

CYNGOR TREF CONWY TOWN COUNCIL
THE GUILDHALL, CONWY.
MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY 26th MARCH 2018

Present: Councillors –B Chapman (The Mayor), S Cotton (Deputy Mayor, Chair), P Hart, H Roberts, T James, G Edwards, E Leighton-Jones, T Hughes, M Priestley, J Vaughan

In Attendance: H Barritt, Town Clerk & Responsible Finance Officer
R Lees, Assistant to the Town Clerk
Emma Dowell, CCTV Manager, CCBC
Janet Finch-Saunders, AM/AC

Apologies: V Macdonald, E Hughes, S Barber Bailey, T Lewis

Declarations of Interest – Code of Local Government Conduct:

Agenda Item 8a, Planning Application 0/44918 – Councillor S Cotton works at the Business Park.

Agenda Item 8a, Planning Application 0/44918 – Councillor G Edwards relative owns the adjoining land

288. CCTV

Ms Dowell, CCBC gave an update on the CCTV provision in the community. 17 Cameras are fully operational and the digital upgrade is progressing with the work due to start soon. Members felt that the Town Council should get recognition for the contribution made to CCTV.

The Chair thanked Ms Dowell for the update.

Ms E Dowell left the meeting at this juncture.

289. Review of Community & Town Council Sector

The Chair welcomed Janet Finch-Saunders AM/AC to the meeting to discuss the review. Mrs Finch-Saunders said that she was concerned about the number of reviews that had taken place over the years. She felt that Town & Community Councils were an important part of democracy & were good value for money.

There is no representation on the Review Panel from North Wales. The Panel's Terms of Reference was not published until 2 weeks ago. Mrs Finch-Saunders thought that the Review needed to focus on how Town & Community Councils could work better with Principal Authorities.

Members were concerned about the amount of interfering from the Welsh Government with local democracy. It doesn't seem to make a difference. Town & Community Councils are misunderstood with big expectations of them. Town & Community Councils are cautious of taking on services without funding. Town & Community Councils have a great knowledge of their communities. Members were concerned about the cost of the Review. Members said that there was a lot of tension between Town & Community Councils and the County Council. A better relationship would bring better benefits to the community. It is felt that the County Council does not listen to Town & Community Councils. The Chair and Councillors thanks Mrs Finch-Saunders for attending the meeting and for her input into the Review. Mrs Finch-Saunders Congratulated the Mayor on a successful year as Mayor and wished the Deputy Mayor good luck in her Municipal Year.

RESOLVED that the minutes from this item along with the response written by Councillor H Roberts are submitted to the Review Panel.

Mrs J Finch-Saunders AM/AC left the meeting at this juncture

Councillor H Roberts left the meeting at this juncture

290. Minutes

- Minutes of the Civic Committee meeting held on 12th March 2018

RESOLVED that the minutes are ACCEPTED and APPROVED

- Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 12th March 2018

RESOLVED that the minutes are ACCEPTED and APPROVED with the following amendment:

- Minute 110. Questions on the minutes, page 2 should start with – Minute 272b, Planning Law in Wales – Consultation Paper.

291. Questions on the Minutes

Civic Committee meeting held on 12th March 2018

a) Minute 22, Civic Sunday 2018

Members were informed that Menai Bridge Band are available on the 8th July at a cost of £250.

RESOLVED that Menai Bridge Band is hired for Civic Sunday 2018.

b) Minute 22, Civic Sunday 2018

Members were concerned that the date of the Civic Sunday could clash with the Eisteddfod Proclamation.

RESOLVED that the Civic Assistant/Events Coordinator checks the date.

Town Council meeting held on 12th March 2018.

a) Minute 109 – Minutes

The Town Clerk informed Members that the amendments to the planning decisions had been sent to planning, CCBC. The Town Clerk suggested that future technical objections/observations are given to the Town Clerk in writing.

b) Minute 111, Town Clerk's Report – Point 4

The Town Clerk read a letter of thanks from RSPB Conwy for the letter of support they received.

c) Minute 115, Hanging Baskets

Councillors G Edwards and E Leighton-Jones tried to collect the remaining hanging baskets from businesses in the Town, many business owners were not aware they were collecting and did not have the baskets to hand.

d) Minute 118, Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales Annual Report – February 2018

The Town Clerk informed Members that this item will be on the agenda at the meeting on 23rd April 2018.

e) Minute 126, Honorary Bailies 2018/19

The Town Clerk informed Members that Ray Castle was very pleased to accept the honour of Honorary Bailie, however, due to holiday commitments in September the ceremony will need to be put back to October.

292. Town Clerk's Report

Members received the Town Clerk's Report (Schedule A attached) with the following additional items:

- a) Social Enterprise Academy Workshop – Leading Social Enterprise in Conwy, 18 April 2018 9am – 5pm, Cartrefi Conwy Business Park, Station Road, Mochdre, Colwyn Bay, LL28 5EF
- b) One Voice Wales April training. The Assistant to the Town Clerk will email the information to Members.
- c) Reminder - Access Certificate Petition - just a week to go. For further information call Simon Green on 07719 889364. More information will be emailed to Members.
- d) Pensychnant Conservation Centre – i) Wildlife Art Exhibition – 11am - 5pm 28/3/18 to 30/9/18 Wednesday to Sunday ii) Tales of the Sychnant (Part 2) A history of Sychnant Pass by Dennis Roberts 30/3/18 7.30pm £3

293. Planning

a) Planning Applications

Members considered and commented on the attached Schedule B

Councillors Cotton & Edwards left the meeting during discussions on planning application 0/44918

b) Planning Decisions Issued

Members received list of planning decisions issued by Conwy County Borough Council

b) The Revised Eryri Local Development Plan 2016-2031

The Town Clerk informed Members that the documentation will be passed on to Councillor S Barber-Bailey who will report back at a later date.

Members RECEIVED and NOTED the information.

The Chair allowed the following item as a matter of urgency

The Town Clerk and the Assistant to the Town Clerk left the meeting

294. 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

295. Councillor and Staff issues

The Town Clerk and the Assistant to the Town Clerk re-joined to the meeting

296. Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities: Local Toilets Strategies

Members RECEIVED and NOTED the Consultation

297. Hanging Baskets

Members received 2 quotes for hanging baskets, the Assistant to the Town Clerk informed Members that a third quote had been requested but no response had come from both companies. Councillors had received very positive comments about the baskets by Allan & Eirwen Evans in 2017.

RESOLVED that Allan & Eirwen Evans quote be accepted to provide hanging baskets.

298. North Wales Walled Towns Friendship Circle

a) The Town Clerk gave a report on the quarterly meeting held on 14th March 2018. Discussions included a report given by Cadw representative Lawrence Smith on the new Management Plan for the World Heritage Sites. The next meeting will be held on 27th June 2018.

b) Members received details of the 2018/19 subscription

RESOLVED that the contribution of £400 for 2018/19 is sent.

299. Conwy Classical Music Festival

Members received a request for funding for the 2018 Festival. Councillors praised the Festival and C Roberts for all his hard work in organising the Festival each year.

RESOLVED that Conwy Classical Music Festival is rewarded a grant of £3000.

Councillor M Priestley left the meeting at this juncture.

300. Playing Out Scheme 2018

Members RECEIVED and NOTED the update.

301. Open Doors 2018

The agenda item was deferred to a future meeting.

302. Attendance by Standards Committee Independent Members at Town & Community Councils

Members received information from the Town Clerk sent by the Chair of the standards committee, CCBC. Members NOTED the information.

303. Guidance for Principal Councils on the Review of Communities

Members RECEIVED and NOTED the guidance.

304. Investment Strategy

Members received the Investment Strategy for 2018/19. Members thanked the Town Clerk for the information.

RESOLVED that the strategy is accepted.

305. Wales Audit Office Survey

Members received details of the survey.

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk fills out the survey on behalf of the Town Council.

306. Society of Local Council Clerks

The Town Clerk gave a report on the Quarterly Meeting held on 9th March 2018.

307. Membership of One Voice Wales 2018/19

The agenda item was deferred to a future meeting.

308. Guildhall Business Rates 2018/19

Members received details of the 2018/19 Guildhall Business Rates at a total of £6810.50

RESOLVED the 2018/19 Business rates are approved for payment.

309. Use of Guildhall by Gwledd Conwy

Members received correspondence from the Jill Tunstall regarding the events they would like to hold in the Guildhall. Full details were not provided.

RESOLVED that Jill Tunstall of Gwledd Conwy Feast is invited to a future meeting to discuss the events.

310. Timetable of Meetings for the Municipal Year 2018/19

Members RECEIVED and NOTED the timetable of Meetings for the Municipal Year 2018/19

311. Approval of Payments

RESOLVED that the following payments are approved:

- a) Business Systems (North Wales) Ltd. – Copies 9/2/18 to 5/3/18, Mono 2,431, Colour 81 - £14.68 plus vat
 - b) R. A. Slater – Guildhall & Bus Shelter Windows 4 weeks ended 9/3/18 - £170.00
 - c) AB Fire Prevention Wales Ltd. – Annual Service of Guildhall Fire Alarm & Emergency Lights & Repair to Emergency Light - £299.00 plus vat
- Along with the additional payments:
- d) One Voice Wales – H&S training for P. Gillbanks 13/3/18 - £60.00
 - e) Ifor P. Williams – Translation of Town Clerk Vacancy Documents - £88.98

312. Cash Payments

There were no cash payments.

313. List of Cheques

RESOLVED that the list of cheques 388 as tabled, is approved for payment (Schedule C)

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