

FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Llandudno Town Council

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

Held on Friday 22nd September 2017

Council Chamber, Town Hall, Lloyd Street, Llandudno

Those Present:

Cllr Frank Bradfield – Chairman

Cllr M A Pearce – Vice Chairman

Cllr F Davies – The Mayor

Cllr Miss C Marubbi

Cllr Mrs C Beard

Cllr Miss A O’Grady

Cllr Mrs L G Emery

Cllr M J Pavey

Cllr D J Hawkins

Cllr H T M Saville

Cllr P C Evans, JP

Cllr I Turner

Cllr M Hold, JP

Cllr Mrs M Wigzell

Cllr Mrs M Lyon

27. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr D J Hawkins – Civic Engagement

Cllr G J T Robbins

Cllr S R Hillman

Absent:

Cllr A W Bertola

Cllr Mrs J Jones

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

The following declaration of interest was declared:

Name:	Item:	Personal or Prejudicial
Cllr F Bradfield	33.1 RBL Riders Funding Request	Prejudicial. President of Llandudno RBL

29. MINUTES

Minutes of a meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on Friday 14th July 2017 were received and signed by the Chairman.

30. URGENT ITEMS RELATING TO FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES

There were none.

31. CLERKS FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR JULY AND AUGUST 2017

IT WAS RESOLVED *that the financial statements for July and August 2017 be received.*

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32. ITEMS REFERRED FROM SUB COMMITTEE

32.1 Decorative Lighting Sub Committee, 21st July 2017:

Members discussed a request from the Decorative Lighting Sub Committee for a temporary loan of up to £15,000 from the Town Council's General Development Fund (Capital Fund) towards the replacement of Section three of the Promenade lights. (Mostyn Crescent to Venue Cymru) due to urgent need. The loan would be re-paid from the Decorative Lighting budget in 2018.

It was reported that work had been completed in 2017 on the replacement of Section one and two of the Promenade lights (War memorial to Gloddaeth Crescent) and that it had been expected to commence on Section three in 2018. The contractors had however, identified that this section was struggling to work and that fuses had started to blow. As the lights were important to residents and tourism it was preferable to replace this year rather than leave switched off until 2018. Four quotations had been considered by the Decorative Lighting Sub Committee, and following advice from Conwy CBC on technical specifications, a contractor had been identified.

Members discussed that the replacement work was essential and that Christmas and Winter maintenance commitments on the Decorative Lighting budget for 2018 were still being identified. It was noted that £14,000 had been earmarked in the General Development Fund for the replacement of the Promenade shelters but, as work did not appear to be imminent, the funds could be transferred to the Decorative Lighting Budget instead of a loan.

IT WAS RESOLVED that £14,000 earmarked in the General Development Fund for the replacement of the Promenade shelters be reallocated to the Decorative Lighting budget, towards replacement Promenade lights, along with an additional £1,000. Funding to be found for the Promenade shelters once needed.

32.2 Transportation and Prow Sub Committee, July 2017: Release of funds previously set aside for the provision of new Bus shelters.

Members considered a request to release £10,000 from General Reserves previously allocated in the 2014/15 budget for new bus shelters, but not needed at the time, and ***IT WAS RESOLVED to release the funding.***

A request for a new bus shelter on Llandudno Road and whether bus shelter advertising had been considered were also raised and ***IT WAS RESOLVED that both items be referred to the Transportation and Prow Sub Committee.***

33. TO CONSIDER ANY REQUESTS FOR FUNDING OR TO REFER TO GRANTS SUB COMMITTEE

33.1 The Royal British Legion. Request for a £50 contribution towards a meal for the annual Riders branch poppy appeal in Llandudno

Cllr F Bradfield declared a prejudicial interest in this item and left the room. Cllr H Saville left the meeting.

IT WAS RESOLVED that Llandudno Town Council support The Royal British Legion Riders Branch with £50 from the Ad Hoc grants budget towards a meal.

Cllr F Bradfield returned to the Council Chamber.

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33.2 Request from NW Police seeking a contribution towards a Bonfire night event.

Members considered a request from NW Police for a contribution towards a Bonfire night event to be held at Bodafon Farm on November 5th. It was reported that in previous years there had been incidents of anti-social behaviour and deliberate fire setting in Tudno ward, which had led to the police and fire service attending. NW Police had planned the event to try and engage local residents so that they did not hold their own displays. A similar event in 2016 had been very well attended.

Members raised whether the decision to hold the Town Council's fireworks display on a Saturday rather than the traditional November 5th had resulted in residents holding their own displays. It was noted that the display had been moved to a weekend at the request of hoteliers and also families who had been unable to attend if the event fell on a school night. There was considerable debate on whether the display should be held on November 5th and **IT WAS RESOLVED** *to refer this to the Fireworks Sub Committee for further discussion.*

Some members also questioned whether funding should be awarded as the event would only benefit one ward and the Town Council held its own display at considerable cost, for the whole community. It was noted, however, that as the display would be held at Bodafon Farm, it would be open to everyone not just Tudno ward residents. The effect of the fireworks on the animals and owl sanctuary located at Bodafon farm was also raised as a concern. Other members considered that the Town Council should support this event as it was a positive initiative for young people and was being organised by NW Police who would also supervise the event.

IT WAS RESOLVED *that the Town Council contribute £500 from the Community Fund towards a Bonfire night event organised by NW Police at Bodafon Farm, to be held on November 5th 2017.*

34. TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY FINANCE SUB COMMITTEES AND WORKING PARTIES

34.1 Staffing Sub Committee, held 29th August 2017

The Chairman of Staffing reported that the Sub Committee had raised concerns about the increasing workloads of staff and also the impact on workloads of the reduction in the number of councillors, from thirty to twenty. A review of staffing levels was currently being undertaken with a view to looking at whether an additional member of staff was needed. It was noted that additional office space was already under consideration and the Town Council had re-confirmed its previous interest to Conwy County Borough Council in renting the former Arts and Business office space within the building. The current high-levels of staff administration required for some Sub-Committees such as Bloom, the increased levels of health and safety and traffic management for events, increased audit and finance work, and the high volume of out of hours work were also raised.

There was considerable debate on whether a fourth post was needed and whether workloads were any different to the past when the Town Council had operated with fewer staff. It was also raised that staff no longer undertook the administration for Llandudno Museum, which had reduced workloads. Interest was expressed in undertaking comparisons with other Town Council's regarding staffing levels and workloads.

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Some members reported that other Town Councils did not hold meetings on a Friday evening and it was considered whether Finance & General Purposes Committee be moved to a week day to aid office administration and encourage more members to attend. It was noted however, that Council meetings had historically been held on a Friday due to members attending other engagements during the week. Members further considered whether the work of some Sub Committees should continue or be streamlined and whether Council should look at the social/economic impact of some areas. It was also noted that members often asked for task and finish groups to be established without regard to impact on office resources. Members asked for existing posts including job descriptions and person specifications to be reviewed by Staffing Sub Committee.

35. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

35.1 Letters from Llandudno Sailing Club, Venue Cymru, and TVWStock thanking the Town Council for its support were *received*.

36. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The date and time of the next meeting was confirmed as **Friday 24th November 2017 at 7.00pm.**