

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE GENERAL PURPOSE AND PLANNING COMMITTEE OF THE BAY OF COLWYN TOWN COUNCIL, HELD AT 7:15PM ON TUESDAY 19TH JUNE 2018, IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM, TOWN HALL, RHIW ROAD, COLWYN BAY

PRESENT: Cllr J Pearson, Chairman (see Min. 54/18)
Cllrs: B Barton; D Bradley; Mrs M Jones; M Tasker; M Worth

OFFICER: Mrs T Earley, Town Clerk

54/18 Welcome and Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from the Chair, Cllr G Baker, and Vice-Chair, Cllr N Bastow, and from Cllrs G Campbell and C Matthews.

In the absence of the Chair and Vice-Chair, it was resolved to appoint Cllr J Pearson as Chairman for this meeting.

55/18 Declarations of Interest:

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

56/18 Minutes:

Resolved to approve and sign, as a correct record, the minutes of the last meeting, held on 29th May 2018.

57/18 Matters Arising from Previous Minutes:

a. Min. 410/17 – Website Working Group:

The Clerk and Cllr B Barton gave a brief verbal report from the meeting held on 13th June. It was noted that it had been a useful first meeting of the group and progress had been made in reviewing the content and layout of each section of the current website. Minor updates and amendments, as a result of this review, will be implemented over the coming weeks. Members have also been asked to consider any new pages or sections which they think would be relevant and useful. Any such proposals will be brought back to a future meeting of this Committee for approval prior to implementation. Once the site content has been refreshed and updated, Cllr Brockley will commence work on transferring it over to a new, more adaptable, theme. This is anticipated to be completed by September/October.

Cllr Barton asked members to review other local council sites they might come across and highlight any good practice to members of the working group.

b. Min. 410/17(b) – Youth Engagement:

The Clerk gave a brief verbal report, following a meeting between herself and Cllr A Kealey and Brian Watson, Conwy Youth Service.

The meeting commenced with the Clerk giving a brief report on the Student Advisor Scheme, which had operated well in some years but less so more recently. Reference was also made to Barry Youth Action, a recent One Voice Wales Innovative Practice award nominee for youth engagement. The advantages and disadvantages of each of these methods of youth engagement were discussed, with the conclusion that they both only result in a few young people engaging with the Council and, as a result, the Council not necessarily hearing the voices of the many.

Brian then asked a question of the Council around what its purpose for engagement is?: is it to give a few young people a voice, or is it about the wider education of young people about local democracy, to not only show them how they can have a voice, but to encourage more young people to consider standing for town and county councils in the future. This would be more challenging and potentially more costly than the very simple student advisor scheme, but has the potential to be more exciting, innovative and bring more benefits to both the council and the young people in our town. Support would be needed from the Town Council in funding a youth worker to undertake a project with the local schools and college and this would also require 'buy-in' from the schools.

Reference was also made to potential changes within the youth service structure, with emerging family centres and the possibility of a dedicated youth worker operating from these. This could give a more local focus to youth work in the future.

The meeting closed with Brian offering to go away and discuss this with his Head of Service, to get her views and consider how best to proceed.

The Chairman invited questions and a discussion ensued, with members generally being supportive of the broader engagement and education of young people in politics and local government, as suggested by Brian.

Reference was made to the 2017 Good Councillors Guide (a One Voice Wales publication) which highlights good practice around youth councils and youth representatives on local councils.

It was noted that it was not necessary to decide which would be the best model for engagement/participation from the outset, but to commence youth work supported education and see what comes from that.

Resolved to request that Cllr Barton forwards the Good Councillors Guide to the Clerk for sharing with all Members.

Further resolved to recommend that the Council works with Conwy Youth Service to explore the potential for a project for broader engagement with and education of local young people around local democracy, prior to any decision being made about any formal method of engagement.

c. Min. 410/17 – BBQ Stand:

The Clerk submitted, for information, a brief acknowledgement of the order and it

was noted that costings for bin emptying are still awaited.

d. Min. 430/17 – Hackney Carriage Standards:

The Clerk submitted, for information, a response from John Donnelly, CCBC.

Resolved to agree that the comments previously submitted can be used as a consultation response and to query why all vehicles have to be side-loading, as some wheelchairs are very large and not possible to turn around within the taxis, resulting in the passenger having to travel sideways.

Further resolved that all members encourage any wheelchair users they know to respond to the consultation.

e. Min. 33/18 – Rhos Promenade Initial Working Drawings:

The Clerk submitted the initial working drawings for Promenade Improvements, which are for information only and not yet ready for public consultation.

Resolved to request that the Clerk submits two observations:

- i. That the zebra crossing proposed on Abbey Road should be moved further away from the junction to reduce its span, reduce any impact on traffic flowing along the promenade and be closer to the gate to the childrens' playground.*
- ii. To query whether the green hatched area along the beach edge of the road is to widen the road, for safety reasons, or to provide on-street parking bays.*

f. Min. 40/18 – Amended Planning Applications:

The Clerk read out a brief response from the Head of Development Control confirming that there isn't any definitive guidance on when they should re-consult (when amended plans or additional information is submitted in connection with an existing application). This is at the officer's discretion, taking into consideration how substantial the amendments are and whether or not anyone is likely to be prejudiced.

Resolved to ask if the Town Council could be notified on occasions where amended plans or additional information is submitted in connection with an application that the council has already submitted observations (objections) on.

g. Min. 38/18 – Wales & West Utilities:

Cllr J Pearson gave a brief verbal report on the recent event, summarising that they had arranged the workshop to find out how they were performing, by listening to local businesses and other stakeholders. This will be used to inform their business plan for the next five years with the intention of improving performance. The key points were: they achieved 9.7/10 for customer satisfaction; gas supplies are only affected on average once every 40 years; homes are prioritised over businesses when supplies are affected; smart meters are causing havoc when customers change suppliers (wait for phase 2 meters); all metal pipes are being changed to plastic as

these last around 80 years and have less leaks (currently 70% plastic and aiming for 80% by 2026); 80% of homes and businesses use gas and all are recommended to have carbon monoxide alarms fitted; people need to be educated to use more 30 degree wash loads; gas is 75% cheaper than electricity for heating homes.

58/18 Conwy CBC:

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

a. Temporary Traffic Regulation(s):

i. Brackley Avenue, Colwyn Bay – 7/7/18

b. Bay Life Officers Group meeting, 11/6/18: The Clerk gave a brief verbal report, updating members with progress on the Town Centre Investment Plan and the 2018-2021 regional regeneration programme, both of which are to be reported to the Strategic Management Board meeting this week. It was noted that the Great Places grant funded project will be formally launched in October and the County Council has recently launched new area For a, with five areas established across the county and each to be member-led, with support from a Head of Service. Members were reminded that Rob Dix will be visiting the Town Council on Monday 2nd July to present the draft Town Centre Investment Plan, prior to it being launched for public consultation.

59/18 Welsh Government:

a. The Clerk submitted a news article regarding the public toilet strategy, with local authorities having one year to assess the needs of its community, including the need for baby changing and disabled changing facilities, and put a strategy in place to ensure the public will have better access to facilities. It was noted that statutory guidance will be issued to local authorities in the coming weeks.

b. The Clerk submitted a consultation on the Consolidation of the Town and County Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987 and Town and County Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995.

Members were generally supportive of the proposals, but due to the number of consultation questions / changes proposed, more time was requested to compile a response.

Resolved that members submit any observations to the Clerk and Cllr B Barton, to enable a draft response to be prepared for the next meeting of the Committee.

60/18 Other Correspondence:

It was noted that the following items are available on request from the Clerk:

a. Minutes of OCRA meeting/AGM held on 13/6/18

61/18 Planning:

a. The Clerk submitted, for consideration, the planning applications received from CCBC.

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

b. *Resolved to receive notice of the Planning Decisions recently issued by CCBC.*

c. A brief verbal report was received from Cllr Mrs M Jones on the Planning Site Visit in Old Colwyn, held on 12th June 2018.
It was noted that both Bay of Colwyn applications had been approved by the Planning Committee, subject to highways matters being resolved.

d. A copy of the recently adopted SPG LDP29 – Colwyn Bay Conservation Area Management Plan was received.

62/18 Licensing:

The Clerk submitted notice of several recent licensing applications, for information.

The meeting closed at 9.00 p.m.

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