

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 3RD OCTOBER 2018

PRESENT: Cllr K Swindon, Vice-Chair – Chairman
Cllrs: H Fleet, D Howcroft, M Jones, A Kealey, T Pearson, M Pickard,
P Richards

OFFICER: Mrs C Earley, Town Clerk

189/18 Welcome and Apologies for Absence:

The Vice-Chairman, Cllr K Swindon, took the Chair in the absence of Cllr C Hughes and apologies for absence were received from Cllrs: C Hughes, A Khan, A Mason and H Meredith.

190/18 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 H Fleet – personal (non-prejudicial) interest in the small grant applications from Friends of Rhos on Sea and Colwyn Bay Watersports, as a member and director respectively.

Cllr D Howcroft – personal (non-prejudicial) interest in the small grant application from Friends of Rhos on Sea, as a member of the group.

Cllr M Jones – Personal and prejudicial interest in the sponsorship request from Colwyn Bay FC, as a shareholder.

Cllr M Pickard – personal and prejudicial interest in the Twinning request (item 12) due to close personal relationship with Sibani Roy, who had submitted the correspondence.

191/18 Minutes:

Resolved to approve and sign as a correct record the Minutes of the last meeting held on 22nd August 2018.

192/18 Matters Arising from the Minutes:

a) Min. 134/18(a) – Play Equipment Contribution:

It was noted that a response is still awaited from Bryn Shiland to the request for assurances that any match-funding received for play equipment, as a result of the funds committed by this Council, will be allocated to Bay of Colwyn play areas/equipment.

Resolved to request an acknowledgement for the e-mail, whilst the County

Council considers the options for the future funding of play equipment inspection, maintenance and replacement.

b) Min 136/18(a) – Independent Panel Review into Town and Community Councils:

The Clerk submitted a response from the Secretary of the N&MWALC confirming that the Association would be willing to conduct a survey of members to find out more about the experiences of councils (both positive and negative) that have taken over delivery of services previously provided by their County Council. This would be taken to the Association's meeting in November.

c) Min 138/18 –Energy Contracts:

It was noted that Corona Energy was not able to match the price offered and the contracts for gas and electricity for the Rhiw Road site have subsequently been moved to British Gas from 1st October 2018.

d) Min. 140/18(a) – N&MWALC:

i) Executive Committee expenses: The Clerk submitted a response from the Association Secretary confirming that Members chose to stand for election to the Executive and that “any expenses in getting to such meetings are their own”. As these are not considered ‘approved duties’ of the Town Council, it was ***Resolved that unless the Town Council has specifically nominated a member to an executive position, travel expenses for such duties would not normally be reimbursed.***

ii) Guidance on Payment of Travel Expenses to Members: The Clerk submitted, for consideration, additional information received from the IRPW regarding reimbursement of travel expenses. This states that it would be reasonable for a Town or Community Council to develop a policy with regard to the payment of travel and subsistence expenses, if determination 48 (in the Annual Report) has been adopted. It goes on to advise that should the Council wish to use the qualifying address (i.e. the address that qualifies a member to stand as a councillor) as the starting point for travel claims, that would seem reasonable.

In response to concerns that the Council may exceed its budget for reimbursement of travel expenses for members in 2018/19, it was therefore

Resolved to recommend that a Policy is adopted, with immediate effect, that: Members will be reimbursed for travel for approved duties from either their qualifying address (i.e. the address that qualified them to stand as a councillor), or their home address, whichever is closer.

iii) Min 140/18(b) – Membership: Members were now asked to consider the renewal of membership for 2018/19 (effective from April 2018), deferred at the last meeting.

Resolved to recommend that membership be renewed for 2018'19, at a cost of

£80 (plus travel expenses and lunch costs for quarterly meetings).

193/18 Finance:

- a) Resolved to authorise payments made on behalf of the Council for the period 1/8/2018 to 14/9/2018, as detailed in Schedule A attached.*
- b) Resolved to receive and authorise the Clerk and Chairman to check and sign the bank reconciliations as at 31/8/2018.*

194/18 Conwy County Borough Council:

- a) The Clerk submitted an e-mail update on the CCTV upgrade programme and requested authorisation to make payment of the first instalment (£15,000).

Resolved to approve payment of the first instalment for the CCTV Digital Upgrade, of £15,000.

- b) The Clerk submitted, for information, the agenda for the Bay Life Strategic Management Board meeting, to be held on 4 October. It was noted that Cllr Paul Richards would attend and report back.
- c) The Clerk gave a brief verbal report on the main agenda items for the Clerks' Network and T&CC Forum meetings held in Llanrwst on 26th September, which included: problems for smaller community councils attracting/retaining Clerks; Annual audit experiences; GDPR; SLCC Wales Training Seminar; using "member services" as main point of contact; Shared Community Charter (request for all councils to check ongoing relevance of this); play equipment; PSB Themes and emerging actions; Independent Review of T&CC sector (discussion around key recommendations).

It was noted that Cllr G Baker had also attended the Forum meeting and had requested that the County Councillors be asked to give a summary of the presentation given to the Forum by Cllr Sam Rowlands at the next full Council meeting, due to the impact this may have on some of the services previously delivered by Conwy CBC.

195/18 Invest Local – Glyn Ward:

The Clerk gave a brief verbal report, giving brief background information about the Invest Local project and updating Members following a meeting with Gwen Thirsk on 18th September. It was noted that the Town Council had been asked if it would consider being a 'fund holder' (treasurer) for the grant monies, but that the discussions had confirmed this would not be possible, due to current restrictions meaning town and community councils in Wales can only fund projects for which they have a specific power. This could potentially limit the awarding of grants for projects which do not fit within current powers.

It was noted that a report on the outcomes of the initial consultation phase would be shared as part of the agenda for the next General Purpose and Planning Committee

meeting.

Cllr Richards, one of the members who attends the Invest Local meetings, confirmed this information and advised members that a 'Glyn Fest' music event would be taking place in November, as the next stage in the process of ongoing community engagement.

Resolved to receive and note the report.

196/18 Bay of Colwyn Business Network:

The Clerk submitted confirmation of receipt of funds from the closure of the Bay of Colwyn Business Network account and members were asked to consider an offer of the radios (already stored at the Town Hall) and gazebos (currently stored at TAPE) for use at local events.

Resolved to request that the Clerk sends a letter of thanks for the return of funds and the radios and seeks more information about the size, condition and number of gazebos, so that a decision can be taken as to where these should be stored and how they can be made available to support community based events.

Further resolved to note that the funds will be added to the Council's general reserves for the time being.

197/18 Sponsorship:

The Clerk submitted, for consideration, a request for the renewal of the sponsorship of Colwyn Bay FC, at a cost of £800 for two years.

- Cllr M Jones retired from the meeting during the discussion and vote on this request, due to his personal and prejudicial interest.

Resolved to approve the request for renewal of sponsorship for a further two year period.

198/18 Colwyn BID:

The Clerk tabled a brief written report, following a meeting with the new BID Project Manager and her assistant, held on 13th September.

Resolved to receive and note the report and welcome an ongoing dialogue between officers.

Further resolved to recommend that the Town Council supports the proposal that it works with the BID to jointly arrange the annual St David's Day parade, now that Ingrid Lewis has left Conwy CBC.

199/18 SLCC Regional Training Seminar (Wales):

The Clerk tabled a brief written report summarising the key learning points from the

annual Wales training seminar, held in Llandudno on 5th September.

Resolved to receive and note the report.

200/18 Twinning Request:

The Clerk submitted, for consideration, a request for a new twinning, forwarded by Past Cllr Sibani Roy. Whilst members welcomed the sentiment of the request and supported the existing informal links of friendship with representatives from the Democratic Republic of Congo, it was not considered to be appropriate to enter into discussions around a more formal twinning arrangement. The Clerk also advised that this may not be possible, due to the potential impact on existing twinning arrangements with towns in France and Germany and recommended that advice be sought first, should the Council wish to support/pursue a more formal twinning.

Resolved to recommend that the Council responds to say that whilst it appreciates the sentiment of the letter from the Songololo Twinning Committee and has no objection to the existing Twinning Association or other community organisation(s) developing informal links of friendship, it could not support a formal twinning, (due to the existing twinning with Roissy-en-Brie (France) and Barmstedt (Germany)).

201/18 'Tommy' Silhouette / Statue:

The Clerk submitted/abled information regarding the temporary Tommy silhouettes, available from the Royal British Legion and that have been appearing in communities across the County in recent weeks. Members were asked to consider whether the Council should purchase one or more statues, at a cost of £250 each, to commemorate the 100 years since the end of WW1, and, if so, where it should be sited. A discussion also took place around the number of different silhouettes available (7), to recognise all of those involved in the war effort. It was suggested that it would be nice to have a different one from the Tommy that seems to be the most popular one elsewhere. A discussion then took place about the two female silhouettes and a proposal was made that a navy seaman might be appropriate for a coastal location.

The Clerk confirmed that she had been in contact with CCBC ERF department and that they would assist with installation, free of charge.

Resolved to authorise the Clerk to order one navy seaman silhouette for siting in Rhos on Sea (preferably Cayley Promenade, or another similarly visible location).

202/18 Local Members Ward Allowances:

The Clerk submitted a half-year update on ward allowances, including those paid to date and balances remaining.

Resolved to receive and note the information.

203/18 Grants:

a) The Clerk submitted, for consideration, the small grant applications for quarter 2.

Resolved to recommend that grants be awarded, as detailed in Schedule 'B' attached.

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

- i) Colwyn Bay Cricket Club
- ii) Benefit Advice Shop
- iii) Old Colwyn War Memorial Appeal Fund
- iv) Upper Colwyn Bay Community Centre

The Meeting closed at 8 45 pm

..... Chairman