



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 6th January 2026

PRESENT: Chair: Paul Richards (PR)
Cllrs: Chris Brockley (CB), Hannah Fleet (HF) and Chris Hughes (CH)
Community Reps: Chris Hemmings (CHe)

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Place Plan Promoting a Greener Colwyn Working Group Members:
Matthew Day (MD) and Des Mahoney (DM)

ABSENT: Cllr Tom Maclean

322/25 Welcome and Apologies for Absence

- a) As the Chair, Ingrid Lewis, had submitted apologies, the Vice Chair, Paul Richards took the Chair and welcomed members to the meeting. The Clerk informed the Committee that the Place Plan Promoting a Greener Colwyn Working Group Members had been invited to attend, as the two groups have similar remits/objectives and it would be beneficial for both groups to understand each other's current priorities and to work more closely together, wherever possible.
- b) The Chair informed the Committee that Mags Richardson has been admitted into a long term care facility and will no longer be able to be a Committee member. Mags has been a long standing active member of Colwyn in Bloom.
Resolved to thank Mags for her long service to the committee and wish her well.
- c) Apologies for absence were received from:
CIB Committee: Rachael Gill, Cllrs A Jones & A Khan, David Birtwistle, Peter Barton-Price.
- d) Members noted the resignation from the Committee by Conwy CBC representative Roy McElroy. Roy would be greatly missed as a Committee member.
Resolved to write a letter of thanks for his time and efforts during his time on the Committee and to copy to Roy's Line Manager.
- e) The Clerk submitted the Terms of Reference for the Committee and members noted that voting rights of non-members are restricted to items relating to land management (e.g. Gardd Pawb) and anything related to the Wales/Colwyn in Bloom activities (which use the power to attract visitors to the town). Any other items will need to be referred back to the Council for ratification.
It was noted that there were several vacancies which need filling: Business, Residents Associations, ERF and Community Representatives.

Resolved to prepare a brief written invite for business reps for Colwyn Bay, Old Colwyn and Rhos on Sea to join the committee (for sharing by members with any business they feel may be interested), to send an invitation to appoint a rep to Old Colwyn Resident's Association, and to invite Conwy CBC officers: C Howells and L Ackerley (Open Spaces and Local Places for Nature Officer) to join the committee, to replace those who have stood down.
Further resolved to appoint Des Maloney to fill a vacancy, as a representative of the Friends of Rhos on Sea.

323/25 Minutes:

Resolved to approve, as a correct record, the notes of the last informal meeting, held on 2nd July 2025.

324/25 Matters arising from Minutes:

- a) **Min 71/25(b) Porth Eirias Planting** – Members noted there was no further update regarding the potential social benefit funding (from a proposed development), which might be available to use towards clearing/replanting for Porth Eirias roof planters. This item would only be brought back to the agenda if/when any further update is received.
- b) **Min 71/25(d): Train Station Volunteer Scheme:** Members noted the response from TFW, confirming that they would support the local nursery in future.
- c) **Min 71/25(f): Plastic Recycling Sculpture:** The Clerk informed members that the Place Plan Advisory Committee were progressing with a 'Wild about Colwyn' sculpture project, linking the town to the Zoo and its important conservation work. It was also noted that Cllr C Hughes, who was researching information regarding a Toy Library, is still chasing the companies who he contacted and would bring any information back to the Committee. He advised that only black boards were currently available (from those companies that had responded).
A member suggested that we look to have more sculptures to encourage recycling, but members noted issues with regards to waste collection/emptying costs and mixed plastics, which can all increase ongoing revenue costs.
Resolved to defer this until further information is available about the Wild about Colwyn sculpture trail proposal.

325/25 Finance Report:

- a) TE submitted the income/expenditure report for the year to date and gave a verbal report. The invoice from street lighting for installing and removing the up-the-poles (£1,800) has not been received. Savings had been made, as the Colwyn in Bloom portfolio had been done in-house this year. There is money still available in the budget for community planting projects. A budget of £18,000 is being recommended to Council for 2026/27, plus any underspend from this current year. It was agreed that this should be sufficient to cover the Committee's core costs for 2026/27.
Resolved to thank RD and RG for their work compiling the portfolio for the Wales in Bloom entry in-house this year.
- b) The Colwyn in Bloom Asset Register was submitted and the Clerk gave a brief verbal report, asking members to consider which individual items need to be

insured.

Resolved to update the Asset Register and recommend that all individual planters/baskets are not insured, due to their age and the low risk of theft or damage.

326/25 Colwyn in Bloom Competition:

a) Presentation Evening:

Members were asked to consider the location and date of the presentation evening for October 2026. The evening had been held previously in the Cricket club on the second Thursday in October. RD had been informed that the caterer had changed in the Cricket Club.

Resolved to instruct the Secretary to seek quotations from various establishments and confirm capacity/suitability for the Presentation Evening, which is to be held on Thursday 8th October 2026.

b) Members received and noted information from Dave Birtwistle regarding the pricing of the business baskets for 2026 and also the town centre and a reduced Town Hall planting display for 2026. 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 2026.

c) Trophy Replacement programme:

Resolved to buy 2 replacement trophies for Classes 1b (Commercial) and 5 (Churches) this year as agreed as part of a rolling replacement programme

d) The Clerk reported on a meeting with Bryn Euryn Nursery to discuss the planting scheme. It was noted that there had been issues with the town centre baskets this year and more sustainable planting/drought tolerant plants had been suggested. Compost needs to be regularly checked for drying out and the clear instructions need to be given to our watering contractor to water from the top, as well as filling the reservoir, to avoid any similar issues in the future. To help cover the extra planting cost, it was agreed that the plant display at the Town Hall can be scaled back, as there is no longer a Public Buildings Class and the judges are unlikely to end their tour at the Town Hall.

DB reported that there had also been issues again this year with the removal of the up-the-pole planters and bolts had been lost when they were being removed to allow the water to drain away. DB suggested reducing the poles to 1.8m in height, so installation/removal could be back in the control of the Bryn Euryn gardening team.

Resolved to seek quotes from three contractors for reducing the twelve poles to a maximum of 1.8m and re-painting/straightening any that need attention.

It was noted that the Council is required to seek renewed contractor quotes for contracts every 3-5 years, to ensure best value is obtained, so the Committee is advised to seek three quotations for the watering/feeding contract this year.

Resolved to put a call-out via social media and to also ask Members to submit contact details for any contractors they know who may be willing/able to quote for this work (a vehicle with a large water tanker would be needed)

e) Schools:

Members were asked to consider the theme for the school's art competition.

RD had been on the RHS website to see what themes they were adopting for 2026 and taking into consideration the ages of the children that enter (typically 4-7 year olds).

Resolved that the theme 'Power of the Flower' be used for the school's art competition

327/25 Wales in Bloom:

- a) It was noted that the Chair of Wales in Bloom, PB-P, had given apologies for the meeting.
- b) The results and judge's report from 2025 were submitted to members. Colwyn had achieved a Gold award and narrowly missed out on being awarded the best in class. Members agreed the results had been very good, especially in the community and environment section. The poor state of the baskets had been mentioned and the small amount of submitted entries for the IYN had not helped our campaign this year.
- c) A copy of the IYN entry form for 2026 was submitted to members and the Committee considered how best to publicise the award scheme to local groups, to encourage an increased number of entries. The information will be shared by social media/CIB mailing list and via local members. It was noted that the drop-in event had resulted in more entries in 2024.

Resolved to recommend a drop-in event is arranged by the Town Council to promote/encourage entries and also to recruit volunteers, possibly at a Gardd Pawb 1st birthday and Spring gardening launch event on Sunday 1st March.

- d) The entry form for WIB 2026 was submitted and the Committee were asked to consider whether Colwyn should be entered for 2026. It was noted that a volunteer group would need to be set up to go around the route on day before/day of judging to do a last minute tidy as we have been advised that we will not have the same level of support of Conwy CBC this year as we have previously enjoyed. The Gardd Pawb /IYN event could be an opportunity to recruit more volunteers.

Resolved to approve the payment of the entry fee of £230 for Colwyn's entry into Wales in Bloom in 2026.

328/25 Climate and Nature Emergency:

- a) Members noted the minutes of the meetings held on 24th July and 10th December 2025.

b) Biodiversity Section 6 Duty: Members received and noted the following:

- i) Slides regarding the S6 Duty and responsibilities of Town Councils.
- ii) Model report template, from One Voice Wales, for guidance.
- iii) The BCTC Biodiversity Section 6 Duty Report for the 3 years ending December 2025, which has now been submitted.
- iv) The BCTC Biodiversity Action Plan for the next 3 years which the Clerk briefly reported on. Members noted RD would be attending a OVW workshop on S6 section plans and will report back if any amendments/additions are needed.
- v) Notes from Assistant Clerk regarding updated contacts in the OVW Biodiversity team.

Cllrs CH & HF left at this juncture_

329/25 Incredible Edible Colwyn/Gardd Pawb:

- a) CHe gave an update on the progress with the garden. His last session had been with Kind Bay in November and the sessions were due to start back in February. CHe reported that the small gate was still an issue, but recognised that lack of funds prevented further action at the moment.
- b) Members noted a positive email regarding Gardd Pawb from a Resident.
- c) Members noted an email from Ysgol Hen Golwyn regarding visiting Gardd Pawb for educational sessions. A reply had not yet been received from the school.
- d) Members were asked to consider applying for a wild ponds package to add a water feature to the garden.

Resolved to contact L Ackerley to apply for a wild pond package to add a feature to the garden. This would enable us to utilise the blocked downpipe behind a large planter to harvest rainwater from the roof of the adjacent building to provide a water supply to sustain water loving plants, birds and insects.

- e) CHe gave a verbal update on the wider Incredible Edible Colwyn activities. The plots at St Paul's were doing well, apart from one vegetable patch which had been ruined by the building work. CHe was in talks with the Minister to sort this issue out. Watering at Station Steps planters was still an issue, so no planting had taken place at that location. There is a volunteer who is still maintaining existing planting at that location, but the planting is now scarce. It was queried whether surface water could be collected from nearby roofs/Bay View Centre.

Resolved that enquiries are made to see if replacement tubes/covers are available from the original supplier of the planters, as this could enable the tanks to be filled weekly by the watering contractor.

330/25 Colwyn Bay Conservation and Environment Federation:

Members receive/noted an insurance quotation to cover the planned acquisition of a license to use an unused CCBC site at Tan Lan and the current Conwy CBC Heads of Terms which Vice Chair, Paul Richards, had asked to be submitted to the Committee.

331/25 Presentations: Members noted the following report from attendees and that the slides are available on request:

- a) **Diverse by Nature** – series of Webinars – no one present had attended any of the sessions.

b) Greener Colwyn Place Plan Working Group:

- i) To receive a report from the Place Plan Manager and/or Chair of the Greener Colwyn WG on their current actions/priorities. In RG/IL's absence, TE gave a brief report, sharing the current actions list that the group is progressing, including: Mapping project; Wild about Colwyn Sculpture Trail, Bay View development, allotments and active travel
- ii) **Greener Colwyn Place Plan Working Group Meeting 4/12/2025:** Members noted the notes from the meeting. Wildlife corridors were discussed and CH commented on the fine mesh that was encouraging grass growth underneath the Pier. DM shared information about a conversation he has been having with a representative of the North Wales Wildlife Trust about bringing Sea Grass back to a section of Rhos on Sea beach, which would enhance biodiversity at this site. This will be kept in mind for future years, subject to time/resources

being available.

332/25 Toolkits: Members noted information about:

- a) Wild about Worms.

333/25 Queens Gardens:

- a) Members noted a request for signage to restrict dogs in the gardens.
Resolved to request details of the cost for the additional signs required.
- b) Members noted an email from Conwy CBC regarding an application (via Local Places for Nature) for Queen's Gardens and a copy of the LPN Guidance was submitted. The Clerk reported that a further meeting is being arranged with L Ackerley, which members of Colwyn in Bloom and the Place Plan working group will be invited to attend.

334/25 Social Media:

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

335/25 Keep Wales Tidy:

Members noted the winter update.

336/25 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.

337/25 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 4.20 p.m.

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