

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 APRIL 2018

PRESENT: The Town Mayor, Cllr J Pearson (Chairman)
Cllrs: Mrs G Baker; B Barton; N Bastow; C Brockley; H Fleet; C Hughes;
M A Jones; Mrs M Jones; A Kealey; A Khan; A Mason; C Matthews;
A Pearson; M Pickard; P Richards; Mrs K Swindon; M Worth; S Williams

OFFICER: Mrs C Earley, Town Clerk

IN ATTENDANCE: County Councillors: B Cossey (plus C Hughes and A Khan)
Carol Williams, Deputy Chief Officer, North Wales CHC
A member of the public.

413/17 Apologies for Absence:

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs: D Bradley, G Campbell, M Tasker and from Cty Cllr C Carlisle.

414/17 Mayoral Announcements:

The Mayor gave a brief verbal announcement regarding his forthcoming Charity Concert, to be held on Wednesday 9th May 2018 at Theatr Colwyn. Flyers are available from the Mayor or office staff and members are encouraged to share these and to support this, his last charity event of the Municipal year.

415/17 Declarations of Interest:

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

416/17 Visitors to the Council:

a) The Mayor welcomed Carol Williams, Deputy Chief Officer of the North Wales Community Health Council, to the meeting to address the Council regarding the role of the CHC.

Carol thanked the Council for the invite and reminded members that she had attended around 4/5 years ago, when the CHC was known by its formal name of the Betsi Cadwaladr Community Health Council. For the benefit of newer members, she outlined the main role of the CHC, which is to represent health service users in North Wales by talking to as many people as possible about their experiences and sharing feedback with the service providers. The NWCHC is one of six similar bodies in Wales and it has local committees which represent each of the County areas.

Conwy local committee has twelve members, one third nominated by the Local Authority (some of which may be town and community councillors), two

nominated by the third sector and six appointed by the Welsh Government. They serve a four or eight year term and are able to co-opt other members to provide specific expertise, as required. They gather information from local health service users by visiting hospitals, GP surgeries, dental surgeries, ophthalmic services etc and have the legal right to visit on an announced or unannounced basis to see and listen to what is happening.

The CHC also monitors and scrutinises any planned changes to services, is a formal consultee for the Health Board, provides an advocacy service to assist members of the public with complaints about a health service and has a duty to engage with the public, which it does by visiting local communities, attending events such as this and having a presence at events etc.

The CHC recognises the importance of regular dialogue with town and community councils and has met with One Voice Wales to encourage links to the CHC from our own websites.

Carol then welcomed an questions or comments from members about the work of the CHC or health services generally, acknowledging that she was aware of the recent concerns of the Council about the problems with recruiting GPs/surgery closures and about waiting times at Glan Clwyd A&E department.

A number of questions, comments and concerns were raised, covering the following topics: procedure to get assistance with complaints about health services; whether the CHC receives feedback from the Maternity Voices group; whether the CHC sees the complaints made via GP surgery complaint boxes; ongoing problems with bed-blocking at Ysbyty Glan Clwyd, which extends A&E and ambulance waiting times; closure of community hospitals and reduction of beds in the community; lack of GPs and pressure on local surgeries, due to closure of some practices; loss of voluntary and fire service response to urgent calls and misuse of 999/ambulances/A&E services; the need to also get the 'little things' right – like clock times and dates

The message, in closing, was that the CHC is there to help and support the community to get the best from its health services and to “use us or lose us”.

Carol was then thanked for attending and she retired from the meeting.

- b)** It was noted that Rob Dix, CCBC, (Colwyn Bay Town Centre Investment Plan) and Paul Sampson, Theatr Colwyn Curator, have been invited to attend the next two Council meetings. The order of these visits will be confirmed once it is known when the TCIP will be ready for consultation.

c) County Council Liaison:

The Chair welcomed Cllr Brian Cossey and our two dual-hatted members (Cllr C Hughes and Cllr A Khan) to the meeting and invited any report from our County Councillors.

Cllr B Cossey advised members that CCBC had now set its final budget for

2018/19, having identified an under-spend of around £100,000 at the end of the 2017/18 financial year, which had relieved a bit of the pressure. It was noted that this was despite an overspend by the ERF department on road gritting due to a very long and colder than usual winter. He informed members that the cost per gritting round was approximately £35,000 and that there had been the need for more than one trip out on some nights.

With regards to the new financial year, there is already some pressure on the homelessness budget, with a predicted overspend of up to £200,000 being anticipated. This is due to 'alarming increases' in the number of homeless people, despite the full impact of the introduction of the Universal Credit not yet being fully felt.

The dismantling of the Pier is progressing well, with some recent drone images available to view on social media sites. The size of the hub/stub of the Pier that will be retained is now clearly visible. CCBC is now going out to tender for the design of this new shortened Pier and there will then be a further tender round for the re-building phase. The new promenade kiosk is scheduled to open in the next month and a 'Colwyn' logo will appear in the nearby triangular section of promenade.

Cllr Cossey then invited questions from members and the following questions and comments were raised: why are there not enough social workers to handle the caseload if Social Services had an underspend last year? (difficulties in finding/recruiting new social workers); were the murals removed intact from the former Pier pavilion? (no – but approximately 12 one metre square sections have been retrieved, albeit covered in paper/paint); is the total cost of the Pier works known yet? (no – but anticipated to be around £800,000); what the timescale is likely to be for the renovation of the Old Colwyn promenade? (not yet known, as dependent on a number of organisations providing match-funding); why there is a problem with bed-blocking in Glan Clwyd if Social Services has an underspend? (Conwy does not have people sat in hospital awaiting discharge– these are from other Counties); the need for the health board to work with housing associations to provide more cost effective interim housing solutions for people leaving hospital but unable to go back to their former homes; whether there is any news on how the CVPT bid for funding from the HLF is progressing (not had any direct report/update from CVPT or HLF); whether Cabinet had the right to overturn/ignore the request of the County Council to bring the full costings and details of mitigation measures back to it before implementing the four weekly bin collections (yes).

Cllr Hughes then advised members that the closure of the Job Centre Plus in Colwyn Bay had resulted in the library staff having to provide support to claimants on a voluntary basis. This has resulted in several staff members at the library being threatened by members of the public and security staff have had to be employed to ensure staff safety.

Cllr Cossey was thanked for attending and he retired from the meeting.

417/17 Minutes:

- a) *Resolved to approve and sign, as a correct record, the minutes of the last meeting of the Council, held on 5th March 2018.*
- b) *Resolved to receive a copy of the minutes of the following meetings:*
 - i) *The General Purpose & Planning Committee held on 13th March 2018.*
 - ii) *The Policy & Finance Committee held on 28th March 2018 (Draft).*
 - iii) *The Audit Sub-Committee, held on 11th April 2018 (Draft).*
 - iv) *The General Purposes & Planning Committee held on 11th April 2018. (Draft)*

418/17 Matters Arising from Those Minutes:

a) Min. 360/17(a) – Welsh Government Review of Town and Community Councils:

- i) It was noted that we have been requested/invited to hold drop-in sessions on Thursday 24th May for members of the public to call in to give their views.

Resolved to note that Members will be invited to help out at these events, either from 2-4pm or 6-8pm.

- ii) The Clerk submitted a copy of the response submitted by One Voice Wales (for information only, as the final date for responses was 6th April).

Resolved to receive and note the response sent by One Voice Wales to the Review Panel.

b) Min. 397/17 – 400/17 Audit Sub-Committee:

- i) Members were requested to review the annual Internal Audit review, as detailed in Schedule A to the minutes.

Resolved to approve the review of Internal Audit, as detailed in those Minutes.

- ii) *Resolved to approve the terms of reference for Internal Audit and the annual audit plan, as detailed in Schedule B to the minutes.*

- iii) *Resolved to approve the Annual Investment Strategy for 2018/19, as detailed in Schedule C to those Minutes.*

- c) Members were requested to consider the recommendations of the Committees, as detailed in the following Minutes:

i) Min. 381/17(a) – General Data Protection Regulations:

The Clerk submitted a copy of the most recent guidance from the ICO and SLCC and it was noted that the initial data audit and draft policies will be submitted to the next P&F meeting for adoption/approval by 23rd May.

ii) Min. 381/17(b) – IRPW Annual Report and Councillor Allowances:

A debate ensued about the requirement for payment of allowances and the right of members to forego any of these, if they so wish. It was noted that the allowances would not be paid until the end of the relevant financial year, to enable any concerns about non-attendance and taxable status etc to be considered. This would also allow more time for One Voice Wales to pursue its current dialogue with HMRC with regards to exempting the basic £150 allowance from being a taxable remuneration of office.

Resolved to adopt IRPW determinations 44-53 (excluding 45 and 47, which are only relevant to smaller Councils) for the 2018/19 Municipal Year, to include payment of a basic allowance of £150 for all members, plus specific responsibility payments to the Mayor (£750), Deputy Mayor (£500) and Chairmen of the General Purpose & Planning (£500) and Policy & Finance Committee (£500) and approve a corresponding reduction of £500 in the Mayor's Allowance for 2018/19.

iii) Min. 390/17 – One Voice Wales:

Resolved to request that it considers a adopting a two-tier membership service to accommodate the needs of those Councils choosing to procure legal/other advice elsewhere.

iv) Min. 393/17- Grants:

Resolved to endorse the payment of event/small grants and donations for 2017/18, as detailed in those minutes.

v) Resolved to note the resolutions of the Committees, as detailed in the Minutes.

419/17 Dinarth Ward Vacancy:

It was noted that an election has been called and members were asked to consider whether to issue poll cards.

Resolved to request that CCBC does issue poll cards for the Dinarth Ward by-election, at a cost of £130 for printing plus £295 (+ mileage) for hand delivery.

420/17 Members Allowances:

a) Members were asked to consider a proposal submitted by Cllr G Baker that those members who choose to forego their member allowances from 2017/18 onwards, should be given the option to increase their Local member Ward Allowance by an equivalent amount.

A debate ensued about the merits of this proposal, with some concern expressed that this may put undue pressure on members to forego receiving a small allowance which is rightfully theirs and was implemented to cover basic expenses of office and encourage more diversity of members (e.g. young people who may be at

University, or those with limited income who would not be able to cover the basic expenses of being an elected member, such as travel to ordinary council meetings and a proportion of costs incurred for paper, printer, ink cartridges and internet/e-mail subscriptions).

An amendment to the proposal was proposed and seconded, and subsequently passed by a majority vote:

Resolved that any unspent amount from the councillor allowance budget for the preceding financial year should be added to the small grants budget for the following financial year. Members could then encourage local voluntary groups to apply for much needed funding to support their activities.

- b) Resolved to approve a minor amendment to the Scheme Guidance for the Local Members Ward Allowances, as recommended by the Clerk and detailed in Schedule 'A' attached.**

421/17 Standards Committee:

- a) The Clerk submitted, for information, a letter about observation visits to town and community Council meetings by Standards Committee members.
- b) The Clerk submitted a letter inviting the Clerk, Chairman/Mayor and one other member (Deputy Mayor) to a training session on the Code of Conduct, to be held in June.

It was noted that the Monitoring Officer in Denbighshire provides training free of charge to all town and community councillors. It was therefore recommended that the Monitoring Officer at Conwy be asked to do the same, to allow an opportunity for all members to meet and ask questions of the Monitoring Officer, if required.

Resolved to note that the Mayor Elect, Deputy Mayor Elect and Clerk will be asked to attend the training and that they ask the Monitoring Officer to put on more sessions, so that all members have an opportunity to attend and to meet the MO.

Further resolved to ask CCBC if it could provide training to members of town and community councillors on the implications of GDPR, for example the impact this has on the handling of e-mail correspondence.

422/17 Coed Pella:

Cllrs P Richards and M Worth gave a brief report from the recent tour of the new building. It was noted that they have lots of photos available, if anyone would like to see them.

423/17 Nominations for Town Mayor and Deputy Mayor 2018/19:

In accordance with Standing Orders, members were requested to make any nominations for the offices of Mayor and Deputy Mayor for 2018/19, in preparation

for the Annual Meeting on 14th May.

It was proposed by Cllr B Barton and seconded by Cllr A Kealey that the current Deputy Mayor, Cllr S Williams be nominated for the office of Town Mayor for 2018/19. There were no further nominations.

Resolved to confirm the appointment of Cllr S Williams as Town Mayor elect for 2018/19.

It was proposed by Cllr Glenys Baker and seconded by Cllr P Richards that Cllr Neil Bastow be nominated for the office of Deputy Mayor for 2018/19.

It was then proposed by Cllr A Kealey and seconded by Cllr M Pickard that Cllr Merrill Jones be nominated for the office of Deputy Mayor for 2018/19.

A secret ballot followed, in accordance with Standing Orders.

Resolved by a majority vote of 10 to 8 (with 1 spoilt paper) to confirm the appointment of Cllr N Bastow as Deputy Mayor Elect for 2018/19.

424/17 Corporate Plan:

The Clerk submitted a written report on the first Corporate Planning day, held on Saturday 14th April, and members were asked to consider a first draft of the summary (public) version of the Plan. There were a number of decisions in the Plan that had been deferred for the full Council to discuss and approve (e.g. the Vision Statement). These were each considered in turn and decided by majority vote, where necessary.

Resolved to approve the updated summary version of the Corporate Plan for 2018-2023 for translation, prior to formal adoption at the Annual Meeting on 14th May, as detailed in Schedule 'B' attached.

A discussion also took place about the period/lifespan of the Plan. It was noted that it was usual practice in business for Corporate Plans to be undated and to be reviewed as and when necessary. However, for Councils, which are elected bodies with a defined term of office, it is more usual for the Plan to cover the current term of office, possibly with a year extension at the end to allow a new Council time to review, update or adopt a new plan.

It was noted that the summary version of the Plan, including the eight overarching objectives agreed for the term ahead, would form the framework for the more detailed action plan, which will include current and proposed actions under each of the eight key objectives and be reviewed/updated quarterly. It was suggested that, if considered necessary, another workshop could be held during the summer for members to submit and discuss their ideas for any new projects they feel would contribute towards one or more of the Wellbeing Goals and Key Objectives.

425/17 Conwy Events 2018: It was noted that no draw had been necessary and that tickets would be allocated to all those who had applied.

The Meeting Closed at 9:10 p.m.

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