



Minutes of a meeting of the Colwyn in Bloom Committee, held at 2pm on Wednesday 4th March 2020 in the Committee Room of the Town Hall, Rhiw Road, Colwyn Bay

PRESENT: Ingrid Lewis, Chairman (IL)
Gwenda Matthews (GM), Mags Richardson (MR), Mark Clemson (MC)
Conwy CBC: David Birtwistle (DB), Helen Jackson (HJ)
Cllrs: Cllr Hannah Fleet (HF), Chris Hughes (C), (See Min 384/19(b)), Abdul Khan (AK) (See Min 388/19), Jeff Pearson (JP) & M Worth (MW)

OFFICERS: Roz Dudley, Secretary (RD)
Tina Earley, Town Clerk and Treasurer (TE)

SPEAKER: Fiona Trappe, Plastic-Free Conwy

450/19 Welcome and Apologies: The Chair welcomed Mark Clemson, representing Colwyn Chamber of Trade, to his first meeting, together with all Committee Members and Fiona Trappe. Apologies for absence were received from Bill McMillan, Tom Gravett, Paul Richards and Lesley Lawson.

Resolved to invite Vin and Georgia from GWIL to become Committee Members.

451/19 Minutes:

Resolved to approve and sign, subject to a slight amendment to Min 384/19(c), the minutes of the last meeting, held on 5th February 2020.

452/19 Matters arising from last Meeting:

a) Min 384/19(c) - Plastic Free Communities:

- (i) Fiona Trappe thanked the Committee for the invitation to speak about the campaign in Conwy. Fiona works full time but is the Conwy Community Lead for Surfers against Sewerage (SAS) and a volunteer on the Conwy Plastic Free Steering Group. The group's main focus is single use plastics. The group has 5 objections:
1. To receive Local Authority endorsement – this is key to progressing the campaign.
 2. To get local businesses on board - e.g. to commit to get rid of plastic straws/stirrers and encourage Businesses to join the refill scheme (water bottles). MC informed the Committee that Colwyn Bay Businesses are already members of this scheme.
 3. Encourage the wider community to get on board, particularly schools. Fiona advised the group that she had received an enquiry from Rydal Penrhos, which she asked could we follow up. HF informed the committee that Eirias High School six formers had already made the school canteen a plastic-free zone.

4. Set up an event to raise awareness - eg a community beach clean.
5. Set up a Steering Group to lead the campaign – it was noted that this could be a role for the Colwyn in Bloom Committee to take on, or a sub-committee could be appointed for this purpose.

Fiona informed the committee that there were lots of tools and resources available, including step by step guides and school packs. She advised to be careful about making changes that could result in a greater carbon footprint. Replacing items isn't always the answer. There is a resource website for advice. Anglesey has Plastic-free status, but some local cafes are still using single use plastic. The community needs to take the lead to 'police' this and to raise awareness and change mind-sets. Social Media platforms are good tools to raise awareness and keep it in the public eye. Concern was expressed that the branding was not bilingual.

Resolved to request that the Secretary contacts SAS to enquire if bilingual branded promotional materials are available, or if translation is permitted (if the materials can be provided in an editable format).

The Chair thanked Fiona for her very informative presentation and she responded that she hoped we could work together to encourage the whole of Conwy County to go plastic-free.

(ii) **Community Green Pledge:** It had been agreed at the last meeting that the Committee should look to choose 4 initial pledges to achieve bronze status in the Community Green Pledges Scheme. On looking through the pledges to select these, it was decided instead to apply for silver accreditation and then to work towards gold. The pledges initially discussed/selected were:

1. Green Change 1 – Cut out energy wastage in Town Hall eg. turn off lights, appliances, chargers and close windows. Switching to all LED lights and putting sensors in the hall-ways/communal areas would further reduce the carbon footprint (towards gold).
2. Green Change 6 – To consider Installing a car charging point possibly in the Mayor's space of the Town Hall car park (short stay space). Members felt that a bicycle rack should also be installed, as there was a lack of them in town, but it was noted that space is very restricted in the car park.
3. Green Change 7 – Become a plastic-less or free community. Sign up to Refill Wales, become a refill station and investigate installing water fountains. Also reduce paper usage by moving towards paper-free ways of working.
4. Green Change 12 – Establish community allotments or orchards. It was noted that we currently have 4 community orchards locally.
5. Green Change 13 – Buy and use local products – encourage more local/seasonal produce at the weekly market.
6. Green Change 15 – Manage a community green space to benefit wildlife and encourage biodiversity. We can support local environment groups who are doing good work in this area.
7. Green Change 18 – Organise/promote community clean up and litter picking days. The recent creation of the Colwyn Bay Litter Pick Hub will assist with this.

CH asked whether the Council could look to influence Conwy CBC's LDP to ensure issues in the Community Green Pledge could be supported by planning policy at a local level.

Resolved to recommend that the Town Council signs up for the Community Green Pledge, registers for silver status initially and includes appropriate actions to its annual action plan for 2020/21, with the initial aim of achieving gold accreditation.

b) Min 384/19(b)– Willow Sculptures/Art Installations:

HJ confirmed that IMAGINE would get involved in an art project trail for the Town. A picture was circulated of a whale sculpture on a beach made of wire which was filled with used plastic bottles. HJ will contact the Art Department's Lead at Llandrillo College to see if they would like to become involved, with IMAGINE's support. IL will email RD with all the old willow sculpture locations so the committee can consider where to locate any new art installations. It was suggested that GWIL may also be willing/able to support this project. MC asked if local schools could be invited to get involved.

Resolved that Helen Jackson (IMAGINE) contact the Art's Lead at Llandrillo College and to report back to the next meeting.

Further resolved to aim to start the new trail with 3 installations and to add to the trail each year.

c) Min 384/19(d) – Gateway Signs:

The Clerk gave a brief verbal update and circulated copies of the outline design which was noted and approved by the Committee.

453/19 Colwyn in Bloom Competitions:

- a) Consideration was given to locations to display the winning pictures from the school's annual art competition. Locations considered were the Library, Bay Gallery (where the Adult Art winners are displayed), empty shop windows in town, Coed Pella Office and the Bay View Centre. HF said it would be good to move them around, but as there are not mounted, this was not really a viable option. It was felt that the largest footfall would be in the Bay View Centre.

Resolved that RD contact the Manager of the Bay View Centre to query if the paintings could be displayed there.

- b) Consideration was given to nominating a second judge to help with judging the main competition. MC offered to help MR. MR said that as she could not judge the Scheduled Accommodation class (due to Parkway's entry), a judge will need to be found for this class. The Secretary said she could ask PBP. DB also suggested that John Dolan may also be able to assist.

Resolved to request that RD contacts PB-P initially, to ask if he is willing/able to assist.

- c) It was noted that the trophy for the new category, Community Clubs/ Organisations, had now been presented to the Old Colwyn Bowling Club.

454/19 Wales in Bloom:

- a) Consideration was given to submitting entries into the Wales in Bloom Best Front Garden competition. In answer to a question about location, it was explained that due to time restrictions on the judge's tour, the garden would have to be on/close to the existing judging route.

Resolved that RD send a copy of last year's route to the Committee members and that any nominations for any possible 'Best Front Gardens' be emailed to RD.

- b) TE gave a verbal update on the watering contract for 2020. The contractor had increased their charges by £10 per watering.

Resolved to accept the charges and to reappoint the contractor for 2020.

- c) RD submitted a draft flyer to advertise the multi-purpose brackets and asked for any comments on content. Contact details needed to be added and the CIB logo. MC said he would take this offer to COT and asked RD to email the Hanging Basket prices. It was noted that the free brackets would only be made available alongside purchase of baskets and RD was asked to amend the order form to reflect this. RD would let DB (Bryn Eurn Nursery) know who had ordered brackets so they could be distributed with the baskets.

- d) Key Action points were reviewed from last year's judging report:
- i) The judge had been disappointed he had not been shown around the Station area. It is difficult to include this on the tour, due to time restraints.
 - ii) It was noted that the Orchard in Rhos development had been actioned.
 - iii) Resolved to ask local historian Graham Roberts if he could be on the judging route to add some local history/culture to our tour, as requested by the judge.

- AK left the meeting at this juncture.

- e) TE gave a verbal report on the Wales in Bloom lunch event that she had attended with JP at Powys Castle on 14th February. TE reported that WIB had stressed the importance of encouraging IYN entries from all community groups. There is new criteria for the judging and it is important to plan the route, maybe with a fresh pair of eyes and also do the route in reverse. Think about the message you are delivering at each stop. Use the 30-minute presentation and press call wisely. Try and encourage a school to be open for the judging, even if it is in the school holidays. Use the guidance for the portfolio. The Awards Ceremony will be held in Beaumaris. A copy of the presentation slides was circulated to the committee. TE was thanked for her report.

- CH left the meeting at this juncture.

- f) Copies of the Portfolio and presentation guidelines (WIB/BIB) and the WIB judging allocation were received and noted by the Committee.

455/19 Britain in Bloom:

- a) Information was submitted regarding our entry and the judges visit. It was noted that the judges had requested choices of places to stay.
Resolved that RD would respond with details/ some options.
- b) Key Action points were reviewed from 2018's judging report:
- i) ***Resolved to contact Bethan Wynne-Jones, Conwy CBC regarding experimental planting at Porth Eirias and the raised beds at the Horizon Shine Kiosk.***
 - ii) ***Resolved to approach the ERF Department about obtaining heritage boards to show varieties of apples grown in the Rhos on Sea Orchard and also to advise of picking times.***
 - iii) It was noted that signage for the promenade: windfarm, beach and Pier had been included in the original Waterfront plans.
 - (vi) Litter/dog fouling had been commented on in Pwlycrochan Woods, which was disappointing as that area had been thoroughly checked. The Rangers will be asked to check that area immediately prior to judging.
 - (v) It was noted that more business involvement was needed. The COT were now on board and it was hoped that there would be more baskets again this year.
 - (iv) ***Resolved to bring back the Market Place/Meet the Judges lunch at the Town Hall at the end of the tour, after Wales in Bloom had advised against this in 2018.***
- c) A copy of BIB Press Release was received and noted by the Committee.
- d) A copy of the marking sheet was received and noted by the Committee.
- e) Additional information was noted by the Committee. It was noted that support from the Judges was available up to a month before the judging day. Groups were asked to submit any stories to RD for her to forward on to BIB.

456/19 Keep Wales Tidy:

Information was submitted regarding Local Places for Nature starter packages which were available to apply for by May. Town and Community Councils could apply for Butterfly Garden pack, Fruit Garden pack or Wildlife Garden pack.

Resolved that HF would put in an application on behalf of the Town Council/Colwyn in Bloom for a planting project by a community group in Rhos on Sea (subject to being able to get the landowner consent from CCBC).

457/19 Finance Report:

TE gave a brief verbal update to the Committee. It was noted that there was no change from the report given last month, apart from the increase in watering charges.

458/19 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 reminded the Committee that the Rhos Pickers meet the first Tuesday of every month at 10am and meet at the Clock Tower.

459/19 A.O.B:

RD asked the members to note that 28/11/20 is Tree Charter Day. Free trees are available. HF said her Rhos Group would like to get involved. MW/TE offered to speak to Bryn Cadno Community Centre trustees about the possibility of community Tree Planting on the land around the Community Centre or up on 'dog mountain'.

Resolved to request that RD contacts Owen Veldhuizen at Cartrefi to see if any tree planting projects could take place on any of their land.

460/19 Next Meeting Date: Members will be informed as soon as a meeting date is agreed.

The meeting closed at 4.15 p.m.

..... Chairman