

Minutes of a meeting of the Colwyn in Bloom Committee held at 2pm on Wednesday 4th December 2019 in the Town Hall, Rhiw Road, Colwyn Bay.

PRESENT: Ingrid Lewis, Chairman (IL)

Roz Dudley, Secretary (RD)

Mrs Tina Earley, Town Clerk (Treasurer) (TE)

Peter Barton-Price (PBP), Tom Gravett (TG), Conwy CBC, Gwenda Matthews (GM) & Mags Richardson.

CLRs: Cllr Hannah Fleet (HF), Chris Hughes (CH), Abdul Khan (AK), Paul Richards (PTR) & M Worth (MW).

287/19 **Welcome and Apologies:** The Chair welcomed Committee Members. Apologies for absence were received from David Birtwistle, Bill McMillan and Cllr Jeff Pearson.

288/19 **Minutes:** Resolved to approve and sign, as a correct record, the minutes of the last meeting, held on 2nd May 2019.

289/19 **Colwyn in Bloom:**

(a) The Secretary submitted a copy of the 2019 results. The Chair thanked all the judges for their time and effort and asked for any feedback. PR said he was pleased that there were new projects to judge this year. The Secretary requested that the school garden judges issue reports next year as the schools would welcome feedback on areas they could improve.

(b) The Chair asked for any feedback from the Presentation Evening which was held last October. All the members said it was an enjoyable event and agreed that the same venue should be booked for next year's event.

290/19 **Wales in Bloom:**

(a) The Secretary submitted a copy of the Judges report. The Chair congratulated the Committee on the Gold result. The report highlighted many of the positives in the Town and the Chair thanked all concerned. The Baskets in the Town Centre had been commented on as they were much more impressive this year. The judges had remarked on the excellent presentation and portfolio; the Secretary was thanked for her work on the portfolio.

PBP informed the Committee that the entry for the Wales in Bloom Competition needed to be in by March 31st 2020. This also included In Your Neighbourhood entries and requested could the Committee encourage entries from community groups.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JL', located in the bottom right corner of the page.

- (b) The Planting theme was considered for next year. PBP advised that blue plants tend to last longer and would recommend that colour scheme.
Resolved to choose blue/purple and yellow plants and to have lots of trailing plants.
- (c) The Secretary submitted an email from Bryn Euryn Nursery regarding the baskets and planters in the town. The Secretary informed the committee that she had spoken to the Nursery and that the Nursery had said that they would continue to supply and install the baskets, up the poles and the barrier planters. The Secretary was asked to confirm this. If they are unable to do this then alternative quotations will have to be sought. The Secretary was asked to chase up the winning plaques for Station Steps which had been ordered earlier in the year.

291/19 **Britain in Bloom:** PBP informed the Committee that Colwyn Bay has been nominated to represent Wales in Bloom in the Coastal category in the Britain in Bloom Competition.
Resolved to support the nomination.

PBP informed the members that Wales in Bloom together with the RHS were piloting a scheme in Wales regarding Britain in Bloom's 'Greening Grey Britain' programme. Colwyn in Bloom could receive £500 funding. PBP said he would help with the application.

Resolved to request the information from Wales in Bloom.

PBP asked the Committee to encourage entries into the Its Your Neighbourhood scheme and also said that assessors were needed. PBP would send information about the criteria for being an assessor for the Secretary to share with the Committee. IL asked PBP if Wales in Bloom could put out a press release regarding the Its your Neighbourhood scheme which could be shared by the Committee and shared on social media.

292/19 **Andrew Fraser Memorial Clock:** The Treasurer gave a brief verbal update. The funding has now been obtained for the replacement clock and the Clock should be back on Station Road by April 2020. The Colwyn in Bloom Committee had previously agreed to fund planters for around the Clock but the Treasurer explained that measurements could not be obtained until the Clock was back in place.
Resolved to defer consideration of types of planters once measurements are known and to request that the unspent budget for the planters be carried forward to 2020/21..

293/19 **Green Infrastructures Opportunities:** The Clerk had attended a Bay Life Officer's meeting and Rob Dix had given a verbal report on potential projects that had been discussed with regard to the Welsh Government funding available for Green Infrastructure projects. Conwy CBC are looking at the old market site as a potential permeable/green carpark. Members said Douglas Road Car Park should be considered too. CH reported that the Colwyn Bay Conservation and Environment Federation had been discussing using recycled materials to make paths in Eirias Park.



Resolved to write to Rob Dix to be request that the Colwyn in Bloom Committee be made aware of any progress with any green infrastructures projects and to ask if Colwyn in Bloom can put projects forward.

294/19 **Willow Sculptures:** The Secretary informed the Committee that she had not been able to contact any contractors to maintain the Sculptures. The Committee considered new ideas which could replace the sculptures and a suggestion was made to have recycled plastic bottle statues. Local Colleges and schools could be contacted for their suggestions.

Resolved to defer this agenda item and any further suggestions for ideas to replace the willow sculptures were requested for the next meeting.

295/19 **Hanging Basket Brackets:** The Secretary reported that Abergele Town Council had purchased 5 brackets and that the nursery still had 85 remaining belonging to Colwyn in Bloom. PR informed the Committee that the Chamber of Trade (COT) had been re-launched and the brackets could be promoted via the organisation. The Treasurer reported that Hanging Baskets sales had been lower this year.

Resolved to write to the Secretary of COT to inform the organisations of the number of brackets that are still available and also to contact COT, ROSTA and OCERA to promote the BOGOF Hanging Baskets offer.

296/19 **Plastic Free Communities:** The Treasurer gave a presentation on Plastic Free Communities. PSB were about to launch the Green Pledge which the Colwyn in Bloom Committee are keen to adopt. It was suggested that we could focus on single use plastic as our project for 2020. As a community we need to all work together.

Resolved to recommend to Council that:-

1. It supports a Single Use Plastic campaign in 2020, in conjunction with the Green Pledge.

2. It acts as Community Leader.

(See Schedule A attached)

297/19 **Tree Charter Day – 30/11/2019:** Due to time restraints, it was noted that no organisation present had been able to organise tree planting on Tree Charter Day.

298/19 **Keep Wales Tidy:**

(a) An Email regarding Operation Sparkle was noted.

(b) The Treasurer gave the Committee a brief verbal report about a request from Keep Wales Tidy for the Town Council to consider making storage space at the Town Hall available for a storage hub for local community groups to access/sign for litter picking equipment. The Town Council would also promote litter picking events on social media and their website. The Secretary would include information about the storage hub and litter picking events in the portfolio for the In-Bloom Competitions.

299/19 **Pwllcrochan Woods:** The Secretary submitted information from ERF regarding the future management of all the nature reserves in the County of Conwy. TG reported that the Department had huge budgetary restraints and had lost one member of staff who could not be replaced. They could only concentrate on site safety and their legal obligations in the future. TG advised the Committee that these areas included Fairy Glen, The Dingle, Bryn Euryn and Pwllcrochan Woods; he said that the Department would do what they can for the In-bloom effort. The Chair thanked TG for his report.



PBP was thanked for his input and retired from the meeting.

300/19 **Gateways Signs:** The Treasurer gave a brief update on the progress made with the gateway signs. This project needed to be progressed quickly as part of the funding was from Colwyn BID. Despite reminder emails, Conwy CBC had still not submitted approved designs. TG said to send reminders to the generic ERF email address.
Resolved to write to Colwyn BID to ask if they are still willing to support the project and to seek TG's assistance to get amended designs.

301/19 **Finance Report:**

The Treasurer gave a verbal report. It was noted the £4500 underspend would be referred to the Policy & Finance Committee with a request to carry it over. This would cover the extra costs with Gateway Signs and the Britain in Bloom entry.

302/19 **Other Correspondence:** It was noted that the following correspondence was available from the Secretary:

Grass Roots Summer 2019.
Grass Roots Autumn 2019.

303/19 **News:** Committee Members were reminded to continue to submit any news/press items or to report on any activities which they have been involved in since the last meeting to the Secretary, for compilation for the next portfolio.

304/19 **A.O.B:**

a) TE gave a verbal report on a Town Centre Investment Plan meeting she had attended. Conwy CBC were proposing changes to Station Road which would incorporate large planters to separate pedestrians from parking/traffic. TG supports rainwater harvesting for the new planters and/or solar self-watering systems. Biodiversity needs to be considered whenever any planting is done as per the Environment Wales Act. Green roofs on bus shelters to encourage bees were considered but there were health & safety issues.

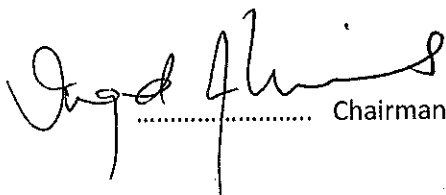
Resolved that TE write to the Bay Life Group with these proposals.

b) AK informed the Committee that he was stepping down from judging the Colwyn in Bloom garden competition next year. Nominating judges for all the Colwyn in Bloom competitions would take place at the next meeting.

c) TG advised the Committee that Sarah Ferrante (SF) was no longer part of the East Team. Mike Hughes (MH) was the new team leader for both grounds and gardens. TG requested that MH replace SF on the Committee.

305/19 **Next Meeting Date:** Members will be informed as soon as a meeting date in February is agreed.

The meeting closed at 3.5 Op.m.


..... Chairman