

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 23RD OCTOBER 2017

PRESENT: The Mayor, Cllr J Pearson, Chairman
Cllrs: Mrs G Baker; B Barton; D Bradley; Mrs G Campbell; J Davies;
Mrs H Fleet; C Hughes; M A Jones; Mrs M Jones; A Kealey; A Khan;
C Matthews; Mrs H Meredith; A Pearson; P Richards; Mrs K Swindon;
S Williams

OFFICER: Mrs C Earley, Town Clerk

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr Mark Roberts and Mr Mike Hatton, Colwyn Victoria Pier Trust
Mrs Jane Richardson, Mr Rob Dix and Mr Huw Davies, Conwy County
Borough Council
County Councillors: C Carlisle, B Cossey and B Squire
Several members of the public

195/17 Apologies for Absence:

- a. Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs: A Mason, M Tasker and M Worth and from County Councillor M Doyle.
- b. Due to her attendance at the meeting, there was no need to consider a request for an extended leave of absence from Cllr Mrs H Meredith.

196/17 Declarations of Interest:

Members were reminded that they must declare the existence and nature of any personal and/or prejudicial interests.

Cllr A Khan declared a personal interest in respect of the presentation from the Pier Trust, in that he is a member of CVPT.

197/17 Visitors:

The Chairman formally welcomed Mark Roberts, Chairman of Colwyn Victoria Pier Trust, to give an update on proposals to redevelop Colwyn Victoria Pier, together with Jane Richardson, Strategic Director for Economy and Place, Rob Dix, Regeneration Officer, and Huw Davies, Conservation Officer, CCBC, who were present to answer any questions relating to the County Council's position.

Mark thanked members for the opportunity to come to update them and commented that a lot has happened in the past year and the relationship with CCBC was developing in a positive way. Jane Richardson confirmed that they have been working in close dialogue for several months and the relationship is built on co-operation and trust, with CCBC now making its expertise available to support the Trust.

Mark then made reference to a meeting with the Heritage Lottery Fund earlier in the

year, when it appeared that no further financial support would be available for Piers in the UK or Wales. However, a meeting has subsequently been held with the Head of the HLF in Wales and he has confirmed that they will consider an application for Resilient Heritage funding from the Trust. It is hopeful that, if this initial application is successful, future applications will be possible.

During this time, the Trust has also strengthened its membership and its Board and has become more business focussed, no longer considering itself as a pressure group. It has been developing its concept for the future Pier and a listed building application is expected to follow in due course. Alongside this, David Clarke Associates, a respected expert in the field, has been developing a business case for the Trust, looking extensively at other projects across the UK and learning from any mistakes made.

Mark then ran through a number of slides covering the purpose of a redeveloped pier, the basis for confidence, guiding principles for its restoration and an end use analysis. He reminded members that CCBC now has listed building consent to dismantle and restore a truncated Pier structure, which would be equivalent to phase one of the Trust's own plans. The Trust would like to take its concept for the Pier to public consultation prior to submitting any planning application, to gauge the level of support of the local community and wider catchment area. It recognises the need to reflect the original purpose of the Pier, which currently has the last remaining theatre on a listed Pier in the UK, but also the need for a good mix of year-round uses, which need to be meaningful for local residents. The project needs to demonstrate it would be free of subsidy from local taxpayers and would need significant volunteer support and commercial partnerships to enable this to happen.

He then went on to give an overview of the future management model, experiences of other recently redeveloped Piers and the deliverability/phasing of the project, acknowledging that there were 'testing times ahead', but that the Head of HLF Wales had been impressed with the potential of the business case presented. It is estimated, based on Promenade footfall figures, that £1.13m p.a. revenue is realistic from a restored Pier. Local support would be fundamentally important and more expert reports will need to be commissioned to support future funding bids. A brief reference was made to costs for this work, which had been provided to the Town Council previously, and the Town Council's offer of £15,000 match funding towards these (Min. 212/16(b), 17th October 2016), on the condition that a minimum of £15,000 of match funding is secured from other sources.

The Chairman thanked Mark for his presentation and questions were invited from members. Questions and comments covered the following matters: what footfall projections had been used; concern that the public purse could not support a redeveloped Pier should the business plan fail, with social services and education being priorities; what a redeveloped Pier might look like; the importance of the resilient heritage bid to better understand the structure and its potential future uses; confirmation that there would be no future subsidy from CCBC for a redeveloped Pier, but that CCBC would support a viable and sustainable business model; what fundraising the Trust has done in recent years; whether the Trust's accounts could be made available to demonstrate funds raised and expenditure to date; the timing expected for public consultation; an offer to proof read reports/bid documents.

- Cllr H Meredith retired from the meeting during the discussion.

Resolved to suspend Standing Orders at this point to allow County Councillors to ask questions/make comment.

The question and answer session then continued, covering: update on CCBC plans to commence dismantling; proposals by CVPT for a reduced pier initially, with multi-functional dance/show/function space and outdoor event space; possibility of four to five phases to achieve full restoration; concerns about potential asbestos contamination if severe storm(s) prior to dismantling of pavilion building (estimate January start date and 10-12 week timeframe; positive impact of investment in creating a destination for people; Pier could be jewel in the crown of new Promenade.

The guests from the Pier Trust and Conwy County Borough Council were then thanked for attending and they retired from the meeting and Standing Orders were restored.

Resolved to request a copy of the presentation slides, together with recent accounts for the Trust (income/expenditure report and balance sheet) and detailed costings for the work now required, together with confirmation of the source(s) of match funding.

198/17 Deferred Matters:

Resolved to consider the remaining matters from the postponed Council meeting, which was due to be held on 16th October, as follows.

199/17 Announcements:

The Mayor gave a brief verbal announcement about two forthcoming events; a fish and chip supper, with entertainment, to be held on 30th November, and a barn dance to be held in February/March, in aid of the Mayor's charities. He also offered an apology to the member(s) who had not seen/heard the messages left about the postponement of the meeting last Monday evening, for their wasted journeys, and assured members that the decision had not been taken lightly, but had had to be taken early in the day on advice from the Met Office, to allow sufficient time to notify everyone.

200/17 Visitors:

- a. It was noted that Mr Bleddyn Evans will be attending the December meeting to give an update on the new Office development.
- b. The Chairman officially welcomed the County Councillors for Colwyn area to the meeting.

Resolved to approve an amendment to the Council's Standing Order no.28 – Liaison with County Councillors, to enable the town council to receive any

verbal reports from County Councillors at each Ordinary council meeting.

The County Councillors present at the meeting introduced themselves, thanked the Council for the invitation and acknowledged the need to work in collaboration and share information. Cllr Cossey announced that the provisional local government finance settlement for 2018/19 had recently been announced and that Conwy has had the largest cash reduction of any authority in Wales of £1.5m. With inflation (salaries etc) and increased pressure on social services budgets, due to an ageing population, this equates to a reduction of 4.8% on current budgets. With education and social services budgets likely to be protected, there inevitably be pressure on all other budgets and cuts to services will be inevitable. Cllr Squire commented on the need to work closely in respect of planning applications which affect local residents and made particular reference to one recent and one current application. Cllr Carlisle referred to concerns about GP surgery closures and planning matters.

A brief discussion then took place about how the 15 minute slot may work best going forward, with the County Councillors stating that they didn't know what the Town Councillors didn't know, or might want to know more about.

Resolved to request that town councillors submit any questions they may have about county council services to the Clerk, to be forwarded on to the relevant local member(s) for response at the next meeting.

201/17 Minutes:

- a. *Resolved to receive, approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the last meeting of the Council, held on 4th September 2017.*
- b. *Resolved to receive the minutes of the following meetings:*
 - i. *The General Purpose & Planning Committee, held on 12th September 2017.*
 - ii. *The Policy & Finance Committee, held on 27th September 2017 (Draft).*
 - iii. *The General Purposes & Planning Committee, held on 3rd October 2017 (Draft)*

202/17 Matters Arising from Those Minutes:

- a. **Min. 153/17(b) – Annual Return:**

Resolved to receive and approve the audited return and note it was published on the Council's website and noticeboard prior to the 30th September deadline.

- b. *Resolved to endorse the recommendations of the Committees, as detailed in the following Minutes:*
 - i. **Min. 172/17 – Conwy Major Events:**

The Clerk submitted the evaluation report for the 2017 concerts and members were asked to consider a request from Rachael Gill for ongoing support for a

further 3-5 year period for the annual concert(s) in Eirias Park (£20,000) and Prom Xtra (£10,000) and for additional financial support in 2018/19 for two further local major events (£25,000).

It was noted that some of the businesses in Rhos on Sea would prefer to see the Prom Xtra event back in Rhos, but it was acknowledged that it had outgrown its previous site below the Cayley Promenade and may only be able to extend as far as The Toad.

It was proposed and seconded that support be pledged for the two main annual events for a further five year period, subject to satisfactory annual evaluation, and that any additional funding required for other events be considered on an annual basis as part of the budget setting process for the following year, either as specific budget lines or as part of the broader 'other events' budget.

An amendment to the proposal was made, removing the five year timescale and pledging support for the two main events indefinitely, subject to satisfactory annual evaluation. This was voted on first but was defeated.

Resolved, by a majority vote, that financial support totalling £30,000 be pledged towards the two main annual events for a further five year period, subject to satisfactory annual evaluation, and that any additional funding required for other events be considered on an annual basis as part of the budget setting process for the following year, either as specific budget lines or as part of the broader 'other events' budget.

ii. Min. 176/17 – HLF Great Places Bid:

The Clerk submitted a copy of the expression of interest submitted to the HLF by CCBC and gave a brief verbal report on a meeting held on 28th September. Members were then asked to consider a request to provide match funding of £17,000 over a three year period, in partnership with CCBC and Colwyn BID, in an attempt to secure grant funding of £500,000.

Members felt that a request for this amount of funding should first be scrutinised by the Policy & Finance Committee, however, it was noted that a decision was needed as soon as possible to prepare the bid for submission by early December and that there may not be sufficient time to bring a recommendation back to full Council.

Resolved to delegate the request for funding support of £17,000 over a three year period to the Policy & Finance Committee to consider and decide and to recommend that the Project Lead be invited to be present at that meeting, to explain the project in more detail and respond to any questions from members.

iii. Min. 178/17 – Business Continuity Plan:

Resolved to approve the draft Plan.

iv. Min. 182/17 – Small Grants:

Resolved to approve the payment of small grants, as detailed in Schedule 'B' to the minutes.

v. Min. 190/17(d) – Play Day grant funding:

Resolved to authorise the use of the £130 underspend towards Pop-up Play events during October half term.

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

203/17 Welsh Government Review of Community and Town Councils:

The Clerk submitted a copy of the call for evidence to inform the current review of the town and community council sector.

Resolved to request that all councillors submit any comments on the questions to the Clerk and that the Policy & Finance Committee considers these and agrees a response at its next meeting.

204/17 Community Resilience:

The Clerk submitted a report from the recent meeting, for consideration. It was noted that the group had thought it best that four smaller sub-groups be formed to work on the local detail for each of the following areas: Rhos on Sea, Upper Colwyn Bay, Colwyn Bay and Old Colwyn. The Clerk sought support from members to continue to support the group on this basis.

Resolved to give approval to the Clerk to continue working with the sub-groups to help inform the overall resilience plan for the Bay of Colwyn area.

205/17 Well Being of Future Generations Act:

The Clerk gave a brief verbal report following a meeting with local Town Clerks and the Strategic Director and Officers from CCBC, held on 5th October. It was noted that Fran Lewis had given a presentation on the Act, reminding those present of the duties on public bodies and on town and community councils with annual expenditure of over £200,000. This covered the seven wellbeing goals, the SD principle and the five ways of working, the work done by the PSB to date and the planning cycle (copy available on request from the Clerk). It was noted that behaviour change is vital, with a shift to a more collaborative approach. Fran has been asked to work with the larger town councils to provide support and advice and a further meeting has been scheduled for 28/29th November.

Resolved to note the report of the Clerk and await further information on the PSB's Area Wellbeing Plan / Objectives, due to be released shortly.

It is further noted that the Clerk intends to arrange a visioning session(s), once this information is available, to facilitate the agreeing of a shared vision and objectives

for the town council for the remainder of the current term of office.

206/17 Members' Ward Allowances:

The Clerk submitted details of the scheme and a copy of the Project Proposal form and reminded members about the scheme and process to apply for funding..

207/17 Health Services:

The Mayor gave a brief verbal report, following an update from Dr Singh at Penrhyn Bay Surgery, who still has concerns about health services in the area. According to Dr Singh, GP surgeries are still under pressure, but the hospitals are at crises point and beds are being blocked due to lack of availability in the community (following closure of a number of community hospitals). It was noted that the Mayor has asked Dr Singh to put his concerns in writing, so that the Town Council can take these up with the Health Board officials on behalf of local residents.

The meeting closed at 8.45 p.m.

..... Chairman