

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE OF
THE BAY OF COLWYN TOWN COUNCIL, HELD ONLINE (VIA ZOOM) AT
6:30PM ON WEDNESDAY 20TH MAY 2020**

PRESENT: Cllr K Swindon, Vice - Chairman
Cllrs: H Fleet, D Howcroft, D Jones, MA Jones, A Mason, M Pickard,
P Richards

OFFICER: Mrs C Earley, Town Clerk
Ms L Austin, Administrative Assistant

487/19 Welcome and Apologies for Absence:

In the absence of the Chairman, Cllr K Swindon took the Chair and welcomed Members to the meeting. Apologies were received from Cllrs H Meredith and A Khan.

488/19 Declarations of Interest:

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

489/19 Minutes:

(a)(i) Resolved to approve and sign, as a correct record, the Minutes of the meeting held on 12th February 2020.

(b) Resolved to receive a copy of the notes of the informal Policy and Finance meeting, held via Zoom, on 25th March 2020.

490/19 Finance:

(a) Resolved to authorise payments made on behalf of the Council for the period 1/2/2020 to 31/3/2020, as detailed in Schedule 'A' attached.

It was noted that the payments for the period 1/4/2020 to 30/4/2020 would be included in the agenda of the next Policy and Finance meeting on 1st July 2020, due to a delay with the year end-closure until an outstanding invoice has been received.

(b) Resolved to authorise the Clerk to e-mail the bank statements to the Chairman to carry out the checking/authenticating of the bank reconciliations as at 31/3/20.

(c) The Clerk submitted, for ratification, a list of payments authorised by the Pandemic Crises Response Team, as detailed in Schedule 'B' attached.

It was noted that the PCRT are considering urgent small grant applications, of up to £500, from individuals and/or organisations responding to the Covid-19 pandemic. These are being considered weekly by PCRT, which has also agreed that it will consider repeat applications (from the same applicant) up to a maximum of one per month.

The Clerk informed Members that the small grants budget for this year is £18,890, to include the underspend from last year's small grants budget and underspends from the Local Members Ward Allowances, with £5,420 having been allocated to Covid-19 applicants so far, in this financial year.

Resolved to note the payments authorised by the Pandemic Crises Response Team, using the Clerk's delegated powers, for the period 25/3/2020 to 20/5/2020.

(d) Resolved to note the correspondence from CCLA regarding the suspension of property fund dealing during the coronavirus pandemic.

491/19 Declaring a Climate Emergency:

The Clerk submitted, for consideration, a draft Community Green Pledge Action Plan for 2020/21 and gave a brief verbal update on Declaring a Climate Emergency.

The Colwyn in Bloom Committee had expressed a desire to work on the Green Pledges that had been published by Conwy and Denbighshire PSB, which included: reducing energy wastage (by installing new boilers and LED lights); installing electric charging points (to include the Town Hall) and cycle racks (Members would be asked to perform an audit within their Ward); becoming a plastic-less community; installing water points; reducing paper use; promote and add new community orchards; develop community green spaces; and continue clean up/litter pick events. The draft action plan would also be taken to the General Purpose and Planning Committee on 26th May, ready for approval at the Council meeting in June.

492/19 Local Members Ward Allowances:

No project proposal(s) had been received from members.

493/19 Grants:

a) The Clerk advised Members that non-urgent small grant applications would be considered at the next meeting on 1st July 2020.

b) **Events Grants:** Members noted the updates received from Events Grants applicants in regard to their events due to be held during 2020/21.

The Clerk informed Members that reports from the Large Grant applicants would be included at the next policy and finance meeting.

The Clerk gave a brief update on the Forties Festival that was due to take place in mid-August. Although no decision has been made, it was doubtful that the event would go ahead due to the indoor elements of the festival. The Festival is supported by the IMAGINE project and Colwyn BID who had each contributed £5,000 towards the event. As IMAGINE is funded by the National Lottery, permission would need to be sought from them to roll the money over if it is not spent this year. The money received from Colwyn BID would also need to be spent by the end of the year.

The Clerk informed Members that Le Sport, who had received a Youth Grant in February towards a March 2020 Sports Extravaganza, were looking to move the event to October 2020 subject to local schools opening.

c) The Clerk advised Members that the Participatory Budgeting Youth Grants had been suspended during the Covid-19 pandemic and would be relaunched at a later date.

The meeting closed at 7.15pm.

..... Chairman