

MINUTES OF A HYBRID MEETING OF THE BAY OF COLWYN TOWN COUNCIL, HELD AT 6.30^{PM} ON MONDAY 29th JUNE 2026, IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM, TOWN HALL AND ONLINE, VIA ZOOM

PRESENT: The Mayor, Cllr Greg Wynne (Chair)
Cllrs: P Ashe, T Davies, H Fleet, J Higgins, A Jones, T Lee, J Nuttall, R Owen, and D Wilkins

OFFICERS: R Gill, Town Clerk & Place Plan Officer
P Everley, Deputy Clerk & RFO

COUNTY CLLRS: none

ABSENT: Cllrs: C Bell, D Carr, J Clayton, N Coverley, K Roberts and S Price

63/26 Welcome and Apologies for Absence:

The Mayor welcomed members to the meeting. Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs C Brockley, C Hughes, P Hughes, D Jones, A Khan, T Maclean, S McAllister, L Wilkins and County Cllr C Carlisle.

64/26 Declarations of Interest:

Members were reminded that they must declare the existence and nature of any personal and/or prejudicial interests.

65/26 Visitor Levy Consultation:

Members considered the draft discussion paper prepared by Cllr David Wilkins to the Visitor Levy consultation and worked through each consultation question in turn. A detailed discussion took place covering the likely impact of the levy on local businesses, the importance of recognising that the Bay of Colwyn attracts significant numbers of day visitors who often stay elsewhere within Conwy, the need for any income generated to benefit the whole county's visitor economy, investment priorities, the timing of implementation ahead of the 2027 local government elections and whether the area was ready for the introduction of the levy.

Resolved that the consultation response prepared by Cllr David Wilkins, be adopted as the Town Council's formal response and submitted to Conwy County Borough Council. It was further noted that the response recorded under Question 30 was not a unanimous decision of the Council.

The Clerk was instructed to submit the consultation in accordance with the agreed document prepared by Cllr DW, omitting response to question 29 (the rating of 0-5) together with the accompanying narrative comments.

Members held a detailed discussion on the proposed Visitor Levy and acknowledged that, whilst there was broad recognition of the potential benefits, a number of significant concerns and unanswered questions remain. The consultation response therefore reflects the majority view that, although there is potential value in the

principle of a visitor levy, the current proposals require further development before they could be supported.

Members voted 3 against and 7 in favour of submitting a combined response against the levy as proposed.

Comments raised during the debate included:

- Some support in principle for the Visitor Levy, subject to clarification of a number of outstanding issues, particularly those affecting smaller tourism businesses.
- Concerns regarding the composition of the panel responsible for determining how levy funds would be allocated, together with the potential administrative costs associated with operating the scheme.
- It was suggested that the proposed £1.30 per person per night charge is unlikely to deter visitors, noting that similar levies operate successfully in locations such as Liverpool and Manchester. Members also acknowledged that the proposed exemptions appear sensible.
- It was recognised that many valued local amenities, including parks, floral displays, public gardens, dog wardens, public conveniences and community events, are not statutory services. It was considered reasonable that visitors should contribute towards maintaining and enhancing these facilities.
- It was observed that accommodation providers already collect much of the information required from visitors.
- It was suggested that greater attention could also be given to supporting diversification within the farming sector, or those operating a small accommodation business.
- Members reported that discussions with local hoteliers indicated many were supportive of the levy, provided the resulting income is invested in keeping the area clean, attractive and appealing to visitors, and helps improve 'TripAdvisor' ratings.
- It was noted that levy income cannot be used to fund statutory services and would instead be directed towards areas such as parks, cultural activities, events and tourism-related initiatives. Members stressed the importance of ensuring that any decision-making panel is representative and accountable, potentially including Town Councillors.
- Concerns were expressed regarding the impact of illegal campervan parking, with suggestions that this issue should be addressed as part of wider tourism management.
- Members agreed that smaller tourism businesses may require additional support in administering and collecting the levy.
- Members recognised the potential for the levy to generate significant income, particularly within Llandudno, and questioned whether funds generated in one locality would be required to be spent there or could also benefit surrounding communities such as Colwyn Bay. It was observed that, should neighbouring authorities such as Denbighshire introduce a visitor levy while Conwy does not, there could be implications for visitor behaviour and competitiveness.

- Members emphasised that expenditure of levy income must be transparent and that Town and Community Councils should be able to scrutinise how funds are allocated to ensure they are used to enhance tourism and improve the visitor experience.
- Members recognised that there could be support for the principle of the levy, however, many aspects of the proposals require further clarification before full confidence can be given.

During consideration of the consultation questionnaire:

Cllr HF proposed, seconded by Cllr JH, that it would not be appropriate to submit a single consolidated survey response representing the Council's overall position, as opinions expressed during the discussion varied considerably and any single response would not fairly reflect the range of views.

The proposal was not carried, with 3 votes in favour and 7 against.

A proposal by Cllr DW, seconded by Cllr JN, to omit a response to Question 29, whilst submitting the remainder of the consultation together with the accompanying comments, was carried, with 7 members voting in favour.

Members agreed that the consultation should therefore be submitted with responses to all applicable questions, omitting Question 29, and accompanied by narrative comments reflecting the discussion.

Members agreed that the narrative comments arising from the discussion would be of greater value than attempting to provide a single numerical response. Officers were requested to collate the comments raised during the debate.

Cllr HF requested that the minutes record that the decision was not unanimous. Cllr HF also stated that she would have preferred different responses to Questions 8, 11 and 13, believing that the administrative burden and potential impacts had been assessed too negatively.

Cllr GW thanked Cllr DW for his work in preparing the draft consultation responses and commented that the debate held by the Council had been particularly constructive. Cllr GW further requested that the minutes record that, following the extraordinary meeting, the majority of members present approved the document for submission, although a number of differing viewpoints were expressed during the debate.

It was noted that Question 30 provided the appropriate opportunity to record the range of views expressed by Members.

66/26 Nomination of Community/Town Councillor for Membership of the Standards Committee:

Members considered the request for a Town Council nomination to the Standards Committee.

Resolved to nominate Cllr Ann Jones as the Town Council's nominee and to authorise the Clerk to submit the nomination.

67/26 Urgent Items from the cancelled Policy & Finance Committee:

(a) Internal Auditor

Resolved to authorise payment to JDH Business Services Ltd for internal audit services (£677.00 excluding VAT).

(b) Energy Contract Renewal

Members received the energy tariff review from the Council's energy broker and considered the available renewable and non-renewable options together with the financial implications for the Council, the Town Hall tenants and the Council's Climate Action Plan. Members acknowledged that officers did not have the specialist market knowledge or capacity to undertake such a review independently.

Resolved to proceed with the preferred energy contract recommended through the Council's broker (utilising non-renewable energy).

(c) Apprentice IT Equipment

Resolved to approve the purchase of IT equipment for the Council's apprentice in accordance with the quotation received.

(d) Skip Hire

Resolved to approve the hire of a skip to dispose of broken and redundant assets currently stored within the Town Hall.

(e) Grants

(i) *Resolved to approve the Small Grant application from Coast Community Radio, as set out in schedule A.*

(ii) *Resolved to approve the Youth Grant application from Creadigol Colwyn Creative CIC, as set out in schedule B.*

The meeting closed at 8.33pm

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Summary of Small Grant Applications for 2026/27

BUDGET:	
Council revenue budget	£10,000.00
Plus any unspent ward allowances from prev. fy.	£2,735.52
Total Budget	£12,735.52

Applicant:	Amount Requested:	Date Considered:	Amount Rec'd:	Purpose of Grant:	Exp Powers:	S137 Total	Approval Min:	Amount Paid:	Date Paid:	Grant payment ackn rec'vd
Ratified on 08/06/26										
A. Colwyn Bay Mens Touch Rugby	£500.00	13/05/2026	£500.00	We are establishing a new men’s touch rugby team designed to create a welcoming, supportive environment for adults of all ages and abilities. The group focuses on building confidence, improving physical fitness, and developing teamwork through accessible, non-contact rugby sessions. Beyond sport, the team aims to foster positive mental health by offering regular social connection, routine, and a sense of belonging for men who may be isolated, inactive, or looking to re-engage with their community. Our sessions are structured to be inclusive, encouraging personal growth, resilience, and wellbeing in a fun, friendly setting. We would like to provide playing kit and equipment for the members so they feel apart of a team. Approved at Full Council on 8/6/26 Min.	GPoC	n/a	FC, 8/6/26, Min: 43/26 (f)	£500.00		
B. INK Gallery	£500.00	13/05/2026	Defer / request further info	We are seeking a grant of £500 towards the performance fee for the London-based band Tugga War to perform at Ink ArtGallery & Lounge on 4th July 2026. The overall event costs will also include promotion, staffing, event management, accommodation and hospitality for the band,which will be covered by Ink Gallery Ltd. We intend to sell tickets at £12 each to help recover some of these costs. The event is expected to benefit local residents from Colwyn Bay, Old Colwyn and Rhos-on-Sea, with an anticipated audience of approximately 50 people. The event will also provide performance opportunities for local Welsh support acts and youngmusicians from the area. More information requested (via email, 12/5/26), no response received to date.				n/a		
C. Llangollen Eisteddfod	£250.00	13/05/2026	£250.00	Donation to the Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod 2026, 7-12 July. Awaiting confirmation of bank details Approved at Full Council on 8/6/26 Min. 43/26 (f)	GPoC	n/a	FC, 8/6/26, Min: 43/26 (f)			
D. Coast Community Radio & Media CIC	£500.00	29/06/2026	£500.00	Funding will support the next phase of Bayside Radio local news website, and the provision of news bulletins broadcast nine times each weekday.	GPoC	n/a	FC, 29/6/26, Min: 67/26 (e, i)			
Requested YTD		£1,750.00		Rec'd YTD		£1,250.00				
						Section 137	£0.00	£500.00	Paid YTD	
								Balance =	£12,235.52	

Summary of Youth Grant Applications for 2026/27**BUDGET: £10,000 (total funds incl EMR £14,000)**

Applicant:	Amount Requested:	Date Considered:	Amount Recommended:	Purpose of Grant:	Exp Powers:	S137 Total	Approval Min:	Amount Paid:	Date Paid:	Grant payment ackn rec'vd
<u>considered on 29/6/26</u>										
A. Creadigol Colwyn Creative CIC	£2,000	29/06/2026	£2,000	Creadigol Colwyn Creative CIC is seeking funding to establish the Colwyn Puppet Club / Clwb Pypedau Colwyn, a monthly inclusive creative workshop for children and young people, including those with additional needs, from Colwyn Bay, Old Colwyn and Rhos-on-Sea. Led by experienced theatre practitioners Libby and Stuart Loughland, the project will provide a safe and supportive environment where participants can explore artistic expression through puppet-making, storytelling, drama, creative arts and performance. Inspired by Welsh mythology, local heritage, seasonal celebrations and participants' own ideas, the workshops aim to build confidence, self-esteem, communication and social skills, encourage creativity and imagination, foster community cohesion and intergenerational connections, and celebrate local culture and storytelling traditions. The project will also support personal development and transferable skills that may lead to further learning, volunteering or employment opportunities while creating opportunities for young people to collaborate, form friendships and develop a strong sense of identity and belonging.	GPoC	n/a	FC, 29/06/26, Min: 67/26 (e, ii)			

<u>£2,000</u>	TOTAL YTD=	<u>£2,000</u>
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Balance = £10,000.00**£0.00**

Section 137= £0.00

* S.137 of the Local Government Act 1972 gives the Council authority to incur expenditure which, in its opinion, is in the interests of, and will bring direct benefit to, its area or any part of it or all or some of its inhabitants, subject to an annual limit and certain restrictions and providing the benefit is commensurate with the expenditure to be incurred.