



Minutes of a meeting of the Colwyn in Bloom Committee held at 2pm on Wednesday 5th February 2019 in the Town Hall, Rhiw Road, Colwyn Bay

- PRESENT:** Ingrid Lewis, Chairman (IL)
 Gwenda Matthews (GM) & Mags Richardson (MR)
 Conwy CBC: Tom Gravett (TG), Peter Barton-Price (PBP)(see Min 384/19(b))
 and David Birtwistle (DB)
 Cllrs: Cllr Hannah Fleet (HF), Abdul Khan (AK) (See Min 388/19), Jeff Pearson (JP)
 (See Min 384/19(b)), P Richards (PTR) & M Worth (MW)
- OFFICERS:** Roz Dudley, Secretary (RD)
 Tina Earley, Town Clerk and Treasurer (TE)

382/19 Welcome and Apologies: The Chair welcomed Committee Members to the meeting and apologies for absence were received from Bill McMillan.

383/19 Minutes:

Resolved to approve and sign, as a correct record, the minutes of the last meeting, held on 4th December 2019.

384/19 Matters arising from last Meeting:

a) Min 293/19 - Green Infrastructure Funding (Welsh Government):

A response from Rob Dix was submitted. The Clerk updated the Committee and informed them that the Town Centre Investment Plan project had not been developed fully enough for submission by the end of January deadline, but it was hoped there will be an opportunity to apply again at a later stage. TG said that their department (ERF) would like to get involved with any future submission.

b) Min 294/19 – Willow Sculptures:

This item had been deferred from the last meeting. The Committee had been asked for any ideas for replacing the willow sculptures. Members expressed a preference for recycle/re-use sea-themed art installation(s), possibly to collect plastic bottles.

Resolved to contact Helen Jackson (IMAGINE) to convene a meeting to discuss possible art installation projects which could replace the current willow sculptures.

PB-P and JP arrived at this juncture.

c) Min 296/19 – Plastic Free Communities:

The Clerk gave a brief verbal update, circulating copies of Conwy & Denbighshire Public Service's Board Community Green Pledges scheme (CGP). It was noted that going plastic-less was one of the green pledges.

***Resolved to recommend that the Town Council/Colwyn in Bloom Committee signs up to the CGP scheme and prioritises at least 4 initial pledges to achieve (to be discussed/agreed at the next meeting).
Further resolved that all members of the Committee encourage local groups to sign up to the Community Green Pledge scheme.***

RD also gave a brief verbal update, confirming that she had been in touch with a lady from Conwy Town Plastic Free group, who is willing to meet to share their ideas.

It was noted that RD/TE had also recently taken part in a Climate Change Webinar with the recommendation that the Town Council works towards declaring a Climate Emergency, backed by a detailed action plan.

A discussion followed regarding recycling and how cuts to recycling services by Conwy CBC (garden waste and community recycling facilities) were causing lots of problems with fly tipping. An example was given of a resident who lived in a flat and did not have access to residential recycling bins. Residents such as this, and those without transport, had previously relied upon the communal recycling facilities, which had recently been removed with only one week's notice.

Resolved that HF/PR meet with Jim Jones (CHECK?), Conwy CBC to discuss problems with recycling and especially with regard to residents in some flats.

d) Min 300/19 – Gateway Signs:

The Town Clerk gave a verbal update, informing the group that the IMAGINE project had agreed to help with the funding for the project (to replace Colwyn BID), to include some engagement work around developing a new town logo/brand. It was noted that the CCBC Highways Officer was still waiting for a response from the Welsh Government about the initial draft design, which had not yet been updated following initial feedback from the Town Council.

Resolved to contact Vic Turner, Conwy CBC, to chase the approval for the revised draft design (leaving space for a new logo/brand/image), as there was a deadline for the IMAGINE funding to be used and this project had already taken 12 months to reach this stage.

385/19 Colwyn in Bloom Competitions:

- a) The Secretary submitted last year's application forms for both the main competition and the School's competition, for review by the Committee.

Resolved to continue both art competitions and that the theme for the art (schools and adult) this year would be 'Colwyn Bay Heritage'.

PR asked could consideration be given to displaying the school's winning pictures more prominently/publically, possibly incorporating them into a town centre art installation.

Resolved to continue with all the competitions and to ask Helen, IMAGINE, if she had any suggestions for if/how the winning children's pictures could be displayed in the town.

- b) The Chair asked for volunteers from the Committee to judge the Colwyn in Bloom gardening competition this year.

MR agreed to carry on judging the main competition. No other volunteers came forward, so it was

Resolved to extend the invitation to members who were not able to attend the meeting.

It was hoped that the new Chamber of Trade representative might offer to assist MR, as a business representative would be ideal.

JP and TG agreed to judge the School's Garden competition. RD said she would send them the judging criteria.

- c) It was noted that the trophy for the new category, Community Clubs/Organisations had now been engraved. PB-P, as Wales in Bloom Chair, agreed to present it to the Old Colwyn Bowling Club.

Resolved that RD will make the arrangements for the presentation.

386/19 Wales in Bloom:

- a) Members noted Colwyn Bay's entry into Category 3 - Large Towns had been submitted. Suggestions were sought for entries into the Wales in Bloom Best Front Garden competition.

HF/PR both had ideas of possible entries and would confirm these at the next meeting.

- b) An invitation to the Wales in Bloom Launch event, to be held at Powys Castle on Friday 14th February, was received.

TE/JP offered to attend, on behalf of Colwyn in Bloom. RD will confirm their attendance.

- c) **Bryn Euryn Nursery:**

The Secretary submitted e-mails received from Bryn Euryn Nursery:

- (i) Informing of a small increase (£100) in charges for 2020 for installation of the planters and baskets in the Town.
- (ii) Asking for the Committee to sign a form about storage of containers outdoors during busy times.

DB (Bryn Euryn) informed the committee that the price increase for installation had been necessary as the prices had been the same for many years. The prices

for the hanging baskets, barrier planter, up-the-poles would all remain the same. DB also confirmed that the order of our chosen colour scheme of blue/purple/yellow flowers, which included lots of trailing plants, had been submitted. DB was thanked for his information.

- d) RD notified the Committee that she had requested a quotation from last year's watering contractor and would update the Committee at the next meeting.
- e) IL commented that the route for this year's judging needed to be planned earlier, due to staff/resource pressures at Conwy CBC, and she asked TG to schedule the weed control works for the judging route for the month prior to the judging, once the route has been planned/agreed.

IL requested that the WIB/BIB judging reports be reviewed at the next Committee meeting to see the areas we need to improve and concentrate on.

RD was asked to go over the key points from the judge's reports and to email to all members for feedback to bring back to the next meeting.

- f) Concern was raised at the year-on-year reductions seen in the number of orders for the hanging baskets from businesses over the past four years. It was felt that this may be due to the issues with Colwyn BID, who had been responsible for promoting the scheme with local traders. ROSTA is also not as active as it had been in previous years.

PR offered to let the Chamber of Trade know about the BOGOF offer and ask them to encourage traders.

It was noted that there were also a number of multi-purpose heavy duty brackets still available at the Nursery, available free for local businesses (for front of premises only).

RD was asked to design a A5 notice to advertise the versatility of the brackets, which can also be used for Christmas Trees and Flags. These could then be distributed to traders, via the Chamber of Trade / ROSTA.

- g) PB-P informed the Committee that the judging for WIB would be in the first 2 weeks of July. The judge would be Jim Goodwin. He reminded the committee of the need to encourage entries to the IYN (it's your neighbourhood) awards. The closing date is 31st March 2020. WIB have been working with RHS on a Greening Great Britain Community project. The project is in very early stages and PB-P will report back to the CIB Committee in due course. £500 funding is potentially available.

PB-P informed the Committee that the marking criteria for WIB had been revised and he would forward a copy.

387/19 Britain in Bloom:

- a) Information was submitted regarding the Seminar (mainly aimed at first time entrants) to be held in Birmingham on 21st February.

DB agreed to check his work commitments and let RD know if he can attend.

b) The Committee noted the judging would take place between 3-14th August 2020.

(c) ***IL agreed to prepare a press release for the local press.***

388/19 Combermere Gardens:

Correspondence was submitted regarding Combermere Gardens. TG reported that he had met with Cllr Baker and Ray Herbert on site some time ago. Combermere Gardens is considered to be a high quality public open space. Any proposed changes to layout/planting/maintenance would therefore have to be carefully considered and supported by the Committee. The Committee welcomed the suggestions of more activities such as music/entertainment at the Garden.

- AK retired from the meeting at this juncture.

389/19 Litter Pick Hub:

The Clerk gave a verbal update to the Committee. The Litter Pick Hub was ready to be launched. The Committee were asked to encourage groups to book out equipment for community litter picks via the Town Hall.

390/19 Request for grant:

A request for support from the Committee to support a small grant from the Town Council was submitted by Cllr Pearson for the purchase of trees at the old football pitch at Brookfield Drive in Rhos on Sea. JP informed the Committee that Coed Cymru had been involved with the planting plan. Willows and elder trees had been specifically chosen for their ability to soak up water, as the area was very wet. TG said that the area was far too wet for a sports pitch and they were waiting to develop it as a bio-diversity site. TG has also made an application for funding to the Welsh Government and would report back to the Committee with any progress. This site could be added to the judging route in the future. HF informed JP that the Woodland Trust give out free trees and JP was advised to contact them.

Resolved to support the request for a small grant from the Council subject to the Woodland Trust not being able to provide appropriate free trees.

391/19 Colwyn Bay Floral Art Society :

An email from the Floral Art Society was noted by the Committee.

392/19 RHS Grow Social:

Information from the RHS was noted by the members.

393/19 Finance Report:

The Treasurer submitted the Finance Report. It was noted that there is expected to be an underspend of around £4,000, but that this funding will possibly be needed

for any art installations and/or the Gateway Signs.

Resolved to request that the Town Council carries forward any underspend to 2020/21.

394/19 Other Correspondence:

Members noted that copies of Keep Britain Tidy – Great British Spring Clean were available from the Secretary.

395/19 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.

HF reported about a new group formed in Rhos on Sea who were keen to plant up and green areas but needed advice on land ownership. Friends of Rhos on Sea were advising them. TG agreed to meet with the group to look at areas. HF was encouraged to enter the group into the IYN's awards.

HF also reminded the Committee that the Rhos Pickers meet the first Tuesday of every month at 10am and meet at the Clock Tower.

396/19 A.O.B:

a) TG reported that a Local Nature Partnership Officer has been appointed for biodiversity and community initiatives.

TG will share the contact details.

b) PR reported that the AGM of the Colwyn Bay Conservation and Environment Federation would be held on 6/2/2020 in the Town Hall. PR spoke about the successful planting of fruit trees in Eirias Park. Future plans included creating an arboretum of trees from other nations, this is subject to permission from Conwy CBC.

397/19 Next Meeting Date: Members will be informed as soon as a meeting date is agreed.

The meeting closed at 3.45 p.m.

..... Chairman