

COMMUNITY SERVICES & TOURISM

Llandudno Town Council

Minutes of a meeting of Llandudno Town Council – Community Services & Tourism Committee

Held on Tuesday 18th July 2017 at 7.00pm

Council Chamber, Town Hall, Lloyd Street, Llandudno

Those Present:

Cllr Miss C Marubbi – Chairman

Cllr Mrs M Wigzell – Vice Chairman

Cllr F Davies – The Mayor

Cllr Miss A O’Grady

Cllr Mrs C Beard

Cllr M A Pearce

Cllr F Bradfield

Cllr G J T Robbins

Cllr Mrs L G Emery

Cllr H T M Saville

Cllr M Hold, JP

Cllr I Turner

Cllr Mrs M Lyon

14. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr B Evans

Cllr S Hillman

Absent:

Cllr A W Bertola

Cllr M J Pavey

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

There were none.

16. TO RECEIVE A PRESENTATION FROM CVSC ON THE LLANDUDNO SUMMER ‘PLAYING OUT’ SCHEME

The Chairman welcomed Ms Nathania Scyner, Play Development Worker, Community and Voluntary Support Conwy to give a presentation on the summer ‘Playing Out Scheme’ in Llandudno, supported by Llandudno Town Council. Ms Scyner explained that children faced more barriers to play than older generations had and the ‘Playing Out’ scheme enabled children to access play and to develop physical, social, mental, emotional and creative skills. The benefits included: staffed provision; point of contact for children over the summer period; provision of richer play experiences, and use of open spaces that are often under used.

In addition, the scheme: promoted/encouraged physical activity; socialising with peers to reduce isolation. It allowed, children to learn to self-assess risk, problem solve and promoted independence and a sense of wellbeing. Activities included den building, arts and crafts, cooking on the fire, making tree swings, free play, face painting, dressing up, sports and loose parts play involving boxes etc. A video of children taking part in activities in 2016 was shown.

In 2017, an inclusion play worker had been employed and was working closely with TAF (Team around the Family) and the Child Development Centre, to ensure that children who needed additional support to access the sessions could do so. Since her appointment, Ms Scyner had visited schools throughout Conwy to hand out flyers and give presentations about

the Play Scheme and localised timetables of the sessions had been produced. Ysgol Creuddyn had also been secured as a Llandudno site.

Members were very supportive of the playscheme but raised that attendance at some of the sessions in Llandudno had not been high in 2016 and were concerned that she had been unable to visit two schools in Llandudno. Ms Scyner reported that she was newly in post and the work she had undertaken was to address the low attendance and that all pupils would have received information regarding the playing out sessions by the end of term. She was asked to expand on her work with TAF, explaining that she had worked with TAF to address some of the barriers preventing some children from participating. Ms Scyner thanked members for their support of the scheme, which would not go ahead without the funding from the Town Council.

Ms Scyner was thanked by the Chairman and members for the excellent presentation and for her hard work to promote the 'Playing Out' Scheme.

17. URGENT ITEMS

There were none.

18. MINUTES

The minutes of a meeting of the Community Services Committee held on Tuesday 30th May 2017, were received.

19. TO REVIEW THE DOG CONTROL ORDERS AND ENFORCEMENT OF

(Item requested by Cllr G J T Robbins)

Cllr Robbins referred to previous discussions by the Town Council on enforcement of Dog Control Orders in Llandudno by Conwy CBC's enforcement company, following concerns raised by residents and visitors about the heavy handedness of their approach. The company had been the subject of a recent Panorama TV programme about their practices elsewhere, which had not appeared to show them in a good light. Cllr Robbins had discussed the issue with and written to the Conwy CBC Cabinet member for Community Development Services and Regulation, including whether Dog Control Orders were needed, their remit and boundaries, and how they were enforced, emphasizing that although enforcement was necessary to prevent littering and dog fouling, there needed to be a balance. Members had been circulated with an email from Conwy CBC notifying that ahead of the Dog Control Orders becoming Public Space Protection Orders in October 2017, Conwy CBC would be reviewing the boundaries of the current Orders and undertaking a public and stakeholder consultation. A notice of motion had been discussed at Conwy CBC last week and the Cabinet member had stated that education would be used as a means of enforcement going forward rather than the automatic issuing of Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN).

Cllr Robbins proposed that the Town Council write to Conwy CBC in the strongest possible terms to stress the above concerns, so that they could be included in the discussion on enforcement priorities by Conwy CBC, as the current situation was having an impact on residents and visitors, which are the lifeblood of the economy in Llandudno.

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A statement from the Cabinet Member for Community Development Services and Regulation was also read out. Officers of Kingdom Security would continue to enforce Dog Control Orders but only issue an FPN if a request to remove a dog from the area or put the dog on a lead in a designated area was ignored or refused. This was a major change to how enforcement had been done previously.

An animated debate took place, with one member raising whether the enforcement was proportionate in potentially criminalising those who did not comply, and noting that only nine criminal prosecutions had been secured since the Order's introduction. It was questioned whether Dog Control Orders were needed as legal remedies were already in place if a dog caused a hazard or a nuisance and that perhaps Dogs on a Lead Orders should be introduced as an alternative. Questions were also raised regarding complaints being classed as representations unless they had been taken through the corporate complaints procedure, with only 4 complaints as opposed to 258 representations received. Complaints were also initially referred to the contracting company and only referred to Conwy CBC if the complainant was not satisfied with how it was dealt with.

Members acknowledged that dog fouling was a major issue but the way enforcement was implemented was the problem and, that enforcement officers did not patrol where were most needed. Dog owners discouraged from visiting was of concern. It was queried whether Conwy CBC was fully aware of the concerns, whether any training had been given to the enforcement officers, and whether any monitoring had taken place. Some members considered that the issuing of FPN's was a money-making exercise and that officers did not take mitigating circumstances into account. Lack of clear signage was also raised.

The Chairman reported that she had spoken at length with the Leader of Conwy CBC who had not been aware of the problems. Numerous people had contacted her about their experiences, which she reported to the meeting, with some visitors having indicated that they would not return to Llandudno as a result.

Members considered that the problem needed to be addressed by Conwy CBC but stressed that no progress would be made if Conwy CBC continued to employ Kingdom Security, as the public lacked confidence and trust in the company. Previously, Conwy CBC's in-house enforcement had focused on education rather than automatically issuing FPN's. In house enforcement was preferred, but this not possible due to financial considerations.

An amendment was proposed that the Town Council write to Conwy CBC calling for the contract with Kingdom Security to be terminated immediately. Cllr Robbins further amended his proposal to include a request for the immediate suspension of the enforcement contractor's operations in Llandudno and their removal as soon as legally possible. A vote was taken on this amendment, which was lost and following a further vote

IT WAS RESOLVED to write to Conwy CBC in the strongest possible terms to stress the Town Council's concerns regarding the enforcement of Dog Control Order and to call for the contract with Kingdom Security to be terminated immediately.

20. UPDATE ON WORK TO NORTH WESTERN GARDENS PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

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Work on North Western Gardens Public Conveniences to build a new above ground facility had commenced and was expected to take up to 15 weeks.

21. TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY COMMUNITY SERVICES SUB COMMITTEES

21.1 Miss Alice Sub Committee, held 22nd May 2017.

21.2 Town Twinning Committee, held 23rd May 2017.

The Chairman reported on a recent successful visit to Wormhout. The date of next year's exchange coincided with Armed Forces Day, 30th June 2018 and so would move to Bastille Day on 14th July.

21.3 Llandudno in Bloom Sub Committee, held 24th May 2017

Judging for the RHS Wales in Bloom competition was held 11th July and included the Great Orme Country Park, Ysgol San Sior, Queen's Park and Blind Veterans UK. Britain in Bloom was on 1st August. All involved in the 'In Bloom' campaigns were thanked.

21.4 Fireworks Sub Committee, held 14th June 2017.

The Chairman reported on proposed arrangements for a combined fireworks/laser show.

21.5 Decorative Lighting Sub Committee, held 21st June 2017.

IT WAS RESOLVED that the recommendations of the Miss Alice Sub Committee, held 22nd May 2017, Town Twinning Committee, held 23rd May 2017, Llandudno in Bloom Sub Committee, held 24th May 2017, Fireworks Sub Committee, held 14th June 2017, and Decorative Lighting Sub Committee, held 21st June 2017, be approved and accepted.

22. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

22.1 North and Mid Wales Association of Local Councils. A verbal report of the meeting held 14th July 2017 *was received*. Items discussed included Local Government re-organisation, recycling and fly tipping, and the re-opening of a section of the Llangollen to Newtown canal, following work by Montgomery Town Council and the rail franchise for Wales. It was noted that the electrification of the Holyhead to Crew line had not been included in the 10 year programme. The Association was to invite Kirsty Williams AM, Cabinet Secretary for Education to a future meeting to discuss the Estyn report and School standards.

22.2 Conwy Fairtrade Coalition: A verbal report of the meeting held 13th June 2017 *was received*.

22.3 No further reports were received from outside bodies.

23. TO CONSIDER ANY CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

23.1 Conwy CBC: Consultation on the North Shore byelaws to permit cycling. Members considered that the trial period to permit cycling on the Promenade had been successful and ***IT WAS RESOLVED to write to Conwy CBC to state that the Town Council was fully in support of amending the North Shore Byelaws to permit cycling on the Promenade.***

23.2 Copy letter received from Llandudno Civic Council raising concerns about mail deliveries was discussed and ***IT WAS RESOLVED to write to Royal Mail in support of the Civic Council's letter, to express members concerns and request that deliveries be at the rear of the building and not via the main entrance on Mostyn Street.***

23.3 Community Health Council news releases *were received*.

23.4 Request from "Bugfit" exercise group to use the West Shore shelter in adverse weather. Information not received.

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23.5 It was noted that Inspector K Isaacs, North Wales Police, would attend the meeting in September to update members on local issues.

24. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Tuesday 12th September 2017.