

FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Llandudno Town Council

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

Held on Friday 26th April 2019, 7.00pm

Council Chamber, Town Hall, Lloyd Street, Llandudno

Those Present:

Cllr Frank Bradfield – Chairman

Cllr D J Hawkins, The Mayor

Cllr Mrs C Beard

Cllr A Bertola

Cllr B B Bertola

Cllr F Davies

Cllr M Hold, JP

Cllr Mrs M Lyon

Cllr Miss C Marubbi

Cllr Miss A O’Grady

Cllr M A Pearce

Cllr H T M Saville

Cllr I Turner

59. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Mrs L G Emery

Cllr P C Evans, JP

Cllr S R Hillman

Cllr Mrs J Jones

Cllr M J Pavey

Cllr G J T Robbins

Cllr Mrs M Wigzell- Vice Chairman

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

The following interests were declared:

Name:	Item:	Personal or Prejudicial:
Cllr Mrs C Beard	66: North Shore beach budget.	Personal: Member of Conwy CBC
Cllr F Bradfield	66: North Shore beach budget. 68.5: Royal British Legion Funding request.	Personal: Member of Conwy CBC Prejudicial: President of Llandudno RBL
Cllr H T M Saville	66: North Shore beach budget.	Personal: Member of Conwy CBC

61. MINUTES

Minutes of a meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on Friday 1st March 2019 were received and signed by the Chairman.

62. URGENT ITEMS RELATING TO FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES

An email from Conwy County Schools U13’s Girls Football Team seeking assistance with travel costs to Caerphilly for the Welsh Schools Inter Association cup was received and deferred until item 69.

FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

63. CLERKS FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR FEBRUARY AND MARCH 2019

The reports included updates on the Ad-hoc grants budget, Community Fund, and General Development Fund to 31 March 2019, and which the Chairman drew members attention to.

IT WAS RESOLVED that the financial statements for February and March 2019 be approved.

64. INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL AUDIT 2018/19

64.1 The second interim Internal Audit report for 2018/19 *was received*. It was noted that the Internal Auditor had tested numerous significant payments, income, and processes and could not find any matters arising. There was only one issue arising: that the estimated general reserves in the precept calculation should reference 'minimum' levels.

IT WAS RESOLVED to record appreciation to the Town Clerk for the excellent internal audit reports.

64.2 Paperwork to undertake an annual review of the effectiveness of internal audit arrangements *was received*. A review was undertaken by the Sub Committee and the internal arrangements *were approved as more than satisfactory*.

64.3 Re-appointment of Internal Auditor, JDH Business Services, for 2019/20 was considered and

IT WAS RESOLVED that JDH Business Services be re-appointed as the Town Council's Internal Auditors for 2019/20, in view of their excellent services.

65. ANNUAL REVIEW OF FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

65.1 Internal Financial Regulations 2019/20.

65.2 Financial Risk Assessment 2019/20.

65.3 Annual Investment Strategy 2019/20.

65.4 Asset Register 2019/20.

IT WAS RESOLVED that Llandudno Town Council approve the Internal Financial Regulations, the Financial Risk Assessment, the Annual Investment Strategy, and the Asset Register for 2019/20.

66. REVIEW OF BUDGET ALLOCATION, MAINTENANCE WORKS, CHILDRENS CORNER, NORTH SHORE

Cllr I Turner raised concerns about the short term nature of the previous Summer maintenance works at Children's corner, North Shore, and that this was not good value for rate-payers money as returning tides quickly brought rocks and shingle back in. A timeline of photos was shown from the start of the works in June 2018 until mid-July to support the concerns raised. Initially, on 26th June 2018, the works looked very good with positive comments received from the public, however, by the 12th and 14th July 2018 the gradual process of tides had resulted in significant accumulations of rocks again on the beach and leading to adverse comments. The

FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

concern was, therefore, that this was not good value for the Town Council's £6,500 budget contribution as there was no longevity of change for the works undertaken at Children's corner due to the impact of nature. The condition of the beach was of great importance to Cllr Turner, but this work was considered a pointless exercise and the Town Council's focus would be better placed on longevity of spend.

Members discussed points raised, including that the rocks were not removed from the beach due to Marine Licence requirements and costs. It was also discussed that the Town Council had acted in good faith over this issue in previous years, that members could not support wasting money, whether more could be done with the rake machine, and whether Conwy CBC considered the work satisfactory or could do more for the money with beach works. The Chairman reported on a pending Scrutiny Committee at Conwy CBC at which options for Llandudno Coastal Defence Improvements were to be considered. It was discussed that members were not sure that options discussed by the Scrutiny Committee would rectify and concern was also raised by a member that the removal of rocks at this site was negatively impacting on the marine ecosystem: whelk and mussel beds and the presence of ragworm was particularly of concern. There was interest in asking Conwy CBC to address the points raised.

IT WAS RESOLVED unanimously that Llandudno Town Council, in view of serious concerns over the short term impact of the annual maintenance works at Children's corner, North Shore beach, and waste of public money not to spend the 2019 budget allocation.

IT WAS FURTHER RESOLVED to write to Conwy CBC and seek a response on the concerns raised and whether Conwy CBC considered this work good use of money.

67. WEST SHORE SHELTER MAINTENANCE 2019

Minutes of a meeting if the West Shore (Tram) Shelter, held 27th March 2019 *were received and approved.*

The Clerk updated members on discussions at the meeting. The shelter had been extensively refurbished in 2015 but would benefit in 2019 from an annual cleaning of the exterior and interior, some painting, and the implementation of additional security measures (as previously agreed by the Committee). Additionally, the Decorative Lighting Sub Committee was working on the installation of an electric supply and temporary Christmas lights (following consultation with Conwy CBC), and possibly an interior light. As the facility was owned by Conwy CBC and leased to the Town Council, Conwy CBC would be approached for assistance with painting costs.

Pictures of the shelter in its current condition were shown, and one from a much earlier time when more extensive restoration had been required. Members expressed interest in keeping apace with maintenance works to reduce deterioration.

A member raised whether there was any merit in investigating options for a commercial venture at the site, but it was discussed that this had been tried previously and that the challenges of the requirements for pedestrian crossings, lights, and toilets had not made business proposals viable.

FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

It was further reported that the Friends of West Shore had expressed an interest in looking after, undertaking minor cleaning, and monitoring of the shelter. They had also repaired damaged panes and had offered to open the shelter during the day time in the Summer period to make it look used and hopefully reduce anti-social incidents. **IT WAS RESOLVED** *to thank the Friends of West Shore for their interest and that their proposals would be much welcomed by the Council.*

68. TO CONSIDER REQUESTS FOR FUNDING

The Chairman brought to the attention of members the increasing number of financial requests being received by the Town Council and the limitations of funds, and that there would be merit in reviewing whether annual and ad hoc grant processes and funding were still adequate, and **IT WAS RESOLVED** *that the Chairman would call a special meeting of the Committee, as soon as practical, to review.*

68.1 International Motorsport UK: £2,500 funding request 2019 Wales Rally GB (*referenced at the Motorsports presentation to Community Services & Tourism Committee, 09.04.19*). The Rally was seeking sponsorship from partners towards dressing the town for the event to welcome visitors and create atmosphere. There was discussion regarding the event being a commercial business versus the benefits to the town and goodwill and support. A list of supporters approached had been provided with the request. A proposal not to support the application was lost and

IT WAS RESOLVED *to support the dressing of the Town for the 2019 Wales Rally GB with £1,000 from the ad hoc grants budget.*

68.2 Craig y Don Croquet Club: £500 annual grant request 2019/20 (*the original had not been received by the Town Council for the annual grants process*). Members noted the reason for the mis-sent application. A proposal to reject the application was lost and **IT WAS RESOLVED** *to award £250 from the ad hoc grants budget.*

68.3 Ysgol Tudno: Support sought towards attendance at the National Eisteddfod, Cardiff, May 2019. Whilst members appreciated the achievements of the school, it was discussed that there were limited Council funds available and that when schools and pupils participated in the annual Town Twinning they fund raised in order to go, regrettably **IT WAS RESOLVED** *that the Committee was unable to support the request.*

68.4 Conwy County Schools U13's Girls Football Team. Assistance was sought with approximately £290 in travel costs to Caerphilly on 29th April 2019 for the Welsh Schools Inter Association cup. Members commented as per 68.3 above and regrettably **IT WAS RESOLVED** *that the Committee was unable to support the request.*

68.5 The Royal British Legion: £500 was sought towards a veterans/visitors' D Day Service & Parade, 8 June 2019.

Cllr F Bradfield declared a prejudicial interest and left the chamber for this item, which was chaired by Cllr D J Hawkins.

Support was expressed for the work of the Royal British Legion, although concern was expressed about the RBL making a donation to the Town Band to participate in the event. **IT WAS RESOLVED** *to award £500 from the ad hoc grants budget.*

FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Cllr F Bradfield returned to the meeting.

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

69.1 Civic Sub Committee held 15th March 2019.

IT WAS RESOLVED *that the recommendations of the Civic Sub Committee, held 15th January 2019, be approved and accepted.*

69.2 Staffing Sub Committee held 8th April 2019.

The Deputy Mayor thanked the Staffing Chairman, Cllr Mrs C Marubbi, for the excellent staff appraisals.

IT WAS RESOLVED *that the recommendations of the Staffing Sub Committee, held 8th April 2019, be approved and accepted.*

70. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

None to date.

71. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The date and time of the next meeting was confirmed as **Friday 7th June 2019 at 7.00pm.**

The Chairman thanked all members for their support and work during his tenure as Chairman 2018/19 and he was thanked in return.