

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THE BAY OF COLWYN TOWN COUNCIL, HELD IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM, TOWN HALL, RHIW ROAD, COLWYN BAY AT 6.30 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY 15TH NOVEMBER 2017

PRESENT: Cllr J Davies, Chairman
Cllrs: H Fleet, M Jones, A Khan, P Richards

OFFICER: Mrs C Earley, Town Clerk

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs I Lewis, Bay Life Office, Conwy CBC
Mrs G Cooper, Regulatory Services, Conwy CBC

221/17 Apologies for Absence:

The Chairman welcomed the visitors to the meeting and apologies for absence were received from Cllrs: A Kealey, A Mason, H Meredith, J Pearson, T Pearson and K Swindon.

222/17 Declarations of Interest:

Members were reminded that they must declare the existence and nature of any personal and/or prejudicial interests. The following interests were declared:
- Cllr A Khan declared a personal and non-prejudicial interest in agenda item 8 (Colwyn Victoria Pier Trust), as a Town Council appointed representative to the Trust.

223/17 Minutes:

Resolved to approve and sign as a correct record the Minutes of the last meeting, held on 27th September 2017.

224/17 Visitor(s):

- a) The Chairman welcomed Ingrid Lewis to the meeting to give a brief verbal report on the HLF Great Places funding bid and respond to any questions from members. A copy of the expression of interest submitted to the HLF had previously been copied to members.

Ingrid confirmed that the expression of interest was one of twelve out of thirty six that had been successful and a full application had now been invited. A series of meetings have since been held with partner organisations and an application for £500,000 (over three years) will be submitted by the closing date in early December. This is expected to focus on four key themes:

- (i) Developing a 'Creative Colwyn' academy for networking and training;
- (ii) Bringing the community together via a series of heritage based events, developing new interest groups etc;

- (iii) Attracting Visitors- using pop-up museums, listening posts, augmented reality trails etc;
- (iv) Developing the Capacity of the Third Sector to continue with heritage work after the three year funding has come to an end.

The funding will also cover the cost of appointing a Project Manager / Co-ordinator, who will be recruited and managed by a Steering Group. Governance for the project will be provided by the Bay Life Board.

Ingrid confirmed that 10% match funding (£50,000) now needs to be identified and confirmed, as part of the funding bid. Colwyn BID has approved a £17,000 contribution, a further £17,000 is being requested from the Town Council and CCBC is being asked to make up the shortfall. The Chairman informed Ingrid that this will be considered later this evening by the Committee and members were then invited to ask questions. These covered: the range of ideas which came out of initial discussions; a desire to spread the project to the whole Bay of Colwyn area (currently restricted by funding parameters); and the broader definition of heritage, which isn't necessarily old/historic. Ingrid was then thanked for attending and she retired from the meeting.

- b) The Chairman then welcomed Gwarwr Cooper, CCBC, to address the Committee about the Litter & Dog Fouling Campaign and respond to questions. Gwawr introduced herself and gave some background information about the campaign, which was initially funded by a Keep Wales Tidy grant of £60,000 in 2014. This funding has now run out and CCBC does not have the resources to continue it, as it is not a statutory function. However, dog mess remains one of the most talked about issues on the doorstep at election times. Other areas, including Old Colwyn (via Old Colwyn (East) Residents Association with grant funding from this Council), have provided funding to purchase cameras to keep the campaign running and all town and community councils have been invited to support the initiative. It is up to each Council to decide what support it can afford and this will determine how many 'hotspots' can be targeted each year. A typical hotspot campaign for dog fouling will require two cameras, signage and marketing materials/leaflets for letter drops, school visit(s) and administrative support. The town council logo would be used on all publicity materials to confirm its support. A similar campaign can also be run for litter or fly tipping hotspots

From information previously supplied, costs are estimated at £1,250 for tackling one hotspot (including £700 to purchase the two cameras, which can then be moved around the area, as required). Further campaigns/hotspots would then require around £550 each.

Gwawr reported that the campaign in Old Colwyn commenced in July and to date has resulted in 3 Dog Control Order enforcements, 2 litter enforcements and 1 dog fouling enforcement. This is alongside educational activity via letter drops and working with the schools. CCTV footage is used to try to identify offenders and/or their dogs and assistance may be sought from councillors with this, from time to time.

A brief question and answer session followed, with questions asked about: the

potential use of local newspapers to identify offenders; people not bothering to report fouling as they ‘don’t see the point’; the quality of night time footage (excellent); reduced staffing and the need for technology to support them.

The Chairman thanked Gwawr for attending and she retired from the meeting.

225/17 Matters Arising from Past Minutes

- a) Min. 173/17(a) – Litter & Dog Fouling Campaign: Members were asked to consider any proposals, for inclusion in the 2018/19 annual budgetary estimates.

Resolved to recommend that an initial budget of £2,500 be approved to support a Litter/Dog Fouling Campaign in the Bay of Colwyn area (Colwyn Bay and Rhos on Sea wards) to complement the activity already underway in Old Colwyn. This would cover the cost of either four cameras/two hotspots or two cameras across three hotspots during the course of the year.

- b) Min. 177/17 – Place Plans:

The Clerk submitted a response from Shane Wetton, CCBC. It was noted that a reply had been sent by the Clerk but an e-mail has not yet been sent around the relevant councils to gauge the level of interest/support.

Resolved to ask the Clerk to chase this matter up with Shane Wetton.

226/17 Finance:

- a) *Resolved to authorise payments made on behalf of the Council for the period 16/9/17 to 31/10/17.*
- b) *Resolved to receive and authorise the Chair and Clerk to check and sign a copy of the bank reconciliations as at 30/9/2017.*
- c) *Resolved to receive the income/expenditure monitoring report, as at 30/9/2017.*
- d) *Resolved to receive correspondence from CCLA regarding the Local Authority’s Property Fund Prices and Dividends Yield.*

227/17 Welsh Government / National Assembly:

The Clerk submitted, for consideration, the following correspondence:

- a) Call for Evidence: Community and Town Council Review

Resolved to request that the Clerk submits a draft response to the Council on 4th December.

- b) Budget Statement and Welsh Tax Policy Report.

Resolved to receive and note the report.

- c) Discounted Bus Travel for Younger Persons in Wales

Resolved to submit a response to the consultation, as detailed in Schedule B attached.

- d) Mandatory Concessionary Fares Scheme in Wales

Resolved to request members of the Committee to individually submit any comments to the Clerk and to delegate authority to the Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman, to submit a combined response, based on any comments received.

228/17 Conwy County Borough Council:

To receive and consider the following correspondence:

- a) **HLF Great Places Scheme:** Members were asked to consider the delegated request for £17,000 of match funding over a three year period (2018-2021) to demonstrate support for the funding bid (to be matched by CCBC and Colwyn BID).

Resolved to confirm support for the bid by way of a pledge for match funding of £17,000 over a three year period (2018-2021).

- b) **Conwy & Denbighshire PSB's Local Wellbeing Plan:**

The Clerk submitted a copy of the draft plan, for consideration by members.

Resolved to receive and note details of the six priorities included in the Draft Wellbeing Plan for 2018-2023.

- c) **Britain in Bloom:**

It was noted that Colwyn Bay has been invited to accept a nomination from Wales in Bloom to compete in the 2018 Britain in Bloom competition. Members were asked to consider the need for an increase in budget for 2018/19 to cover the anticipated additional costs of the campaign, recognising that CCBC budgets were coming under increasing pressure and the committee may have to cover any additional costs incurred. It was noted that a £2,000 increase has already been approved to cover the costs of hosting the 2018 Wales in Bloom Awards event.

Resolved to recommend that an additional budget of £2,000 be allocated to Colwyn in Bloom in 2018/19 to cover any additional costs relating to the Britain in Bloom campaign.

- d) Cllr H Fleet gave a brief verbal report on the Theatr Colwyn Joint Management Committee meeting, held on 13th November, and the Clerk submitted a copy of the 2016/17 outturn statement. It was noted that funding had been secured for backstage improvements and work would be commencing in late January, resulting in the temporary closure of any live theatre productions.

Resolved to receive the report and financial statements.

e) **Colwyn Victoria Pier:**

The Clerk submitted, for information, a copy of the report to Council regarding Colwyn Victoria Pier. It was noted that the recommendations in the report had been approved by the County Council and dismantling works will commence in the New Year.

Resolved to defer consideration of the request from Colwyn Victoria Pier Trust for £15,000 towards the cost of the redevelopment feasibility reports/plans, (subject to match-funding from the HLF), to await the information requested following the recent presentation to this Council.

229/17 Colwyn BID:

The Clerk tabled a report from Colwyn BID on Christmas activities/events for 2017.

Resolved to approve the Town Council contribution of £5,000 towards these activities (total cost £11,070).

230/17 Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales:

- a) The Clerk submitted, for consideration, the panel's draft Annual Report for 2018/19 and specifically section 13 relating to payments to Members of Community and Town Councils.

Concern was expressed about the use of 'must' in determinations 44, 45 and 50, especially since it is still not clear whether such allowances will be subject to PAYE (tax and NI deductions) and given the increase in budget that will be required to cover potential carer costs.

Resolved to respond to the consultation to strongly object to the compulsory payment of these allowances, given the potential additional/hidden costs (payroll costs, tax implications, impact on benefits received etc). Further information on all of these potential additional costs is required before compulsory payment of allowances can be considered.

- b) The Clerk gave a brief verbal update on her ongoing enquiries into alternative payroll arrangements, which would be necessary to enable the payment of taxable allowances to all members of the council. It was noted that a further update will be provided after a meeting with the head of payroll at CCBC, scheduled for later this month.

231/17 Zurich Local Council Advisory Scheme:

The Clerk submitted an update on changes to the LCAS and details of seminars for 2018.

Resolved to authorise the Clerk to attend the relevant annual seminar (already paid

for within the cost of membership).

232/17 Grants:

a) Deferred Large Grant:

The Clerk submitted, for consideration, the additional information requested from Learning Links International.

Resolved to approve payment of the reduced grant of £2,500.

b) Letters of thanks/reports were received from the following event grant recipients:

(i) Benefits Advice Shop

c) Events Grants 2018/19:

Resolved to approve the launch of the Events Grant funding for 2018/19 and to request that the Clerk advertises for applications to be submitted by 31st December, for consideration early in the New Year.

233/17 Additional Urgent Item – Local Members Ward Allowance:

The Clerk tabled a ward allowance proposal from Colwyn ward members, which met the scheme criteria. It was noted that it was considered urgent due to the heating at the Tan Lan Community Centre not operating until repairs are carried out.

Resolved to recommend approval of the urgent Ward Allowance proposal.

The meeting closed at 8.05 p.m.

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