

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 2nd MARCH 2020

PRESENT: The Mayor, Cllr N Bastow
Cllrs: C Brockley; H Fleet; D Howcroft; C Hughes; D Jones; Mrs M Jones; A Mason; H Meredith; A Pearson; J Pearson and M Worth.

OFFICER: Mrs C Earley, Town Clerk

IN ATTENDANCE: District Insp Dafydd Curry & Sgt Adam Sergeant, NW Police

433/19 Apologies for Absence:

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs: G Baker; B Barton; D Bradley; A Khan, C Matthews; P Richards; K Swindon; and M Tasker and from County Cllrs B Cossey and C Carlisle.

434/19 Announcements:

- a) The Mayor gave details about the Charity Film Night he is hosting at Theatr Colwyn on 19th March. The Screening will be Wild Rose.
- b) The Mayor gave details about the Charity Quiz he is hosting at the Station Public House on 26th March.
- c) It was noted that a letter of support had been sent to Llanrwst Town Council following the recent flooding issues.
- d) It was noted that both of the boilers in the Town Hall had failed last week, but that the engineer had managed to retrieve some spare parts from two identical boilers removed recently from another of their sites earlier today and was hopeful that they would now last out the winter before needing to be replaced (they are now sixteen years old and parts are either no longer available, or very expensive).

435/19 Declarations of Interest:

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

436/19 Visitors to the Council:

a) North Wales Police:

The Mayor welcomed District Inspector Curry and Sgt Adam Sergeant to the meeting.

DI Curry addressed the meeting, informing members that he was new in post (4 weeks ago) but had previously been a CBM in Colwyn Bay (approx. 12 years ago) so knows the area and its issues well. He has a background in CID and criminal investigations and an interest in proactive policing, with resources being focussed on those causing most harm. He informed the Council that the neighbourhood policing team in Colwyn Bay currently has 3 dedicated PCs (CBMs) and 7 PCSOs, which he feels is an adequate resource. He confirmed that visible policing is a

priority and they will be focussing on three main strands of work: meaningful engagement, partnership/problem solving and targeted activity. From April, the force will be distributing I-pads to enable officers to work remotely and be visible in communities for more of the time.

Sgt. Adam Sergeant then addressed the meeting, giving a brief overview of some of the current issues the neighbourhood policing team are facing. These include anti-social behaviour, particularly involving young people – with key offenders being targeted using a yellow card system and several key arrests having a massive impact on reducing offences, plus the ‘Big Easy’ community safety campaign.

Questions were then invited from members and these covered: cold callers; encourage/support for school community cadet forces and police cadets; problems with enforcement of foreign vehicles exceeding the speed limit on the A55; Chamber of Trade concerns about shoplifting and broken shop windows/burglaries; an ongoing request for any information or intelligence regarding County Lines; the importance of CCTV in assisting the police with their work (invaluable), with investigations typically taking 2-3 days longer where cameras are unmanned.

The Chair thanked District Inspector Curry and Sgt Sergeant for their report and they retired from the meeting.

b) Vic Turner:

Resolved to defer the visit by Vic Turner to a future meeting, due to a mix-up with dates.

c) County Councillor Reports:

The Clerk submitted a brief update report from Cllr B Cossey regarding the increase in Council Tax, which was noted by members. Cllr Hughes also gave a brief verbal report confirming that some extra funding had come from the Welsh Government. Concern was expressed by some members regarding the level of budget cuts that some local schools are facing, with potential redundancies and support for pupils reducing.

d) Members noted that Jeremy Grant, Conwy CBC will be attending the next meeting to give a presentation to the Council on the Conwy Empty Homes Strategy. It was hoped that an officer would also be in attendance to talk about the regional approach to tackling homelessness.

437/19 Minutes:

a) *Resolved to receive, approve and sign, as a correct record, the minutes of the last Ordinary meeting of the Council, held on 20th January 2020.*

b) *Resolved to receive a copy of the minutes of the following meetings:*

- i) Audit Sub- Committee, held on 3rd February 2020.***
- ii) The General Purpose & Planning Committee held on 4th February 2020.***
- iii) The Colwyn in Bloom Committee held on 5th February 2020.***
- iv) The Policy & Finance Committee held on 12th February 2020 (draft).***

- v) *The General Purpose & Planning Committee held on 25th February 2020.*
- c) The Clerk gave a brief verbal report on the Volunteer Awards Committee Meeting held earlier today. It was noted that the quality of nominations had once again been outstanding and that the Awards Ceremony/Large Grants presentation evening will be held on Monday 20th April 2020.

438/19 Matters Arising from those Minutes:

a) Min. 361/19 – Lease to Community Coast and Media:

The Clerk submitted the updated lease, which removes the automatic right to renew after the expiry of the initial six year lease.

Resolved to authorise the signing of the lease documents by the Mayor and Deputy Mayor, to be witnessed by the Clerk.

b) Min. 360/19 – Representatives on Outside Bodies:

- (i) Consideration was given to the appointment of a replacement representative for the Air Cadets. This item had been deferred from the last meeting. The Clerk reported that no nominations had been received.

Resolved to record the vacancy on the Air Cadets as ‘Vacancy’ until the outside bodies are re-appointed in May.

- (ii) *Resolved to approve a proposal that Cllr D Jones replace ex-Cllr Williams on the Community Plan Steering Group.*

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

- i) Min 384/19(c)– Colwyn in Bloom –Communities Green Pledge:

Resolved to sign up to the Community Green Pledge and to delegate authority to the Clerk to record any ‘quick wins’ in the Council’s action plan for 2020/21.

- ii) Min 390/19 – Colwyn in Bloom – Small Grant request (£500) towards tree planting project:

Resolved to approve a small grant of £500, but only if Tom Gravett confirms that the type/number of trees required cannot be sourced free of charge from the Welsh Government or the Woodland Trust.

- iii) Min 393/19 – Colwyn in Bloom Budget: The Clerk requested that the Council approve the carrying forward of any underspend in the budget to 2020/21 towards ongoing projects.

Resolved to support the carrying forward of any underspend in the Colwyn in

Bloom Budget for 2019/20 to 2020/21..

(iv) Min 401/19(d) – Internal Controls:

Resolved to approve/adopt the updated version of the Council's Internal Controls.

(v) Min 40119(g) – Audit Sub-Committee:

Resolved to receive and approve the following:

- 1. Min 367/19(b) Internal Audit Review***
- 2. Min 367/19(c) Terms of Reference for Internal Audit and note the updated Audit Plan for 2019/20.***
- 3. Min 369/19 Annual Investment Strategy.***
- 4. Min 370/19 Updated Risk Management Schedule 2019/20.***

(vi) Min 402/19(d) – Payment approvals:

Resolved to approve the payment of the following two invoices, which are above the delegated limit for the Policy & Finance Committee:

- 1. SETs LTD – Christmas Lighting (£13,975.20 inc VAT)***
- 2. CCBC re: IMAGINE Project (£6,000)***

(vii) Min 411/19 - Grants:

Resolved to endorse the decision of the Committee to approve an urgent small grant (£500 to NWAMI) and decline a late large grant application from Cruse Bereavement NW.

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

439/19 Conwy CBC

- a) Members received and noted a follow up letter regarding CCBC's 'At Risk' services.
- b) The Clerk gave a verbal report following a joint paddling pool meeting held on 19th February, which had included the Manager, Mally Tideswell, and the Clerks from all four town councils with paddling pools. The Council is now being asked to approve a 27% contribution towards the 2020/21 estimated running costs of £6,703, in line with the contribution which has been offered by two of the four affected local councils. Concern was expressed that there was no guarantee that the pool would open this summer if no support was forthcoming from the town council.

Resolved to approve a one-off contribution of £1,810 (27%), subject to a signed service level agreement from CCBC and agreement to ongoing dialogue around longer term improvements to the Rhos on Sea paddling pool / public conveniences site and maximising contribution from income from concessions at the site.

(c) The Clerk submitted the detailed responses to questions sent to Bryn Shiland, Conwy CBC and asked the Council to consider releasing the earmarked £47,500 funding in the budget for playground repairs/renewals in 2019/20. It was noted that the CCBC budget had now been allocated, based on the prioritisation of all sites across the County, and the town council funds would be used for additional works only, which would not otherwise have been carried out.

Resolved to approve the payment of £47,500 to CCBC for playground repairs and renewals, as detailed in the report from Paul Williams, playground inspector.

(d) The Clerk submitted a CCBC response form, which requires completion and return to confirm all the financial commitments agreed to date for 'at risk' services and to identify those services that may require further dialogue before considering any ongoing commitment to support. The Clerk read through her draft response.

Resolved to delegate authority to the Clerk to submit the response form.

(e) The Clerk gave a brief verbal report on the Local Area Forum Meetings held on 30th January and 19th February, which was noted by members.

(f) The Clerk gave a brief verbal report on a CCBC/T&CC meeting held on 12th February at which Climate Emergency, Community Green Pledge and the Corporate Plan were agenda items.

Resolved to convene a Special Meeting on the Climate Emergency and to request that the Clerk invites Andrew Wilkinson to address the meeting..

(g) IMAGINE Colwyn Bay - The Clerk gave a brief verbal report on the Augmented Reality Trail, explaining what Augmented reality means and tabling a progress update from TAPE Music and Film.

440/19 Lloyd's Bank Branch Closures:

The Clerk submitted correspondence from David Jones MP and an information sheet that a resident had given to a Councillor about the Lloyd's Bank Closure in Colwyn Bay. Concern was expressed about the impact of local branch closures on the elderly and vulnerable in our community.

Resolved to note the proposed closure with concern.

441/19 Community Steering Group:

(a) Members received the notes from the first meeting of the newly formed group held on 27th January 2020.

(b) The Clerk gave a brief verbal report on the second meeting held on 24th February 2020.

Resolved to delegate authority to the Clerk to prepare draft Terms of Reference for the group, requiring any decision involving funding support to be submitted to the

Town Council for prior approval.

442/19 Code of Conduct Training:

The Clerk submitted copies of the slides from the training delivered by CCBC back in 2017/18, which was noted by members.

443/19 Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales:

The Clerk submitted the 2020/21 Annual Report.

Resolved to refer the report to the Policy and Finance for consideration.

444/19 Welsh Government:

The Clerk submitted guidance notes on the introduction of the minimum pricing for alcohol in Wales from 2nd March, which were noted by members.

445/19 Wales Audit Office:

- a) Members noted a press release dated 5 February 2020, summarising the key issues from the report in b) below..
- b) Members noted the Financial Management and Governance Report – Town and Community Councils 2018/19.
- c) The clerk submitted an invitation to comment on the Future Audit Arrangements for Community Councils in Wales from 2010-21 onwards. It was noted that the document proposes a change to a three yearly audit cycle, with a full transactional audit carried out every three years and a limited assurance audit for the other two years. It was queried whether the transactional based audit would duplicate the work done by the internal auditor and result in much higher audit fees every third year.

Resolved to delegate authority to the Clerk to respond to the audit consultation on behalf of the Council.

446/19 One Voice Wales:

- (a) An invitation to attend the Innovative Annual Awards Ceremony on Thursday 26th March was noted by members.
- (b) An invitation to join OVW for 2020/21 at a reduced rate was received and noted by members.

447/19 Action Plan 2019/20:

The Clerk submitted the updated Action Plan for 2019/20, which was noted by members.

448/19 Colwyn BID:

The Clerk submitted the formal termination notice for Colwyn BID which was noted by members.

449/19 Former Councillor and Mayor Cllr M Edwards:

Councillors held a minutes silence at the end of the meeting in respect of Cllr Mrs Margaret Edwards, a Past Mayor and Councillor who had sadly passed away recently.

The meeting closed at 8.45 p.m.

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