

CYNGOR TREF CONWY TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING (FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES)
HELD ON MONDAY, 5th JANUARY 2015

PRESENT : Councillors – R Parker (Town Mayor), E Leighton Jones (Chair), V Macdonald, B Chapman, R Hughes, B James, S Cotton, P Hart, T James, E Hughes, H Roberts.

IN ATTENDANCE : Helen Barritt (Town Clerk)
D Rowley (Conwy Estuary Lions)
D Rawlingson (Sound Design PA Hire)

APOLOGIES : Councillors – J Fallon, C Rigal

Declarations of Interest – Code of Local Government Conduct -

Agenda Item : 7a, Application 5 – Councillor Cotton objected as a County Councillor to the initial application

Minute Number

199. Christmas Events 2014

a) The Town Clerk reported that feedback generally for the Christmas Eve event was good. The Police were very pleased and she read out an email from PC Cooper congratulating the Town Council on the event.

It was estimated that around 4,500 people attended the event.

A complaint had been received from a resident complaining that the timing of the Carol singing had been changed and that it was difficult to hear the Carols. Mr Rawlingson explained that the band had moved the chairs forward on the stage so there was not room for the singer and choir. Therefore, the schedule had to be changed. It also meant that microphones could not be used for the choir due to feedback. It was suggested that relay speakers are used in 2015 so the crowd at the back of the Square can hear.

Members commented on the shortage of Carol sheets. The Town Clerk said that more would be printed off next year. Other solutions include putting the sheet on Facebook for attendees to print off their own copy and having a screen on the van. Members also suggested that the Carol sheet could be sponsored.

Santa and the Elf need a cue to tell them when they should come out and leave the walls. It was felt that the best way to do this was a light signal.

Concern was expressed about the number of dogs members of the public brought to the event. It was suggested that in future press releases and notices of the event ask the public not to bring dogs.

Members thanked Mr Rawlingson for providing the snow machine.

Members asked that they be provided with gloves for the litter picking.

Members expressed concern about the amount of litter that seemed to come from Costa Coffee.

The Town Clerk said that she was concerned about the lack of stewards especially on the car parks.

Conwy Borough Football Club had sent 3 stewards. It was suggested that local groups are invited to the Guildhall in the Summer to a presentation of the event. Other ideas to recruit stewards included advertising, putting an editorial in local papers, asking groups receiving grants to help and liaising with other organisations putting on events in the local area.

Councillor Roberts said that at the end of the event the traffic had been stopped on Castle Street to allow the public to cross. This had not caused a problem with the traffic in Conwy. She did report that the taxis did not seem to know about the event. The Town Clerk said that she had written to them but the offices did not seem to have informed the drivers. She would ensure that the offices are asked to inform the drivers in future.

Members expressed disappointment that the Mayor did not address the crowd. They felt that this was important to convey that it is an event put on by the Town Council.

Members thanked Mr Rowley and the Conwy Estuary Lions for their help at the event this year, and Mr Rawlingson for providing the staging and sound in Lancaster Square.

RESOLVED that:

i)the issue of litter from Costa Coffee is put on a future agenda

ii)payments are made to:

- Charlotte Forfar £50
- Mathew Williams £50
- Conwy Estuary Lions £250
- St.John Ambulance £250
- Roy Williams (Cadw) £50
- Gavin Roberts (Cadw) £50
- Gary Carr's chosen charity £50
- Conwy Borough Football Club £50

Mr Rowley and Mr Rawlingson left the meeting at this juncture

Councillor Chapman left the meeting during the following discussion

b) The Town Clerk read out an email from a resident commenting on the Christmas lights. Members discussed the provision in future years and suggested that sponsorship and fundraising could enable more lights to be put up.

The Town Clerk said that she would contact LITE regarding the motifs that had broken in strong winds. Bebbington & Wilson will be arranging a meeting in early February to discuss any issues with the current provision.

RESOLVED that fundraising for Christmas lights is put on a future agenda.

200. Minutes

- Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Council held on 15th December 2014

RESOLVED that the minutes are ACCEPTED and APPROVED

- Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Council held on 22nd December 2014

RESOLVED that the minutes are ACCEPTED and APPROVED

201. Questions on the Minutes

Special Meeting of the Council held on 22nd December 2014

Minute 190 North Wales Walled Towns Friendship Circle – the Town Clerk reminded Members that the Annual Dinner will be held on 24th January in Beaumaris.

202. Town Clerk's Report

Members RECEIVED and NOTED the Town Clerk's Report (Schedule A)

The Assistant to the Town Clerk reported the following additional items:

a)Gwirvol Grant 2015 & Volunteering in Wales Fund – a meeting will be held on these funding opportunities on 20/1/15, Diocesan Centre Bangor 10am to 12 noon

b)Denbigh Heritage Lectures – free lectures begin on 15/1/15 and will be held weekly until 26/2/15 at Denbigh Town Hall at 7.30pm.

c)"Introduction – Taking the Plunge", How to start your own business workshop sessions on during January, February and March at the Conwy Business Centre, Llandudno Junction, 9:15am to 1pm

d)Conwy Orchard Community Group will be holding a Wassail at Conwy Orchard on 10/1/14 at 6:30pm

e)Royal Cambrian Academy Open Art Exhibition opens 10/1/15 at 2pm

f)Cerdded Conwy Wales will be holding New Year Walks from 16/1/15 to 18/1/15

g)Business Networking event at Glasdir, Llanrwst on 7/1/15, 10am to 11:30am

h)Low and No Cost ICT Tools for Organisations workshop to be held on 30/1/15, 10am to 3pm, CVSC

Offices, Colwyn Bay. The event is free.

i) Conwy Civic Society – a public meeting will be held on 28/1/15 at 7pm in the Guildhall
item 4 – Free Wild Flower Seeds from Kew

RESOLVED that the Town Council registers for the seeds

203. Planning

a) Planning Applications

Members considered the applications on (Schedule B) attached hereto and made recommendations and comments as detailed.

b) Planning Decisions Issued

Members RECEIVED and NOTED the planning decisions issued by Conwy County Borough Council

204. Bodlondeb Notice Board

Members discussed adopting the notice board in Bodlondeb. The notice board has never been used and the keys are believed to be missing. Members felt that this was a missed opportunity for the community.

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk contact Conwy County Borough Council about the Town Council adopting the notice board.

205. Budget & Precept 2015/16

The Town Clerk presented the second draft of the 2015/16 Budget and Precept. This had been updated for the £300 increase to the Mayoral Allowance requested at the Extraordinary Meeting of the Council on 15th December 2014.

Members discussed whether to increase the Band D levy by 1% to £35.58 or to keep it at the 2014/15 rate of £35.23. If the levy is increased by 1%, there will be an additional £3,160 to be allocated to the budget. This will make total budgeted expenditure for 2015/16 £288,930, reserves to be utilised of £39,415 leaving a precept of £249,515

RESOLVED that:

a) The Band D levy for 2015/16 is increased by 1% to £35.58

b) The additional £3,160 is added to the Community Development Fund budget

c) The budget for £288,930 and precept of £249,515 for 2015/16 is accepted (Schedules C to E)

Councillor Cotton voted against the above resolutions

Members RECEIVED and NOTED correspondence from the Welsh Government regarding the Section 137 Expenditure Limit for 2015/16. The maximum expenditure that can be incurred for 2015/16 is £7.36 per elector. The Town Council currently has 12,267 electors per the latest register issued, giving a total of £90,285.12 available to spend under s137. The total s137 expenditure in 2013/14 was £26,347.70

Members thanked the Town Clerk for her work on the budget.

206. Have Your Say on the Council's Priorities

Members discussed the comments on the County Council's Corporate Plan the Mayor and Councillor E Hughes had put together.

Members were very concerned about the closure of council run residential homes, the effect upon the Communities and people within the communities and the quality of care.

Members discussed measures the County Council could take to reduce heating costs.

Members encouraged the County Council to lobby the Government regarding business rates being kept in the community.

Members thanked the Mayor and Councillor E Hughes for their work on the paper.

RESOLVED that the comments are sent to the County Council.

207. Ward Meetings

Llandudno Junction Members had discussed the forthcoming “Trax” event. Plans for the event were progressing but funds needed to be raised.

Conwy Members have arranged a meeting for 19th January 2015.

208. Training

Members discussed opportunities for Councillor training as they felt there is some need within the Town Council.

The Town Clerk said that the SLCC runs a number of courses but they tend to be Clerk orientated, expensive and held in England.

One Voice Wales hold courses more attuned to the needs of the Councillor and held in North Wales but These were frequently cancelled due to the lack of take-up.

Other organisations offering training included CVSC & WVCA. The Town Clerk said that all information on courses sent to the Town Council is included on the Town Clerk’s Report.

Members asked if Conwy County Borough Council could provide any training.

The possibility of asking organisations to hold training courses at the Guildhall and opening them up to other Councils was discussed.

RESOLVED that Members and the Town Clerk look into the matter further.

209. Approval of Payments

There were no payments to approve.

210. Cash Payments

There were no Cash Payments.

211. List of Cheques

RESOLVED that the list of cheques 308, as tabled, is approved for payment (Schedule F).

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 8:35pm