

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 22ND OCTOBER 2018

PRESENT: The Mayor, Cllr S Williams (Chairman)
Cllrs: Mrs G Baker; B Barton; N Bastow; C Brockley; Mrs H Fleet;
D Howcroft; C Hughes; M A Jones; Mrs M Jones; A Kealey; A Khan;
C Matthews; A Pearson; J Pearson; P Richards; M Tasker

OFFICER: Mrs C J Earley, Town Clerk

IN ATTENDANCE: District Inspector Julie Sheard, North Wales Police
County Councillors: C Carlisle; B Cossey; B Squire; R Parry

216/18 Welcome and Apologies for Absence:

The Mayor welcomed Members and guests to the meeting and apologies for absence were received from Cllrs: D Bradley; G Campbell; A Mason; H Meredith; M Pickard; K Swindon; M Worth

217/18 Announcements:

The Mayor congratulated all those who were involved in or supported the Colwyn in Bloom Committee following its recent achievement in winning a Gold for its RHS Britain in Bloom entry this year. It was noted that this was the first Gold award the town had received in the Britain in Bloom competition.

218/18 Declarations of Interest:

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

219/18 Visitors to the Council:

a. The Mayor welcomed District Inspector Julie Sheard, NW Police, to the meeting to address the Council regarding crime statistics and local matters of concern. Insp Sheard thanked Members for the invitation to attend and gave a brief introduction covering her policing background. She referred to the significant changes in policing priorities over the past eight years, with a much greater focus now on tackling the increases in domestic violence, organised crime, hate crime, modern slavery and burglaries. Some of these crimes are much harder to identify and the Force also has much fewer resources compared to ten years ago. These have contributed to the reduction in the resources of the neighbourhood policing teams, to the extent that we now have just one CBM supported by a team of PCSOs to cover the Colwyn Bay area.

There is also a greater demand on the Force generally due to increases in drugs use/ mental health issues/vulnerable persons, which often present to the police and require signposting to relevant support. The majority of crime is still carried out

by a minority of people and rehabilitation institutions are not tackling long term vulnerabilities. Insp. Sheard concluded by saying that she is pleased to have the opportunity to share this information so that expectations can be managed: the neighbourhood policing teams cannot be as visible as they were ten years ago. Nonetheless, Colwyn Bay is still a great place to live and work.

A brief questions and answer session followed the presentation, with questions covering: the extent of the reductions in the neighbourhood police teams (there were 14 CBMs covering an area that included Mochdre and Llysfaen in 2010 and this is now reduced to 3, with one of these focussing on organised crime); speed of traffic on the A55; ways in which modern day slavery can be tackled (targeted approach, in conjunction with immigration service); request for more visible policing and dispersal of vulnerable people gathering in the town centre, as these may put off people from supporting our local businesses (assured this was on their radar and they will focus resources where they are needed most); why speed cameras are not used on the A55; positive outcomes seen when the police have been passed local intelligence; need to gather intelligence from a variety of sources before action can be taken; whether the police have adequate resources to respond to the increase in reporting of domestic violence.

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

b. County Council Liaison:

The Mayor welcomed the County Councillors to the meeting and Cllr B Cossey presented a report on the current financial pressures faced by Conwy CBC. This report covered the main sources of income and expenditure for the County Council and explained the impact that a reduction in the Welsh Government revenue support grant and increasing staff costs, due to annual staff pay awards, has on the annual budget. The County Council had begun preparing for a flat settlement from the Welsh Gov't for 2019/20, but has recently been informed that it will receive a net reduction of 1% (equivalent to a cut of £1.5m). A 5% increase in council tax bills raises approximately £3m, but the current deficit for 2019/20 is estimated at around £16.5m. In 2018/19, the Council has budgeted to use £3.28m of its reserves to achieve a balanced budget. They do not have sufficient reserves to allocate anything from reserves next year. The options left are to increase income (i.e council tax rises and/or charging for services) and/or reducing costs, i.e. by cutting services. There will inevitably have to be some service cuts to achieve a balanced budget and these are never popular – all services are precious to someone. Current discussions are focussing on cuts in budgets of 4% for social services and education and 7% for other services, such as ERF, together with an 11% increase in Council Tax.

Cllr Cossey finished his presentation with a reminder that the Town Council is a completely separate entity and, as such, it should not feel any pressure to take on delivery of services cut by CCBC if these do not fit with the Town Council's own priorities.

A brief question and answer session followed the presentation, with questions covering: whether the 1% cut is the same for all Counties in Wales (no – there are

various elements included in the funding formula and some councils will be getting an increase); how much will be saved if the Council continues with plans to cut free transport for 16+ year olds (£420k, but young people receiving free school meals may still qualify for free transport).

The County Councillors were thanked for attending to present their report.

220/18 Minutes:

- a. Resolved to approve and sign, as a correct record, the minutes of the last meeting of the Council, held on 3rd September 2018.**
- b. Resolved to receive a copy of the minutes of the following meetings:**
 - (i) The General Purpose & Planning Committee held on 18th September 2018.**
 - (ii) The Policy & Finance Committee held on 3rd October 2018 (Draft).**
 - (iii) The General Purposes & Planning Committee held on 9th October 2018. (Draft)**

221/18 Matters Arising from Those Minutes:

a. Min. 165/18 – Informal Police Liaison:

The Clerk gave a brief verbal report from the meeting held earlier this evening, which had been attended by Insp Julie Sheard and Neighbourhood Policing Sergeant Lee Openshaw. A discussion had taken place over how expectations could be managed and local councillors (and residents) might be able to meet their local police team members to discuss any issues of concern. It had been agreed by those present that this could best be achieved during the regular informal drop in sessions with the PCSOs that are held at regular intervals in each community (e.g. at coffee mornings in Rhos on Sea, at the library in Colwyn Bay, at events/coffee mornings in Upper Colwyn Bay Community Centre and at Old Colwyn Residents Association open meetings). It was noted that there had been seventeen such sessions taking place across the area since July.

Resolved to request that details of the dates and locations of these sessions are shared with the Town Council as early as possible, so that local Members can attend if they need to and so that the Town Council can help to publicise them via our website.

Further resolved to request that the District Inspector continues to attend a full Council meeting at least annually to give a presentation on current area priorities / issues of concern.

b. Min. 151/18 and 167/18(b) : Action Plan Objective 8.1 - Place Plans

- (i) It was noted that the final Place Plan Toolkit has now been approved by CCBC (available on request from the Clerk).**
- (ii) In order to commence working towards developing a Place Plan with the local community, members were asked to consider appointing members to begin to**

form a Place Plan ‘Steering Group’ (recommended by the General Purpose and Planning Committee to be one member per Ward). Nominations were sought by the Mayor for a representative for each Ward and the following nominations were received:

Dinarth Ward: Cllr Jeff Pearson

Rhos Ward: Cllr Glenys Baker and Cllr Hannah Fleet

Rhiw Ward: Cllr Steve Williams

Glyn Ward: Cllr Colin Matthews

Eirias Ward: Cllr Bob Barton

Colwyn Ward: Cllr Mark Jones

Resolved, by a majority vote, to appoint the following members to represent each Ward on a new Place Plan Steering Group:

Dinarth Ward: Cllr Jeff Pearson

Rhos Ward: Cllr Hannah Fleet

Rhiw Ward: Cllr Steve Williams

Glyn Ward: Cllr Colin Matthews

Eirias Ward: Cllr Bob Barton

Colwyn Ward: Cllr Mark Jones

- (iii) Resolved to delegate authority to the Clerk to invite potential representatives from a number of other local organisations to an introductory meeting, to explain the purpose of the project (with assistance from Shane Wetton) and encourage wider community representation and involvement in the Steering Group.**

The Clerk read out a list of the initial organisations it had been suggested that she include.

Further Resolved to request members contact the Clerk if they know of any other local people or organisations that they feel ought to be included on the invitation list for this initial meeting.

It was noted that a community council in Denbighshire had begun working on developing a Place Plan and a representative may be willing to give a presentation at a future meeting of the Steering Group, if requested to do so.

- c. Members were asked to consider and endorse the recommendations of the Committees, as detailed in the following Minutes:

- (i) Min. 182/18 – Colwyn Bay Surf Lifesaving Club:**

Resolved to send a letter of support.

- (ii) Min. 192/18(d)(ii)- Policy on Payment of Travel Expenses to Members:**

Resolved to adopt the following policy regarding payment of travel expenses for approved duties, with immediate effect:

Members will be reimbursed for travel for approved duties from either their qualifying address (i.e. the address that they used to qualify to stand as a

councillor) or their home address, whichever is closer.

(iii)Min. 192/18(d)(iii) - N&MWALC:

Resolved to confirm the renewal of membership, with effect from April 2018, at a cost of £80 (plus costs for attendance at quarterly meetings).

(iv)Min. 198/18 – St David’s Day Parade:

Resolved to agree to work in partnership with Colwyn BID to continue the annual event set up by Ingrid Lewis (providing that the BID Board also agrees to this).

(v)Min. 200/18 – Twinning Request:

The Clerk submitted additional information tabled at the recent General Purpose & Planning Committee meeting giving more detailed information about the Songololo Territory.

Resolved to respond to say that, whilst the Town Council appreciates the sentiment of the request and has no objection to the existing Twinning Association (or any other local organisation) developing informal links of friendship, it could not support a formal twinning with the Songololo Territory of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

(vi)Min. 203/18(a) – Small Grants:

Resolved to endorse the recommendations of the Committee and approve payment of small grants, as detailed in Schedule ‘B’ to those minutes.

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

222/18 Conwy CBC:

- a. The Clerk submitted a copy of the Shared Charter developed between CCBC and the Town and Community Councils in Conwy several years ago and asked members to consider if this is still relevant and/or if it needs updating/revising.

Resolved to respond to confirm that this Council believes that the majority of the Charter content is still relevant, subject to the following additions/amendments:

- (i) Pg 7 – Planning: To recommend that regular liaison meetings take place at least annually to give an opportunity for Town & Community Councillors to meet with local planning officers and share information and best practice. To consider whether planning training delivered to County Councillors could/should be opened up to members of Community and Town Councils.*
- (ii) Pg 8: That T&CCs are notified of the name and contact details for the Monitoring Officer.*
- (iii)Section 13: That this section be replaced with updated content referencing the Corporate Plan Priorities and the Local Area Wellbeing Plan key objectives.*

- b. The Clerk gave a brief verbal report following a meeting of the Bay Life Officer Group on 15th October 2018. A general update had been given on a number of current projects, including 7 Abergele Road, the Pier, the IMAGINE arts project and the future structure of the group. A presentation had also been given on the Town Centre Investment Plan (TCIP), to include the setting up of a new Officer project team, to which the Clerk and BID Officer will be invited.

An updated copy of the TCIP had been circulated to all members by e-mail and the Clerk drew the attention of members to several key initial priorities, which include proposals for opening Station Road up to traffic, targeting of several key properties and considering the future of the street Market. It was noted that Bay Life intends to submit a bid for development funding to the Welsh Government to carry out a detailed study into proposals for Station Road, to include any impact this may have on the wider town centre, and the drawing up of detailed designs for highways and public realm improvements. A request for match funding towards this (50% will be required) had been submitted to Colwyn BID and would also be submitted to the next meeting of the Policy & Finance Committee.

223/18 Independent Review of Town and Community Council Sector in Wales:

The Clerk submitted the final (detailed) report of the Panel, which it was noted had now been submitted to the Minister for consideration.

It was noted that there would be an opportunity to comment only when any draft legislation on the future of local government in Wales is consulted upon.

224/18 WLGA - Social Media, A Guide for Councillors:

Members were asked to note that a hard copy of the updated guidance for local councillors is available on request from the Clerk (as circulated by e-mail on 12th October).

225/18 North Wales PSBs Workshop:

It was noted that the Mayor and the Clerk will be attending a workshop for Town & Community Councils on 30th November and will report back in due course.

The meeting closed at 8:25 p.m.

..... Chairman.