

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 21ST OCTOBER 2019

PRESENT: The Mayor, Cllr N Bastow
Cllrs: B Barton; H Fleet; D Howcroft; C Hughes; Mrs M Jones; A Khan;
C Matthews; H Meredith; A Pearson; J Pearson; M Pickard; P Richards;
K Swindon; S Williams; M Worth

OFFICER: Mrs C Earley, Town Clerk

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr Benjamin Poulton and Mr Oliver Edwards,
Conwy County Borough Council
A Member of the Public

219/19 Apologies for Absence:

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs G Baker, D Bradley, C Brockley, A Mason, M Tasker and from Cty Cllr B Cossey.

220/19 Announcements:

The Mayor thanked those Members who had attended the Council's Civic Service yesterday.

221/19 Declarations of Interest:

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

222/19 Visitors to the Council:

- a) The Chairman welcomed Benjamin Poulton and Oliver Edwards to the meeting to address the Council regarding the Waterfront Phase 2B (Cayley Prom to Rhos Point).

They began by explaining the purpose of the visit, which was to give an overview of phase 2B, present initial concept designs and get feedback from local members. It was stressed that no funding has been allocated for the delivery of the project yet, though there are some potential funding sources identified for specific elements of the project, e.g. Welsh Government funding for flood prevention (to include importing a million tonnes of sand). Members were also reminded of what had been achieved during phases 1a, 1b and 1c, commencing in Feb 2011 and completed in Oct 2014, and phase 2, commenced in Aug 2016 and completed with the installation of the COLWYN lettering in April of this year.

The presentation went on to outline the extent of the next phase (from the Cayley Promenade to the jetty in Rhos on Sea). Physical modelling had been done to test the sand retention capabilities of the existing structures and this had provided evidence that further rock structures would not be necessary. The width of the

road/promenade will not change, due to the position of the existing sea wall, and will need to accommodate the highway, cycle path and pedestrian zones. The plans currently being considered include the straightening out of the cycle path, which currently meanders around the shelters, improvement or replacement of the existing two kiosks, maximising roadside parking, and reviewing traffic flow. It is also hoped to include some improved signage/links to local businesses, through gateway features and way-marker signage, wildflower gardens on the Cayley Embankment (possibly to incorporate some amphitheatre style seating areas), a fitness trail and the renewal / standardising of public seating. The existing promenade shelters will be removed and there is the potential to provide new shelters with a more modern design. These would need to be more open to increase visibility and it may be possible to incorporate solar panels and electric car charging points.

The next steps are to explore potential funding opportunities, complete outline designs/project scoping work and to then apply for funding for the detailed designs, which will be needed for the applications for capital funding.

A question and answer session followed, with questions from members about: potential funding to replace European funding (WG are supporting the detailed designs, therefore it is hoped that this is indicative of potential support for the delivery phase); whether traffic flow and priorities were likely to change (yes, if the promenade highway is made one-way to increase space for cycles/pedestrians); whether the groyne at Porth Eirias has retained sand as expected from modelling (yes, not all sand movement can/will be stopped and ecological impact also needs to be assessed and the aim will be to reduce any negative impact as much as possible); links to the separate project to widen the promenade alongside the beach/harbour; whether the toilets will be upgraded (improved two years ago, but hope to add 1 or 2 new toilets to the side of each of the replacement/refurbished kiosks); the need for the kiosks to have a sheltered/internal seating area for year-round use.

Resolved to take agenda item 7(a) – CCBC Report on Colwyn Bay Waterfront Phase 3, at this point, to enable Benji/Oliver to respond to any questions from members.

It was noted that the Town Council, Old Colwyn Residents Association and others locally are very concerned about the ongoing delays with getting the various partner bodies to discuss and agree funding support for this project. Oliver reassured members that this is now being considered as a ‘nationally significant’ project, rather than phase 3 of an ongoing waterfront project, and will be renamed the ‘North Wales Critical Infrastructure Waterfront Project’. Concern was expressed that though we are still paying funds into the European Union, we are no longer able to apply for funding support for projects such as this. It was noted that approval has been given by CCBC to convene a high-level strategic stakeholder meeting and it is hoped this can take place in November.

Benji and Oliver were then thanked for attending and they retired from the meeting.

- b) It was noted that there were no reports/updates available on County Council / Central Area matters (other than under agenda item 7e, to follow).

223/19 Minutes:

- a) ***Resolved to receive, approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of:***
i) *The last Ordinary meeting of the Council, held on 2nd September 2019.*
ii) *The Special Meeting of the Council, held on 11th September 2019.*
- b) ***Resolved to receive a copy of the minutes of the following meetings:***
i) *The Volunteer Awards Committee, held on 9th September 2019.*
ii) *The General Purpose & Planning Committee held on 17th September 2019.*
iii) *The General Purpose & Planning Committee held on 8th October 2019*
iv) *The Policy & Finance Committee held on 9th October 2019.*

224/19 Matters Arising from the Minutes:

- a) **Min. 155/19(a) – Traffic Management Training:**

It was noted that the trained volunteers are needed to assist with both the Remembrance Sunday and Bonfire night traffic management and that additional stewards will also be needed for 5th November for crowd management duties and to support the TM trained volunteers for the Remembrance Sunday parade. A minimum of 11 volunteers are needed for Bonfire Night and 8 for Remembrance Sunday. It was noted that the numbers who have replied to date to confirm they can help show a potential shortfall for Remembrance Sunday. If sufficient unpaid volunteers cannot be found to ensure the safety of those taking part in the parade, the Clerk requested permission to buy in additional support from Ekult, the event's traffic management company.

Resolved to delegate authority to the Clerk to buy in additional support from Ekult, if sufficient volunteers do not come forward to assist with the Remembrance Sunday parade.

- b) **Min. 159/19 & 165/19 – High Sherriff Awards:** To consider any nominee(s) for the Awards (and note that the Town Council can only submit one nomination).

Resolved to defer this item until the end of the meeting, due to the need for any nominees to remain confidential.

- c) **Min. 161/19, 197/19(f) and 213/19(a) – Town Council Vacancy, Rhiw Ward:**

The Clerk submitted, for information, the timetable for the by-election, statement of persons nominated and details of the arrangements for the delivery of poll cards.

Resolved to receive and note the information.

- d) Members were then asked to consider and endorse the recommendations of the Committees, as detailed in the following Minutes:

- i) **Min. 196/19(a) – Litter Bins:** It was noted that any replacement (new) litter bins would cost approximately £500 each.

Resolved to authorise the swapping of the larger bin at the Spar with the smaller one at the Princess Diana Garden, Rhos-on-Sea.

- ii) **Min. 198/19 – CCTV Ivy Street:** It was noted that the Clerk had asked CCBC if it would be feasible to place a new and/or roaming camera in the Ivy Street car park area to provide greater coverage, but that a response had been received to confirm that the whole area is adequately covered by the existing cameras. Local businesses and residents are asked to call the police if they witness any anti-social behaviour or criminal activity in this area and the cameras can then be used to gather evidence and identify suspects.

It was noted that there used to be a shopwatch scheme in Colwyn Bay town centre, managed by Ingrid Lewis, Town Manager, but that this cost businesses approximately £300 p.a. each and take-up had therefore been low.

- iii) **Min. 199/19(b) – Old Colwyn Noticeboard:**

Resolved to confirm the decisions to decline the request for a larger noticeboard in Cefn Road, for the reasons given in the committee's minutes.

- iv) **Min. 205/19(f) – National Development Framework:**

Resolved to delegate authority to the General Purpose & Planning Committee to respond to the current consultation by 1st November.

- v) **Min. 211/19(f) – Annual Audit:**

Resolved to receive and note the report of the External Auditor.

- vi) **Min. 218/19(b) – Events Grants:**

- (1) **Wales Rally GB:** The Clerk submitted a brief report from Alun Pritchard, providing costings for the town centre activities, and members were asked to authorise payment of the invoice.

Resolved to authorise payment of the invoice from Motorsport UK for £11,470.83, plus VAT.

- (2) **Eirias Concerts Summer 2020:** The Clerk asked Members to consider allocating a budget of £20,000 for 2020 for two summer concerts.

Resolved to authorise a budget of £20,000 for two summer concerts in 2020 (£10,000 each).

- (3) **Forties Event:** The Clerk gave a brief verbal report, informing members that she had recently been shown the summary of accounts for the 2019 event and that discussions were taking place around potential ways to save costs for the 2020 event, to make funding available for the CCBC Events team to support delivery of a more streamlined event with greater links to the local community, possibly through support from the IMAGINE project. Options

currently being considered included removing some elements of the event which and caused problems and/or had poor turnout, such as the tank/plane and battle re-enactment, and instead adding a street-party element, to mark the links to the VE day celebrations in May. It is proposed that an organising committee of interested parties should be formed, to take the event forward into 2021 and beyond.

Resolved to appoint the Clerk and Cllrs J Pearson and C Matthews to the proposed new Committee.

vii) Min. 218/19(c) – Small Grants:

Resolved to authorise payment of the small grants for quarter 2, as detailed in the Schedule to those minutes.

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

225/19 Conwy CBC:

The Clerk submitted, for consideration, the following correspondence:

- a) Old Colwyn Promenade:** To receive notice of the Special Meeting of the Economy and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and the report from the Head of ERF on the Colwyn Bay Waterfront Project Phase 3 – Phasing Review, August 2019 (see Min. 222/19(a) above).
- b) Meeting of the CCBC & Town and Community Council Forum:** The Clerk gave a brief verbal report on the recent meeting, which Cllrs N Bastow and P Richards had also attended. This covered the Community Green Pledge, due to be published by December, a presentation from the NW Fire & Rescue Service regarding its prevention and response services and the changing/increasing pressures on its resources, and the future role of Town and Community Councils in Wales. This had covered increased training (for councillors and clerks), support for more joint working arrangements, a digital engagement survey and the eagerly anticipated Local Government and Elections Bill, expected to introduce the General Power of Competence for the Town and Community Council sector. Details of the Penllyn Partnership were then shared, as an example of a cluster of councils working together to jointly deliver local services.

The key presentation of the evening had been around the services identified as being ‘at risk’ by CCBC in the run up to its budget discussions for 2020/21. Information was shared with all those present on the eight ‘at risk’ services, which included playgrounds, theatres and Oriel Colwyn, community libraries, Rhos paddling pool, Colwyn major events, CCTV (24/7 monitoring), public conveniences and free car parks. The County Council is asking for town and community councils to consider options for supporting (by way of a financial contribution) and/or taking over the delivery of these services. It was noted that the information that had been provided was not explained in any detail and the town and community councils would require further information before being able to discuss/decide any support they may be prepared to offer. Two days of surgeries

were proposed, to set aside time (by appointment) for discussions with representatives from each council.

The Clerk then read out some of the figures provided and explained that information had not been provided regarding whether these were net costs (taking into account any income received, for example from paying public conveniences), or what would happen if the town and community councils were not able to contribute the amount suggested. These kind of questions would need to be raised at the surgery.

Resolved to request that the Clerk, Mayor and Chair of the Policy & Finance Committee attend the surgery to find out as much information as possible about the requests for support.

Further resolved to then call an Extra-Ordinary Council meeting to consider a report on the 'at risk' services and potential financial support being requested, before seeking feedback from the local electorate, prior to the setting of the 2020/21 precept and budget.

- c) **CCBC Free Car Parks:** The Clerk submitted a response from Vic Turner, CCBC, regarding the remaining free car parks across the county (one of the items being discussed by the assets and services working group, but received too late for the recent meeting). This confirmed that the CCBC Estates and Asset Management team had investigated the land title for Berthes Road car park and found there was nothing that would prevent it from being made into a pay and display car park. They therefore intended to go ahead with the introduction of pay and display, unless someone comes forward with any evidence to confirm otherwise. It was noted that it had caused chaos in Old Colwyn the last time the council had tried to make the car park pay and display.

d) **CCTV:**

Resolved to authorise payment of the invoice for £9,273, as a contribution to the maintenance costs for the 33 CCTV cameras in the Bay of Colwyn area.

e) **Local Area Forum – Central Area:**

Cllr P Richards gave a brief verbal report on the recent meeting, which had discussed Douglas Road, the procurement process for someone to run the market, the raised picnic area on Colwyn promenade, the future legacy of Colwyn BID, the Pier, the widening of the Prom to provide a cycle path at Rhos, the Civic Centre site, Bron y Nant and Meadow Lodge and the Dinerth Road site.

Resolved to thank Cllr Richards for attending and giving his report.

f) **Bay Life Strategic Management Board:**

It was noted that the meeting due to take place on 23 September had been cancelled, at late notice. The Clerk gave a brief verbal update on progress with the Town Centre Investment Plan, which it was noted was behind schedule and

therefore at risk of not receiving the funding anticipated from TRI in 2020/21.

226/19 Community Plan:

The Clerk gave a brief verbal report on a recent open meeting and asked members to consider the appointment of business and voluntary sector representatives to the Steering Group.

Resolved to appoint Mr S Griffiths (business sector) and Mr D Masding (voluntary sector) for the Colwyn Bay area and to note that nominations are still awaited for representatives for both the business and voluntary sectors for Old Colwyn and Rhos on Sea.

Further resolved to request that members from Old Colwyn and Rhos on Sea seek to find suitable nominations to the steering group within the next month.

227/19 Colwyn Business Support Zone CIC / Colwyn BID:

a) The Clerk gave a brief verbal report on a recent meeting with the Director-Founder of a new CIC, Colwyn Business Support Zone, established in June 2019. The purpose of the organisation is to provide local businesses with a voice, encourage/develop new businesses/entrepreneurs and support existing businesses. Mr Clemson, the Director-Founder, has a background in the police force and as an officer supporting an active Chamber of Trade in the Wirral. The aim would be to establish a board of business people and potential future activities include 'operation sparkle', a volunteer-led clean-up campaign, and Crime Stoppers, in partnership with NW Police. Potential barriers to the success of the newly formed CIC include apathy and/or a lack of engagement from local businesses. Its longer term aims include the creation of a business 'hub' in the local community to provide hot-desk space, support new start-up enterprises and networking opportunities and procure other business support services.

Members were asked to consider a request for support from the Town Council in providing free use of a meeting room for an initial open meeting and inviting guests to attend this meeting on behalf of the group (NW Police etc).

Though the enthusiasm and efforts of the Director-Founder were applauded, concern was expressed that this new venture should not be treated more favourably than those existing not-for-profit groups that use the Town Hall meeting rooms and that initial conversations with local businesses had been about re-starting the Chamber of Trade.

Resolved to support the aims of the CIC, in principle, but not to offer any more favourable terms/support to that offered to other local not-for-profit ventures.

b) The Clerk tabled the papers for the forthcoming EGM of Colwyn BID and members noted the proposals to wind-down the BID, following a decision not to go to a re-ballot in 2021. Members were asked to consider the nomination of members to either the BID Board or the three new area committees that fall within the Town Council's boundary (excluding Mochdre).

Resolved to request that the Clerk submits nominations for the following members to the proposed Area Committees:

Old Colwyn – Cllr B Barton

Rhos on Sea – Cllr H Fleet

Colwyn Bay – Cllr C Hughes

228/19 One Voice Wales Annual Conference:

The Clerk submitted the agenda for the conference and Cllr B Barton gave a brief verbal report, informing members that the AM for Delyn had advised those present that the Local Government Bill is likely to include a requirement for compulsory training for councillors in seven core modules. A presentation had also been given on the Understanding Welsh Places website, which only covers towns/villages with population of 2,000+. It was noted that the presentation slides would be shared in due course.

Cllr Barton was thanked for his brief verbal report.

229/19 DR Congo:

The Clerk submitted a further written update from Norbert MBU-MPUTU.

Resolved to receive and note the update.

230/19 High Sheriff's Awards:

Resolved to exclude members of the public for this item, due to the need to keep any nominations confidential.

The member of the public retired from the meeting and Members were asked to consider any nominations for either a group or individual award.

Cllr B Barton, as Chair of the Volunteer Awards Committee, proposed one of the nominees put forward recently for a Queen's Award. He also suggested that the Terms of Reference for the Volunteer Awards Committee be reviewed at a future date, to give delegated powers to consider onward nominations for other relevant award schemes.

Resolved to authorise the Clerk and Cllr Barton to submit a nomination on behalf of the Town Council.

The meeting closed at 9.20 p.m.

..... Chairman