

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 13TH FEBRUARY 2019

PRESENT: Cllr Chris Hughes, Chairman
Cllrs: H Fleet, M Jones, N Bastow (Deputy Mayor), T Pearson, P Richards

OFFICER: Mrs C Earley, Town Clerk
Miss L Austin, Administrative Assistant

IN ATTENDANCE: Cllr B Barton

349/18 Welcome and Apologies for Absence:

The Chairman welcomed Members to the meeting. Apologies were received from Cllrs: A Kealey, A Mason and D Howcroft.

350/18 Declarations of Interest:

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

351/18 Minutes:

(a) Resolved to approve and sign, as a correct record, the Minutes of the last meeting, held on 9th January 2019.

(b) Resolved to approve and sign, as a correct record, the minutes of the Special Meeting of the Committee, held on 14th January 2019.

352/18 Matters Arising from the Minutes

(a) Min. 250/18(a) – Theatr Colwyn:

The Clerk submitted, for information, the Theatr Colwyn Budget Report for the year ended 31st March 2018 and queried if those Members who sit on the Joint Management Group know anything about the payment(s) totalling £80,184 appearing under the ‘Tourism & Leisure’ budget heading. Members were not sure what this cost heading related to.

There was also a query about why there was no disabled access onto the stage; Cllr C Hughes explained that as an existing building there was no legal requirement for the Theatr to provide this, however it is being looked into. They had tried applying for grant funding recently, but had not been successful.

Resolved to request the Clerk queries budget line 5255 ‘Tourism & Leisure - £80,184 to find out what this figure relates to.

(b) Min. 250/18(c) – Youth Engagement:

(i) The Clerk submitted feedback received from Catrin Jarvis, the Youth Officer who supports Conwy Youth Council, stating that the current members of the Youth Council feel it would be best not to create a new post/ seek funding to appoint a designated officer, but to work with the groups already in place, e.g. schools, youth clubs and youth council members to develop greater participation (i.e. option 3.1.2 in the Clerk's report).

It was noted that any work to increase participation and involvement would require additional resources to those currently available.

(ii) The Clerk submitted a brief written report following a recent meeting with potential funders, held on 31st January at the CVSC office. It was noted that a follow-up meeting was scheduled for 28th February, but that further discussions would need to take place before then with representatives from the Youth Service and CVSC to respond to the points raised / questions asked at the first meeting.

Resolved to request the Clerk continues to have follow-up conversations with the Youth Service (Principal Youth Officer), Emma Pugh (CVSC Youth Participation Officer) and potential funding bodies (National Lottery funding officer) to explore options, and to report back to the Committee in due course.

Further Resolved to check with the local schools to see what, if anything, is currently included on the school curriculum in connection with community participation / citizenship.

353/18 Finance:

(a) Resolved to authorise payments, made on behalf of the Council for the period 22/12/18 to 31/1/2019, as detailed in Schedule 'A' attached, subject to several minor amendments (where incorrect payee details had been shown on the system generated report).

(b) Resolved to defer to the next meeting the receiving and signing of the bank reconciliations as at 31/1/2019, due to late receipt of bank statements.

(c) Resolved to note that the Clerk had used her delegated powers to arrange for a joiner to carry out urgent repairs to a fire door in the rear annexe, at a cost of £245; and to request a letter of thanks be sent to the Mens' Shed for their assistance.

(d) The Clerk submitted, for information, correspondence from CCLA regarding the Property Fund Prices and Dividends Yield and Market Report for January 2019.

Resolved to receive and note the correspondence.

(d)(ii) The Clerk submitted, as additional correspondence, a Statement of Account – Local Authority's Property Fund for December 2018.

Resolved to receive and note the correspondence.

354/18 Welsh Government:

The Clerk submitted for information/consideration the following correspondence:

(a) Bathing Water Review Wales 2019 – consultation paper.

Members queried the statement within the report that dogs were banned from the beach between 1 May and 30 September, as some believed there was a year round ban. There was a further discussion about dog mess on the beaches and one member suggested a vegetable based fluorescent spray could be used to highlight the mess, which may act as a deterrent to other dog walkers.

Resolved to support the proposal to identify Colwyn Bay Porth Eirias beach as designated bathing water for the 2019 bathing season and to request that the Clerk seeks confirmation from CCBC on whether the ban of dogs on this beach is now year-round.

355/18 Conwy County Borough Council:

The Clerk submitted the following information for information/consideration:

(a) IMAGINE Colwyn Bay – Notes from the first meeting of the Steering Group, held on 29th January.

There was a discussion as to whether the Council should appoint an additional representative (Member) to attend the meetings, as the Clerk (the initial Steering Group contact), had offered/been requested to take the notes at the Steering Group meetings.

Resolved to recommend that the Council approves the appointment of the Clerk to be note-taker for the Group meetings and that the Town Council also appoints a Member as a representative.

The Clerk submitted for information a follow-up email detailing the next IMAGINE Colwyn Bay meeting dates.

Resolved to receive and note the meeting dates.

(b) Cllrs P Richards and C Hughes gave a brief verbal report on the January meeting of the Bay Life Strategic Management Board. There was a feeling that the Bay Life Board had been reluctant to say much about Douglas Road/CREST site at the meeting, as they were currently in discussions with partners. Other options are still being considered; Cllrs C Hughes and A Khan had met with officers, but these proposals were in their infancy.

The Family Centre project is still progressing well and it is hoped it will be located at the old Douglas Road Infant School site. They are keen to work with Invest Local (BCT Lottery funded project) and CREST to seek broader community facilities at the

site.

There had been a brief discussion about the possible cut (by CCBC) to funding for events, as a result of the budgetary pressures being faced by CCBC. This could impact on the 'Access all Eirias' concert in 2020, unless additional funding can be found from elsewhere and/or the Promoter is willing to re-negotiate the amount of subsidy required to reduce his risk.

The Clerk informed members that a discussion had also taken place about the need for 'branding' for the town, to strengthen the town's identity/purpose. Previous efforts to enter into discussions with the business community, via Colwyn BID, around a 'Creative Colwyn' brand had met with opposition. The Bay Life Board had asked if the Town Council would be willing to lead a further discussion about branding. The Clerk reminded Members of a previous branding exercise (undertaken by a marketing/brand consultant), which had resulted in adoption of 'Perfectly Placed', which Members felt was much broader than 'Creative Colwyn' and could be used to strengthen community pride and to promote the town in a number of different ways and to different audiences (e.g. Perfectly Placed for Sport and Leisure; Perfectly Placed for Business). The Mayor and Clerk had discussed the issue of branding with the new Interim Chairman of Colwyn BID, who agreed that this should be a priority for discussion. It was noted that Visit Wales can advise regarding design issues, such as colour palette etc.

Resolved to recommend that the Clerk writes to Colwyn BID to seek its views on the adopting the previous brand of 'Perfectly Placed', which can be used for a variety of purposes and highlights the accessible location of the town.

The Clerk then gave a brief verbal report on other matters which had been discussed, including: the market (formal procurement process now commencing); Civic Centre redevelopment (awaiting detailed proposals from Muse); Imperial Hotel site (working with owner/developer to try to resolve viability gap); Colwyn Bay Environment Federation project - improvements in Eirias Park (dropped kerbs, orchard planting, drawings for paths); future structure and reporting; Station Road TCIP development project (doing surveys and modelling work and should be ready to consult on initial options in May/June, VT was asked to look at the position of the clock and advise if it would need to be moved).

(c) Community & Town Council Forum – Clerks' Network Meeting

The Clerk gave a brief verbal report on the Conwy Clerks' Network meeting, held on 29th January held at Bodlondeb, which had included discussion about: possible structure for improving communication and support, using Conwy's Area Forums as a model – it was noted that this would give an opportunity to request items are placed on the agenda for the area forums and to scrutinise any decisions made, identifying existing skills, knowledge and areas of expertise, so that Clerks can better support each other; reviewing financial policies; identifying any concerns about communication (time taken to receive responses) with specific departments within CCBC.

The Clerk circulated a copy of the Terms of Reference for the new Local Area Forums. It was noted that the Central Area includes Mochdre, Llysfaen and Betws yn Rhos and its purposes have a lot in common with those of the town council. Membership may include inviting representatives from town and community councils, but this had not yet been progressed in Central Area.

(d) The Clerk gave a brief verbal report on the CCBC/Community and Town Council Forum meeting held on the 29th January 2019 (the Mayor and the Clerk had attended), and submitted a copy of the IRPW presentation slides to Members.

It was noted that all Town/Community Councils had received a letter from CCBC detailing the services currently at risk; however, this was received too late as the Town/Community Councils had already set their budgets for the year. Councils were asked to consider the services highlighted and enter into discussions with CCBC in preparation for the following financial year. It was noted that this will be referred to the recently formed Assets & Services Working Group.

A presentation had also been given on Place Plans and the review of the Local Development Plan. Cllr C Hughes informed colleagues that there was a page in the LDP section of the CBC website that listed all of the sites that had been put forward for consideration as potential development sites, and urged all members to look at any within their wards.

Resolved to inform all Members (share link to the page) and place this on a future agenda for the General Purpose & Planning Committee to consider.

356/18 NALC:

The Clerk submitted an updated version of the Model Standing Orders (2018) recently received via NALC. An additional document from NALC, providing background information on the main changes, was also submitted. The Clerk briefly reported on the main variances.

Resolved to recommend for adoption the updated Model Standing Orders, to include any additional ones that the Clerk recommends are included from the existing Standing Orders.

357/18 Members Allowances:

(a) Resolved to authorise the Clerk to send a letter and pro-forma to all members for the payment of the basic councillor allowance for 2018/19.

(b) Resolved to note the decision of the Council that any unclaimed allowances will be transferred to the small grants budget.

358/18 Local Members Ward Allowances:

The Clerk submitted, for consideration, project proposals from:

a. Cllr P Richards – £250 for St David’s Day posters and banners.

- b. Cllr J Pearson – £385 for a CCTV camera for the corner of Dinerth Road and Llandudno Road.
- c. Cllr J Pearson - £100 towards Ysgol Llandrillo yn Rhos’ eco-gardening group.
- d. Cllr G Campbell – £160 for St David’s Day Art Competition prizes.
- e. Cllr A Pearson - £298 for the Old Colwyn Community Centre for refurbishment of fire doors and the painting of internal areas.

Resolved to approve proposals a, c, d and e for payment, with proposal b (CCTV camera) being subject to confirmation that the Town Council will not be liable for ongoing maintenance costs.

359/18 Subscriptions:

The Clerk submitted, for consideration, a request for the Council to become a ‘Patron’ of the Eryri Young Farmers Federation, at a cost of £100 per annum. Concern was expressed that a Conwy/Denbighshire group also exists and there was insufficient evidence to show how many young farmers from the Bay of Colwyn area would benefit.

Resolved to decline the request.

360/18 Grants:

(a) Youth Grants:

The Clerk submitted for consideration the Youth Grant applications for 2018/19, as detailed in Schedule ‘B’ attached.

Resolved to recommend approval of grant applications A, C, D, F and G as detailed in Schedule ‘B’ attached. Resolved to decline application B and to defer application E, whilst further information is sought.

(b) Events Grants:

(i) The Clerk submitted for consideration a request from Cllr P Richards for event evaluation forms, from the previous year’s event, to be submitted alongside any future applications.

Resolved to request that previous year’s event evaluation forms are included with future event grant applications, where applicable/available.

(ii) The Clerk submitted for consideration an amended application from the organiser of the 2019 Forties Festival (no longer Colwyn BID).

Members noted that Colwyn BID were no longer able to run the event, as running events was not included as a core objective in the BID’s Terms of Reference. There was some debate on whether funding could be given to a business, however it was recognised that the organiser was only taking a small fee for the work she would be carrying out, and that the alternative would be the event not taking place.

Resolved to agree that payment for the event, which was already approved by the Town Council, could be made to North West Wales Food Group.

(iii) CCBC Events 2019:

The Clerk submitted, for consideration, a confidential email from Rachael Gill, CCBC Corporate Events Manager, regarding future events. It was noted that CCBC is looking at cuts to its core events budget, which would result in a reduction in the amount previously allocated towards the 'Access all Eirias' annual concert(s) in 2020 and beyond (from £60,000 to £30,000). The promoter has asked if the Town Council would be willing to continue with its £20,000 per annum sponsorship of the event, irrespective of whether there are one or two concerts. This would enable the event to continue in 2020. CCBC is also considering whether it should go out to tender again to see if there are any other promoters who would be willing to run the event(s). This would result in a pause in 2020, to allow time for completing the tender process.

Resolved to recommend that the Town Council responds to confirm that the maximum the Town Council would contribute would be £10,000 per concert per year, subject to a £20,000 maximum.

The correspondence also included an update on two possible future events, one in 2019 which may require some financial support and another in 2020, the details of which are currently confidential.

(iv) The Clerk submitted for information an event evaluation form received from the NWAMI Diwali event.

Resolved to receive and note evaluation form.

(c) The Clerk gave a verbal report in respect of the deferred large grant application made by Happy Faces for Combermere Gardens. The Clerk explained that there had been some miscommunication and that the applicant had mistakenly been told by someone (identity not divulged) that their application had been declined, rather than deferred for further consideration by the Colwyn in Bloom Committee.

Resolved to note the Clerk's verbal report and wait for a report back from the Colwyn in Bloom Committee.

(d)(i) The Clerk submitted, for information, a report from the Orme Explorer Scouts in relation to a Youth Grant application.

Resolved to receive and note the report.

(e) It was noted that letters of thanks/reports have been received from the following grant recipients:

- (i)** Benefit Advice Shop
- (ii)** Colwyn Bay Heritage Group
- (iii)** Colwyn Choral Society
- (iv)** Home Start Conwy

- (v) St John Wales
- (vi) Upper Colwyn Bay Community Centre

361/18 CVPT

The Clerk tabled, for consideration, a request from CVPT for assistance in finding a location to store pieces of the murals which had been removed from Colwyn Bay Pier, which were currently being stored at the Civic Offices. It was noted that Cadw had only required CCBC to retain two of these (in a planning condition), in case they could be restored for use in any future development on the Pier, or for heritage purposes. CCBC had therefore approached CVPT to ask that they find suitable storage for the others, or they would need to be disposed of now the Civic Centre is being emptied for transfer to Muse.

There was a discussion on whether it would be worthwhile trying to keep the murals together, by offering the use of one of the vacant rooms in the rear annexe/external store, and the implications of NNDR and insurance costs to the Council if this were offered.

Resolved the request that the Clerk investigates the cost of storing the murals, in terms of insurance and NNDR, to enable all the murals to be kept at the Town Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm.

.....Chairman