

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BAY OF COLWYN TOWN COUNCIL, HELD REMOTELY (VIA ZOOM) AT 6.30 P.M. ON MONDAY 19TH OCTOBER 2020

PRESENT: The Mayor, Cllr N Bastow (Chairman)
Cllrs: G Baker; B Barton; C Brockley; G Campbell; H Fleet;
D Howcroft; C Hughes; D Jones; A Khan; A Mason; C Matthews; A Pearson;
J Pearson: M Pickard; P Richards; M Tasker and M Worth

OFFICERS: Mrs C Earley, Town Clerk
Mrs R Dudley, Assistant Clerk

IN ATTENDANCE: Andrew Wilkinson, Traffic Officer, Conwy CBC
Rob Spaul, Menna Thomas, Judi Greenwood, North Wales
Development Trust
Several members of the public

101/20 Welcome and Apologies for Absence:

- a) Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs: M Jones, H Meredith and K Swindon.
- b) A minute's silence was held in memory of County Councillor Dave Cowans, who sadly passed away recently.

102/20 Announcements:

The Mayor had no announcements, other than to confirm that the Pandemic Crises Response Team is still meeting on a regular basis.

103/20 Declarations of Interest:

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

104/20 Visitors to the Council:

a) North Wales Development Trust:

The Mayor welcomed Rob, Menna and Judi to the meeting. Rob, as Chair of the Trust, spoke first and thanked the Council for allowing them to address the meeting. He gave a brief update on the Trust, which had been set up in 2017 and is now based on Abergele Road in the former AA Cash & Carry building. Its vision is to build a portfolio of regeneration projects woven with community driven ethos. The aim (of no 7) is to be a welcoming creatives/tech hub, to raise up the skills and the aspirations of the community; to foster the development of new start-ups, encourage younger generations to meet and share ideas and to build a wider platform for Colwyn Bay to benefit from opportunities for technology and innovation and to support the needs of the community, so people can adapt and pick up new technologies to adapt their businesses and hobbies.

There are four board members who understand the current landscape and can make

a difference. Rob's background is in games design, web design and film making. He has worked with MIND Mental Health and with family engagement. He joined the Trust in 2018. He said it was the dream of local councillors to build a bridge between the local community and the county council, to better understand what the community needed on the ground and provide skills and inspiration, such as helping to develop business plans. Rob explained that they had been publicly quiet, but a lot has been going on behind the scenes. The Trust have been researching with other groups around the UK. There are plans to transform other spaces in Colwyn Bay to further inspire/involve the local community.

Menna, Secretary of the Trust explained that her background was in the Visual Arts. She had previously been involved in the regeneration scheme in Caernarfon working with the Galeri Theatre. Menna said the Trust needed to get the right partners on board. The Town Council will get regular updates and an invite to view the refurbished building. There will be a soft launch of no.7, with an opportunity for elected members to have a look around. The Town Council will also be asked to nominate a representative to a new advisory board. The Trust wants to work alongside the Town Council to support our own vision/ethos within the community. The Trust will be applying for funding from the Town Council and has already received funding support from the Arts Heritage Fund and Conwy CBC, which is guaranteed for three years.

Judi Greenwood said the Trust had been talked about for a long time but needs sustainability, funding and support to enable it to continue as a vehicle to keep the momentum going (once THI stops) and build an economic driver around town centre regeneration. No.7 should be complete by around mid-November.

Cllr Chris Hughes said the Trust had been 20 years in the making and that evidence shows that Development Trusts such as this do work across the country. The aim is that the Trust becomes self-sustainable, but it will need support initially. There are also some synergies with the Glyn Ward Invest Local (Lottery) project.

In answer to a question. Judi responded that the original shop front in Abergele Road has been reinstated and many of the original features have been saved.

The Mayor thanked Rob, Menna and Judi for the presentation and they then retired from the meeting.

b) 20mph Speed Limits:

The Mayor welcomed Mr Andrew Wilkinson, Traffic Officer, Conwy CBC to the meeting. Mr Wilkinson was attending the meeting in place of Mr Vic Turner, Traffic Officer from Conwy CBC , who was unwell and had sent apologies.

Mr Wilkinson said he had two issues to discuss: proposed 20 mph limit locations and new Welsh Government legislation. He agreed that slower speeds do reduce accidents and that they are supported locally, but there needs to be practical ways to achieve this (slower traffic). The current guidance is provided/supported by ROSPA, the Association of Chief Police and by Welsh Government Guidance. Reducing speed limits by putting up signs doesn't, in itself, make people drive

slower. The Police can enforce, but want speed limits that suit the road conditions. Due to the number of requests received, 20mph speed limits will only be considered when the current speed limit is 30mph, interaction between road users and vehicles is a significant factor (eg. no pavements, parked vehicles reduce visibility, or around school sites). There is also a requirement for traffic calming measures where average speeds currently exceed 24 mph. There is also the cost and time of the legal process to consider, which can take up to twelve months.

Mr Wilkinson then spoke about the new Welsh Government information: in May 2019, a taskforce was set up to consider having a 20mph limit as the default limit across all residential areas in Wales. This recommendation was debated in the Senedd in July and was accepted. The Ministerial response sets out more detail, with an aim for the subordinate legislation to be in place by October 2021. Major social change will be required, with strong enforcement in the early stages. The local Authority will then need an 18month period to implement the new legislation: Lobby for funding, review act, review signs, Traffic Orders will be simplified, Highway code and driving tests will also need to be changed. Wales will be the first country in the world to have a 20mph default speed limit. Mr Wilkinson felt that, given the forthcoming legislation, making more areas into 20mph zones now would not be the best use of the traffic department's time. When the legislation is passed, mainly non-residential areas, such as the Promenade, may need to have a consultation process to establish the views of users, as it could otherwise be considered as an exception and remain at 30mph.

The Mayor thanked Mr Wilkinson for the presentation and invited any questions/comments from members: Lots of members supported the proposals for extending the 20 mph zones. A marketing campaign was also supported, as the promenade was being used as a rat run – both cars and cyclists using the promenade needed more awareness. Members felt that the promenade needed to be addressed now, as otherwise it could be a minimum of 2 ½ years before the new legislation is in place and the reduced limit introduced. It was agreed that 20mph makes sense to protect the public, but there was no data as to how many accidents had occurred on the promenade and there was also a suggestion that the 20mph could be imposed just during specified daytime hours. Mr Wilkinson told the members that the promenade would require additional measures, not just signage, as the natural speed of the road was around 30-35mph. He did support a 20mph speed limit, but this could not be achieved by signs alone.

Members stated that the Old Highway is another road used as a rat run, with speed/safety issues and no pavements, and requested that this should also be considered for a 20mph zone. It was noted that Glyn Ward members have lots of requests from residents about reducing the speed along the Old Highway. Members supported this request.

Several of the members of public present were then invited to comment and expressed support for the proposed 20mph speed limit along the promenade. The speed of cars has increased since the road has been made narrower (between Rhos Point and Penrhyn Avenue) and traffic can be busy until 10pm.

It was resolved to bring forward the following agenda items for debate at this

point in the meeting.

105/20 Matters arising - Min 75/20 and 95/20 – 20mph zones:

Members were requested to consider proposals for 20mph zones for

- i) The whole of the Promenade from Rhos on Sea to Old Colwyn
- ii) Cambrian Drive, Rhos on Sea
- iii) Old Highway, Colwyn Bay (added during item 104/20 above)

It was resolved to write to CCBC Highways to request consideration of early implementation of 20mph zones in three areas: the length of the Promenade from Rhos Point to Old Colwyn, the Old Highway from Nant y Glyn to Kings Road and Cambrian Drive.

Mr Wilkinson and several members of the public then retired from the meeting.

106/20 Minutes:

- a) *Resolved to receive, approve and sign, as a correct record*
 - i) *The minutes of the last Ordinary meeting of the Council, held on 7th September 2020.*
- b) *Resolved to receive and note the minutes of the following meetings:*
 - i) *The General Purpose & Planning Committee held on 15th September and 6th October 2020 (draft).*
 - ii) *The Policy & Finance Committee held on 30th September 2020 (draft).*
 - iii) *Notes of a meeting of the Community/Place Plan held on 28th September 2020.*
 - iv) *Notes from a Remembrance Sunday Working Group held on 15th September 2020.*

c) Pandemic Crisis Response Team:

It was noted that the PCRT continues to meet fortnightly and the notes are forwarded to all members.

Resolved to formally receive the notes and to ratify the decisions of the team for the period from 17th September to 15th October 2020.

107/20 Matters Arising from the Minutes:

a) Min 80/20 – Colwyn Victoria Pier Trust:

It was noted that a verbal request had been received for reinstatement of the £15,000 budget for a contribution to the development phase of the project and further information has been requested, in writing, from Mark Roberts, Chairman of the Trust.

Resolved to defer consideration of the request until further information is received from the Trust regarding the purpose of the funding and the

source/amount of match funding from the Trust for the next phase.

b) Min 99 20(b) Future of CCBC Car Park, Colwyn Avenue, Rhos-on-Sea (lower section, adjacent to Le Sport):

Cllr P Richards gave a brief verbal report on the discussion at the recent CCBC Local Area Forum meeting. Cllr Richards stated that there had been no tangible plan from ERF and no-one appeared to want to make a decision. It was noted that there is ongoing disagreement between Le Sport and Conwy CBC and a decision needs to be made to prevent further flooding issues. A French ditch had been proposed as a possible remedy. Cllr Hughes added that some alternative solutions had been discussed, but Rhos Point is soon to change hands and demand for parking will be at a premium.

c) Min. 82/20(a) – Town Hall Works:

- i) Members noted that a quote is awaited from Brenig Construction and they have recommended that the Council replaces the cast iron gutters with a longer lasting/lighter aluminium solution.
- ii) Members noted that the Clerk is awaiting details of other roofing contractors with experience in this type of works to seek additional quote(s).
- iii) The SLCC VAT advisor has confirmed that, if the total VAT for all invoices relating to the rooms/parts of the site that are rented/leased to others for a charge exceeds £7,500 in any given tax year, then none of the input tax attributable to the exempt supplies can be recovered. This will, therefore, not only mean the VAT on the repairs/maintenance cannot be reclaimed, but also that VAT on other premises related costs this year (utilities, fire alarms, other maintenance etc) cannot be reclaimed. The Clerk will therefore need to go through a partial exemption procedure to calculate what input tax can be attributed to non-business activities, such as administering the council's business, to be able to estimate the impact of this (as Town hall rooms have not been hired out since 1st April, this could be the best financial year to complete the works - could seek separate invoice for Town Hall part).
It was noted that a more detailed report from the Clerk will follow, in due course.
Members supported taking more time to make the best decision.

d) Min 82/20(b) – Sculpture Trail:

The Clerk submitted a copy of the application to Gwynt y Mor and members noted that the grant application had been successful (to be delivered in partnership with the Imagine project). Members also received/noted the grant offer letter.

It was resolved to approve the signing of the grant acceptance letter.

e) Min. 86/20 – Certificate of Service:

Members were asked to endorse the recommendation to introduce certificates of service for members retiring from office.

Resolved to endorse the recommendation and introduce the certificates of service with immediate effect..

f) Min. 87/20 – Street Cleaning:

A response from Andrew Wilkinson was noted and members were asked to approve the budget for up to 5 days of street cleaning for the town centre. This issue had been raised by a Councillor who had been concerned by the amount of stains on the pedestrian area and also by a member of the public who had visited the Artisan Market. Members supported the proposal but said it should be an ongoing process. This would need to be considered during the annual budgetary process.

Resolved to approve the budget for up to 5 days of additional street cleaning for the pedestrianised areas of the Town Centre, at a cost of up to £2,500..

g) Min. 91/20 – Small Grants:

The Clerk submitted further information regarding application X and the recommendation for approval of small grants Y and Z. Members reconsidered the additional information provided, however, it was felt that not enough information had been submitted with regards to how services could continue to be accessible during the current pandemic and also queried if the new location was accessible to those with disabilities.

Resolved to approve applications Y and Z, but to refuse application X, on this occasion, and to request that the Clerk informs the applicant of the reasons for the refusal.

h) *Resolved to note the resolutions of the Committees, as detailed in the minutes.*

108/20 Welsh Government:

The Clerk submitted advice regarding the holding of remembrance services for 2020 and asked members to note that a follow-up meeting of the organising group is to be held on 20th October.

This year, the proposal is that there would be no service by the Memorial at 10:45 am on Remembrance Sunday, as it would be impossible to restrict numbers attending. Options to be discussed at the meeting included: asking people to have the 2 minute silence on their doorsteps, hanging pictures of poppies in their windows, on-line church service and radio service. It was noted that The Kind Bay Initiative had also shared information on social media about painting pebbles. Members thought the pebble idea may be better suited to next year, when restrictions for leaving your house had been lifted. The Clerk informed members that she would be issuing a press release after the meeting on the 20th so the public would be informed of the arrangements. The Mayor would also be laying a wreath at Colwyn Bay and Old Colwyn War Memorials and other organisations will also be invited to lay wreaths.

109/20 Conwy CBC:

- a) **Electoral Officer:** Members noted that an election had been called for the vacancy in Colwyn Ward and it would now be deferred to February 2021.
- b) **Bay Life Strategic Board Meeting:** Cllr Chris Hughes and Paul Richards had attended the meeting and gave a brief report. They were concerned at the lack of options in relation to the consultation on the town centre proposals. Only one plan had been presented. There were also concerns about the proposed one-way system and the affect it would have in the town centre and the impact on surrounding roads. The bus routes would also be affected, with those wanting to change buses having to walk further. It was also noted that the land needed to create ‘St Paul’s Square’, belonged to the Church of Wales and would only be released at a cost. Members suggested that a Special meeting should be convened to debate this further, prior to responding to the consultation. An invite would be sent to Conwy CBC officers.
- c) **Town & Community Council Forum:** The Clerk gave a brief verbal report on the recent meeting, which she had attended along with Cllrs N Bastow, C Brockley and M Worth. A finance report had been submitted which showed the impact of CoVid and the huge funding gap in next year’s budget. There had been a discussion regarding council tax increases and several services requiring continued support from town and community councils, including play areas. It was noted that the Play Areas Task & Finish Group report is not due to be submitted to Cabinet/Scrutiny until January 2021, but it is likely to include options/recommendations for ceasing to maintain a number of play areas across the county. The Clerk also reported on the issue of Ash Die-back, with the meeting being informed that 90% of ash trees are expected to be lost due to a fungal pathogen and around 40% of the tree stock across the county (including roadside verges) being ash.

It was felt that a reduction in play areas would be detrimental to the health of our young people. Members commented that Conwy CBC had said that Town/Community Councils were better placed to raise revenue to deliver local services. However, it was noted that CCBC is not capped and this had been strongly contested by some of the local members present.

It was noted that further surgeries/meetings would follow to outline the support required to continue services in 2021/22.

- d) **CCTV Annual Report (2019/20):** Members noted the report.

Resolved to approve payment of the invoice for the maintenance of the Colwyn Bay cameras for 2020/21 (£11,088).

- e) **Town Centre Consultation (closes 31st October):**

Resolved that a Special Meeting of the Council be convened on Monday 26th October to debate this issue and to decide on the response to the consultation.

f) CCBC Events: The Clerk gave a brief verbal update from a meeting held last week with Conwy CBC Events Officers. The Beacon of Light event had now been postponed, due to the tighter restrictions and limits on outdoor events. Concerns had been raised about the possible loss of Station Road as an events space and the cost of road closures. The Clerk said that the Events team were very apologetic about the lack of notice regarding the Olly Murs Concert, which had been outside of their control, and said that there may also be a second or even third night to be announced. Moving the Forties Festival had also been discussed, as restrictions may not have been fully lifted by April 2021.

Resolved to include considering the date of the 2021 Forties Festival in the Special Meeting to be held on Monday 26th October 2021.

110/20 IPRW:

The Clerk submitted the draft annual report for 2021/22, which was noted by members. It was proposed that table 9, s 13.34 (pg.45) should be amended to make it clear that the payments should be adjusted for any member joining or leaving the council during the municipal year.

Resolved to request the that the Clerk submits a response making this request.

111/20 North & Mid Wales Association of Local Councils:

The Clerk submitted a WG Consultation about non-domestic rating for unoccupied properties and the draft response from the Association. It was suggested that the response to Section 3 needed strengthening.

Resolved that the Clerk write to the Association with the Council's comments.

The meeting closed at 9.40 p.m.

..... Chairman