

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 20TH JANUARY 2020

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

OFFICER: Mrs C Earley, Town Clerk

IN ATTENDANCE: County Cllr Brian Cossey
County Cllr Cheryl Carlisle

350/19 Apologies for Absence:

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs G Baker; D Bradley, G Campbell; A Mason, C Matthews; A Pearson; M Tasker.

351/19 Announcements:

The Mayor wished all members a Happy New Year and had no further announcements.

352/19 Declarations of Interest:

Members were reminded that they must declare the existence and nature of any personal and/or prejudicial interests.

Cllr J Pearson declared a personal and prejudicial interest in item 12 – lease to Coast Community and Media CIC, as a Director.

353/19 Visitors to the Council:

a) Conwy County Councillors:

Cllr Cossey gave a verbal report to the council. He had attended a County Council meeting that morning about setting the draft budget for 2020/21. The revenue settlement was 3.4% higher than last year and was more than had been expected, however savings of £11 million still needed to be found. Leaders of all Councils in North Wales have written to the Finance Minister to request a floor of 4%, which could result in a further increase for Conwy. The Spring Budget is also due on 11th March and extra money for Social Services and Education is hoped for. However, the budget would have to be set by then, regardless.

The County Council has more money in the bank than it expected, but money may still have to be found for Social Services, as additional, unforeseen demands on this service can be experienced at any time and can be significant - this has been the case for the past two years. Revenue business cases also still need to be considered; e.g. teacher's pay rises/pension contributions, which are outside of the control of the county council. Budget reductions and the request for a lesser reduction to schools and a provisional 7% Council tax increase were supported at the meetings this morning and will now go forward as recommendations to Cabinet for approval,



then to Full Council in March.

Questions were then invited from members and Cllr Cossey was asked for an update on the progress with at Old Colwyn Promenade. Cllr Cossey informed members that in November the project had received £1.6 million of underspent transport funding from the Welsh Government, which was being used for 'phase 1' works to increase rock revetment and raise the road level for a short stretch of the promenade to reinforce flood defences. £34Million is needed for the total project. The promenade will be shut for 6 months and the contractor is Jones Bros (Ruthin).

The Chair thanked Cllr Cossey for his report and Cllrs Cossey and Carlisle then retired from the meeting.

- b) Members noted that a response has not yet been received to the request sent to CCBC for an Officer to attend to outline the action being taken to address the issue of homelessness.
- c) Members noted that Dist. Insp Julie Sheard has now moved post. One member reported that they had received complaints from residents about the lack of a police presence on the fifty mile stretch of the A55.

Resolved to invite the new DI to attend a future meeting of the Council and also request that a Traffic Officer accompanies him/her, to address the concerns regarding speed of traffic on the A55.

- d) Members considered a proposal from Cllr Barton to invite Jeremy Grant, Conwy CBC to give a presentation to the Council on the Conwy Empty Homes Strategy.

Resolved to invite Mr Grant to attend a future meeting of the Council to give a presentation on the Empty Homes Strategy.

354/19 Minutes:

- a) ***Resolved to receive, approve and sign, as a correct record, the minutes of the last Ordinary meeting of the Council, held on 2nd December 2019.***
- b) ***Resolved to receive a copy of the minutes of the following meetings:***
 - i) ***Colwyn in Bloom Committee, held on 4th December 2019 (draft).***
 - ii) ***The General Purpose & Planning Committee held on 17th December 2019.***
 - iii) ***The Policy & Finance Committee held on 8th January 2020 (draft).***
 - iv) ***The General Purpose & Planning Committee held on 14th January 2020(draft).***
 - v) ***A Special Meeting of the Policy and Finance Committee held on 15th January 2020 (draft).***

355/19 Matters Arising from those Minutes:

- a) **Min. 282/19(a) – Vacancy in Rhiw Ward:**

The Clerk submitted an invoice from CCBC for £4,551.15, for the payment of by-election expenses.



Resolved to approve payment of the invoice.

b) Min. 282/19(d) – Colwyn BID:

The Clerk submitted a response from the chairman of Colwyn BID to confirm that:

- i) Colwyn BID has set aside funding of £20k towards the new lighting in Rhos-on-Sea.
- ii) The area committees did not go ahead, as insufficient nominations were received. All project proposals are therefore being considered by the BID Board.
- iii) A project proposal would need to be submitted to request any funding towards new 'Welcome' type gateway signs, as the verbal agreement previously given by the BID Manager was not communicated to the Board. The IMAGINE Project manager had since confirmed that the project can fully fund the new signs, based on verbal estimates received from Highways.
- iv) A project proposal will also be required if funding is required from the BID towards the 2020 Forties Event and St David's Day event. The Clerk submitted a copy of the submissions sent to the Board, to which a response is awaited.

The Clerk tabled an e-mail from the IMAGINE project officer, which included a response from Colwyn BID to a request for funding towards a 'State of Independents' project to expand the recent work done on the photographs in the prom shelters and involve more local businesses. It was noted that the BID had offered 25% of the project cost, with a condition that the Town Council and the County Council also contribute 25%.

Though members were generally supportive of the project, as outlined, concern was expressed that, due to the BID Board making it a condition of its funding, it appears that the project cannot go ahead unless the 25% (£2,825) is found by both the Town Council and Conwy CBC. As the Town Council's (and County Council's) funding comes from local residents, it was felt that the BID should not be dictating what residents should or should not fund.

Resolved to defer this item and consider it as part of the Large Grants / Events grants items later on the agenda.

Concern was expressed that some members had been told that all of the BID funding allocated to Old Colwyn was being spent on a CCBC project (Cefn Road). Cllr Barton proposed that a project proposal be submitted to request funding for an additional three defibrillators for Old Colwyn – there is currently only one.

Resolved to support the submission of a project proposal, to be drafted by Cllr Barton, for funding from Colwyn BID towards the cost of providing three more defibrillators for Old Colwyn.

c) Min. 282/19(e)(ii) – Playing Out:

The Clerk gave a brief verbal report, informing Members that the County's Principal Play Officer had been given notice that her contract (with CVSC) will be



terminated at the end of March, as the Families First funding for the post is being withdrawn. This meant that the summer open access play provision, which is usually organised by the Principal Play Officer, could be at risk. The officer had also been carrying out work supporting a couple of local councils with play strategies for their playgrounds, which could have been replicated across the county as part of the work of the CCBC task and finish group. The Play Officer had expressed concerns that every playground served different needs and a generic scoring approach would therefore not be suitable, in her opinion. The Clerk tabled a response from Marianne Jackson, CCBC, to these concerns.

Resolved to note the response from Marianne Jackson that the work of the Principal Play Officer is being taken back 'in-house' and await further updates in due course.

d) *Resolved to endorse the recommendations of the Committees, as detailed in the following Minutes:*

(i) Min 296/19 – Colwyn in Bloom – Plastic Free Communities:

Resolved to support any 'Community Leaders' operating in the Bay of Colwyn area and encourage schools, businesses, community groups and individuals to get involved in any campaigns towards becoming a plastic free community.

(ii) Min 326/19 – Equality & Diversity Policy:

Resolved to adopt the updated Model Policy, as detailed in Schedule 'A' to those Minutes.

(iii) Min 333/19 – Local Members Ward Allowances: The Clerk submitted the updated record of allowances for 2019/20. Several project proposals were tabled at the meeting by members.

Resolved to approve the Ward Allowance project proposals submitted by Cllrs G Baker (£100 Rhos Methodist Church community hall), C Hughes (£96.31 for a new flag for Bod Alaw flagpole) and M Jones (£200 OCRA).

(iv) Min 334/19 – Small Grants:

Resolved to approve payment of Small Grants and to invite applications of up to £200 for small scale Community VE Day events (e.g. street parties).

(v) Min 334/19(b) – Events Grant:

Resolved to approve grant offers totalling £25,600 for events for 2020/21, as detailed in Schedule 'D' to those minutes and endorse the decision of the Special P&F meeting held on 15th January (to decline the deferred event grant application).

It was noted that the remaining budget (total of £45,000 allocated in the Annual Estimates) would be retained towards any additional major CCBC events in Colwyn Bay that are currently under discussion with Conwy CBC and may come forward at a later date.

(vi) Min 348/19 – Large Grants:

Resolved to approve grant offers totalling £25,000 in respect of large grants for 2020/21 (see Schedule 'A' to those Minutes) and to endorse the recommendation



that the remaining balance (£5,000) be transferred to the Events Grants budget, to assist towards larger CCBC events in 2020/21.

Members then considered the request for £2,825 match-funding towards the IMAGINE State of Independents project, deferred earlier in the meeting.

Resolved to approve 25% match-funding (£2,825) towards this project from the Events grant budget for 2020/21.

(vii) Min 334/19(d) - Youth Grants:

The Clerk gave a brief verbal report, confirming that the Youth Grants Participatory Budgeting (PB) Group had had its first meeting last week and had drafted the criteria, application form and guidance notes, which will now be referred back to the Policy & Finance Committee. Four young people had been in attendance and it was hoped that more would get involved as the project progresses.

(Viii) Min 339/19 – Proposal for Street Naming:

The Council considered the recommendation by the General Purpose and Planning Committee to support the suggested name ‘Cwrt Sefton’ for the new development off Sefton Road.

Members objected to the mix of English and Welsh in the proposed name and suggested that old maps should be checked to find a name that better reflects the history of the area.

e) *Resolved to note the resolutions of the Committee as detailed in the Minutes.*

356/19 Annual Estimates:

(a) Members received and noted the initial response and follow-up letters listed below regarding CCBC's ‘At Risk’ services:

(i) CCTV – an e-mail from Haf Jones, dated 17 December 2019, detailing 4 ‘options’ for ongoing financial support for CCTC maintenance and monitoring. It was noted that options 3 and 4 had since been withdrawn and that CCBC are now looking for just the maintenance contribution, with an inflationary increase, of £336 per camera. This amount has been included in the annual estimates.

(ii) ERF Services – Car Parks, Playgrounds and Public Conveniences: a letter from G B Edwards, dated 10.1.20, noting the Town Council's decisions regarding Berthes Road car park (not to offer financial support) and continued capital allocation for play equipment (increased to £1,000 per play area/site) and attaching further information to support CCBC's suggestion that the five/six public convenience facilities could be delivered more cheaply by the local council.

A discussion took place regarding the figures presented, which suggest that the town or community council would not have to pay NNDR, whereas CCBC would, and that staff costs (opening/closing/cleaning/inspecting) and in some cases repairs and maintenance costs could be significantly reduced if the town council took over the asset. Members disputed this, claiming any potential saving could only be achieved by paying minimum wage and that additional monitoring had not been taken into



consideration. It was noted that many of the assets were also in poor condition and maintenance costs would increase over time, unless a significant amount of funding is available for upgrade prior to transfer.

(iii) The Clerk tabled a more detailed response from Jane Richardson, Strategic Director, Conwy CBC, dated 16th January 2020.

A discussion took place regarding several points made in the letter, which local members did not agree with. It was noted that the discussions around the at risk services will continue into 2020/21 and the process for 2021/22 will draw on what has been learned this year and involve deeper discussions to explore “how non-statutory services can be supported and delivered at a more local level.”

Resolved to receive and note the letter.

(iv) The Clerk then gave a brief verbal report, summarising the responses she had received from other local Town Council Clerks. It was noted that many (not all) of the other local town councils felt similarly to this council and would want to be involved in much more in-depth discussions about options, before agreeing to any increased funding or asset transfers.

(b) The Clerk submitted, for approval, the detailed annual estimates of income and expenditure for 2020/21, together with accompanying notes.

Resolved to approve the Annual Estimates for income and expenditure for 2020/21, as submitted (as detailed in Schedule ‘A’ attached)..

(c) The Clerk submitted a report summarising the main changes in the Annual Estimates and included three-year budget forecasts, to aid longer term decision making. The report presented three potential options with regards to the precept increase required in 2020/21 to give a balanced budget and ensure that reserves are adequate to not only meet cash flow requirements, but provide some limited funds for other unforeseen expenditure.

It was proposed and seconded that Option B – an increase of 3.5% (£1.40 per annum for a Band ‘D’ property) be approved.

After further debate, an amended proposal of a 4.5% increase was also proposed and seconded.

Following a vote, taken on the amendment first and then the original proposal, both of these motions were defeated.

A third option was then proposed, of a 4% increase. This was seconded and put to the vote.

Resolved, by a majority vote, to approve an increase in the precept of 4% for 2020/21. This equates to an increase of £1.59 per annum for a Band ‘D’ property (to £41.75 per annum) and gives a total precept request of £479,700.

(d) ***Resolved to authorise the Clerk to complete and submit the annual precept request form to CCBC.***



357/19 Room Hire Charges:

The Clerk submitted details of the current charges and asked members to consider whether to apply any increase for 2020/21.

Resolved that the Room Charges remain the same for 2020/21.

358/19 Timetable of Meetings for 2020/21:

Members received and noted the draft timetable of meetings, which would be submitted to the Annual Meeting of the Council for formal approval.

359/19 Conwy CBC:

Cllr P Richards gave a verbal report from the Bay Life Strategic Board Meeting he, Cllr C Hughes and the Clerk had attended earlier today. The key agenda items had been: a brief update on matters arising, which included the close down of the Eirias Board (with just fitness suite improvements continuing); Colwyn BID and the timetable for close-down; the annual town benchmarking report, which showed the town was fairing reasonable well in comparison to many other towns, but there were still concerns regarding empty shops and reducing footfall in some areas; a word cloud was circulated as part of the report, which showed many people still have negative views about the town centre.

The remainder of the meeting had concentrated on the Integrated and Animated Spaces proposal, which included the town centre investment plan. Vic Turner gave a presentation on the current proposals, which include a one-way traffic system in the town centre and re-opening Station Road. Slides were shown on the key issues, aims, accessibility (walking and cycling routes), outline designs, the proposed timeline for the project and the potential sources of funding. Concern was expressed by Welsh Government officials that funding would not be available for re-opening Station Road, as this was not in line with government policy, which is encouraging less vehicle use in town centres. The deadline for green infrastructure funding bids would also be missed, as this is 31st January and the project is not sufficiently worked up. The funding required (approx. £2.2m for detailed designs and delivery) therefore appears to be a fairly major stumbling block. The meeting was then adjourned (due to another meeting at 10am) and would be re-convened in a few weeks' time.

Cllr Richards referred to the importance of a vibrant town centre, with niche markets, attractions for children and on street entertainment and events. It was noted that this is easier to provide in pedestrianised areas. Parking provision overall is deemed to be adequate, though there are still discussions about swapping the market hall site with Princes Drive car park to make this more accessible. Reference was made to a recent Panorama programme, which members were encouraged to watch.

Resolved to thank Cllr Richards for his comprehensive report.



360/19 Representatives on outside Bodies:

- a) The Clerk submitted an email from Cllr Bradley who wished to stand down as the Council's representative on the Air Cadets.
No nominations were received.

Resolved to send an email to all members to seek expressions of interest to fill the vacancy.

- b) Cllr C Hughes gave a verbal report on a meeting of the Pwllcrochan Local Nature Reserve Management Advisory Group he had attended. Conwy CBC had given a presentation on what has been done with regards to Biodiversity. Conwy CBC no longer have a Biodiversity Officer but have created partnerships with Denbighshire and Flintshire
- c) Cllr C Hughes and Cllr P Richards gave a verbal report on the meeting of Chamber of Trade they had attended earlier in the evening. Approximately 25 businesses had been in attendance. Mark Clemson had been appointed as Secretary and Deborah (De Brett Fires) as Chair. It was noted that members had had to leave the meeting at this point to get back for the Town Council meeting.
- d) Cllr B Barton tabled a brief written report on the North and Mid Wales Association of Local Councils meeting he had attended on 17/01/2020 (minutes to follow).

Resolved to thank Members for their reports.

361/19 Lease to Coast Community and Media CIC:

- Cllr J Pearson declared a personal and prejudicial interest, as a Director of Coast Community and Media, and withdrew from the meeting.

The Clerk submitted an extract from the draft lease, received recently from the council's solicitor, which appears to give the tenants the right for an automatic renewal of the lease at the end of the six year term. Members expressed some concern about this, as it appears to remove any flexibility in terms of the longer term use of the building (which is the reason the three year break clause was added).

Resolved to defer the matter so that the Clerk could consult the solicitor regarding options to break (terminate) the lease after further 3 year periods if either party wished to.

362/19 Climate Emergency:

- a) Members were asked to consider authorising the Clerk/Assistant Clerk to attend a series of SLCC Webinars to increase knowledge/awareness of Climate Change issues and potential actions that could be taken at a local level.

Resolved to authorise the Clerk/Assistant Clerk to attend the webinars.



- b) The Clerk submitted a list of 20 actions circulated by the Friends of the Earth that could be considered for inclusion in the annual action plan (2020/21) which delivers the Corporate Plan objectives and includes a commitment to 'look after the environment and support community resilience for 2020/21.

Resolved to request that the Clerk reports back on the Webinar(s) and updates the action plan with some broad achievable aims/actions at the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.25 p.m.

..... Chairman