

FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Llandudno Town Council

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

Held on Friday 27th November 2020, 7.00pm

Council Chamber, Town Hall, Lloyd Street, Llandudno

Those Present:

Cllr Frank Bradfield – Chairman

Cllr D J Hawkins – Vice Chairman

Cllr Mrs C Beard

Cllr Miss C Marubbi

Cllr F Davies

Cllr M J Pavey

Cllr Mrs L G Emery

Cllr M A Pearce

Cllr S R Hillman

Cllr G J T Robbins

Cllr Mrs J Jones

Cllr H T M Saville

Cllr Mrs M Lyon

Cllr I Turner

76. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Miss A O'Grady – The Mayor

Cllr P C Evans, JP

Cllr A W Bertola

Cllr M Hold, JP

Cllr B B Bertola

Cllr Mrs M Wigzell

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

Name:	Item:	Personal or Prejudicial:
Cllr Mrs C. Beard	78: Budget and Conwy CBC asks	Personal: Member of Conwy CBC
Cllr F Bradfield	78: Budget and Conwy CBC asks	Personal: Member of Conwy CBC
Cllr G J T Robbins	78: Budget and Conwy CBC asks	Personal: Member of Conwy CBC
Cllr H T M Saville	78: Budget and Conwy CBC asks	Personal: Member of Conwy CBC

78. TO REVIEW THE 20/21 BUDGET AND IMPACT OF COVID 19

Members had been previously circulated with a report outlining balances carried forward as of 01 April 2020, General and Ear Marked Reserves, and a spreadsheet showing the budget income and expenditure to 31 October 20 and predicted budgets that would be unspent/underspent to 31 March 2021. The current position was also outlined in terms of projected income and expenditure for 2020/21, forecasting to 31 March 2021, and regard needed to potential budget needs for 2021 and impact on the precept. It was also noted that the impact of Covid-19 on the budget was unlikely to be fully known until the end of the financial year, and that the ongoing impact on 2021 in terms of the Town Council's activities and events was uncertain. Possible options for underspent and unspent were outlined and discussed including carrying over some budgets in entirety or part to 2021, topping up existing Community and General development Funds, building up General Reserves to build a greater cushion of resilience, allocate for new projects of a covid-19 recovery fund, and off setting the precept for 2021. A cautious and prudent approach was suggested until the next financial year when the picture might be clearer.

FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Members discussed the reports and

IT WAS RESOLVED to allocate to Ear Marked Reserves the following unspent/underspent budgets: Town Hall Rent (£21,000), Freedom Parade (£1,500: likely to proceed in 21 or 22), Grounds Maintenance (£3,000 for expected works 2021 and Ash Die Back surveys 2021), Paddling Pool (£10,000), Fireworks (£23,000), and Great Orme Goats Partnership (£3,200, as previously resolved to carry over).

On further discussion,

IT WAS FURTHER RESOLVED to put into Ear Marked Reserves the unspent Twinning budget (£3,000) to 2021, and to top up to £4,000 with £1,000 from an underspend in the Bloom due to proposed activities and events of the Town Twinning Committee for 2021.

IT WAS FURTHER RESOLVED to reconfirm that the £14,000 underspend in the Annual Grants budget for 2021/21 be re-allocated to General Reserves.

IT WAS FURTHER RESOLVED that remaining underspends on the budget report, estimated at around £50-60,000 be ring fenced until January 2021, when the position of the 20/21 budget and the budget for 21/22 would be considered further.

There was some discussion on the Town Council's unspent commitment of £10,000 towards the Paddling Pool on North Shore, the pool having been closed for the season due to Covid-19. Some members expressed concern that the pool needed refurbishment (although the impact of the loss of operation on the appearance of the facility this year was noted) and whether £10,000 was sufficient. However, that the contribution was towards the operation of the pool, and that £20,000 was contributed by Leisure Services was noted. It was further discussed that the £10,000 commitment was vital to open the pool in 2021 and keep it operational, that the pool area would require significant investment, and that funding for strategic projects in the town might be found from other sources, such as the grants. Support was expressed for capital projects in the Town over a longer 3-or-4year timeframe, the development of partnerships, more affordable housing, and tidying up neglected assets. If the expansion of the windfarm proceeded, it was suggested that the most be made of the opportunity for grants. Refurbishment of Promenade shelters was also mooted.

IT WAS RESOLVED to write to Conwy CBC to request an update on the paddling pool, express an interest in Conwy CBC undertaking a survey of the pool, and to seek an update on future plans to improve the site; whilst noting that it would require substantial funding support.

The work of the Bloom Sub Committee in developing community projects was commended. Interest was expressed in developing projects such as growing edibles to support local families. It was noted that community projects of this nature were already being considered.

There was some discussion on the likely landscape for the Town Council's activities and events in 2021, what might be able to proceed, any increased impact on costs, and that any vaccination might take some time to roll out and take effect. Events and activities in the first part of the year were uncertain, but more might be known in January. It was also considered that much might depend on the nature and location of activities and events and it was noted that the Welsh

FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Government was running test events. It was further touched upon that North Wales, and Conwy County, was one of the lowest regions affected by Covid-19 however it was difficult to look forward and predict at this time.

An email from Conwy CBC provisionally indicating budget asks for 2021, and an email confirming that the return date for precepts would be the 22nd January, were received.

IT WAS FURTHER RESOLVED to note the Budget report 2020/21, as attached to the Minutes as Appendix one.

79. UPDATE ON THE WG COVID-19 TOWN CENTRE REGENERATION FUND

(with reference to Community Services & Tourism Committee 08.09.20 and Finance Committee 18.09.20)

A report was received on the application to the Covid-19 Town Centre Regeneration Fund, as discussed at Community Services and Finance Committees. The cost to supply a combined bench and planter in Madoc Street, with commemorative plaque and rainbow shaped back was £2,240 ex vat. The cost for wheel-chair accessible picnic benches at West Shore was £890 ex vat, £75 delivery charge and £700 installation. The maximum grant available was £10,000, with match funding of 20% from the applicant. Members had previously expressed interest in tarmacking the area around the picnic benches. Initial indications, however, indicated that the cost might be up to £16,000, although further quotes would need to be sought. Conwy CBC was able to provide £10,000 in total to all projects.

Conwy CBC had confirmed 80% funding of the bench planter picnic benches and would consider the tarmac surfacing. Before further quotes were sought, and as a more detailed specification would need to be drafted, members were asked if they wish to progress this and identify match funding for this element. Members discussed and raised whether there were alternative, cheaper options to tarmac and agreed that this could be looked at. Whilst only one quote had been sought to date, to get an indication of costs, other contractors required a detailed specification to quote against, or had not responded. Concern was expressed about quotes being received via Conwy CBC, but it was noted that quotes were being sought by the Town Council and that this project had been mooted by the Town Council not Conwy CBC. Further quotes would need to be sought if members wished to progress this element of the projects and identify funding.

IT WAS RESOLVED to allocate up to £10,000 from the General Development Fund to match fund the grant available for works to the picnic area at West Shore, should the project proceed.

Cllr GJT Robbins asked for his abstention to be recorded.

80. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The date and time of the next meeting was confirmed as **Friday 8th January 2021 at 7.00pm.**