

FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Llandudno Town Council

Minutes of a meeting of Llandudno Town Council - Finance & General Purposes Committee

Held on Friday 20th November 2020, 7.00pm

Council Chamber, Town Hall, Lloyd Street, Llandudno

Those Present:

Cllr Frank Bradfield - Chairman

Cllr D J Hawkins - Vice Chairman

Cllr Miss A O'Grady - The Mayor

Cllr M Hold, JP

Cllr Mrs C Beard

Cllr Mrs J Jones

Cllr A W Bertola

Cllr Miss C Marubbi

Cllr B B Bertola

Cllr H T M Saville

Cllr F Davies

Cllr I Turner

Cllr Mrs L G Emery

64. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr P C Evans, JP

Cllr G J T Robbins

Cllr S R Hillman

Cllr Mrs M Wigzell

Cllr M A Pearce

Absent: Cllr Mrs M Lyon

Cllr M J Pavey

65. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST UNDER THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF CONDUCT.

The following interests were declared:

Name:	Item:	Personal or Prejudicial:
Cllr A W Bertola	72: IT Equipment for Members	Prejudicial: Related to the applicant
Cllr B Bertola	69: Grants 418 (Aberconwy) Squadron Air Training Corps Llandudno Welsh Rugby union Football Club Llywelyn "Welly Evans2 Mini Rugby Tournament 72: IT Equipment for Members	Personal: Member of Executive Committee for the organisation Personal: Member of Llandudno Rugby Club Prejudicial: Applicant
Cllr Mrs L Emery	69: Grants: School Lane Pre-School 70: Report on Llandudno Play Areas and Release of Funding	Prejudicial: Director of pre-school Personal: Member of Conwy CBC
Cllr Mrs J Jones	69: Grants Llandudno Elderly People's Welfare Society	Personal: Member of the Executive Committee for the organisation
Cllr Miss C Marubbi	69: Grants: Llandudno Elderly People's Welfare Society	Prejudicial: Chairman of the Executive Committee for the organisation

FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Name:	Item:	Personal or Prejudicial:
Cllr H T M Saville A W Bertola	69: Grants Conwy District Citizens Advice 70: Report on Llandudno Play Areas and Release of Funding	Prejudicial: Member of the organisation Personal: Member of Conwy CBC
Cllr I turner	69: Grants Conwy District Citizens Advice	Personal: Vice-Chairman of the organisation

66. MINUTES

It was resolved to approve and sign the minutes of a meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on Friday 18th September 2020

67. URGENT ITEMS RELATING TO FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES

There were none.

68. CLERKS FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER 2020

The reports included updates on the Ad-hoc grants budget, Community Fund, General Development Fund, and budget update to 31st October 2020, and which the Chairman drew members attention to.

IT WAS RESOLVED that the financial statements for September and October 2020 be approved.

69. TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY GRANTS SUB-COMMITTEE AT A MEETING HELD 11TH NOVEMBER 2020

Members considered the recommendations of the Grants Sub-Committee, held on 11th November 2020, for grant applications received for 2021/22. The Chairman thanked the members of the Grants Sub Committee for their careful consideration of the grant applications. Members considered the recommendations on each grant application in turn.

The Chairman reported that with reference to the annual commitment to the Llandudno Victorian Extravaganza, the Finance & General Purposes Committee had agreed in 2019 to increase the annual funding amount to £5,000 but the previous amount of £3,000 had been included in the current figures in error and **IT WAS RESOLVED that the figure be amended to £5,000.**

Concerns were raised that the monitoring of the coastline and provision of advice on beach and water safety by the Great Orme Coastwatch Institution was a duplication of the work carried out by the Coastguard, the RNLI and Conwy CBC Harbour Master and the recommended grant should, therefore, not be awarded. The West Shore café also offered this service through a camera fitted on the side of the café building. It was noted however, that Coastwatch had been working closely with Conwy CBC Harbour Master to cover gaps in provision and plans for a permanent base at West Shore for the Harbour Master and Coastwatch were being drawn up. Members also considered that it was beneficial to have another set of eyes monitoring the

FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

coastline and **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the grant recommendation of £250.00 to the Great Orme Coastwatch be approved.

Members queried the grant recommendation to North Wales Parrot Rescue, and it was proposed that no funding be awarded. It was discussed however, that parrots were difficult to look after and were often abandoned by their owners who were unable to look after them properly. It was likely that without Parrot Rescue's intervention many of the birds would have to be put down. It was noted that Parrot Rescue had been unable to fundraise in 2020 and that the grant request was towards the costs of a tree stand to allow the birds more freedom and **IT WAS RESOLVED** to approve the grant recommendation of £250.00 to North Wales Parrot Rescue.

It was raised whether the Town Council should continue to provide grant funding to Llandudno Swimming Pool particularly as little feedback on how Town Council funding was spent had been received. The swimming pool had also recently cancelled free early morning swimming sessions for the over 60s, which had been very popular. It was noted, however, that the free swimming sessions had been funded by the Welsh Government which had removed the funding at very short notice and with little consultation.

The Grants Sub Committee had recommended that Conwy CBC be invited to give a presentation on how Town Council funding was being used and on future business plans for the pool. Members considered that this was a good idea as the swimming pool was currently operating differently due to Covid-19 requirements with the swimming pool, gym, changing rooms and public areas having to be cleaned more extensively than previously and a staged return implemented for different users groups.

IT WAS RESOLVED to write to Conwy CBC to express concern regarding the loss of free early morning swimming sessions for the over 60s and to invite the Leisure Services Manager to attend a future meeting of the Town Council to give a presentation on Covid-19 safety measures at the pool and on how Town Council funding was being spent.

IT WAS FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Council approve the recommendations of the Grants Sub-Committee including the grant award recommendations for 2021-22 (appendix A) totalling £91,715.88.

70. TO CONSIDER A REPORT ON LLANDUDNO PLAY AREAS AND RELEASE OF FUNDING FROM THE TOWN COUNCIL'S BUDGET COMMITMENT 2019-21

Members considered a report on Llandudno Play Areas and whether to release funding from the Town Council's budget commitment 2019-21 consisting of £24,000 from 2019/20 and £24,000 from 2020/21.

At the Council meeting held on 12.12.19, it had been resolved to allocate funding to: Mostyn Play Area for the replacement of slide and surfacing; West Shore Play Area, for the replacement of safety surfacing and gate; West Shore outdoor gym, replacement of the cross trainer, subject to details on the costing and procurement process to achieve best value.

FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

The report from Conwy CBC contained costings for the above plus costings for the replacement of safety gates at Bodnant Road and Canol Creuddyn play areas, which members were also asked to consider, with the total asked for contribution coming to £35,263. The Town Council was also asked whether it would consider a contribution towards the estimated costs of £55,000 to £75,000 for replacement of play equipment on the Great Orme, to be undertaken over several financial years and for repair work to the Llandudno Oval MUGA.

Members considered that the Town Council should fund the replacement of the slide and surfacing at Mostyn Play Area and the replacement of safety surfacing and the cross trainer at West Shore but queried why it was necessary for the gates to be replaced as they were currently in working order. It was suggested that they should instead be replaced at the end of their life span. It was raised, however, that members were not qualified playground inspectors and perhaps members could accompany the Conwy CBC play officer on site visits to each of the play areas to raise this and any other concerns.

Members expressed interest in funding the replacement of play equipment on the Great Orme over several financial years, but this would need further discussion. Members also considered that clarification was required on whether the Town Council or Conwy CBC was responsible for maintenance of the Llandudno Oval MUGA before funding for repair work could be agreed.

It was also suggested that due to the significant cost of maintaining the high number of play areas in Llandudno, many of which were under used, the numbers be reduced to two or three centres of play excellence within the town but members recognised that it would be challenging to decide which play areas to close.

IT WAS RESOLVED to allocate £29, 263.09 funding from the Town Council's play area budget commitment 2019-21 for the following works:

- *Mostyn Play Area, replacement of slide and surfacing, £9,959.09*
- *West Shore Play area, replacement of surfacing, £16,000*
- *West Shore Outdoor Gym, cross trainer, £3,304*

IT WAS FURTHER RESOLVED to write to Conwy CBC to query why the gates needed replacing at West Shore, Bodnant Road and Canol Creuddyn play areas and to invite the Conwy CBC play officer to accompany members on site visits to the play areas in their ward to discuss any maintenance/repair work needed and report back to a future meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee.

71. INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL

71.1 Draft Annual Report 2021/22 and consultation on payments to Members of Community and Town Councils was considered.

Members noted that the only change recommended by the Independent Remuneration Panel, Wales to payments that applied to Town & Community Councils was to the contribution towards the costs of care and personal assistance. It had been recommended that the monthly cap of £403 be removed and that in future that all formal (registered) care costs be reimbursed in full and that informal care costs (unregistered) be reimbursed up to a maximum rate equivalent to the Real Living Wales at the time the costs were incurred.

FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Members considered that those with caring responsibilities should be able to be reimbursed for the costs of care but judged that the current arrangements were adequate and should remain and **IT WAS RESOLVED** *to write to the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales to request that all determinations that applied to Town & Community Councils should remain the same as for the financial year 2020/21.*

72. IT EQUIPMENT FOR MEMBERS

(Item requested by Cllr B B Bertola)

Cllr A W Bertola and Cllr B Bertola declared prejudicial interests and left the meeting. Cllr B Bertola did not return to the meeting.

Members considered a request from Cllr B Bertola to borrow a laptop from the Town Council to enable him to access Town Council meetings, which were currently being held online due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Members expressed great respect for Cllr Bertola, as a long-standing member of the Town Council who worked hard for the community of Llandudno and noted that he was currently accessing meetings by telephone, which was not ideal as he was unable to participate fully or interact with members.

It was noted that the Town Council did not have a spare laptop available for Cllr Bertola to borrow and it was suggested therefore that a device be purchased for him to use.

Members queried whether purchasing a laptop might set a precedent as other members might also come forward with requests. The issue of training members how to use the equipment was also raised. It was considered, however, that further requests were likely to be few and could be assessed as needed. It was also noted that Cllr Bertola would be borrowing the laptop temporarily, the equipment would remain the property of the Town Council and that tablet devices could be purchased at relatively low cost.

IT WAS RESOLVED *to discuss with Cllr Bertola whether a tablet would be suitable for his needs to enable him to access Town Council meetings until it was possible to return to face to face meetings and to purchase a tablet up to a maximum budget of £100.*

IT WAS FURTHER RESOLVED *that requests for tablets from other members would be considered as received.*

It was also raised that the Staffing Sub Committee had discussed whether the staff had sufficient IT support to work from home due to homeworking arrangements continuing longer than expected as only the clerk had a works laptop. Members considered that it was important for the staff to be fully equipped to work from home. If the devices were provided and maintained by the Town Council's IT provider they would also be more secure and **IT WAS RESOLVED** **that the Town Council would look at purchasing or leasing two further laptops for staff.**

Cllr A Bertola returned to the meeting.

FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

73. TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY FINANCE SUB COMMITTEES

- 73.1 Civic Sub Committee, held 28th September 2020
- 73.2 Civic Sub Committee, held 14th October 2020
- 73.3 Staffing Sub Committee held 9th November 2020

IT WAS RESOLVED *that the minutes of the Civic Sub Committee, held 28th September 2020, the minutes of the Civic Sub Committee held on 14th October 2020 and the Staffing Sub Committee, held 9th November 2020, be accepted and approved.*

74. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

No correspondence had been received

75. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

It was noted that an Extraordinary meeting of the Committee to review the budget for 2020/21 would be held on Friday 27th November 2020

The date of the next ordinary meeting was confirmed as **Friday 8th January 2020**