

**CYNGOR TREF CONWY TOWN COUNCIL
GUILDHALL, CONWY.**

MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY, 18TH JANUARY 2016

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

APOLOGIES : Councillors – C Rigal, S Allardice.

IN ATTENDANCE : Mrs Helen Armitage (Town Clerk)
G.Harris, Conwy Camera Club
R.Clark, Conwy Camera Club
Ms.L.Gorst, Daisy Chain
Mrs.V.Stanley, Deganwy & District Residents' Association

PRAYERS : In the absence of the Mayor's Chaplain, The Deputy Mayor led Members in Prayers.

Declaration of Interest – Code of Local Government Conduct:

Agenda Item 10a2 Planning Application 0/42342 – Councillor Parker is a neighbour to the property
Agenda Item 18 Guildhall Hire – Councillor Macdonald is a member of the Royal Cambrian Academy

Minute Number

With the agreement of the Mayor the order of the agenda was changed

67. Conwy Camera Club Competition

The Mayor announced the winner & runner up of the Conwy Camera Club Guildhall Photograph competition:

Winner	G Harris	View of the Guildhall from Conwy Castle
Runner Up	R Clark	Photograph of the emblem on the Jackdaw Chair

The Mayor presented the prizes of £20 for the winner & £10 for the runner-up along with certificates

68. Community Development Fund Grant Presentation

The Mayor presented Mrs Stanley & Councillor A James, representing the Deganwy & District Residents' Association with a cheque & certificate for the grant towards the renovation of the Deganwy Promenade Shelter

69. Minutes of the Council & Committees

- Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 7th December 2015
RESOLVED that the minutes are ACCEPTED and APPROVED
- Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Council held on 4th January 2016
RESOLVED that the minutes are ACCEPTED and APPROVED

70. Questions on the Minutes

a) Town Council meeting held on 7th December 2015

Minute 58, Remembrance Sunday Parade

The Town Clerk informed Councillors that she was still waiting for a reply from Conwy County Borough Council. Councillor Chapman said that Mr. Williams had told him that he had not lost any pay

b) Special Meeting of the Council held on 4th January 2016

- Minute 230d, Planning – Naming of a Street

The Town Clerk informed Councillors that as there had been no agreement on the name the matter would be referred to Conwy County Borough Council's General Licensing & Regulation Committee

- Minute 232, Draft Local Government (Wales) Bill

The Town Clerk informed Councillors that she was waiting for a response from CCBC but that an event regarding the Bill is being held at Venue Cymru on 4/2/16. The Town Clerk will be attending the event along with Councillors E Hughes & B James. The Town Clerk asked that Councillors inform her should they wish to attend the event

- Minute 235, Conwy Cynhalio! – Rural Development Programme in Rural Conwy

The Town Clerk informed Councillors that Ms Williams had not provided any further information

71. Town Clerk's Report

Councillors RECEIVED the Town Clerk's report **(Schedule A)**

72. Planning

a) Planning Applications

Councillors considered the applications on **(Schedule B)** attached hereto and made RECOMMENDATIONS and COMMENTS as detailed

Councillor Parker left the meeting for the debate on Application 0/42342

b) Planning Decisions Issued

Councillors RECEIVED and NOTED the planning decisions issued by Conwy County Borough Council & Snowdonia National Park Authority

c) Conwy County Borough Council Consultation: Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) – Preliminary Draft Charging Schedule

Councillors received details of the consultation.

The Town Clerk said that she would forward the link to the website to Councillors & copy them in on any CCBC minutes relating to the consultation

d) Snowdonia National Park Authority Public Consultation: Draft Supplementary Planning Guidance Notes – Landscape Sensitivity & Capacity Assessment

Councillors received details of the consultation.

The Town Clerk said that she would forward the link to the website

73. Vicarage Gardens Car Park, Conwy Lighting

Councillors received a request from Conwy County Borough Council to assist with the funding of the replacement of the lighting in Vicarage Gardens Car Park, Conwy.

The total cost will be £22k providing energy savings.

Councillors were concerned that the project may not go ahead if the Town Council did not contribute but discussed the issue of double-taxation.

The Town Clerk said that she had included £5k in the draft budget for 2016/17 which would be discussed later in the agenda.

RESOLVED that Councillors would assess whether the Town Council could make a contribution when discussing the draft budget for 2016/17

74. Churchyard Maintenance

Councillors RECEIVED a request to assist with the funding of the maintenance of St.Mary's Churchyard, Conwy, St.Benedict's Churchyard, Gyffin & St.Agnes Cemetery, Conwy

RESOLVED that grants of £300, £400 & £1,000 respectively should be awarded

75. Budget & Precept 2016/17

- a) The Town Clerk presented the second draft of the budget for 2016/17 (Schedules C to F) She had identified further savings of £32,029 in 2015/16. This would give a balance on reserves at 31/3/16 of £203,820.43 (80.3% of the 2015/16 precept), an increase of £2,142.15 on 31/3/15.

Changes to the first draft budget were:

- Highways – Vicarage Gardens Car Park Contribution - £5,000 added
- Publicity & Amenities – Walled Towns Friendship Circle - £85 decrease
- General Budget – Guildhall Repairs - £11,220 added
- General Budget – small other adjustments - £305 decrease
- Total Increase - £15,830 to £323,190

Reserves to be utilised in 2016/17 had been increased by:

- £1,227 Highways – Bus Shelters
- £640 P&A – Father Christmas Events/Boxing Day Dip
- £6,547 P&A – Summer Playschemes/Playground Contribution
- £13,250 Elections
- £500 Christmas Lights
- £965 Translation
- Total Increase - £23,129 to £69,290

This would mean that the total to be precepted for 2016/17 is £253,900 giving a charge on a Band D property of £36.03, an increase of 45p on 2015/16 (1.3%)

Should no savings be made in 2016/17 & all the intended reserves utilised, the forecasted balance of reserves as at 31/3/17 will be £134,530.15 (53% of 2016/17 precept). This is still above the minimum acceptable limit.

Councillors considered that the increase was necessary to continue to deliver services to the community.

RESOLVED that:

- the second draft budget of £323,190 for 2016/17 is accepted
- the utilisation of £69,290 of reserves in 2016/17 is accepted
- the precept of £253,900 & resulting Band D charge of £36.03 for 2016/17, a 1.3% increase on 2015/16 is accepted

The Town Clerk was congratulated for her fastidious work & thanked for the hours she had put in to drafting the budget

- b) The Town Clerk informed Councillors that the Section 137 Expenditure limit for 2016/17 is £7.42 per elector. This equates to around £91,000 for the Town Council

76. Conwy Civic Hall & Quay

Councillors were informed that the Project Board, set up to review & advise on the proposal to dispose of Conwy Civic Hall & Quay has decided on the way to take to matter forward. The Board would like to appraise the Town Council on the situation.

RESOLVED that Mr Peters of Conwy County Borough Council is invited to the Extraordinary Meeting to be set in February to discuss the matter along with piece of land known as Plas Isa

77. Town & Community Councils Forum

The Town Clerk gave an overview of the Clerks section of the meeting held on 13/1/16. Matters discussed included the new process for the maintenance of bus shelters, which had not been delivered as expected in November & the poor performance of Conwy County Borough Council Environment, Roads & Facilities.

In the main meeting a presentation on Play Sufficiency had been given. Summer Playschemes had not gone ahead in 2015 & the County Council were looking for volunteers to take over the running of the schemes. Town & Community Councils may be asked to help out with this.

Attendees were given an overview of the draft budget for the County. Conwy County Borough Council are having to make further cuts to services

A presentation on providing free WIFI informed the meeting that this was available in most CCBC venues. Conwy County Borough Council's IT department are looking to roll this out to non-Council venues such as Conwy Quay & town. The cost for this would be between £14k & £38k or £1k to £3k for Lancaster Square, Conwy. Town & Community Councils were asked to suggest areas where this might be beneficial & may be asked to contribute to the cost of providing the service to non-Council areas. Councillors discussed the financial impact of this & effect of businesses premises providing free WIFI to customers

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk writes to Conwy County Borough Council stating that any funding spent on the free WIFI project would be better spent on other services & that the free provision may affect local businesses who already provide free WIFI to customers

Councillors thanked Councillor E Hughes & the Town Clerk for attending the meeting

78. "Friends of Conwy Jackdaws" Plaque

Councillors received correspondence from the "Friends of Conwy Jackdaws" who would like to site a Welsh slate plaque on the wall in Wishing Well Gardens, Conwy in recognition of the origin of a "Conwy Jackdaw".

Conwy County Borough Council have suggested that the plaque should be placed on the left of the archway with the Charter plaque being re-sited to this area.

Councillors discussed the request to re-site the Charter plaque

RESOLVED that the Town Council gives permission for the plaque to be re-sited but that the "Friends" contact Dr M Senior to ascertain as to why the plaque was sited there in the first place

79. Chapel Street Slate Plaques

RESOLVED that the agenda item is deferred to a future meeting

80. Guildhall Hire

a) Royal Cambrian Academy

Councillors received a request from the Royal Cambrian Academy for a meeting of members & invited guests on 1/3/16 from 11am to 1:30pm. 30 to 50 people will be attending the meeting.

RESOLVED that the request is granted & there is no charge

Councillor Macdonald did not take part in the vote on this agenda item

b) Cadw – Castles & Walled Towns of King Edward in Gwynedd World Heritage Site

Councillors RECEIVED a request for Cadw to use the Mayor's Parlour on 24/2/16 from 2pm to 7pm.

The Town Clerk asked the Town Council to clarify the charging structure for these meetings.

Cadw had used the Mayor's Parlour on 15/12/15 at a charge of £100. To date, not charge had been made for the Steering Group meeting on 19/1/16

RESOLVED that the request to use the Mayor's Parlour on 24/2/16 is granted at a cost of £50 & that Cadw are to be invoiced £30 for the use of the Mayor's Parlour on 19/1/16

81. Extraordinary Meeting

RESOLVED that an Extraordinary meeting is held on 22/2/16 at 6:30pm in the Guildhall to consider grant applications & receive an update on the Civic Hall & Quay, Conwy

82. Approval of Payments

Councillors APPROVED the following payments:

a) BT Payment Services Ltd. – Guildhall Alarm, 30/9/15 to 24/12/15 - £ 53.94 plus vat

b) David Huntington – Re-arranging & Re-hanging Pictures in the Guildhall - £95.00

c) Cawthrays – Purchase of 3 Christmas Window competition shields, engraving of shields and cup, and purchase and engraving of plate for Deputy Mayor's Consort Badge box - £204.93 plus vat

d) Welsh Water – Guildhall Water, 23/6/15 to 6/1/16 - £101.75

along with the additional payments:

a) A.Slater – Guildhall & Bus Shelter Windows for the 4 weeks to 15/1/16 - £170.00

b) Business Systems (North Wales) Ltd. – 3,905 Mono Photocopies, 1/12/15 to 4/1/16 - £13.67 plus vat

83. Cash Payments

There were no cash payments

84. List of Cheques

RESOLVED that the list of cheques no.334 is approved for payment (**Schedule G**)

85. Mayoral Announcements

December had been a busy month for the Mayor. She said that the Town Council's Christmas events had been well done & enjoyable for the community.

The Mayor had attended an Amnesty International event & it is hoped to set up a local group.

The Mayor had attended the Mayor of Bay of Colwyn's concert where the Conwy Ensemble played.

History of Deganwy Group had held an open day & the Mayor had attended an Intergenerational Day.

The Clwb yr Efail Christmas lunch saw Ysgol Porth Y Felin provide the entertainment.

On Christmas Eve, the Mayor visited residential homes in the community

At the beginning of January, the Mayor of Prestatyn had a charity event in the Nova Centre

86. Questions from the Residents

A resident asked the Town Council why they didn't make more use of volunteers to undertake work in the community, for example tidying & beach cleans.

The Mayor said that this would be an agenda item at a future meeting

87. Presentation of Painting by Mr K Finch

Mr Finch presented a painting of Conwy to the Town Council. The painting was by his mother, Mrs.Lilian Finch from a photograph taken by Mr Finch.

The Mayor thanked Mr Finch for donating the painting which would be hung in the Guildhall. She also wished him all the best as he is due to leave Conwy County Borough Council after many years of service.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 8:29pm