

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BAY OF COLWYN TOWN COUNCIL, HELD ONLINE (VIA ZOOM) AT 6.30^{PM} ON MONDAY 2nd DECEMBER 2024

- PRESENT:** The Mayor, Cllr R Owen (Chair)
Cllrs: P Ashe, C Bell, J Clayton, H Fleet, J Higgins, C Hughes,
A Jones, L Kennedy, T Maclean, S McAllister, D Wilkins, L Wilkins and G Wynne
- OFFICERS:** C Earley, Town Clerk and RFO
R Gill, Place Plan Officer and Deputy Clerk
R Dudley, Assistant Clerk
- VISITORS:** County Cllr C Carlisle, Sarah Ecob, Conwy CBC and Tom Ward, Community Hwb.
- ABSENT:** Cllr C Brockley and C Matthews

277/24 Welcome and Apologies for Absence:

Tribute was paid to Cllr Iain Mitchell, who had sadly passed away recently. A minute's silence was held, as a mark of respect.

The Chair welcomed members and visitors to the meeting. Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs D Carr, N Coverley, P Hughes, D Jones, A Khan, J Nuttall (due to a Deputy Mayoral engagement) and S Price. It was noted that Cllrs J Higgins would be joining the meeting later, as he was attending a School Governor's meeting, and D Wilkins due to a hospital appointment.

278/24 Announcements:

- (a) The Mayor thanked the staff for their hard work over the last few months in organising the various events which had taken place. He also thanked all members who had volunteered/attended these events. The Mayor said he was entering a busy period for Mayoral Engagements and had been to his first Carol Service last Saturday at St Paul's Church involving Cor Alaw, which was excellent and had been performed to a packed Church.
- (b) The Clerk thanked all Councillors who have submitted claim/forego forms for their members' allowances. Some were still outstanding and the Clerk requested that either they submit their claim, or send a brief email to confirm that that will not be claiming, by 15th December, as the projected expenditure for 2024/25 feeds into the budget setting process.
- (c) Sarah Ecob (CCBC) gave a brief update (for information only) on the progress of the commissioned Terry Jones Statue, which the public had donated to via crowd funding set up by the family.
Sarah Ecob retired from the meeting at this juncture

279/24 Declarations of Interest:

Members were reminded that they must declare the existence and nature of any personal and/or prejudicial interests. As a Director of the Hwb, Cllr T Maclean declared a personal/prejudicial interest with regard to item 4a (Presentation by Tom Ward) and Cllr Jason Higgins declared a personal/prejudicial interest with regard to item 6(d) (Small Grants – NWAMI).

280/24 Visitor(s) to the Council:

- (a) The Chair welcomed Tom Ward, Director of the Hwb, who had requested to attend to give a presentation on activities being facilitated at the Hwb, to support a Large Grant submission. Tom gave a brief introduction on his background and the idea behind the creation of the Hwb, which had initially been to help combat anti-social behaviour in the Town and give youngsters a place to meet. The Hwb now welcomes all age groups and activities taking place there on a regular basis include: cooking, numeracy, fitness classes, foodbank, gaming events, arts and crafts and music workshops. Tom said it was a 'whole community under one roof'. Youth Shedz and NextGen Youth also use the upper floor of the premises on 2 days a week. The Hwb will be open on Christmas Day for isolated people to enjoy lunch and watch Christmas films.

A brief question and answer session followed, with Members asking about safe guarding policies, domestic abuse training for volunteers and staff and attendance numbers at their activities. Tom responded that they do have a safe-guarding policy and all their volunteer adults will be attending training courses in the coming months, DBS checks are currently being done, but all the main organisers, including the youth organisers, are already DBS checked, numbers have been good for most activities but it does depend on the activity being offered. Tom said he is waiting for the outcome of a funding request to Llandrillo College for IT equipment and also Lottery funding towards a sensory room. The Chair thanked Tom for his report and also for his hard work in helping to make the Hwb into a Community asset.

Tom Ward retired from the meeting at this juncture

- (b) No Reports or verbal updates from any County Councillors were received.
(c) Public participation: no members of the public were present.
(d) Members noted that Darren Millar will be attending the January Meeting and questions (if detailed) can be submitted in advance, via the Clerk.

281/24 Minutes

- (a) ***Resolved to receive, approve and sign, as a correct record, the minutes of the last Ordinary Meeting of the Council, held on 21s October 2024.***
(b) ***Resolved to receive and note the minutes of the following meetings:***
(i) ***The General Purpose & Planning Committees, held on 29th October & 19th November 2024 (draft).***
(ii) ***The Policy & Finance Committee, held on 13th November 2024 (draft).***
(iii) ***The Old Colwyn War Memorial Committee, held on 30th September 2024 (draft)***

282/24 Matters Arising from Those Minutes:

- (a) Min. 238/24(a) – Town Hall Tower Repairs: The Clerk reported that the Stonemasons are on site daily and hope to finish before Christmas.
(a) Min. 238/24(d) – Rear Annexe Heating: Members noted that a replacement boiler from the local contractor (the cheaper of the three quotes received) will come with a five-year guarantee, subject to annual servicing by a competent person, and that the outcome of the CVSC grants panel meeting should be known later this month.

Resolved that the quote from local contractor be accepted and for the Clerk to check his availability for January, pending receipt of a decision on the grant funding.

- (b) Min. 240/24(c) – Public Conveniences: Members received a verbal update from the Clerk and detailed notes were submitted, following a recent meeting with CCBC to explore options for the future sustainability of public conveniences. Members noted that further discussion had taken place last week with staff from Venue Cymru about options and possible sources of funding to provide accessible public toilet facilities within the Porth Eirias site.
- (c) Min. 265/24 (a) – Small Grants:
Resolved to approve payment of the urgent small grants, as detailed in Schedule B to those minutes.
- (d) Min. 265/24(b) – Wellbeing and Large Grants:
Resolved to approve the recommendations of the committee in respect of the launch of wellbeing grants of (£501 to £2,000 and approve adjustments to the criteria for large grants from 2025/26 onwards, clarifying that these will be for £2,001 and above.
- (e) Min. 265/24(c) – Youth Grants:
Resolved to approve payment of a youth grant, as detailed in Schedule C to those minutes.
- (f) Min. 265/24(d) – Events Grant:
Resolved to approve payment of an events grant, as detailed in Schedule D to those minutes.
- (g) Min. – Members noted the response from ERF regarding the proposed extension of the Parking Control Zone on Colwyn Bay Promenade.
- (h) ***Resolved to note the resolutions of the Committees, as detailed in the Minutes.***

283/24 Welsh Government – Members received and noted the following correspondence:

- (a) Public Consultation: Consideration of UK Covid-19 Inquiry Module 1 - Resilience and Preparedness of the United Kingdom

284/24 Conwy CBC:

- (a) Financial Support: The Clerk submitted a letter from the Head of Finance requesting financial support for a number of services for 2025/26. It was noted that additional requests may be received from ERF/others during the next month, as all services are reviewing service provision and budgets in line with anticipated budget cuts. The Clerk submitted the following additional information, in connection with some of the requests for support:
 - (i) Public conveniences – notes from recent meetings held with Gary Williams (ERF) and Sarah Ecob (re: Porth Eirias)
 - (ii) Paddling Pool – breakdown of estimated costs for 2025/26
 - (iii) CCTV – interim update – Members were made aware that NW Police pay less towards the CCTV than the Town Council is being asked for.
Resolved to write to North Wales Police to ask for them to consider increasing their contribution to the CCTV provision in the Conwy area, given the support that it gives to their officers.
 - (iv) The additional 'events' funding requests for Theatre/Oriel Colwyn, including Northern Eye, Film screenings and GOGS festival.
Resolved to notify the officers concerned that these should be submitted as separate Events Grant applications, as has happened previously (and requiring a SLA and

evaluation form if approved).

(b) Gardd Pawb:

(i) ***Resolved to approve and authorise the signing of a lease, by the Mayor/Deputy Mayor and the Clerk to sign the Statutory Declaration, in respect of the land at the rear of the Town Hall, for Gardd Pawb, subject to a request that the photographs in Appendix A being changed to ones prior to commencement of works (showing that the alley was unusable by vehicles).***

(ii) The Clerk reported on vandalism damage to side wooden gate, which had been reported to NW Police (cost of repair/replacement posts is £350).

Resolved to defer any decision on repairs, pending budget update when works have been completed.

(iii) Members noted that the public gardening session this Saturday may have to be postponed, due to bad weather and efforts are instead being made to engage with children at local primary school, with a view to planting daffodil bulbs in pots for decorating/growing on at home and bringing to the proposed open day on 1st March 2025.

(c) Llenwi Mural Update: Members noted the update.

285/24 Finance and Governance:

(a) Model Financial Regulations: To consider the adoption of the new model financial regulations

Resolved to recommend that the Clerk prepares the draft FRs, using current FRs for guidance, and submits to the next P&F meeting, in January, before approval by Council later in January.

(b) CCLA: members noted correspondence to explain the changes being made to the fund's prospectus in relation to the implementation of the Financial Conduct Authority's Sustainability Disclosure Requirements

(c) Colwyn Place Plan: Members noted that the Steering Committee is meeting later this week to consider priority projects for 2025/26 and received an update from the Clerk and the Deputy Clerk regarding potential requirements for match-funding for projects for 2025/26, to include:

(i) Place Plan Project Manager – extension of role from September 2025 for a further two years.

(ii) Interpretation Panels – potential match-funding of £4,000 to replace panels in the Bay of Colwyn area (subject to outcome of funding application being made by CCBC).

(d) Town Hall CCTV: ***Resolved to approve a quote for the replacement of the screen and recorder, for which parts are no longer available.***

286/24 Events:

(a) Colwyn Lights Event: The Chair gave a brief report from the event and commented how well it had been attended.

Resolved to write to the Town Team to thank them for all their hard work organising the event and to offer the Town Council's support for next year. Further resolved to authorise payment of the invoice for Santa and his sleigh to attend.

(b) Santa's Grotto: ***Resolved to authorise payment of the invoice for the grotto.***

- (c) St David's Day 2025 –The Clerk reported that as St David's Day falls on a Saturday during half term next year, there would be no school parade through town. Gardd Pawb will have its launch day (for the general public) on St David's Day and local children may be given daffodils to plant on in pots at an organised planting session, which could then be decorated and brought along to the launch. Members confirmed that would be happy to support any other organisations who may wish to organise a parade or festivities to celebrate St David's Day.
- (d) VE Day 80 2025 – Members noted guidance on taking part and also information about commemorative benches. The Clerk reported on the many ways the Council could help to commemorate the special occasion, such as purchasing a flag to raise at 9am and/or making small events grants available for community settings wanting to provide fish and chips / lantern lighting and/or speaking to the Vicar re: bell ringing/lighting a lamp of peace at 9:30pm (to be re-lit every 11am on 11/11). The Clerk was asked to enquire if any other designs of the bench were available.
- Resolved to defer this item to the next Meeting and Members were asked to bring any ideas to that meeting.***

287/24 Representatives on Outside Bodies: Members noted reports from the Clerk and/or Members who are representatives of the Council on outside bodies, to include:

- (a) Theatre Colwyn Joint Management Committee meeting, held on 28th October.
- (b) CSE Energy Learning Network – notes from the initial meeting held on 13th November.
- (c) Menter Iaith – As the Town Council representative, Cllr J Higgins reported on the various events at INK over past 12 months, e.g. talk nights, quiz, bingo talent show all promoting the welsh language.

288/24 One Voice Wales / NALC / Society of Local Council Clerks:

- (a) Members noted the report from the Conwy & Denbighshire Area Committee meeting on 27th November from Cllr P Ashe. Members were asked to consider supporting Cllr Ashe's request to be nominated to fill the vacancy on the OVW National Exec Committee.
- Resolved to nominate Cllr Ashe to the OVW National Exec Committee.***
- (b) Members noted the information about Peace Ambassadors
 - (c) The Clerk submitted notes following a recent joint training conference which were noted by members.
 - (d) The Clerk submitted a report from the One Voice Wales National Conference 2024 which was noted by members.
 - (e) The Clerk reported on action taken to date, and actions that need to be taken to amend Terms of Reference for some of our committees and sub-committees, after receiving an advice note from NALC (via OVW) regarding the voting rights of Non-elected members on Committees. Several sub committees/committees terms of reference would need to be reviewed/amended, including the Colwyn in Bloom, Volunteer Awards, Climate & Nature S-C and the Place Plan Steering Committee.
 - (f) Members noted the OVW Article on Training for Councillors
 - (g) OVW Empowering Councils to address food poverty webinar—no reports had been received from Member(s).
 - (h) Members noted Top 10 Things to Do for Councils – guidance note.

289/24 Other Correspondence:

- (a)** North Wales Fire & Rescue Service – Members noted the document: Our five principles for keeping communities safe - have your say
- (b)** Members noted receipt of a donation of £500 to the Mayor's Charity account from Llanfairfechan Town Council (for old Christmas lights that were being disposed of).

The meeting closed at 8.30pm

..... Chair