

CYNGOR TREF CONWY TOWN COUNCIL
GUILDHALL, CONWY
MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY 14th DECEMBER 2015

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

IN ATTENDANCE : Helen Barritt (Town Clerk)

APOLOGIES : Councillors S Allardice & J Hughes

Declarations of Interest – Code of Local Government Conduct:

Agenda Item:

Agenda Item 3, Grant Application, Deganwy Promenade Restoration Group

- Councillor A James – Project Manager for the project
- Councillor B James – Committee member
- Councillor V Macdonald – Committee member
- Councillor S Cotton – Committee member & local Town & County Councillor

Minute Number

6. Grant Application

Councillor James presented the Deganwy Promenade Shelter Restoration Group's ideas for renovation of the shelter following the storms of 2013/14.

The Group is a sub-committee of the Deganwy & District Residents' Association.

The shelter is owned by Conwy Borough County Council, although this has to be established in writing.

The intention is that the Group take over the shelter to undertake the renovations & then it is handed back to CCBC.

The Group are applying for grants from the Heritage Lottery Fund & Gwynt Y Mor Fund. If these are not forthcoming the project will not go ahead.

The shelter, built around 1904, was in need of upgrading before the storm damaged it. The Group would like to re-instate the pitched roof the shelter had in the 1950s but do not need to replace the rails installed by the Residents' Association around 20 years ago.

The shelter is of historical importance & the restoration will involve the local community & partnership with other organisations. The total cost will be around £78k with the base & shelter costing approximately £42.2k. The balance will include storyboards & other promotion & publicity material.

Councillors expressed concern about the ownership of the shelter & questioned why it had not been restored out of insurance funding.

Councillors discussed possible sea defences to protect the shelter in the future but were told that the funding for the restoration of the Promenade had come from tourism money not flood defence.

Councillors agreed that the shelter was important for tourism & the community

Councillor James was thanked for his hard work on the project

7. Confidential Business

In accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings Act) 1960 & 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 & public be temporarily excluded & instructed to withdraw

Councillors A James, B James, Macdonald & Cotton left the meeting at this juncture

8. Discussion on Grant Application Presentations

Members discussed the presentation & felt that it was a good project to support. They remained concerned about the ownership issue but were pleased that the history of the shelter & area would be told through storyboards on the Promenade.

RESOLVED that the Group are awarded a grant of £6,000 to be paid in 2 amounts of £3,000 in financial years 2015/16 & 2016/17 from the Community Development Fund & that the Group must establish written details of the ownership with the County Council

The Press & Public were readmitted into the Council Chamber

Councillors A James, B James, Macdonald & Cotton rejoined the meeting at this juncture

9. Budget & Precept 2016/17

The Town Clerk presented the first draft budget & precept for 2016/17.

To establish the level of opening reserves for 2016/17 the Town Clerk presented the current forecast for 2015/16. The Town Clerk is currently anticipating a saving of £9,528 on budget, giving a balance on reserves of £171,792 at the year end. This is a cautious estimate, other savings may materialise but cannot yet be anticipated. The savings currently identified will go to earmarked reserves for specific projects. The Town Clerk presented the budget for 2016/17. Total expenditure is expected to be £307,360, a 6.4% increase on 2015/16. Apart from inflationary increases, the rise in the budget is due to additional expenditure arising from new projects including:

- a new noticeboard for the Guildhall (£1,320)
- an increase in the contribution to CCBC for CCTV (£2,000)
- a reprint of the Town Guide (£2,800)
- increased support of local festivals (£3,000)
- contribution following the reinstatement of the Walled Towns Car Rally (£1,000)
- Councillor remuneration following the publication of the draft Independent Remuneration Panel of Wales report (£4,200)
- binding of minutes & civic regalia (£3,000)
- replacement of computer systems (£3,200)
- support of Ysgol Aberconwy Bothy & Deganwy Community Hub (£4,280)

The salaries budget has also been increased to cover the increase in NIC following the abolition of contracting out in April 2016

To mitigate the budget £46,160 of earmarked reserves specific items can be utilised giving a precept to be raised of £261,200, an increase of 4.7% on 2015/16. This would result in reserves dropping to £125,632 if no savings were made in 2016/17.

The Council Tax Base for 2016/17 is £7,047.13, a 0.5% increase on 2015/16. This translates to a Band D Council Tax of £37.06 compared to £35.23 for 2015/16, a 5.2% increase.

If the Band D Council Tax was to remain at £35.23 for 2016/17 the precept would need to decrease from £261,200 to £248,270. A 1% increase to £35.58 would require a precept of £250,753. Decreases of £12,929 & £10,447 respectively on the current calculated level.

Councillors discussed the draft budget & precept for 2016/17. They felt that the budget, as presented, showed that the Town Council was spending its funding on the community & that reserves needed to be maintained. A £1.83 increase on a Band D property for the year is achievable.

RESOLVED that:

- a) Councillors are to consider the presented budget & discuss at a future meeting. The deadline being the Town Council meeting on 18th January 2016
- b) Conwy County Borough Council are asked to come to a meeting to discuss the CCTV provision

10. Christmas Events

The Mayor thanked the Councillors for their support at the Christmas events the previous weekend

a) Conwy Christmas Eve Event

Councillors discussed the latest arrangements for the event

The Town Clerk asked Councillor Cotton to take a camera with her up onto the Castle to take a photograph of the crowd

The Town Clerk informed the Council that the Royal British Legion was unable to make its toilet facilities available so she had asked CCBC to keep the Quay toilets open until 7:30pm & the George & Dragon is a member of the community toilet scheme

CCBC had said that it would provide barriers for the event but there would be a charge. Extra litter bins cannot be provided due to the timing of the event. Councillors agreed that there is little litter & the MC will ask the crowd to put any litter in the litter bins

The Town Clerk presented a draft marshalling schedule & asked Councillors to ask contacts if they would be able to help out. She would ask the police if they could also patrol Morfa Bach Car Park

b) Boxing Day Dip

Councillors were informed that Conwy Yacht Club had agreed to the use of their facilities & that the RNLI would be in attendance along with St.John Ambulance. The Mayor agreed that the RNLI & St.John Ambulance could have her phone number in case of emergency

Councillors agreed to the running order as in previous years

RESOLVED that the Risk Assessment, as tabled, is accepted

c) Christmas Lights

Councillors reported issues with the Christmas lights to be reported to the contractors

d) Other Christmas Issues

i) Councillors were concerned about the level of the water in the Fountain, particularly as the Christmas Eve event would mean a number of people around it. Both the Mayor & the Town Clerk said that they would pursue the issue

ii) Councillors said that the barriers around the Christmas tree in Lancaster Square kept falling over. The Town Clerk said that she would look into the problem

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.47pm