

**CYNGOR TREF CONWY TOWN COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING (FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES)**  
**HELD ON MONDAY, 20<sup>th</sup> JULY 2015**

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

**IN ATTENDANCE : Helen Barritt (Town Clerk)**  
**Rachel Lees (Assistant to the Town Clerk)**

**APOLOGIES : Councillor – B James**

**Declarations of Interest – Code of Local Government Conduct :**

Agenda Item:

Agenda Item 8a – Planning Applications

Councillor Allardice is a member of Conwy County Borough Council Planning Committee

Agenda Item 25b – Hire of Guildhall

Councillors Parker and Macdonald run the Conwy Ensemble

**Minute Number**

*Agenda Item 3 – Tourism in Conwy*

Mr Holden-Ross was unable to attend the meeting. The agenda item is deferred to a future meeting.

*The following two agenda items were allowed by the Chairman as a matter of urgency*

**71. Confidential Business**

In accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings Act) 1960 and with Standing Order 65, in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the press and public be temporarily excluded and instructed to withdraw.

**72. Conwy Civic Hall and Quay**

Members discussed the decision by Conwy County Council Cabinet at their meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2015 to Dispose of the Civic Hall, Conwy along with part of the Quay. The intention is to sell the lease to a Developer for a restaurant, possibly with bedrooms and have an outdoor seating area on the Quay. The Town Clerk updated Members on the matter. The two County Councillors for Conwy have been Appointed to the Project Board but the request for a Town Councillor to be on the Board was not mentioned. Mr. Peters of Conwy County Borough Council said that he was unable to release a copy of the presentation made to the Town Council at the Special Meeting of the Council on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2015. The Town Clerk had collated and forwarded the views of 3 Town Councillors to Mr Peters prior to the Cabinet meeting.

Members thanked Councillors Allardice and Edwards for speaking on behalf of the Town Council at the Cabinet meeting.

Members felt that the County Council's attitude to the Town Council was disrespectful and degrading. They had misinterpreted the Town Council's views passed on to them by Conwy County Borough Council's Officers, missing the fact that the Town Council recognises that the Civic Hall needs to be developed. The Town Council is not opposed to job creation but Members felt that they were portrayed as anti-business. Any development needs to be in keeping with the town. Comments by County Councillors dwelled upon the seagull issue and references were made about Dylans.

Members discussed how the Town Council should respond to the decision at the meeting.

The main concern of the Town Council is the intention to dispose of part of the Events Space. Members

felt that if it was part of the project, then any lease should only be for a few years – not a long term. Members questioned the ownership of the Quay and whether it was Conwy County Borough Council's to sell.

Members discussed the Grade II listing and were told that it applied to the whole of the building. Members felt that any developer would need to improve the façade of the roof area.

Members discussed how other walled towns around Europe have cleared their town walls, or would like to clear their wall. Derry, Northern Ireland are upset that their town wall is hidden. Buildings in Conwy were demolished to reveal the Town Wall.

Members stated that Conwy County Borough Council seemed uninterested in the suggested space above the toilets for outside eating and were not interested in keeping the Events Space for displaying Conwy's history and culture of boat-building.

Members are reflecting the views of residents and making decisions in the best interests of the community. Members talked about the Charter between the County Council and Town & Community Councils, feeling that the County Council was not working with the Town Council for the benefit of the community.

Members were informed that the designated area for a "community picnic area" is the area close to the Harbourmaster's office.

Members said that they thought more bedroom space in Conwy would be beneficial, but doubted that more eateries were needed. Events on the Quay will attract more visitors to the town and bring jobs.

**RESOLVED** that:

- a) A letter is written to Conwy County Borough Council stating that the Town Council is disappointed about the way it was conveyed in the Cabinet meeting. It was felt that it was referred to using derogatory terminology and that comments made in the Special Meeting of the Council on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2015 were not conveyed accurately by Conwy County Council Officers. The Town Clerk will circulate a draft copy of the letter to Members prior to sending it to Conwy County Borough Council.
- b) A copy of the letter is sent to Cadw and UNESCO
- c) The pricing strategy for the hire of the Events Space is requested
- d) Conwy County Borough Council are asked who owns the Quay
- e) The Mayor speaks to Town Council Members in other towns regarding County Council running of assets in their areas.

*The Mayor, Councillor Allardice and the Assistant to the Town Clerk left the meeting at this juncture.*

*The Press and Public were allowed to rejoin the meeting*

### **73. Minutes**

- Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Council held on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2015
- Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Council held on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2015
  - Declarations of Interest – Councillor Allardice is not a Governor of Ysgol Aberconwy and did not leave the meeting for the discussion of the grant application
  - SSAFA were awarded £250 not £500

**RESOLVED** that, subject to the above amendments, the minutes are ACCEPTED and APPROVED.

### **74. Questions on the Minutes**

#### **a) Special Meeting of the Council, 6<sup>th</sup> July 2016**

##### **i) Minute 52, Casual Vacancy, Deganwy Ward**

The Town Clerk informed Members that the County Council had received the 10 signatures required to call an election. The County Council will arrange this for the end of September/beginning of October.

**ii) Minute 55, Proposal for Naming of a Street**

The name “Dros Mynach” was questioned. The Town Clerk informed Members that County Councillor M Hughes had objected to the developers suggestion and that they had been asked to choose one from the list given to them in 2014

**iii) Minute 59, Parking Prohibition – Castle Square, Conwy**

The Town Clerk informed Members that she had emailed Mr Brookes, Conwy County Council regarding coaches ignoring the prohibition. He said that coach companies had been emailed, asking them not to drop off by the Castle, but to use the drop-off point in Rose Hill Street. He was against the addition of yellow lines being painted on the road.

**iv) Minute 61, Ward Meetings**

-The Town Clerk informed Members that she had reported the damage to the Adshel bus shelter by the Weekly News, Llandudno Junction

-The town Clerk is still to ask the police to attend a meeting

**v) Minute 67, Hire of Guildhall**

The Town Clerk informed Members that she had informed the person that they were unable to hire the Guildhall and that he had not taken the news well. Members felt that it needed to be stressed that the Guildhall is not open to the public.

**RESOLVED** that Members unanimously support the Town Clerk in her dealings with this matter.

**b) Extraordinary Meeting of the Council, 13<sup>th</sup> July 2015**

**Minute 2, Honorary Bailies**

-Councillor Macdonald informed Members that the Charter had now been printed and that she would arrange for 3 copies to be framed.

-The Town Clerk informed Members that she had selected a paperweight from Welsh Royal Crystal at a cost of £28 per unit, including engraving and that she would place an order for 100. Members suggested that a sample should be requested for checking and that the paperweights are boxed.

**75. Town Clerk’s Report**

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

Point 3 – Access to RSPB Conwy Nature Reserve Trails – Councillor Roberts clarified the access changes. The Town Clerk reported the following additional items:

- a) Conwy County Borough Council Planning Committee – the site visits scheduled for 9am on 11/8/15 will now take place at 9am on 10/8/15
- b) Conwy County Borough Council Cabinet meetings on 11/8/15 will start at 9:30am with the venue to be confirmed
- c) North Wales Pride is taking place on 24<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> July at Hendre Hall, Bangor. Weekender tickets are £15 with camping £10.
- d) A copy of the Pioneers Post and the CVSC July Newsletter are on the Chamber table in the Guildhall
- e) Rural Community Development Fund – The RCDF element of the Wales Rural Development Programme 2014-20 is set to be opened at the Royal Welsh Show at Builth Wells week beginning the 20/7/15. This will be a grant scheme to be administered by the Welsh Government and will offer grants to organisations/groups for investment funding across a wide range of interventions designed primarily to mitigate the impact of poverty in rural communities, improving conditions which can lead to future jobs and growth. This will be a capital only scheme defined as anything costing over £10k, with 7 broad themes.
- f) The Royal Cambrian Academy Annual Summer Exhibition opens at 2pm on 25/7/15.

- 76. 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  
c) Planning Training Workshop  
The agenda item was deferred until the town Council meeting on 3/8/15 to allow Councillors attending the training on 21/7/15 to feedback on the item
- 77. North Wales Link of the Walled Towns Friendship Circle**  
**RESOLVED** that the payment of £125 for the 2015/16 subscription is approved.
- 78. European Walled Towns – Annual General Meeting/Seminar, Ravenna Italy, 20/9/15 to 3/10/15**  
Members RECEIVED details of the AGM/Seminar. The public is permitted to attend the AGM. Councillor Macdonald is attending as an Associate Member and Councillor Chapman is also attending and will be able to represent the Town Council.  
Councillor Macdonald said that she did not want to be nominated for the position of Vice President, but would think about possible nominees.
- 79. The Castles & Town Walls of King Edward in Gwynedd World Heritage Site New Governance Arrangements & Development of a New Management Plan**  
Members RECEIVED details of the proposed Steering Group, to include 2 representatives from Conwy, Caernarfon, Beaumaris and Harlech  
**RESOLVED** that:  
-a request is made that a representative from Conwy sits on the Steering Group due to the issues faced in the town  
-if a representative is permitted, Councillor Chapman attends the meetings with Councillor E Hughes in reserve.
- 80. Hanging Baskets – Watering**  
Members discussed purchasing devices to place in hanging baskets to water them on days the businesses are unable to water them. This is not an alternative to regular watering.  
**RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk carries out more research as to where the waterers can be purchased from.
- 81. Cycling between Conwy & Llandudno Junction**  
Members RECEIVED a proposal from Conwy County Borough Council to allow cyclists to legally use the footway between Conwy and Llandudno Junction.  
Members felt that there was not enough room on the Conwy Bridge footway to allow for cyclists and pedestrians and to maintain everyone's safety they felt that cyclists should be asked to dismount when going over the Bridge.  
**RESOLVED** that the Town Council supports cycling on the route, apart from the Bridge, where cyclists should be asked to dismount.
- 82. Conwy Quay**  
The Town Clerk informed Members that she had received reports that cars were continuing to drive along the Quay at prohibited times and that it was not being policed.  
**RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk writes to the Police, Harbourmaster and Conwy County Borough Council Highways Department requesting that the prohibition is policed.

- 83. Llywelyn Fountain**  
The Town Clerk informed Members that she had written to Mr. Teale, Conwy County Borough Council requesting a quote for a regular maintenance programme for the Fountain. This may avoid delays in getting the Fountain running again after a breakdown.  
Complaints about the Fountain not working are being received.  
The invoice for maintenance for May 2015 from Conwy County Borough Council is £118.50 plus vat  
Members were concerned that the chemicals being used in the Fountain may be affecting the stonework  
**RESOLVED** that the invoice for £118.50 plus vat is approved for payment.
- 84. Conwy Street Cleaner**  
Members RECEIVED information that Conwy County Borough Council planned to re-deploy Mr Kelfyn Williams the Conwy Street Cleaner, elsewhere in the county. Members said that Mr Williams was doing an excellent job keeping the town clean and tidy.  
**RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk writes to the County Council to tell them that Mr Williams is doing an excellent job and requesting that they let him stay in Conwy.
- 85. Welsh Government Consultation – Energy Efficiency for Wales**  
**RESOLVED** that the agenda item is deferred to a future meeting.
- 86. Accounts**  
**RESOLVED** that the agenda item is deferred to a future meeting.
- 87. Llandudno Junction New School**  
**RESOLVED** that the agenda item is deferred to a future meeting.
- 88. Prayers at Town Council Meetings**  
The Town Clerk informed Members that Welsh Town & Community Councils had been reminded that prayers are beyond the powers of Welsh Councils.  
Members discussed the matter at length  
**RESOLVED** that prayers remain on the Town Council Meeting agenda.
- 89. Town & Community Councils Forum**  
a) The Town Clerk gave a report on the Clerks’ section of the meeting held on 15/7/15.  
Matters discussed included the devolution of services programme, training, footpath maintenance, Christmas lights accreditation and the maintenance of bus shelters.  
b) The Town Clerk gave a report on the meeting held on 15/7/15  
Mr Wilkinson of Conwy County Borough Council gave a presentation on the reasons for the increase in car parking charges. There was also an update on the Charter between Conwy County Borough Council and Town & Community Councils.
- 90. North Wales & Mid Wales Association of Local Councils**  
Members RECEIVED a written report on the AGM and Quarterly Meeting held on 17/7/15.  
Notable topics included business rates, Local Government reform and strategic planning. The Town Clerk said that she would send the link to the minutes so Members could read them.
- 91. Conwy County Borough Council’s Registration Service**  
Members RECEIVED and NOTED Conwy County Borough Council’s proposals for the Registration Service.

**92. Public Catalogue Foundation – Your Sculpture Project**  
**RESOLVED** that the agenda item is deferred to a future meeting.

**93. Banner Stand**

Members RECEIVED an estimate from Micrographs for the Banner Stand:

Artwork £82.50 plus vat

850mm Banner Stand £95.00 plus vat

1000mm Banner Stand £161.00 plus vat

**RESOLVED** that the quote of £82.50 plus vat for the artwork and £161 plus vat for the Banner Stand are accepted and that Micrographics are asked that the Banner Stand is ready before 3/9/15 for the Open Doors event.

**94. Guildhall Room Hire Rates**

a) Members considered the Guildhall hire rates for 2015/16

**RESOLVED** that the rates are held at the 2014/15 rates

*Councillors Parker and Macdonald left the meeting at this juncture*

b) Conwy Ensemble

**RESOLVED** that the Conwy Ensemble should continue to be able to use the Guildhall on a Thursday evening without charge.

*Councillors Parker and Macdonald returned to the meeting*

**95. Presentations to the Town Council**

Members RECEIVED requests to make presentation from Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board and Aberconwy Mind

**RESOLVED** that both organisations are asked to make presentations to the Town Council.

*Councillor Hughes left the meeting at this juncture*

**96. Civic Sunday**

**RESOLVED** that the following payments are approved:

a) Mace Bearer (5 hours) - £40.00

b) Mayor's Secretary - £50 net

c) Stewards – Conwy Borough Football Club - £100

Mr Prescott £10

Mr Rowe £10

d) St Mary's Church Conwy – for use of Church Hall - £30

e) 2193 Prestatyn Sqn ATC – Band - £200

f) A Piece of Cake – Gratuity for waiting on staff – 10% of invoice total (net of vat)

**97. Approval of Payments**

**RESOLVED** that the following payments are approved:

a) A Slater – Cleaning of Guildhall and Bus Shelter Windows, 4 weeks to 3/7/15 - £170.00

b) Conwy County Borough Council – 1 Hanging Basket (Tower Tea Room) - £13.00 plus vat along with the additional payments:

c) Trilo-Byte Computer Services – Renewal of AVG Licence for Laptop, 2 years from 1/8/15 - £45.00

d) JT&M Signs Ltd. – Civic Sunday Parade Signage - £60.00 plus vat

**98. Cash Payments**

**RESOLVED** that the list of cash payments no.93, as tabled, is approved (Schedule C).

**99. List of Cheques**

**RESOLVED** that the list of cheques 321, as tabled, is approved for payment (Schedule D).

**There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 9pm**