



**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 Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2025**

**PRESENT:** Chair: Ingrid Lewis (IL)  
Cllrs: Chris Hughes (CH), Tom Maclean (TMc),  
Community Reps: Chris Hemmings (CHe), Paul Richards (PR), Hannah Fleet (HF)  
Conwy CBC: Roy McElroy (RMc)

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

**365/24 Welcome and Apologies for Absence**

- a) The Chair welcomed members to the meeting and congratulated the Committee on achieving Gold both in Wales and Britain in Bloom. The Chair also said how excellent the Presentation evening in October had been.
- b) Apologies for absence were received from David Birtwistle, Cllr Chris Brockley, Peter Barton-Price, Cllr Colin Matthews and Mags Richardson.

**366/24 Minutes:**

*Resolved to approve, as a correct record, the notes of the last informal meeting, held on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2024.*

**367/24 Matters arising from Minutes:**

- a) **Min 438/23(c) Porth Eirias Planting** – Members noted that no response had been received from Conwy CBC regarding the planting at Porth Eirias. The Secretary was asked to chase this up.
- b) **Min 438/23(e): Beach of Dreams:**  
TE gave a brief verbal update regarding the progress with the Beach of Dreams project and the Colwyn in Bloom silk pennant. A workshop had been held in December to explain the process for designing the silk pennants and this had been attended by representatives from various groups, including the Clerk and Chair of Colwyn in Bloom. The final pennant designs need to be submitted by all of the local groups by 13<sup>th</sup> February. Colwyn Bay's pennants will then form part of the exhibition of up to 1,000 which will be touring Britain's coastline during May. Members of the Committee were encouraged to join the parade along the Promenade, which will take place at the Prom Extra Event on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May. Timings are yet to be finalised, but further details will be circulated to all in due course. It was noted that there will be a meeting after the Committee Meeting today for the Chair, Clerk, Secretary and Place Plan manager to discuss and finalise the design for the Town Council's Colwyn In Bloom pennant.

### **368/24 Finance Report:**

- a) TE gave a verbal report on the budget for 2024/25, advising that it looks like there will be a small underspend. An amount had been set aside this year for the purchase of more of the medium-sized self-watering baskets for businesses, as demand for these is higher than for the larger ones. It was noted that this is to be discussed later in the agenda. There is also a budget of £500 available towards schools' garden projects and an earmarked reserve remains for an additional sculpture for the Imagine Trail. It was noted that TE will submit the new year (2025/26) budget, with suggested amounts, to the next meeting for consideration.

### **369/24 Colwyn in Bloom Competition:**

a) **Presentation Evening:**

Members were asked to consider the location and date of the presentation evening. Members agreed that the Cricket Club was ideal for the presentation and ***Resolved to instruct the Secretary to book this for Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2025.***

- b) Members received and noted information from Dave Birtwistle regarding the pricing of the business baskets for 2025 and also the town centre and Town Hall planting scheme for 2025. It was noted that there was only a small increase on last year's prices.

***Resolved to accept the quote from the Nursery and confirm the order for 2025.***

- c) Members noted (for information) an email from Street Lighting regarding licences for lamp columns, confirming there will be no license required or charge for installing hanging baskets on the columns.
- d) RD gave an update on the damage which occurred to the up the poles when Street Lighting operatives were dismantling/removing them last year. Holes had been drilled in the bottom of the baskets to drain them, thus damaging the water reservoirs. The nursery has said they may be able to carry out temporary repairs, so they can be used again this year. No invoice had been received, as yet, from Conwy CBC, but depending on any reduction offered, in lieu of the damage caused, this may need to be referred back to Committee for consideration. Members noted that it would not be worth considering replacing the up-the-pole planters until any plans to re-design the town centre streetscape have been seen.
- e) RD submitted a quotation from the existing contractor for the watering of the town centre hanging baskets, barrier planters and up-the-pole planters and also for a weekly watering for the Edibles Planters at Station Steps (as the train station had stopped allowing access to water) and at Gardd Pawb (as a backup, if sufficient volunteers are not available). It was noted that 3 quotations would usually be needed for a contract of this amount, but that last time the Committee had sought competitive quotes for this contract, those from local landscape or gardening contractors had been much higher. There has also been little change in the amount charged by the current contractor during the past five years and he has been very supportive in reporting any damage and carrying out additional watering, if/when instructed.

***Resolved to recommend that the Council agrees to waive financial regulations for this year and to award the Town Centre watering contract to A&D Watering.***

***Further resolved to set additional funds aside in the budget for weekly watering***

*for the edibles planters, if the water situation with the railway station can't be resolved, and also watering for Gardd Pawb, if sufficient volunteers are not available.*

f) **Schools:**

*Resolved that the theme of Sunflowers would be chosen for the school's competition, to link in with activity at Gardd Pawb this year.*

**370/24 Wales in Bloom:**

a) It was noted that the Chair of Wales in Bloom, PBP, had given apologies for the meeting.

b) RD submitted the results and judge's report from 2024. Members agreed the report had been excellent.

*Resolved to ask RD to contact Phil Vipond, Conwy CBC, to enquire about the fountain in Queen's Gardens, so the Committee can consider funding its repair.*

c) RD submitted a copy of the IYN entry form for 2025 and the Committee considered how best to publicise the award scheme to local groups. CHe reported that he had several new entrants for 2025.

*Resolved to ask RD to send a copy of the entry form out with the school competition form and to copy this to the Town Council appointed school governors, so that they can encourage schools to enter.*

PR reported about the train station and the scheme the train station had introduced for volunteers, which had restricted options for purchasing plants and had therefore reduced the amount of plants available.

*Resolved to ask RD to contact Malcolm Worth, one of the volunteers at the Train Station, to find out more about the voucher scheme introduced, before any approach is made formally to Transport for Wales.*

*Further Resolved to approve payment of the entry fee for Wales in Bloom.*

**371/24 Britain in Bloom:**

a) RD submitted the results and Judges' report from 2024. Once again it was agreed that the report was excellent and it was noted that verbal feedback from the judges had confirmed that the finalists' marks had all been very close. The Judges had commented that more mention could be made of the wind turbines and the positive impacts they have had on the coastline.

b) IL congratulated Peter Barton-Price on his Champion Award from RHS and explained the nomination had come from BIB.

c) The Committee congratulated Friends of Eirias Park for their RHS Community Award.

**372/24 Climate and Nature Emergency:**

Members noted the minutes of the meetings held on 7<sup>th</sup> June and 4<sup>th</sup> December 2024.

*- Cllr CH left at this juncture*

**373/24 Gardd Pawb:**

a) TE gave a brief verbal update on the progress with the garden. Gardd Pawb is looking good and TE thanked CHe for all his hard work with the gardening sessions.

The weather had been a challenge for attracting volunteers during recent months, but sessions were being advertised on the Town Council Social channels. The official opening is planned for Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> March and the local community and particularly families are being encouraged to attend. As grant funding will end in March 2025, CIB will need to factor in funding in a budget for ongoing maintenance. More volunteers will need to be recruited and people encouraged to use the garden. Links have been made with the Hwb next door to the Town Hall, Ysgol Meithrin and the Douglas Road Family centre. CH reported that it would be of benefit if we could provide direct access to the garden from the Hwb, but the preferred route via the shared Town Hall / St Paul's car park can be congested and is therefore considered to be too dangerous for families to use as an open access route. There is, however, potential to install a padlocked gate to give direct access, which could be used under supervision. It was noted that this would be via land owned by St Paul's and permission would therefore be required from the Church.

***Resolved, in the first instance, to enquire if permission would be given (by the Church) for a padlocked gate to be installed to give direct access for Gardd Pawb from The Hwb.***

- b) It was noted that TE had sent an email to ERF regarding litter /street cleaning as she had been concerned that litter was not being picked up on Albert Place by the street cleaning operative. This situation has since improved, but would need to be monitored. Much of the litter appears to be coming from overflowing bins at the rear access to properties on Albert Place.
- c) Members noted a report on damage to the wooden gate at the garden. The gate appeared to have been kicked open and the post had been damaged. There had also been a report of youngsters climbing on the roof of the rear storeroom, using the nearby planters to aid them, and potential solutions were being sought from the builder, possibly to include anti-climb measures for the wall behind the planters. TE will report back to the next meeting.
- d) Tree Planters: Members were asked to consider the purchase of three large Tree Planters for Gardd Pawb. The Local Rugby team (RGC) had offered to assist at a planting session on 20<sup>th</sup> February.

***Resolved to delegate authority to Clerk to purchase 3 large tree planters and arrange the delivery to the Town Hall, ready for the planting session on 20<sup>th</sup> February.***

**374/24 Presentations:** Members noted the reports from attendees and that the following slides are available on request:

- a) **Allotment Forum Gathering**– attended by TMc on 17<sup>th</sup> July. It was noted Allotments feed into the Green Place Plan Objectives.
- b) **Biodiversity Launch** – attended by TMc on 13<sup>th</sup> February. It was noted that there was huge awareness in schools about the dangers that society is doing to Biodiversity. CIB needs to continue to raise awareness of Biodiversity.
- c) **Green Prescribing** – attended by TMc on 26<sup>th</sup> June.

**375/24 Toolkits:** Members noted information about:

- a) Creating clean ponds.

b) Hedgehogs

**376/24 Planters:**

- a) Members received an update on planters being stored at the nursery and noted that requests had been received from Ysgol Llandrillo yn Rhos and the Daffodil Centre, but the planters were not suitable for their requirements.
- b) Members noted a thank you letter from Alabare Veterans, who had been donated barrier planters.
- c) RD submitted a quote for the purchase of additional medium sized hanging baskets and members were asked to consider the purchase of 30 to replenish the stocks stored at the Nursery. PR commented that the 3 Tier planter, which had been relocated and planted/maintained by a business on Abergele Road, was now unused. It was suggested this could be emptied and moved elsewhere, e.g. to Gardd Pawb.

***Resolved to approve the purchase of 30 medium sized hanging baskets from Amberon (to match existing).***

**377/24 Plastic Recycling Sculpture:**

RD submitted an email and photographs of a fish shaped metal mesh recycling container, which had been offered free from NW Wildlife Trust and could be used as part of the sculpture trail to encourage the disposal of single use plastic bottles for recycling. Members were asked to consider if there is a suitable location for the sculpture, e.g. on the beach, and/or if they wished to reconsider the whale bottle bank available from Blachere Illumination to encourage recycling of plastic bottles and demonstrating how these can be recycled to create frames for festive motifs. Some members felt that plastic recycling sculptures were a bit outdated now and the message should be to use less single-use plastic. Members were reminded that there is still money in the budget reserved for a sculpture (with part of the funds allocated towards something to be located in Rhos on Sea). Members were reminded that the climb-on boat sculpture discussed for the Rhos Orchard site had not been progressed, due to concerns that this may be considered as play equipment and therefore require robust risk assessment and management. Suggestions for possible locations for an additional Imagine trail sculpture were made for either Rhos Park, or in the grounds of the URC Church. HF reported that engagement/surveys had taken place about suggestions for Rhos Park, which could be shared.

***Resolved to refer this to the Green Colwyn Place Plan Working Group for further consideration.***

**378/24 One Voice Wales:** Members noted information and nomination form for environmental awards.

**379/24 Social Media:**

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

**380/24 News:**

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.

**381/24 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 4p.m.

..... Chairman