

## COUNCIL MEETING

Llandudno Town Council  
 Minutes of a meeting of Llandudno Council  
 Held on Friday 26th July 2019, 7.00pm  
 Council Chamber, Town Hall, Lloyd Street, Llandudno

### Those Present:

|                                  |                               |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Cllr Miss A O' Grady - The Mayor | Cllr H Saville - Deputy Mayor |
| Cllr A W Bertola                 | Cllr Mrs J Jones              |
| Cllr B B Bertola                 | Cllr Mrs M Lyon               |
| Cllr F Davies                    | Cllr Miss C Marubbi           |
| Cllr Mrs L Emery                 | Cllr M J Pavey                |
| Cllr P C Evans, JP               | Cllr G J T Robbins            |
| Cllr S R Hillman                 | Cllr I Turner                 |
| Cllr M Hold, JP                  | Cllr Mrs M Wigzell            |

### 21. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from the following:

|                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|
| Cllr Mrs C Beard | Cllr D J Hawkins |
| Cllr F Bradfield | Cllr M A Pearce  |

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

| Name:                 | Item:  | Personal or Prejudicial:         |
|-----------------------|--|----------------------------------|
| Cllr Mrs L. Emery     | 32. Conwy CBC review of Town Hall Lease arrangements | Prejudicial. Member of Conwy CBC |
| Cllr P. C. Evans JP   | 32. Conwy CBC review of Town Hall Lease arrangements | Prejudicial. Member of Conwy CBC |
| Cllr G. J. T. Robbins | 32. Conwy CBC review of Town Hall Lease arrangements | Prejudicial. Member of Conwy CBC |
| Cllr H. T. M. Saville | 32. Conwy CBC review of Town Hall Lease arrangements | Prejudicial. Member of Conwy CBC |

### 23. PRESENTATION TO LLANDUDNO FOOTBALL CLUB

Following a civic reception held prior to the meeting of the Council, the Mayor presented to Llandudno Football Club a Mayoral Certificate in appreciation of their standing in, and work for, the community. She also wished the Club every success in the coming year. On behalf of Llandudno Football Club, the Chairman then thanked the Council for the honour.

### 24. URGENT ITEMS

There were none.

### 25. MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL

The following minutes were approved and signed as a correct record:

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### Council

Held on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2019..... 44 - 59

## 26. MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor had attended numerous engagements. These included: the Friends of Prince's Green and Friends of Queen's Park Summer Fetes; the RAF Valley Annual Reception; welcoming visits by children from Chernobyl and children from Hungary; welcoming the Wales in Bloom RHS Judge and presenting awards for the Llandudno in Bloom Schools Arts Competition; and hosting civic receptions for Llandudno Football Club and Llandudno Rugby Club. The Mayor also took part in the Town's annual visit to Wormhout, France, with the combined cadet forces and Linzi Grace dancers. During the visit, the Mayor laid a wreath at the Wormhout massacre site ceremony and attended a Civic Parade and church service. She looked forward to welcoming guests and community representatives to the forthcoming Civic Sunday.

## 27. MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEES

The minutes of the following committees were approved subject to any addenda appearing thereunder:

### Planning and Transportation Committee

Held on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2019..... 60 - 63

Cllr I. Turner was thanked by the Committee Chairman and members for undertaking the role of acting Chairman for the above meeting.

### Community Services & Tourism Committee

Held on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2019..... 64 - 74

Includes:

- Miss Alice Sub Committee held 21<sup>st</sup> May 2019 (pages 67 - 68)
- Llandudno in Bloom Sub Committee held 6<sup>th</sup> June 2019 (pages 69 - 72)
- Miss Alice Sub Committee held 18<sup>th</sup> June 2019 (pages 73 - 74)

### Finance & General Purposes Committee

The July meeting of the Finance Committee had been cancelled due to insufficient agenda items.

### 7.1 MINUTES OF SUB COMMITTEES:

To approve and adopt the minutes of the following Sub Committees:

#### Civic Sub Committee

Held on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2019 (pages 75 - 78)

It was noted that the Vice Chairman should read Cllr I Turner.

## 28. FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR MAY AND JUNE 2019

Included a report on ear marked reserves and budgets.

**IT WAS RESOLVED that the financial statements for May and June 2019 be approved.**

The Clerk had provided a written report to members on ear marked reserves (EMR) and unneeded 2019 budgets which might be released should members wish to find

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funding for any projects or events that were not foreseen when the budget was set for 2019/20, such as the Fireworks and repairs to the Civic war memorial plaques. These included: Freedom parade budget (which would now be 2020), Children's corner maintenance works budget and EMR, and Bloom EMR (no longer needed). *The report was noted.*

With reference to the June accounts, which contained 2019 annual grants to community and voluntary groups, a concern was raised by a member regarding the high amount of grants awarded by the Council. There was discussion by members on the awarding of such significant sums in annual grants and whether to review processes. The Clerk reminded members of the Council's current procedures for annual grant applications and that applications (submitted on approved application forms) went through a rigorous process of scrutiny. Firstly, by the Grants Sub Committee which then made recommendations to Finance & General Purposes Committee and finally by Council. All members had opportunity to look at and comment on applications during this process.

There was discussion by members on the importance of grants to community organisations whilst also noting that, with increasing demands on Town & Community Councils, grants needed to be looked at strategically and in context with other funding and service demands. It was also not known, as-yet, what commitments the County Council might be seeking from Town & Community Councils from 2020. It was further noted that whilst aspirations had been previously expressed by individual members to review grants, instructions needed to be given by Council to take this forward. Members put forward suggestions on how grants might be reviewed, such as setting a limit or considering grants at Ward level. Some members considered that the current grants system was sufficient but suggested that the Grants Sub Committee meet twice a year. It was further raised that enabling authorities spend quite a reasonable sum on grants to local communities within their areas and that it would be a shame if this was lost at Llandudno. It was suggested that information be sought from neighbouring Councils as to what percentage of their precept they allocate to grants. The Town Councils representative to NAMWALC would also raise with the Association.

***IT WAS RESOLVED to include on the Agenda of the next Finance Committee a review of grant procedures, including a strategic look at grants, comparisons with other local Town Councils, and consideration of more frequent meetings of the Grants Sub Committee.***

In view of grant application forms for 2020/21 being sent out from August 2019 for consideration in November 2019, IT **WAS FURTHER RESOLVED** *that the current grant application process remain as is for 2020/2021.*

### **29. REPORT FROM THE FIREWORKS SUB COMMITTEE**

Members had been previously circulated with the following: Minutes of the Fireworks Sub Committee held 4<sup>th</sup> April 2019 (previously seen by Committee) and 11<sup>th</sup> July 2019; a report and recommendations from Conwy County Borough Council Safety Advisory Group 14<sup>th</sup> March 2019; information and costings from Conwy CBC in respect of developing a Service Level Agreement to provide event management support to the existing planning and delivery of the event; and an operational/tide timetable for safe set up and operation on the beach; budget and projected financial event costs.

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The Chairman, Vice Chairman and outgoing Chairman reported that since the event moved to North Shore beach in 2017 it had been increasingly successful with an estimated 12,000+ public in 2017 and 17,000+ in 2018 in the public viewing areas close to the display. This did not include crowds in outer areas. Whilst this success was fantastic for the town and local economy, and Llandudno's standing as a premier tourism and event destination, it increased the risks and challenges to the Town Council, as the event organiser, of safe operation, crowd safety and management, traffic management, and access of emergency services. Whilst crowd levels were unpredictable depending on date and weather, due regard still needed to be made to raising the health and safety level for the event, implementing appropriate measures including support and command on the night, and increased partnership working with partners with relevant expertise.

Discussions had been held by the Fireworks Sub Committee with Conwy County Borough Council's Safety Advisory Group (SAGs) and Events Team to seek advice on the public safety aspects of future events, and any opportunities to work in partnership with Conwy CBC as the event has moved towards a major tourism event in North Wales and attracting visitors UK wide. Recommendations from Conwy CBC included: increasing first aid provision to paramedics and ambulances, establishing first aid zones along the promenade, implementation of bronze command on the night, establishing safe/clear emergency access routes. The Town Council had also been advised by SAGS to establish a road closure for the promenade road as in 2018 emergency vehicles were unable to access/exit the densely packed promenade. Also of concern in 2018, was the manpower and expertise to be able to cope with any incidents that might arise on the night.

Members were in agreement with the need to increase the safety aspects of the event to a higher level and work in partnership with Conwy CBC, but there was lengthy discussion about the increased costs for the event (estimated to increase the budget to around £38,000), whether the money might be better spent on other services and whether, going forward, this was strategically best use of money. It was noted that whilst funding might be found in 2019 from earmarked reserves/predicted 2019 budget underspends (referenced in 28. above), unless external funding could be found going forward, the event might not proceed after 2019. The support and substantial contributions of vehicles and manpower from Llandudno Pier was valued and that without this the event would not be able to proceed anyway. There was further discussions on the risks and liabilities of the event, workloads to implement, and meetings with SAGS.

***IT WAS RESOLVED to support the recommendation of the Fireworks Sub Committee and that the Council proceed with the 2019 Fireworks display with support from Conwy Events Team, review the event following, and to seek funding partners going forward. However, that without additional funding partners, the display would unlikely proceed in following years.***

*There were two votes against.*

***IT WAS FURTHER RESOLVED that, based on detailed analysis of low tides, tidal ranges, and operational set up and take down times, the display would be held on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2019 with a back up date of 31<sup>st</sup> October 2019.***

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### 30. TO DISCUSS OR NOTE CONSULTATIONS OR ITEMS OF CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

30.1 A letter from Conwy County Borough Council: review of Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations (*response date 9 August 2019*) was received. Members had no observations.

30.2 A letter of response received from the Welsh Government regarding the review of electoral arrangements of the County Borough of Conwy was received.

### 31. QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER No. 12 PREVIOUSLY NOTIFIED TO THE CLERK.

There were none received.

### 32. TOWN HALL LEASE WORKING PARTY

To receive a report from the Town Hall Lease Working Party.

**Exempt Information EX 11/2018**

**IT WAS RESOLVED** *that in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the press and public be temporarily excluded from this item under Standing Order 37, and they were instructed to withdraw. The reason for the exemption being the consideration of contract information relating to the Town Council's occupation of offices within the Town Hall.*

*Cllr Mrs L Emery, Cllr PC Evans, JP, Cllr GJT Robbins and Cllr HTM Saville declared prejudicial interests and left the room for this item.*

The Working Party Chairman and Vice Chairman updated members on ongoing discussions with, and advice from, the Town Council's Solicitors regarding the proposals from Conwy County Borough Council for the Town Council to enter a new lease for its occupation of the Town Hall and move from the existing user agreement. A written report from the Solicitor was pending. Members would be further updated once more was known.

*The public were invited to return. Cllr P C Evans JP returned to the meeting.*

### 33. TO NOTE THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING.

It was noted that the next meeting of the Council would be held on Friday 4th October 2019 at 7pm in the Council Chamber, Town Hall.