



Minutes of a meeting of the Colwyn in Bloom Committee, held remotely, via Zoom, at 2pm on Wednesday 20th January 2021

- PRESENT:** Chairman: Ingrid Lewis
Cllrs: Hannah Fleet (HF), Abdul Khan (AK), Jeff Pearson(JP), Paul Richards (PR) and M Worth (MW)
Community Reps: Chris Hemmings (CH), Mags Richardson (MR)
Conwy CBC: Peter Barton-Price (PBP), Tom Gravett (TG), Helen Jackson(HJ), David Birtwistle (DB)
- OFFICERS:** Mrs C Earley, Town Clerk & Treasurer
R Dudley, Assistant Clerk & Secretary

217/20 Welcome and Apologies for Absence

The Chair welcomed all members and welcomed Chris Hemmings to his first meeting of the Committee. Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Chris Hughes, Gwenda Matthews and Bill McMillan.

218/20 Wales in Bloom & Britain in Bloom:

The Chair agreed to bring this item forward in the agenda, at the request of the Chair of Wales in Bloom, Peter Barton-Price.

a) Wales in Bloom:

PBP informed the Committee that the Executive Committee of Wales in Bloom had been meeting regularly and had decided to go ahead and run the annual competition, but due to Covid-19, it will be a very different format this year. The judging will take place during the month of July, to avoid overnight stays, and judges will follow in separate vehicles on the tour, with any presentations taking place outdoors. The judges will not have unrealistic expectations, to recognise the restrictions which have been in place during 2020.

In answer to questions, PBP confirmed that, if restrictions are still in place: presentations will be able to be submitted in advance in a portfolio format, communication with judges in separate vehicle could be by phone (hands free) or walkie-talkie and there will be additional time, if needed, to allow for parking several vehicles on the tour. PBP confirmed that spring planting and a tree planting project has gone ahead this year and he is optimistic that the competition can go ahead.

PBP added that guidance will be issued to groups and assessors who are involved

with the 'It's your Neighbourhood' (IYN) awards and asked the Committee to encourage as many entries as possible from the local community. Wales in Bloom are very grateful for the support from the Bay of Colwyn and for submitting all the good news stories. The Campaign has been launched and is open to entries now for the main competition and for the IYN to champion grass roots level support and to highlight the importance of our green open spaces which have been so important during the Covid-19 Pandemic.

Resolved to proceed with an entry to Wales in Bloom main competition for 2021.

b) Britain in Bloom:

- i) Members noted an email regarding the cancellation of the main competition this year. This decision had been made, as it was not possible to deliver the competition safely under the current restrictions across the UK.
- ii) PBP reported that the RHS has put together Community Awards to replace the usual BIB competition. As we were an entry in the 2020 BIB competition, we are eligible to enter. There are 5 different categories and the deadline for expressions of interest is Friday 22nd January 2021. If the entry is accepted for submission, we will need to gather and provide evidence via portfolio or video. Various projects were considered, including: Woodland Planting Project in Brookfield Drive, Kind Bay Initiative Planting in Colwyn Bay and the Old Colwyn Church Growing Garden project.

The Chair thanked Peter for his report and he retired from the meeting.

Resolved to enter the Woodland Planting Project into the Community Awards under Category 4.

219/20 Minutes:

- a) ***Resolved to approve and sign, as a correct record, the Minutes of the last meeting, held on 10th November 2020.***

220/20 Matters Arising from Minutes:

a) Min. 129/20(b) – Art Installations:

HJ ran through the details of the draft brief, which would be sent out to the Creative Industry, and told the Committee that she would be meeting with TE to discuss and finalise the tender/procurement procedures. On-going maintenance (of the sculptures, once installed) had not been mentioned in the brief and would need to be added. Members added any installations should be weatherproof (suitable for coastal locations) and resistant to vandalism/incidental damage. HJ said she was keeping in touch with Conwy CBC, as the Town Centre plans may have an impact on location(s) chosen. The project hopes to start in March and RD

asked for any progress pictures so she could include these in the WIB portfolio. HJ asked for the Committee's support to submit the project as an example of a small project case study through Creative Wales as they want to find ways to engage with/support smaller sole trader creatives. The Chair thanked HJ for all her hard work.

Resolved to endorse the approach to Creative Wales to seek ways to engage with/approach smaller sole trader artists/sculptors.

b) Min. 129/20(c) – Gateway Signs:

HJ reported that View Creative had been commissioned and several virtual workshops had taken place. HJ had requested an extension until December to complete the project. A request had been circulated, via social media, for residents to submit 5 images that made the area special to them. HJ asked that the Committee share the request via their own social media platforms. It was hoped to display these images in shop windows. The initial concept/ideas should be ready in a few weeks.

Resolved that HJ contact Highways, Conwy CBC to chase progress regarding the design and the permissions needed.

c) Min. 129/20(d)(ii) – Plastic-free Campaign:

RD reported that the facebook page was now live and requested that the Committee share any relevant information.

- TG retired from the meeting at this juncture.

d) Min. 129/20(d)(iv) – Water Butts:

It was noted that permission has been granted by Planning for the installation of two water butts to collect surface water from the Town Hall roof (front and rear). TE reported that two water butts would be purchased for the Town Hall when the roof/gutter works are being completed, as the builder could assist with installation.

e) Min.129/20(e) – Kind Bay Initiative:

Members noted a letter of thanks from KBI.

f) Railway Station:

PR reported on the visit that had taken place at the Railway Station. RD confirmed that all the observations/comments had been passed onto Railway Network. PR added that the station volunteers had planted spring bulbs at the station.

221/20 Colwyn in Bloom:

- a) DB confirmed all the baskets had been collected and apologised for the delays, due to staffing/Covid-19 issues. DB asked RD to send the contact for Cadwgan Surgery so their baskets could be collected.
- b) Members noted an email from DB regarding prices of the hanging baskets, planters and up-the-poles for 2021 and some additional costs which the Committee were happy to cover. DB confirmed the colour scheme would be similar to last year but more sustainable planting will be included, as requested by the Committee. The Committee thanked DB and said how lovely Colwyn Bay had looked this year.

Resolved to accept the quote and confirm the order for Bryn Euryn to supply the baskets and planters for 2021.

- c) The Committee agreed to defer any discussion/decision about the Colwyn in Bloom Competition to the next meeting.

222/20 Finance Report:

TE gave a verbal update. The projected expenditure for the current year is £10,000 provided no funds are needed for the art trail or gateway signs. The Town Council has approved a budget of £24,500 for 2021, to include the art/sculpture trail grant funded expenditure (£9,500).

223/20 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 Facebook page and the next portfolio.

RD requested permission to use/share any pictures from other websites/facebook and members agreed.

224/20 A.O.B:

- a) DB informed the Committee that the brackets currently stored at the Nursery needed to be moved to an inside store. TE confirmed we have some inside storage space available in the rear outhouse at the Town Hall.
DB / RD to make arrangements for them to be moved.
- b) CH asked about the Forties Festival and the Dig for Victory Stall that Colwyn in Bloom man at the Festival. It was doubtful that the Festival would be able to be held this year. It was suggested that we could start a campaign asking people to share stories /pictures of their home grown efforts during the pandemic.

c) HF reported that the Horticultural Society would be holding their Spring Show online in April. All details are on the website.

Date of next meeting: Members will be informed as soon as a meeting date is agreed.

The meeting closed at 3.45 p.m.

..... Chairman