

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

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY 30th JANUARY 2017**

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

In Attendance:

H Barritt (Town Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer)

R Dix – Section Head: Business & Tourism, Conwy County Borough Council

V Turner – Traffic & Network Manager, Conwy County Borough Council

J Merrick – Conwy County Borough Council

J Hughes – Gwledd Conwy Feast

Apologies: Councillor C Rigal

Declarations of Interest – Code of Local Government Conduct:

- Agenda Item 7a, Planning Applications:

Councillor Allardice is a member of the County Council's Planning Committee

- Agenda Item 9, Festivals Grant Applications:

- b) Deganwy Prom Day:

Councillor Macdonald is Chair of Deganwy Prom Day Committee

Councillors Cotton, B James & A James are members of Deganwy Prom Day Committee

- c) Cyffordd Llandudno Junction Trakz:

The Mayor is Chair of Cyffordd Llandudno Junction Trakz Committee

Councillor J Hughes is Vice Chair of Cyffordd Llandudno Junction Trakz Committee

Councillor Roberts is Secretary of Cyffordd Llandudno Junction Trakz Committee

Councillor Parker is Secretary of Cyffordd Llandudno Junction Trakz Committee

- Agenda Item 13, Civic Hall, Conwy:

Councillors Allardice & Edwards are members of the Civic Hall Project Board

Minute Number

The Chair welcomed Ms K Cook, the new Civic Assistant/Events Co-ordinator who had come to observe the meeting

223. Conwy Coach Pull-In

Members received a presentation from Conwy County Borough Council officers regarding the proposal to create a safe coach pull-in on Rose Hill Street.

The layby would be moved to take some of the pavement area & an “island” with a rail would be created on the road side to create a safe disembarking & loading area for continental coaches. There would be space for 2 coaches & would enable Conwy to gain “coach friendly status”.

The Town Council has already given its support to this project “in principle”.

The cost of the project is around £86k & the aim is to have it completed for the main tourist season this year.

Members asked if there were any plans to remove the cobbles & create a smoother surface for people who have difficulty negotiating them. Mr Turner said that this had not been considered. Members were concerned about crossing points on Rose Hill Street.

The Town Clerk said that she was still concerned that some coaches would not want to enter the town due to difficulties negotiating the arches. This would mean that some coaches would continue to stop by the Castle to be able to go back over the bridge without going around the one-way system. Mr Dix said that they are continuing to look into this problem & the issue of coach parking.

The Chairman thanked Mr Dix, Mr Turner & Mr Merrick for their presentation

Mr Dix, Mr Turner & Mr Merrick left the meeting at this juncture

Members discussed the proposal and considered it a good opportunity for the town

RESOLVED that:

- a) the Town Council contributes £10,000 to the project from the 2017/18 budget
- b) the County Council are asked to look at the problem with the cobbles

With the permission of the Chairman the order of the agenda was changed

The Mayor & Councillor Roberts joined the meeting during the following agenda item

Councillor Edwards left the meeting during the following agenda item

224. Civic Hall, Conwy

Members discussed the news that none of the shortlisted applicants had been able to submit a final business proposal within the deadline for the second stage of the procurement process & that a report will be presented to CCBC Cabinet next month on the alternative options available for the disposal or redevelopment of the site.

Members were disappointed at the news.

Councillor Edwards appraised Members of the possible next steps. The Civic Hall could be offered on the “open market” with less conditions attached to the lease or the County Council could enter into a joint partnership with a commercial party which could mean retaining a community space.

Councillor Edwards said that even though the Culture Centre was relying on the funds from the Civic Hall it is likely that CCBC will be able to cover this funding.

Members were concerned about the Civic Hall being offered on the “open market”. They felt this could have a negative impact on local businesses & the community.

Mrs Hughes, Gwledd Conwy Feast was asked to address the meeting

Mrs Hughes said that her business partner in the bid for the Civic Hall was still trying to secure funding to go ahead with the acquisition of the lease. If they were successful, they would retain the community space & hoped to see a boost to the evening economy in Conwy. They would need the co-operation of the County Council.

RESOLVED that a letter is written to the County Council stating that, of the two possible options the Town Council would prefer to see a joint partnership between the County Council & a private developer that would see the retention of a community facility

225. Minutes

RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the Staff Committee meeting held on 11th January 2017

226. Questions on the Minutes

Due to the confidential nature of the business transacted of the Staff Committee minutes, questions would be taken under Agenda Item 28, Staff Remuneration

227. Town Clerk's Report

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

The Town Clerk reported the following additional items:

- a) Conwy County Borough Council
The meeting of the Principal Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 6/2/17 will start at 10am
- b) Equality & Diversity Training delivered by One Voice Wales at Abergele Town Council on 8/2/17, 6:30pm to 9pm, £45
- c) Free OpenLearn Champions Workshop. 1/2/17, Llandudno, 10am to 3:30pm. For practitioners who promote learning in the community, formally or informally
- d) Social Firms Wales is hosting a Venture Café on 14/2/17, 9:15am to 12:45pm in St.Asaph
- e) Historic Towns & Villages Forum is looking for a new team & admin format. The deadline for applications is 20/2/17
- f) "Be a Local Councillor in 2017". Copies of the document are available from the Town Clerk
- g) Mr Clark of Conwy Camera Club has been contacted by the Trunk Road Agency regarding placing the QR code on Conwy bridge. This has a link to the Train Crash painting in the Guildhall
- h) Mrs Owen, Mayor's Secretary had written a note of thanks for her retirement gift

228. 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 list of planning decisions issued by Conwy County Borough Council.

229. Consultation: LDP35: Safeguarding Employment Sites

Members **RECEIVED** and **NOTED** the consultation

The Mayor & Councillors J Hughes, Roberts, Parker, Macdonald, Cotton, B James & A James left the meeting during discussion of the grant applications they had declared an interest in

230. Festivals Grant Applications

Members received requests for funding from the following organisations:

- a) Conwy Classical Music Festival 2017
RESOLVED that a grant of £3,000 is made
- b) Deganwy Prom Day
RESOLVED that a grant of £1,000 is made
- c) Cyffordd Llandudno Junction Trakz
RESOLVED that a grant of £1,500 is made

231. Performance Area, Conwy Tourist Information Centre

Members discussed the proposal by the Destination Manager, CCBC that performers are able to use the area outside the Tourist Information Centre in Conwy to perform to the public. An external power point is available.

RESOLVED that Members make it known to possible performers that the space is available

232. Irish Walled Town Network Learning Visit to North West Wales

Members **RECEIVED** and **NOTED** the itinerary for the visit on 27th to 29th March 2017

233. Service Road Re-Surfacing Scheme, Llandudno Junction

Members received a request from the Environment Officer, CCBC to assist with funding improvements to the surface of the service road that leads from the highway to Llandudno Junction Football Club. The request had been received on 23/1/17, after the budget for 2017/18 had been set & submitted to CCBC. 23/1/17 was the deadline date for submission of budgets & precepts by Town & Community Councils to CCBC.

Members were informed that the reason for the request was that alternative funding would not be available until April 2017. The cost of the project is £21,400 plus consultancy fees (approximately £5,000).

Members were concerned that vehicles were parking in the park by a drainage ditch, causing the bank to collapse.

Despite the Mayor being on the Llandudno Junction Regeneration Scheme committee, she had not been invited to the meeting

RESOLVED that:

- a) a reply is sent stating that the Town Council does not have funding available in the 2016/17 budget and the request has arrived too late for it to be included in the 2017/18 budget
- b) the problems with the drainage ditch & bank are drawn to the Llandudno Junction Regeneration Board's attention

234. NatWest, Conwy

Members received a report on the meeting held with Mr German, Local CEO for NatWest on 24th January 2017. The Mayor, Deputy Mayor & Councillors Roberts, B James & A James were in attendance.

Mr German had informed the meeting that the bank would not close unless they had secured services for customers at Conwy Post Office. Members had informed him that the future of the Post Office in Conwy was uncertain.

There is the possibility of having community banking facilities in the town if NatWest can find suitable premises. They will also send a mobile bank to the town once a week

Members felt that Mr German needed to attend another meeting in the next couple of months to update on issues rather than in October as promised.

RESOLVED that Mr German is asked to come & meet Councillors again in April to update them on the latest situation with the Conwy branch

235. Town & Community Councils' Forum

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor E Hughes & the Town Clerk gave a report on the meeting held on 26th January 2017.

The meeting had been poorly attended.

An overview of the Corporate Plan 2017-2022 had been presented with an emphasis on collaboration between the County Council & Town & Community Councils. The Town Clerk had pointed out that in 2010/11 £4.5k to County Council projects. In 2017/18 this will increase to £36.5k. She felt that this demonstrated how the Town Council was prepared to work with the County Council but didn't feel that it was reciprocated.

The Forum received a presentation on the "Playing Out" scheme & on "Place Plans".

Place Plans will result in more work for Town & Community Councils & Members were recommended to look at Neighbourhood Plans in England as an example.

236. North & Mid-Wales Association of Local Councils

Members received a report on the quarterly meeting held on 20th January 2017 which was attended by the Deputy Mayor & Councillors Macdonald & Roberts.

The meeting received a presentation from Planning Aid Wales & discussed the merger of Town & Community Councils.

Other matters discussed included rateable values for businesses, transport & the five year plan for the Association.

237. Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales – Town & Community Council Round Table Event

The Town Clerk gave a report on the event held on 26th January 2017.

The event was more of a fact finding session for members of the Panel.

The Panel will be issuing its Annual Report in February with determinations to be adopted by the Town Council for 2017/18.

238. Meeting with the First Minister of Wales

Councillor Roberts gave a report on the meeting held on 19th January 2017 in Llanrwst. She had posed a question regarding closure of banks in the community & plans by the Welsh Government to open a community bank in Wales. The First Minister said that the community bank would not have any branches & would be for investment purposes. The Chairman thanked Councillor Roberts for attending the meeting

239. Welsh Government Survey – Services Provided & Assets Managed by Town & Community Councils

RESOLVED that the item is deferred to a future meeting but that the Town Clerk circulates the survey to Members

240. National Assembly for Wales – Consultation on the Trade Union (Wales) Bill

Members **RECEIVED** and **NOTED** the consultation

241. Councillors’ Car Parking Permits

Members were informed that the County Council would no longer be renewing or issuing car parking permits for Town Councillors or Town Council staff.

Members were concerned that the effect of this would be that potential candidates would not stand for the Town Council & that existing Members may not stand again. The decision could result in financial hardship for some & would lead to a lack of diversity on the Town Council.

Members felt that they were not valued by the County Council especially as the Town & Community Forum had focused on collaboration between the Councils.

Members may be able to utilise their allowances to cover parking expenses but it was unlikely that the limited amount would be sufficient.

The Town Clerk said that she would need to speak to the Staff Committee regarding the effect on staff.

The amount of free on-street parking in Conwy is limited, especially in the Summer season. Vicarage Gardens Car Park, Conwy is generally empty in the evenings so CCBC would not be losing any income through parking not being available to the public.

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk writes to the Traffic & Network Manager, CCBC asking for the decision to be reconsidered

242. Defibrilators

RESOLVED that the agenda item is deferred to a future meeting

243. Mayoral Photographs

Members received a request to reproduce the Mayoral photographs on a Facebook page called “History & Heritage”

RESOLVED that the request is turned down

244. Approval of Payments

RESOLVED that the following payment is approved:

Hopol Heating Ltd. – Repairs to pipe in the Guildhall heating system - £420.86 plus vat

245. Cash Payments

There were no cash payments to approve

246. List of Cheques

RESOLVED that the list of cheques 360 as tabled, is approved for payment (Schedule C)

The Chairman allowed the following item as a matter of urgency

247. Guildhall Painting

The Town Clerk informed Members that the insurance company had requested a second estimate for repairs to the painting.

Councillor Macdonald had arranged for Benards Gallery to provide the second estimate which had come in at £3,405 plus vat. This is £1,025 less than the Britton & Storey quote.

The insurance company has said that the repair could be undertaken by the firm with the higher quote but the Town Council would have to fund the difference.

Members discussed the situation and said that they would prefer Britton & Storey to undertake the work as they had carried out the previous restoration

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk contacts Britton & Storey to ask them if they are able to reduce the estimate

248. 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

249. Staff Remuneration

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9:10pm