

## FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

### Llandudno Town Council

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

Held on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2019, 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 A W Bertola

Cllr M J Pavey

Cllr B B Bertola

Cllr M A Pearce

Cllr F Davies

Cllr G J T Robbins

Cllr Mrs L G Emery

Cllr Mrs M Wigzell

Cllr M Hold, JP

Cllr Mrs M Lyon

#### 24. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Miss A O'Grady – The Mayor, *Civic Engagement*

Cllr H T M Saville

Cllr P C Evans, JP

Cllr I Turner

Cllr Mrs J Jones, *Civic Engagement*

Absent: Cllr S R Hillman

#### 25. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST UNDER THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF CONDUCT.

The following interests were declared:

Name:	Item:	Personal or Prejudicial:
Cllr A W Bertola	29: Grants: Llandudno Swimming Centre	Personal: Teaches swimming lessons at the Swimming Centre
Cllr Mrs L Emery	29: Grants: North Wales Choral Festival Take pArt, Venue Cymru Llandudno Swimming Centre	Personal: Member of Conwy CBC Personal: Member of Conwy CBC Personal: Member of Conwy CBC
Cllr Miss C Marubbi	29: Grants: Llandudno Elderly People's Welfare Centre	Prejudicial: Chairman of the Committee

#### 26. MINUTES

Minutes of a meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2019 were received and signed by the Chairman.

#### 27. URGENT ITEMS RELATING TO FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES

There were none.

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### 28. CLERKS FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER 2019

The reports included updates on the Ad-hoc grants budget, Community Fund, General Development Fund, and budget update to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2019, and which the Chairman drew members attention to.

**IT WAS RESOLVED that the financial statements for September and October 2019 be approved.**

### 29. TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY GRANTS SUB-COMMITTEE AT A MEETING HELD 5<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2019

*Cllr Mrs L G Emery arrived at the meeting*

Members considered the recommendations of the Grants Sub-Committee, held on 5th November 2019, for grant applications received for 2020/21. 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. Members with prejudicial interests declared at the appropriate time and left the room for that application and returned thereafter.

Concerns were raised regarding the recommended grant to the Llandudno Swing Band and the benefits to the town from the group. It was noted that the request included funding for new music and towards room hire costs and that members of the Grants Sub Committee had only recommended funding be awarded towards the music element and to investigate the bands usage of the band room at the Town Hall. It was proposed not to award funding to the Llandudno Swing Band. Following a vote this was lost and **IT WAS RESOLVED that the grant recommendation of £400 to the Llandudno Swing Band be approved.**

A letter received with the grant application from TV Wales regarding the future development of the event and a potential partnership with the Town Council, including significant funding to take the event forward and expansion of its Trustees to include representation from the Town Council, was brought to the attention of members and read out.

Members raised that the event had been a victim of its own success having grown significantly. Due to additional infrastructure and increasing health and safety requirements, the event's viability in its current location was queried. Members also suggested that funding could be obtained from other sources and it was proposed that funding of £1,000 be awarded. In contrast, other members raised that the Grants Sub Committee had considered the application carefully and the amount recommended was significantly lower than that requested, which might necessitate a downscaling of the event. The event was also free to attend, brought visitors to the town, supported local musicians and raised significant funding for charity and should therefore be supported by the Town Council with higher funding. After a vote, **IT WAS RESOLVED to approve the grant recommendation of £2,000 to TV Wales.**

A member, whilst appreciating the work of Citizens Advice Conwy, expressed concern about the grant recommendation, considering the level of grant to be excessive when compared with neighbouring Town Councils who either gave lower amounts or did not provide funding. The Town Council could, therefore, potentially be seen as subsidising the service in other areas. Other

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members considered that the grant was justified as there was a significant demand for Citizens Advice Conwy's services in Llandudno. It was also noted that the funding was used to employ a specialist case worker in Llandudno and without the funding a significantly reduced service would be offered to Llandudno residents. It was queried whether the grant was contrary to the Town Council's grants policy. It was noted, however, that this request was to fund a post to provide a service. Members also considered that the service CAB offered was essential and was not offered by any other organisation and should therefore be supported by the Town Council.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** to approve the grant recommendation of £16,714.15 to *Citizens Advice Conwy*.

*Cllr M. Pavey arrived at the meeting*

Members queried the grant recommendation to North Wales Parrot Rescue and it was proposed that no funding be awarded. It was discussed however, that the costs of rescuing parrots and rehoming them were significant and **IT WAS RESOLVED** to approve the grant recommendation of £250.00 to *North Wales Parrot Rescue*.

A number of members expressed concern about the grant recommendation to Culture Action Llandudno, considering it was inappropriate for the Town Council to fund a graffiti art mural and that the funding could be better spent elsewhere. It was noted that the artwork was the final element of the Tre Cwm estate improvement project, significant funding had been obtained from other sources and the funding recommended by the Grants Sub Committee would enable the Town Council to be a stakeholder in the project. A vote on a proposal not to award funding was lost and **IT WAS RESOLVED** to approve the grant recommendation of £500.

Members asked for clarification on the grant recommendation of £2,500 to Home Start and whether the funding would be used in Llandudno and **IT WAS RESOLVED** to approve the grant recommendation subject to confirmation that the funding would be used to support *Llandudno families*.

Members reviewed organisations on the list of annual commitments for funding, including Llandudno Museum, Victorian Extravaganza and Town Band.

A member queried why the grant recommendation to the Victorian Extravaganza had increased. It was explained that the Extravaganza had requested an increase for the 2019 event, due to rising costs as a result of increased health and safety requirements. This had been approved by the Town Council. Prior to this, it was noted that grant funding had not increased since 1986 when the event ceased to be organised by the Town Council.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** to approve the grant recommendation of £5,000 to the *Llandudno Victorian Extravaganza*.

A further query was raised as to funding for the Museum being higher than for Mostyn Gallery and should this be reviewed.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** to include *Mostyn Gallery and CAB* in the list of annual commitments.

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**IT WAS FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Council approve the recommendations of the Grants Sub-Committee including the grant award recommendations for 2020-21 (appendix A) totalling £88,964.15.**

*Cllr Mrs C Beard, Cllr Mrs L G Emery and Cllr Mrs M Lyon left the meeting*

### 30. REQUEST FOR A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE TO REVIEW GRANTS FOR 2021 +

*(Item requested by Cllr B B Bertola)*

With reference to the minutes of the Finance Committee held on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2019, at which this was initially discussed but no conclusion reached, the member submitted a written request for a discussion to be held again on this issue. Issues raised included the level of grants awarded by Llandudno Town Council, and increasing budget pressures. Comparisons with other Town Councils were also made. There was discussion on whether to cap grants and the future strategy of the Town Council. Different views were expressed about whether grants should be capped or reduced or whether the budget should be increased to provide greater support to community organisations. It was further raised whether the number of annual commitments should be widened.

**IT WAS RESOLVED to hold in 2020, a Special meeting of the Finance Committee to review grants.**

### 31. TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY FINANCE SUB COMMITTEES

31.1 Civic Sub Committee, held 24<sup>th</sup> September 2019.

**IT WAS RESOLVED that the recommendations of the Civic Sub Committee, held 24<sup>th</sup> September 2019, be approved and accepted.**

### 32. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

32.1 Funding request for 'Playing out' Summer Holiday Play Provision 2020/21 and copy of presentation. Cost for 1 session per week for 5 weeks: £1,350. Members noted the presentation received from CVSC on playing out in Conwy County and Llandudno and presented at a meeting of the Community Services & Tourism Committee, held 12<sup>th</sup> November 2019. Members reiterated their previous concerns about the Scheme's merits and benefits, whether it was good value, and whether there was sufficient equipment and interaction of children and **IT WAS RESOLVED not to commit funding for 2020/21.**

32.2 A letter received from the Chardon Trust (Llandudno Museum) regarding sponsorship for a Community Exhibition Case was considered. The cost for the case and to design a layout was £8,000.

Members discussed that the Chardon Trust was already in receipt of a significant annual grant from the Town Council. It was regretted that additional funding could not be provided and **IT WAS RESOLVED not to award funding for a community exhibition case.**

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32.3 Application received from Dawns I Bawb for a grant 2020/21.

Members were unclear whether the organisation operated community dance sessions in Llandudno. It was also noted that there were a number of other dance organisations within Llandudno and **IT WAS RESOLVED** *not to award funding.*

32.4 An email from Conwy CBC allowing Town & Community Councils more time to consider and return their precepts for 2020/21 and an extension to 7<sup>th</sup> February 2020 *was received.*

**33. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

With reference to item 32.4 above members discussed holding a separate budget meeting in January prior to its approval at a Council meeting and **IT WAS RESOLVED** *to hold a budget meeting on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> January at 6.00 pm and to recommend to Full Council that the Finance meeting be held on 17<sup>th</sup> January and that the Council meeting be rescheduled to Friday 31st January 2020.*