

CYNGOR TREF CONWY TOWN COUNCIL
GUILDHALL, CONWY
MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY, 26th SEPTEMBER 2016

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

IN ATTENDANCE : Helen Barritt (Town Clerk)
J.Richardson, Strategic Director – Economy & Place, Conwy County Borough Council
G.Peters, Principal Property Manager, Conwy County Borough Council
D.Sandham, Procurement & Contracts Manager, Conwy County Borough Council

APOLOGIES : Councillor E Hughes

Declarations of Interest – Code of Local Government Conduct:

Agenda Item:

Agenda Item 7a – Planning Applications – Councillor Allardice is on the County Council Planning Committee

Minute Number

107. Conwy Civic Hall and Quay (Part)

Mr Peters gave Members an update on the disposal process. He said that he was unable to comment on specific bids as this may jeopardise the process.

The County Council had invited Expressions of Interest on 10/8/16 and the closing date is 12/10/16. These will be evaluated by the Project Board. Those bids deemed viable will be invited to progress further. Regeneration is the prime focus of the disposal for the County Council not the financial aspect. The aim is to select a successful bid by March 2017.

Members asked if organisations working with Third Sector parties would be preferred. Mr Peters said that there would be no discrimination against Third Sector organisations. He said that the County Council had a “shopping list” of community benefits it would like to see in a bid.

Members said that they would like to see the Civic Hall returned as a venue for local community groups and events.

Ms Richardson said that the process had time built in to allow organisations to seek grant funding.

Members were informed that providing a Letter of Support to a bidder could prejudice their bid.

Mr Peters said that he would keep the Town Council updated on the disposal process.

The Chairman thanked the County Council officers for attending the meeting

Mr Peters, Ms Richardson & Ms Sandham left the meeting at this juncture

Members discussed the disposal process. They are concerned that the County Council will sell the Civic Hall lease to the highest bidder and must make those involved in the process aware that the Town Council would like it to remain in the community.

108. Minutes

- Minutes of the Staff Committee held on 30th August 2016
RESOLVED that the minutes are ACCEPTED and APPROVED

109. Questions on the Minutes

There were no questions on the minutes

110. Town Clerk's Report

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

The Town Clerk reported the following additional item:

- "Why World Heritage Matters" 2016 UK Conference

The conference is to be held on 10th & 11th October 2016 in Caernarfon. The cost is £106.79 for one day or £159.89 for both days.

RESOLVED that should a Member wish to attend the Town Council will fund a place. Interested Members should contact the Town Clerk

WCVA Training – Training Skills – it was suggested that this course may be beneficial to the Town Clerk. She said that she would look into it.

Councillor Edwards left the meeting during the following agenda item

111. 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 and the Planning Inspectorate

- c) Snowdonia National Park Authority – Reviewing The Eryri Local Development Plan

The Town Council did not have a response to the Plan

112. Open Spaces Working Party

The Town Clerk gave a report on the meeting held on 19th September 2016

The Working Party had discussed the proposed developments by Beech Homes on Sychnant Pass, Conwy and Marl Lane/Pentywyn Road.

The proposal for Sychnant Pass had gone to Appeal by Public Inquiry to begin on 26th October 2016. The local residents group would be present. There would be an opportunity to question the appellant which may be the best opportunity for the Town Council. Members of the Working Party had suggested that a few Town Councillors could sit in on the inquiry and pose questions if they thought it necessary.

The proposal for Marl Lane/Pentywyn Road was yet to be decided by the County Council. The Working Party felt that it was necessary to wait for a decision.

113. Welsh Government Consultation – Technical Advice Note 24: The Historic Environment

Members felt that the consultation was a good step forward

RESOLVED that the response to the questions is as follows:

- question 1 – Yes
- question 2 – Nice to see being considered
- question 3 – Clear but is it enforceable?
- question 4 – Yes
- question 5 – Yes
- question 6 – Yes. It is good that these have been separated out from the rest. Sometimes these are overlooked

Councillor J Hughes left the meeting during the following agenda item

114. Council Tax Premiums on Long Term Empty Properties & Second Homes in Wales

Members debated the proposal by Conwy County Borough Council to charge a premium of up to 100% on the Council Tax of long term empty properties and second homes in the county.

Members were concerned that it could be disadvantageous to the local economy and would not be fair to the home owners. It was felt that home owners would be paying extra for services.

RESOLVED that the response to the questions is as follows:

- question 1 – No
- question 2 – Nil
- question 3 – Yes
- question 4 – Increase overall
- question 5 – Negative
- question 6 – Neutral
- question 7 – Properties that have been empty for over a year may have been purchased for capital gain. A tax should be introduced to deter this practice

115. Christmas

a) Small Trees

Mr Evans had quoted £16.00 per tree, as per last year

RESOLVED that 41 trees are purchased

b) Entertainment

Jacinta had contacted the Town Council to ask if her dancers could take part in the events.

RESOLVED that she is thanked but the offer is declined

c) Conwy Event Entertainment

Members discussed the entertainment for this year's event

RESOLVED that the girls from Ysgol Aberconwy are asked to sing

d) Chapter 8 Traffic Management Training

The Town Clerk said that she had booked on to a Chapter 8 Traffic Management course on 8th October 2016 at a cost of £150.00. This may fall to £125.00 if sufficient delegates are found

RESOLVED that the course is approved

e) Stewards

The Town Clerk said that she had estimated that around 29 stewards would be needed for the Conwy Christmas Eve event. Some Councillors would have specific duties. Councillor Macdonald said that Ms Hearn would be happy to conduct the Carol singing.

Members suggested that letters are written to local organisations

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk writes to local County Councillors inviting them to take part

116. North Wales Walled Towns Friendship Circle

Members RECEIVED a report on the quarterly meeting held on 15th September 2016.

Honorary Membership nominations are required for the AGM in November

Lawrence Smith of Cadw joined the meeting to discuss Town Regeneration following his visit to Ireland.

A Facebook page has been created for the Circle

The Annual Dinner 2017 will be at Caernarfon Golf Club on a date to be set in January

The 2016 bowls competition was won by Caernarfon and the golf by Denbigh.

Joe Spiteri, President of the European Walled Towns was married last Wednesday. The Symposium takes place in Holland in October.

The date of the AGM has been moved to 24th November 2016 in Beaumaris

117. North Wales Walled Towns Friendship Circle Car Rally 2016

The Rally will arrive in Bodlondeb, Conwy at around 10am on Sunday 2nd October.

The Deputy Mayor, Councillors Parker, Leighton-Jones and Allardice will assist with stewarding. The Town Clerk will ask Councillors E Hughes and J Hughes if they are able to help out.

A print has been purchased as a prize on behalf of the North Wales Walled Towns Friendship Circle who will reimburse the Town Council

RESOLVED that the purchase of the print on behalf of the North Wales Walled Towns Friendship Circle at a cost of £60.00 is approved

118. "Deganwy" Signs

Members were informed that the "Deganwy" signs in Maesdu Avenue and Glyn Y Marl Road are looking very shabby. The Town Clerk said that the Town Council had contacted the County Council about replacing the Maesdu Avenue one in 2013. A quote of £400 had been given and this amount was in the reserves. Despite emailing on a regular basis, the County Council had not replied.

RESOLVED that both signs are replaced and that images of the current ones are sent to the County Council

119. Local Government Review – Town & Community Council Boundaries

Members discussed the North and Mid Wales Association of Local Councils consultation paper regarding the proposed re-organisation and boundary changes

RESOLVED that Councillor Roberts votes with the Association when she attends the meeting in October

120. 2018 Review of Parliamentary Constituencies in Wales – Initial Proposals

Members RECEIVED correspondence from the Boundary Commission for Wales regarding its proposals for changes to parliamentary constituencies.

RESOLVED that the item is put on a future agenda

121. Llandudno Junction New School

Members were informed that the children had settled into the new school.

Conwy County Borough Council Education Services will be surveying parents and teachers regarding how they travel to school.

The new building does have problems with drainage but completion is on target

122. Community Transport for Conwy

As no one from the Town Council was able to attend the workshop Members were not in a position to respond to the consultation

123. Annual Return 2015/16

Members RECEIVED the 2015/16 Annual Return and Issues Arising Report following the completion of the external audit by BDO LLP Southampton.

The only issue raised regarded the treatment of The John Ronald Cunningham Memorial Trust. As the Town Council is not the sole trustee of the Trust it should not be included on the Annual Return in future years

RESOLVED that:

- a) the Town Council approves and accepts the Annual Return 2015/16
 - b) The John Ronald Cunningham Memorial Trust is not included on the Annual Return in future years
- The Town Clerk was thanked and congratulated for her work on the audit for 2015/16

124. Society of Local Council Clerks

RESOLVED that the agenda item is deferred to a future meeting

125. Guildhall Chamber Lights

Members were informed that the electricians had replaced the bulbs in the Chamber lamps but had said that the lampshades were in a fragile state and in danger of falling

RESOLVED that the Guildhall Working Party meets to discuss replacing the lampshades

126. Presentation to Town Council

Members RECEIVED requests to present to the Town Council from the following organisations:

- a) Soroptomists

RESOLVED that the request is granted

- b) Creating Enterprise CIC

RESOLVED that the request is not granted but the CIC is told that the Town Council will consider using its services in the future

127. Federation of Small Businesses

Members RECEIVED a request for a Letter of Support to be written on behalf of the Federation of Small Businesses. The Federation is working on a solution to keep banking services within communities

RESOLVED that a Letter of Support is written

128. Donation to Lord of the Wings CIC

As the Lord of the Wings CIC did not attend the Open Doors event a donation is not required

129. Approval of Payments

RESOLVED that the following payments are approved:

- a) Dŵr Cymru – Lancaster Square Fountain Water, 17/2/16 to 24/8/16 - £61.49
- b) BT Payment Services Ltd. – Internet Services, 1/9/16 to 30/11/16 - £118.50 plus vat
- c) Information Commissioner – Data Protection Registration, 20/10/16 to 19/10/17 - £35.00

Along with the additional payments:

- d) A. Slater – Guildhall & Bus Shelter Windows, 4 Weeks to 23rd September 2016 - £170.00
- e) J.W.Jones & Son – Replace Lightbulbs in Guildhall Chamber Lights - £90.00 plus vat

130. Cash Payments

RESOLVED that the list of cash payments 101 as tabled, is approved for payment (Schedule C)

131. List of Cheques

RESOLVED that the list of cheques 351 as tabled, is approved for payment (Schedule D)

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8:43pm