



Minutes of a meeting of the Colwyn in Bloom Committee of the Bay of Colwyn Town Council, held in the Committee Room, Town Hall, Colwyn Bay at 2pm on Tuesday 15th April 2025

PRESENT: Chair: Ingrid Lewis (IL)
Cllrs: Chris Brockley (CB) (via zoom), Chris Hughes (CH), Tom Maclean (TMc),
Community Reps: Chris Hemmings (CHe),
Conwy CBC: Roy McElroy (RMc)

OFFICERS: Tina Earley (TE), Town Clerk & Finance Officer
R Dudley (RD), Assistant Clerk & Secretary

482/24 Welcome and Apologies for Absence

- a) The Chair welcomed members to the meeting. Tribute was paid to Cllr Colin Matthews, who had sadly passed away recently. It was noted the Town Council would send condolences to his family.
- b) Apologies for absence were received from David Birtwistle, Peter Barton-Price, and Cllr H Fleet.

483/24 Minutes:

Resolved to receive the notes of the last informal meeting of the Committee, held on 22nd January 2025.

484/24 Matters arising from Last Meeting:

a) Min 367/24(a) Porth Eirias Planting:

IL provided a verbal update on a recent meeting with Conwy CBC (Venue Cymru) regarding the planting beds at Porth Eirias and a site meeting concerning a Social Value offer/initiative. Conwy CBC officers had expressed a willingness to collaborate and acknowledged that action is needed; however, they confirmed that no funding is currently available. It was noted that future car park income could potentially support the project, as funds generated from parking charges will be earmarked for that area.

The site meeting with a developer regarding social value and community funding was described as positive. There is hope that the Council's project will be selected, in which case the developer may be willing to provide tools and manpower to assist with clearing and tidying the area. A formal proposal will be submitted to the company for consideration. CH also informed the Committee that, should Conwy CBC's Brilliant Basics funding bid be successful, modifications will be made to the exterior of the building to provide access to public conveniences. CH also recommended that CiB contact Charley Hawes, Local Places for Nature Officer, to explore potential funding opportunities for any replacement planting.

Resolved that RD be asked to contact the Local Places for Nature Officer to

discuss possible funding support for the project.

b) Min 367/24(b): Beach of Dreams:

TE provided a verbal update on progress with the Beach of Dreams Project. The main exhibition and event will take place during Prom Extra on 10th May. Ten silk pennants have been created by local community groups, including Colwyn in Bloom, and will be paraded along the waterfront as part of the celebration. Visiting Town Councils will also be attending with their own pennants. A joint Town Council/Colwyn in Bloom stand will be present in the dedicated Eco-zone at the event, and volunteers will be needed to help staff it throughout the day. Approximately 700 pennants will be on display on the beach (weather permitting!), and visiting groups will be invited to take to the stage to share their aims and aspirations. The event will also feature free activities for families. Members were provided with a copy of the information panel for the 3 AR plaques, which also form part of the Beach of Dreams display. The plaques, designed by artist Jason Singh, will feature augmented reality technology, allowing digital images to come to life.

TE was thanked for her hard work and dedication in advancing the project.

c) Min 370/24(c): Train Station Volunteer Scheme:

Members noted the positive response received from Transport for Wales.

RD was asked to follow up to confirm whether a visit had been made to Bryn Eurny Nursery and if a decision had been taken to purchase plants from the Nursery.

d) Min 376/24©: Three Tier Planter on Abergele Road:

It was noted that no response had yet been received regarding the proposed relocation of the planter to Gardd Pawb.

RD was asked to follow this up.

e) Mn 377/24: Plastic Recycling Sculpture:

Members noted that the matter of new sculpture(s) had been referred to the Green Colwyn Place Plan Working Group, and suggestions had been invited for the Committee's consideration. CH proposed the idea of installing more Toy Library boxes—potentially boat-themed—for the collection and re-use of used or left-behind toys. He commented on the popularity of a similar initiative funded by T4CBay on Colwyn Bay beach, which is managed by T4CBay volunteers. It was suggested that the Friends of Rhos on Sea/Rhos Beach litter-picking group could help monitor the boxes and contribute any suitable leftover toys.

CH confirmed he would forward details of the T4CB quotation for the Committee's consideration.

f) Finance Report:

TE gave a verbal report on the financial statement for 2024/25 and the Committee's budget for 2025/26.

485/24 Colwyn in Bloom Competition:

a) Presentation Evening:

Members noted the date of the presentation evening is Thursday 9th October 2025, to be held at Colwyn Bay Cricket Club.

b) Members noted the information regarding a hanging basket audit from Dave Birtwistle.

RD was asked to contact community groups/schools to see if they wanted any of the old green hanging baskets/barrier planters.

- c) Members noted that, to date, no invoice has been received from Conwy CBC for the taking down of the up-the-poles planters, following damage which occurred when dismantling them last year.

RD was asked to contact the Nursery to see if they can be repaired and reused this year.

- d) Members noted that information about the hanging basket scheme has been circulated/shared and orders are being received. Closing date is 16th May 2025.
- e) Members noted the Colwyn in Bloom main competition will be launched this month and entry forms will be shared. Closing date 27th June 2025.

f) Schools:

- i) Members noted the information about the Art/Garden competition has been sent to all schools and entries are being received. Closing date is 20th June 2025.
- ii) Members were asked to consider requests from Ysgol Llandrillo yn Rhos, Ysgol Pen y Bryn and Ysgol Iau Hen Golwyn for small grants for their school gardens.
Resolved to approve a small grant of £150 for each school for their school gardens.
- iii) TMac gave a verbal report regarding a 'Tatties and Carrots' competition he is hoping to organise for the schools and local organisations for next year. The Committee supported the idea in principle.

TMc was asked to bring a more detailed proposal to the next meeting.

486/24 Wales in Bloom:

- a) It was noted that the Chair of Wales in Bloom, PBP, had given apologies for the meeting.
- b) Members noted the copy of the judging timings for 2025 and also that our entry has been submitted.

Resolved to approve payment of the entry fee.

- c) Members considered a request from Bryn Euryn Nursery to include the newly re-developed nursery in the Judge's tour and to explore the possibility of using their café for the post-tour reception. Members were supportive of the request in principle; however, it was noted that the tour route would need to be planned carefully, and catering costs from the café should be obtained for consideration.

Resolved to delegate authority to IL, PBP and RD to finalise the tour route and obtain catering costs, before confirming the inclusion of the nursery and café.

487/24 Climate and Nature Emergency:

It was noted a meeting will be convened in the next month. The minutes of the meeting will be shared with this Committee.

488/24 Gardd Pawb:

- a) Members received and noted the evaluation report and participants evaluation data. It was noted that the project had been completed on time and all grant funding has been received.
- b) TE gave a brief verbal report regarding the finance report. It was noted that

£1,500 staff costs had been included in grant funding received, which could be earmarked for another use (with Council permission).

- c) Members noted data regarding volunteer activity tracking.
- d) Members were asked to consider funding a prize for the sunflower competition launched at the opening of Gardd Pawb.

Resolved to recommend the purchase of book tokens as prizes. Value to be agreed once the number of winners was known, with funding possibly to come from the Mayor's allowance.

- CHe left the meeting whilst the following item was discussed

- e) Quotations:

- i) Members received and considered a quotation from CHe for the continued delivery of monthly 4-hour gardening sessions from April to October inclusive. The purpose of the sessions is to encourage local engagement and provide opportunities to learn transferable skills. It was noted that £1,500 grant funding allocated for staff time (project evaluation) could potentially be used to support this initiative, with a further evaluation of the sessions to take place in October.

Resolved to accept the quotation for £1,400 to continue with the monthly gardening sessions, as outlined.

- ii) ***Resolved to accept a quote from Thomas Jones for water harvesting from the rear annexe roof.***

- f) Members considered strategies for recruiting more volunteers for the Friends of Gardd Pawb. It was noted that some attendees at the March 1st launch event had signed up to receive future email communications. Concerns were raised regarding the low attendance at the Saturday sessions, and it was suggested that after-school sessions, or Sundays, might prove more convenient for volunteer engagement with local families.

It was further proposed that volunteer sign-ups could be encouraged through a presence at the Prom Extra event stall.

- g) TE provided an update on the current water situation. It was reported that one of the containers had been filled and used to water the garden; however, it had subsequently been emptied. As a preventative measure, a quotation for locks has been requested to secure the containers and avoid further loss of water.

489/24 Presentations: Members noted the reports from attendees and that the following slides are available on request:

- a) **Becoming a Bat Friendly Community**– attended by TMac on 29th January (Report attached)
- b) **Wormeries** – attended by TMac on 24th February. (Report attached)
- c) **Seals –Wales Giant Pandas: Due to connection issues**, TMac was unable to attend this session.

TMac was thanked for his detailed reports.

490/24 Beach Road, Old Colwyn:

Members received and considered an email, accompanied by photographs, from a resident concerning the condition of Beach Road in Old Colwyn. The resident had also contacted County Councillor Gail Jones and Conwy CBC, as the land in question

is under the ownership of Conwy CBC. It was noted that Old Colwyn Scouts have previously helped to clear areas in the locality.

Resolved to contact County Councillor G Jones and provide her with the Scouts' contact details to explore whether they would be willing to volunteer to clear the area.

491/24 Colwyn Bay Heritage Society:

Members received and considered an email from the Society regarding a proposal to plant up the flower beds at the top of the former Civic Centre driveway, as part of their 150th anniversary celebrations. The Committee was informed by Roy that the flower beds may now be under the ownership of the new proprietors of the Civic Centre. As an alternative, it was suggested that a flower bed in Queen's Gardens could be considered for the planting.

Resolved to ask RD to contact the Society and share the Committee's observations and suggestion.

492/24 Sea-Changers Coastal Fountain Fund 2025:

a) Members noted the information about the fund.

b) ***RD was asked to follow up the enquiry with Conwy CBC about the fountain in Queen's Gardens.***

493/24 Happy Gardening Community Week:

Members noted a community gardening update from RHS. The Town Council had promoted Gardd Pawb as part of community gardening week.

494/24 Social Media:

Members were asked to submit any suggestions for any future topics.

495/24 News:

a) A reminder was given to Committee Members to submit any news items or to report on any activities which they have been involved in since the last meeting. Anything reported can also be included in the face-book page. A reminder was also given to let the Secretary know of any events, so the portfolio calendar of events can be updated.

b) CHE reported he had missed the deadline for IYN and wanted to enter Station Steps, Bible Garden and the Library.

RD was asked to contact WIB to ask if late entries could accepted and also to check the Railway Station had bene entered.

496/24 Date of next meeting:

It was noted that a 'save the date' will be sent once the meeting date has been agreed.

The meeting closed at 3.45p.m.

..... Chairman