to retain a budget of £35,000 for Large Grants for 2017/18, approve grants totalling £27,570 and note that two applications have been deferred, pending receipt of more detailed information.

***Resolved to endorse the recommendations of the Policy & Finance Committee.***

- b. Members were then asked to consider and approve the Annual Estimates for 2017/18, as submitted by the Policy & Finance Committee.

***Resolved to approve the Annual Estimates for 2017/18, as detailed in Schedule 'A' attached.***

- c. Members were then requested to note the two options discussed by the Committee in relation to the amount of precept to be requested for 2017/18 and consider the recommendation, as detailed in Minute 299/16 of the Policy & Finance meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> January, to approve a standstill precept request of £37.00 per Band D property (£413,650). This would require the use of £62,150 from reserves to balance the budget and would result in a forecast general reserve of around £27,700 more than the Council's policy on minimum levels of reserves requires (25% of precept), to respond to any unforeseen expenditure during the year.

It was proposed and seconded that the Council should consider increasing the precept request slightly to £419,250 (equivalent to £37.50 per Band D property) to assist with the additional expenditure on upgrading the CCTV cameras across the town over the next two years and soften the impact a larger increase may have if left until next year. This would result in an additional £5,600 being added to the general reserves in case of need during 2017/18, or towards reducing the anticipated budget deficit in 2018/19.

***Resolved by a majority vote to increase the precept request to £419,250 for 2017/18, equivalent to £37.50 for a Band D property.***

### **323/16 Room Hire Charges:**

Members were then asked to consider whether to apply any increase in hire charges for 2017/18.

***Resolved not to increase room hire charges from their current levels for financial year 2017/18.***

### **324/16 Timetable of Meetings:**

The Clerk submitted, for consideration, the draft timetable of meetings for the 2017/18 municipal year (for ratification at the Annual Meeting in May 2017)

***Resolved to receive and note the draft timetable of meetings..***

### **325/16 Colwyn Victoria Pier:**

The Clerk and Cllr D Griffiths gave a brief verbal update on progress by CVPT with its proposals to redevelop the Pier and Pavilion, reporting that a meeting had been held with officers from CCBC and Cadw before Christmas and an outline business case / visioning statement had been requested from the Trust as soon as possible

(ideally within the next month). This is currently being worked on. Members were asked to consider an enquiry from the Trust as to whether the £15,000 funding approved by the Town Council towards the estimated £45,000 cost of a detailed business plan (which had been approved in October 2015, subject to 100% match-funding) could be released in tranches, on production of evidence of an equivalent amount of match funding from other sources.

A discussion ensued about this request, with members being of mixed opinion as to whether or not this should or could be permitted. The Clerk was asked to read out the wording of the October 2015 resolution, which she did. The Council agreed that this did not specifically permit stage payments and would therefore need to be reconsidered and an amended resolution agreed, if stage payments were now to be permitted. The Council's standing order (no. 11) regarding the six month rule would apply and a written notice requesting that this be added to the next Council agenda, containing the names of four councillors, would be required to enable a further debate and decision to be made on this request.

The meeting closed at 7.45 p.m.

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