

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BAY OF COLWYN TOWN COUNCIL, HELD REMOTELY (VIA ZOOM)  
AT 6.30 PM ON MONDAY 26<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2021**

**PRESENT:** The Mayor, Cllr N Bastow (Chairman)  
Cllrs: G Baker, G Campbell, H Fleet, D Howcroft, C Hughes,  
M Jones, A Khan, C Matthews, R Owen, J Pearson,  
T Pearson, P Richards, K Swindon, M Tasker, M Worth

**OFFICERS:** Mrs C Earley, Town Clerk and RFO  
R Dudley, Assistant Clerk

**IN ATTENDANCE:** County Councillor C Carlisle  
Jane Richardson, Dyfed Thomas, Barbara Burchell, Conwy CBC  
Simon Wynne, Bayside Radio

**340/20 Welcome and Introductions:**

The Chairman welcomed all members and visitors to the meeting.

**341/20 Apologies for Absence:**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs: C Brockley, D Jones, H Meredith, S Price and S Ryder.

**342/20 Announcements:**

The Mayor had no announcements but informed members that this was his last meeting as Mayor.

**343/20 Declarations of Interest:**

Members were reminded that they must declare the existence and nature of any personal and/or prejudicial interests.

Cllr J Pearson declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the large grant application from Bayside Radio, as a director/presenter.

**344/20 Visitors to the Council:**

(a) Town Centre Investment and Recovery Project

The Chairman welcomed Jane Richardson, Dyfed Thomas and Barbara Burchell from Conwy CBC, to the meeting. They had attended the meeting to respond to the letter/concerns that the Town Council had sent to them following the last meeting and especially in regard to Station Road and opening it up to traffic. Jane Richardson explained that the bid for funding had to be submitted in the next two months or the funding opportunity would be lost. She was hoping a compromise/solution could be found that satisfied everybody.

The Chair invited members to outline their concerns. These included: the accessibility of Station Road for disabled persons; the road and pavements need to be more clearly defined and the surface less slippery; Station Road would be better if it were transformed into a greener, family friendly and vibrant meeting place; a focal point in the centre. Concern was also expressed that the planning status of Station Road (as a shopping zone) was different to other streets in Colwyn Bay and made it more difficult/costly to achieve planning permission for a change of use.

Dyfed Thomas responded that the initial focus for an open, station square type area was at the land to the front of St Paul's, but members questioned the certainty of being able to get ownership of the church land from the Church in Wales. It was also pointed out that the St Paul's area is on a very busy road and on the opposite side to most of the town centre retail. The Councillors agreed that businesses need to be attracted into Colwyn Bay, but couldn't see how allowing traffic on Station Road would help that. Concerns were also expressed about the Ivy Street Toilets being removed and asked if there were plans for replacement toilets in the Town Centre.

Members felt there should have been more options presented at the public consultation last October, other than just opening up the street for traffic or keeping it as it is. Members also reminded the Officers of an initial consultation meeting held in Theatr Colwyn (with Rob Dix) several years ago, where everyone had been excited about the future of the Town Centre and Colwyn Bay becoming a destination and lots of options/ideas had been discussed. Station Road should be a place to meet with a clear route to the beach/waterfront (rename Beach Road?). Clear signage is needed for the route to and from the beach from the town centre.

The County Councillor present was very concerned about the possibility of losing the funding opportunity, as many other towns are also seeking investment, and stressed that we need to make Station Road work and we need to take a bold step. It was pointed out that there was already space on Sea View Road/Station Steps for meeting and a play area.

Concerns were raised about the results of the consultation and the fact no other options were offered. The video shown had looked lovely but that will not be the end result, as the one-way system had now been removed and also the cycling tracks were no longer included in the plans.

The Chair summed up by saying that the Council don't see a benefit to opening up Station Road and asked that the comments about Station Road becoming a greener, more vibrant open space be considered.

Jane Richardson responded that the County Council were trying to please a lot of stakeholders/ other interested parties and that option 3 – opening up Station Road but still allowing events/markets to take place had been the preferred option, as this suited most people. The public consultation had been overwhelmingly in favour of opening up Station Road to vehicles. Jane also informed the Council that the funding would not be lost if Station Road wasn't open, but the time it would take to re-write and put forward a new bid

was not feasible, or a good use of officer time. Jane confirmed that the surfacing and disabled issues on Station Road would definitely be taken into account. They are trying to create the feel of green, open spaces and achieve this alongside opening up Station Road. Traffic will be regulated, but the road can still be a green family safe road. The linking of the beach with the Town is essential. Jane said we should be excited about what is happening in Colwyn Bay and confirmed that the Town Council feedback will be incorporated into the report and our concerns will be highlighted. The County Councillors will ultimately have to decide if they want to continue with the bid.

The Chair thanked Jane, Dyfed and Barbara for attending and they retired from the meeting.

(b) Grant Application from Bayside Radio

The Chair welcomed Simon Wynne from Bayside Radio, who was attending to answer questions which had been raised when the grant had initially been considered by the Policy & Finance Committee in January. Bayside Radio has asked for £5,760 for a 3-month extension to its special (Covid) FM licence. The Policy and Finance Committee had expressed concern that in 3 months' time, another grant request would be submitted and were worried about future sustainability. The Committee had asked for listener numbers to confirm how many local people listened to the station on FM. Simon explained that they could not supply that information, due to cost of obtaining it from official channels and not being able to undertake any door to door surveys during the pandemic, but confirmed that the station does have a huge audience on social media. He was informed that the Town Council has a limited budget for grants and want to help as many organisations as it can. Simon Wynne explained that the Radio had been a great help to many during the pandemic and gave lots of information, along with raising awareness about local issues and encouraging community pride. It is run by a team of 15 volunteers, who help to develop approximately 60 hours of content each week. A lot of their listeners do not have access to digital radio.

The Chairman then invited questions from members: Members agreed that radio was a huge comfort for a lot of people and not everyone listens on DAB radio. FM is an important tool for Bayside Radio. In answer to a question about advertising revenue, Simon said that the licence presently is a Covid temporary licence and doesn't allow for advertising, but they are hoping that in the future they will be able to attract advertising, if they are successful in applying for a longer term community licence.

Simon was thanked for attending and then retired from the meeting.

Cllr J Pearson, having declared a personal interest, also retired from the meeting whilst the grant application was considered.

***Resolved, by a majority vote, to approve a grant of £5,760 to cover the cost of a three month extension to the special Covid FM license.***

### **345/20 Minutes:**

- (a) ***Resolved to receive, approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of:***
  - (i) ***The last ordinary Meeting of the Council, held on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021.***
  - (ii) ***The Special Meeting of the Council, held on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2021***
  
- (b) ***Resolved to receive and note the minutes of the following meetings:***
  - (i) ***The General Purpose & Planning Committee meetings, held on 16<sup>th</sup> March and 6<sup>th</sup> April 2021.***
  - (ii) ***The Policy & Finance Committee meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2021.***
  - (iii) ***The Colwyn in Bloom Committee meeting, held on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2021.***
  - (iv) ***The Volunteer Awards Committee meeting, held on 21st April 2021.***
  - (v) ***A meeting of the Community Plan Team, held on 22<sup>nd</sup> March and 19<sup>th</sup> April 2021.***
  
- (c) **Pandemic Crises Response Team (PCRT):** Members noted the notes from the meetings held on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2021.

### **346/20 Matters Arising from Those Minutes:**

- (a) **Min. 282/20(f) – Volunteers Awards Committee:** The appointment of Sarah Ryder to fill a vacancy on the committee was noted by members.
  
- (b) **Min. 282/20(i) – Bay Side Radio:** See Resolution of minute number 344/20 (b)
  
- (c) **Min 284/20(f) – Draft Culture Strategy:** The response circulated by the Clerk regarding the pre-election period was noted by members.
  
- (d) **Min 295/20 & 325/20 – Communication and Social Media policy:** The Clerk submitted the new policy/strategy which would replace the IT and Social Media policies adopted in 2011 and 2014.  
  
***Resolved to adopt the new Communication and Social Media Policy.***
  
- (e) **Min. 315/20a – Town Hall Gutter/Window Replacement Works:** The Clerk gave a verbal update on the proposed phasing of the works.  
  
***Resolved to authorise the payment of the invoice received for the erection of scaffolding, once the work has been completed.***
  
- (f) **Min. 316/20 (e) – Outstanding Invoices:**  
***Resolved to authorise the Clerk to write off the three small outstanding invoices relating to the previous financial year: two Hire Invoices for £20 each (Conwy Access Group) and one small photocopying invoice of £1.***
  
- (g) **Min. 318/20(d) – Electronic Noticeboards:** Members were asked to consider approving a budget virement of £20,000, from the projected underspend in major events (due to the

cancellation of the Summer 2021 Concerts) to the street furniture budget, to go towards a possible joint project with GWIL and IMAGINE to install digital noticeboards across the town council area. Further details and quotations will follow. A question was asked about future maintenance and the Clerk informed the Council that she was attending a further meeting along with Cllr Worth next week, and at this stage just needed general consensus that a budget was available, if it was decided to go along with the proposal.

***Resolved that the underspend of £20,000 be made available towards the digital noticeboard project, subject to the receipt of more detailed proposals..***

**(h) Min. 319/20 – Independent Review Panel:**

- (i) Resolved to formally adopt determinations 41-50 for the 2021/22 municipal year, as detailed in the annual report.
- (ii) The Clerk asked the members to consider the paying all basic payments for members in September instead of at the end of the municipal year.

***Resolved to approve the payment of basic allowances to all Members in September annually and special allowances (Mayor £750 / Deputy £500 / Chairman of P&F or GP&P Committees £500) upon appointment.***

- (iii) The Clerk gave a verbal report, following a meeting with Panel members on 19/4/2021. The panel is currently conducting a full review of members' allowances and also the tax issues relating to these payments, which they will pursue with HMRC. It was noted that the Clerk will report back with any further updates in due course.

- (i) **Min. 320/21 – Local Members Ward Allowances:** Members noted that all ward allowances for 2021/22 must be approved by 31/12/21.

***Resolved to approve the carrying forward of any of the unspent allowances in full to 2021/22, due to the difficulties in funding some activities during the pandemic.***

**(j) Min 320/21(b) – Small Grants:**

- (i) ***Resolved to ratify payment of the final small grant for Q4, as detailed on schedule C to the minutes.***
- (ii) ***Resolved to approve donations of £4,500 and £4,000 respectively to the Ancient Llandrillo Charities and the Sir John Henry Morris Jones Trust Fund from the remaining small grants budget for 2020/21.***

**(k) Resolved to ratify the decisions of the Pandemic Response Team, as summarised below:**

- (i) ***To inform Conwy CBC of the occurrence of a casual vacancy in Rhiw Ward, following Cllr M Pickard's failure to attend any meetings, without providing accepted reasons, for a period of 6 months (to 19<sup>th</sup> April 2021). Further resolved to thank Cllr Pickard for his service as a Councillor from May 2017 to April 2021.***
- (ii) ***To request that the Clerk explores/purchases the equipment necessary to facilitate hybrid meetings.***

- (iii) *To delegate authority to the Clerk to decide if the Annual Meeting can take place in person, as a hybrid meeting (subject to any restriction on numbers for indoor gatherings on that date), or if it will need to be fully remote.*
- (iv) *To request the Clerk to contact the Bay Life Officer to enquire if they have any current projects which may meet the funding criteria for the UK Covid Renewal Funding and to delegate authority to the Clerk/PCRT to submit any application.*
- (v) *To request that the Clerk explores/prepares a draft policy for homeworking, as work from home requirements are gradually relaxed.*
- (vi) *To ratify payment of an invoice for £869 for urgent repairs to fire doors in the Town Hall.*

(l) *Resolved to note the resolutions of the Committees, as detailed in the Minutes.*

#### **347/20 Welsh Government:**

The Clerk submitted, for consideration, the following correspondence:

- (a) Electoral Reform Newsletter
- (b) Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act – summary of key provisions for Town and Community Councils.

*Resolved to receive and note the correspondence.*

#### **348/20 Conwy CBC:**

- (a) **Town and Community Council Forum Meeting:** The Clerk gave a brief verbal report on a meeting held on the 14<sup>th</sup> April 2021, which she had attended with Cllr C Brockley. The meeting had been given an update on events and the difficulties the pandemic was creating, with many events for the remainder of this year facing uncertainty/cancellation, a presentation was given on the extensive efforts undertaken to tackle homelessness during the pandemic, a brief overview was given on the local places for nature programme and a brief report on post-covid recovery and the support for local businesses.
- (b) **Bay Life Strategic Officer Group:** This item was deferred as the Strategic Management Group is meeting tomorrow. A report will be available at the next meeting.

#### **349/20 Community Wellbeing Network/Hub:**

The Clerk gave a brief verbal report and update about the progress with establishing a Community Wellbeing Network/Hub. A couple of meetings have taken place and there is a lot of enthusiasm. There is a follow up meeting in May with 3 excellent presentations. Cllr Fleet thanked the Clerk for all her hard work arranging the meetings and establishing the contacts.

#### **350/20 Operation Forth Bridge:**

The Clerk gave a brief verbal report on the implementation of the previously adopted

'Operation London Bridge' policy. The policy stated that during the mourning period after the death of a member of senior royalty, black ribbon should be hung on any pictures of the deceased in the Town Hall. If the Council held any meetings during this period, the men needed to wear black ties and ladies black armbands. The Clerk asked members to consider the purchase of black ribbon and black armbands. It was recommended that members provide their own, if they wanted to wear them.

***Resolved not to authorise the purchase of black ribbon or black armbands.***

### **351/20 Nominations for the office of Mayor/Deputy Mayor for 2021/22:**

Nominations were invited for the office of Mayor and Deputy Mayor for 2021/22, in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders.

It was proposed by Cllr C Hughes and seconded by Cllr G Baker that Cllr Merrill Jones be nominated for the office of Town Mayor for 2021/22.

It was proposed by Cllr G Baker and seconded by Cllr D Howcroft that Cllr T Pearson be nominated for the office of Deputy Town Mayor for 2021/22.

***Resolved to nominate Cllr Merrill Jones for the office of Mayor and Cllr Tony Pearson for the office of Deputy Mayor for 2021/22.***

### **352/20 Cruse Rent Review:**

The Clerk submitted a report on the three-yearly rent review recently undertaken for the cruse office, in accordance with the lease. It was noted that the method used to calculate the rent (VOA ratable value plus share of building running costs, based on floorspace occupied) would result a slight increase in the rent. The Clerk presented several options to members for consideration. Members queried if it was necessary to increase the rent, given that Cruse apply for a large grant to cover the rent annually. It was noted that if the rent is increased then Cruse will just ask for an increased grant to cover it, meaning less grant funds would be available for other local groups.

***Resolved not to implement any increase in the rent for a further three years (from 2021/22). Further resolved to waive half of the past year's rent, as the office has not been available for use during the pandemic.***

### **353/20 One Voice Wales:**

(a) The Clerk submitted information regarding One Voice Wales and a 50% reduction in fees for membership. The Council are already in membership with North and Mid Wales Association of Town Councils and some members felt this was adequate. The Clerk advised that after the elections next year, it might be worth joining, as all new councillors would benefit from training and the cost of this is significantly less for member councils.

***Resolved not to join One Voice Wales this year. Membership would be considered next***

*year after the elections.*

(b) Planning Aid Wales/One Voice Wales Joint Online Event: Cllrs G Baker and J Pearson were nominated to attend the event on behalf of the Council.

**354/20 Porth Eirias Watersports:**

Members noted emails regarding concerns from a resident and the response from Conwy CBC.

**355/20 Corporate Plan Action Plan and Annual Report for 2020/21**: Members noted that the Draft Corporate Plan Action Plan for 2021/22 and Annual report for 2020/21 will be submitted to the next meeting.

**356/20 Vote of Thanks:**

The Councillors extended a vote of thanks to Cllr Neil Bastow for all the work he has done in his role as Mayor for the last two years.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm.

..... Chairman