

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BAY OF COLWYN TOWN COUNCIL, HELD REMOTELY (VIA ZOOM)
AT 6.30PM ON MONDAY 25th OCTOBER 2021**

PRESENT: The Mayor, Cllr Mrs M Jones (Chairman)
Cllrs: G Baker, C Hughes, G Campbell, H Fleet, D Howcroft, M Jones, A Khan,
A Mason, C Matthews, R Owen, J Pearson, T Pearson (Dep Mayor), S Price,
P Richards, S Ryder, M Tasker, L Wilkins and M Worth

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

IN ATTENDANCE: County Cllrs: C Carlisle and D Milne
Officers from Conwy CBC: Geraint Edwards, Oliver Edwards and Benji Poulton
Various members of the Public

223/21 Welcome and Apologies for Absence:

The Chairman welcomed all members and visitors to the meeting. Apologies for absence were received from Town Cllrs: C Brockley, D Jones, H Meredith, and K Swindon.

224/21 Announcements:

- (a) The Mayor congratulated Cllr Abdul Khan on recently being honoured by the Bangladeshi community for his services to democracy and being the first Bangladeshi Chair of a Council in Wales.
- (b) The Mayor informed members that the Clerk, Tina Earley had been awarded the Brian Metcalfe Award for exceptional voluntary service in the sector, the award had been announced at the SLCC National Conference which had taken place last week. Tina is an active supporter of fellow Clerks and this award was well deserved. Members congratulated the Clerk.

225/21 Declarations of Interest:

Members were reminded that they must declare the existence and nature of any personal and/or prejudicial interests. Cllrs Chris Hughes, David Howcroft and Tony Pearson declared a personal (non-prejudicial) interest in regard to minute number 232/21(a).

226/21 Visitors to the Council:

- (a) The Chair invited the Conwy CBC Officers to address the meeting, in response to the request for more information regarding the consultation on the next phase of the Waterfront Project. The Officers introduced themselves and thanked the Council for the opportunity to come and present their proposals.

Oliver Edwards began by showing several slides which demonstrated the need for changes to the road/promenade layout in that area. The main reason for the scheme is to provide better coastal defences and to stop the flooding that occurs. However, this was also an opportunity to upgrade the promenade and to create a safe family space. Funding was in

place from the Welsh Government's Coastal Risk Management Programme (CRMP) and the Welsh Government are funding 85% of the construction costs. The presentation showed the various options that had been considered and demonstrated the reasons for not proceeding with some of those options. There is currently an issue with parking and safety for promenade users. More room on the promenade is needed to make this a safer space. The Officers then shared slides showing the proposed improvement works for the promenade, which includes the following elements:

- (i) Promenade shelters would be replaced with new shelters, co-designed by students, and it was hoped the new open design would help discourage anti-social behaviour. They would also have charging points and solar panels incorporated into the design.
- (ii) The demolition of the two existing kiosks on the promenade. Officers informed the Council that funding was not yet in place to replace these, however, an area had been designated for a new kiosk set back from the active travel route, which would stop the flooding issues.
- (iii) Inclusive fitness equipment and play areas for the family zone, with additional features such as braille railings and communications boards.
- (iv) The Officers explained how the traffic would be re-directed along the Cayley promenade stretch (with north-bound traffic being diverted up and over the Cayley Embankment and south-bound traffic able to use the existing promenade road, which would be one-way), together with confirming the position/route of the dual purpose pedestrian/cycle path and the pathway for pedestrians only, adjacent to the sea front.

It was noted that the next stage was to collate the feedback from the public consultation, to investigate funding avenues for the replacement kiosks and to look at the one-way traffic system. There would then be a further consultation (at planning application stage) and it was aimed to start the work by Spring 2022.

The Chair thanked the County Councillors Officers for the presentation and invited observations from Councillors.

Cllrs main observations/concerns were reported verbally and summarised as follows:

Kiosks: The Kiosks are important for the well-being of local residents and visitors. Local people use the facilities regularly. Members would be extremely concerned if demolition went ahead before funding/proposals had been finalised for their replacement. Any temporary loss of facilities during the construction phase would need to be mitigated against. Members requested that existing occupiers be given first opportunity for occupying any replacement kiosk facilities – they are established, much-liked local businesses with a regular and loyal local customer base. Councillors reported that many local people have informed them how upset they are at the thought that they might lose their livelihood as a result of the Prom improvement works. In response to a question from a member, Oliver Edwards agreed they would accept a petition objecting to the demolition of the kiosks.

Family Friendly Zone: The family-friendly zone with play spaces are welcomed – these will provide much needed additional facilities for a family friendly beach/promenade. However, alongside this is a need for adequate, clean toilet and beach showering facilities. This needs to be addressed within the proposals and not left to

private providers (due to experience of this type of facility being provided but subsequently withdrawn at Porth Eirias, due to private ownership).

Parking: It is not clear from the proposals what the impact will be on the number of parking spaces available, compared to what is currently available. If there is to be any loss of parking provision (or parking charges introduced), suitable mitigation measures will be required to prevent disruption to nearby residential streets. In answer to a question about possible promenade parking charges, the Officers said any future introduction of charges would have to go through the democratic process before being implemented. This does not form part of the current consultation and would come at a later stage.

Slipways: Concern was expressed about the potential impact of the sand importation and new groyne on the existing access (for boats) to Rhos Harbour and for use of the two slipways. Has any modelling been done to measure the potential impact and what action can/will be taken to ensure that access to the harbour / slipways is maintained?

Traffic: Clarity is needed regarding the proposed road layout and priority of traffic at the north/western end of the Cayley Embankment / Whitehall Road junction. There is concern that traffic priorities may cause traffic to build up in that area. Local residents are also concerned about the potential increase in traffic and on-road parking in residential roads, due to the redirection of all northbound traffic over the Cayley Embankment. Can any additional measures be considered to minimise the impact on local residents?

In answer to a question, the Officers also confirmed that there would be plenty of electric vehicle charging points in the new parking areas.

Safety: Councillors commented on the need for a safe crossing by the new Pier, to enable/encourage safe crossing from the promenade to the town centre and support local businesses.

Geraint Edwards (Head of Service) responded that they had had excellent feedback from the consultation, especially with regard to the kiosks and the one-way traffic system. In answer to a question about the timescale of the work, Mr Edwards confirmed the work would take 12 months and the impact to residents/ visitors was unavoidable, but would be kept as minimal as possible.

The Chair thanked the County Councillors Officers for attending and they left the meeting.

Resolved to delegate authority to the Clerk to collate a response based on the Council's observations and sent this, as written confirmation, to Conwy CBC. It was noted that Conwy CBC had previously agreed to accept the Town Council's observations after the deadline for the public consultation.

- (b) The Chair asked County Councillors present for any report. Cllr C Hughes reported that the sale of the Civic Offices in Colwyn Bay had been put out to tender.
- (c) Members noted that Steve Pawson, Local Policing, NW Police would be attending the next Council Meeting to give a report on local policing matters.

Members were requested to submit any questions to the Clerk a week before the meeting, if they wanted to receive a response on the night.

(d) Members noted a request from Darren Millar to attend a future meeting.

227/21 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 6th September 2021.***

(b) ***Resolved to receive and note the minutes of the following meetings:***

(i) ***The General Purpose & Planning Committee meetings, held on 14th September and 5th October 2021.***

(ii) ***The Policy & Finance Committee meeting held on 29th September 2021.***

(iii) ***The Colwyn in Bloom Committee Meeting, held on 21st September 2021.***

(iv) ***The Bonfire Sub-Committee, held on 11th October 2021.***

228/21 Matters Arising from Those Minutes:

(a) **Min. 154/21 (a) – Building Repairs:**

(i) The Clerk sought approval to pay an invoice for the works completed to date (£16,574.38 plus VAT).

Resolved to approve the payment of the invoice.

(ii) The Clerk submitted a brief verbal report on the reclaiming of VAT and reported that Conwy CBC's VAT Officer had been unable to provide advice, but initial advice has now been received from the SLCC approved Parkinson Associates and the Clerk will update her calculations, based on the new estimated costs, and provide an updated report to the next Policy and Finance Meeting.

(b) **Min 154/21(e) – Bonfire Sub-Committee:**

The Clerk submitted the draft minutes of the recent meeting and asked members to note the recommended increase in budget to cover additional staffing costs for CCBC Leisure/Parks staff and also the increased cost of fireworks.

(i) ***Resolved to approve an increase in the budget of £2,500, to cover the additional costs.***

(ii) The Clerk gave a verbal response to the environmental concerns, following the receipt of several complaints/concerns from Councillors and members of the public, particularly with regard to the swans in the boating lake. Councillors were also concerned about the wider environmental issues and felt the Council should discuss them at a future meeting. It was noted that the Clerk had been invited to attend a Conwy CBC briefing session on climate change/environmental matters and it was suggested that the separate meeting should take place after this session.

Resolved that an informal meeting of the Council be held to discuss wider environmental issues, prior to any formal review of the Bonfire Event.

(iii) The Clerk requested authority to procure the assistance of volunteer marshalls from St David's Hospice, in return for a donation to the Hospice, to supplement the volunteers from the Town Council and undertake traffic/parking/stewarding duties at the bonfire

event this year.

Resolved to approve the use of volunteer stewards from St David's Hospice.

(c) **Min 162/21(b) Bus Shelters:**

Resolved to endorse/adopt the policy for responding to requests for new bus shelters.

(d) **Min 104/21 & 210/21 – Community Noticeboards:**

Members noted that the order had been placed for a replacement oak framed noticeboard for Colwyn Avenue, Rhos on Sea and that a quote is being sought to replace the large community board by Station Steps in Colwyn Bay Town Centre.

(e) **Min 205/21 – Rhos Methodist Church:**

Members noted the further information received in connection with the proposed redevelopment of community facilities at the Church site.

(f) **Min 206/21 – Small Grants:**

Resolved to approve the payment of a small grant, as per Schedule C to the minutes.

(g) **Min 202/21 – Ward Allowances:**

The Clerk submitted a proposal from Cllr Matthews for a donation of £300 to the Kind Bay Initiative and asked members to note the deadline of the next Policy and Finance Meeting / full Council meeting for all outstanding project proposals for 2021/22 (with any underspent allowances being transferred to the small grants budget).

Resolved to approve the payment to Kind Bay Initiative.

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

229/21 Welsh Government: Members noted the following correspondence, submitted for consideration by the Clerk:

(a) Boundary Commission for Wales – proposals for changes to parliamentary constituencies in Wales. Councillors were concerned about the impact if Rhos on Sea moves into Aberconwy and the impact that will have on the Bay of Colwyn area and the effectiveness of us working with our AM directly. There was also some concern about school catchment areas.

Resolved to request that the Clerk submit objections to the proposed boundary changes.

(b) Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales – Members noted the draft report Annual Report for 2021/22.

(c) The Public Services Ombudsman for Wales (PSOW) – Members noted the proposed changes to the Ombudsman Guidance on Good Administrative practise.

230/21 Conwy CBC: Members noted the following reports/correspondence:

(a) Town Team: The Clerk gave a brief report on the recent meeting that she had attended. The Team will link to other local groups/bodies and will take forward Conwy's Cultural strategy. Members asked about representation on the group.

Resolved that the Clerk ask at a future meeting, if a Councillor can be appointed alongside the Clerk.

231/21 One Voice Wales:

The Clerk reported that the Bay of Colwyn Town Council had been invited to take part in a pilot for the new Community and Town Council Self-assessment toolkit, developed by SLCC/One Voice Wales and the Welsh Government, with assistance from Audit Wales.

Resolved that the Council offers to take part in the pilot.

232/21 Additional Correspondence:

(a) The Clerk submitted a letter from the Council's Solicitor, regarding a merger of practices, which was noted by members.

(b) **Confidential Item:**

In accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings Act) 1960 and with Standing Order no.68, it was RESOLVED that, in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it was advisable in the public interest that the press and public be temporarily excluded and they were instructed to withdraw.

The Clerk tabled an update from our insurer, Zurich, on a recent accident claim relating to a fall at the 2018 bonfire event. Members were asked for their initial views on a proposal from our insurer for a 50/50 liability split with Conwy CBC. Members expressed some concern about this, given that CCBC is the owner/manager of the wall within the park (which has now been removed). The Clerk was asked to respond to the insurer and provide a copy of the risk assessments for the 2018 and 2019 events.

Resolved to defer this item until more information has been received and delegate authority to the Policy & Finance Committee to respond.

The meeting closed at approx. 9pm

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