

COUNCIL MEETING

Llandudno Town Council
 Minutes of a meeting of Llandudno Council
 Held on Friday 31st July 2020 at 7.00pm
 Held online (via Zoom)

Those Present:

Cllr Miss A O' Grady – The Mayor

Cllr H T M Saville – Deputy Mayor

Cllr Mrs C Beard

Cllr M P Hold, JP

Cllr A W Bertola

Cllr Mrs J Jones

Cllr F Bradfield

Cllr Mrs M Lyon

Cllr F Davies

Cllr Mrs C Marubbi

Cllr Mrs L Emery

Cllr M J Pavey

Cllr P C Evans, JP

Cllr M A Pearce

Cllr D J Hawkins

Cllr G J T Robbins

Cllr S Hillman

Cllr I Turner

91. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from the following:

Cllr B B Bertola

Cllr Mrs M Wigzell

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

The following interests were declared:

Name:	Item:	Personal or Prejudicial:
Cllr Mrs C. Beard	100: Report on WG Town Centre Regeneration Investment Funding 104: Conwy CBC Winter Events	Personal: Member of Conwy CBC Personal: Member of Conwy CBC
Cllr F Bradfield	100: Report on WG Town Centre Regeneration Investment Funding 104: Conwy CBC Winter Events 105. Defibrillator licensee request from the RNLI	Personal: Member of Conwy CBC Personal: Member of Conwy CBC Personal: Member of Llandudno Lions
Cllr Mrs L. Emery	104: Conwy CBC Winter Events	Personal: Member of Conwy CBC
Cllr P C Evans, JP	103.1 NAMWALC proposed Rail Liaison Committee. 100: Report on WG Town Centre Regeneration Investment Funding 104: Conwy CBC Winter Events	Personal. Member Transport for Wales Passenger Panel. Chair Conwy Valley Rail Partnership. Personal: Member of Conwy CBC Personal: Member of Conwy CBC
Cllr G J T Robbins	100: Report on WG Town Centre Regeneration Investment Funding 104: Conwy CBC Winter Events	Personal: Member of Conwy CBC Personal: Member of Conwy CBC
Cllr H T M Saville	100: Report on WG Town Centre Regeneration Investment Funding 104: Conwy CBC Winter Events	Personal: Member of Conwy CBC Personal: Member of Conwy CBC
Cllr I Turner	105. Defibrillator licensee request from the RNLI	Personal: Member of Llandudno Lions

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93. TO WELCOME MRS J. E. FINCH-SAUNDERS, AM FOR ABERCONWY, TO THE MEETING TO DISCUSS THE EFFECTS OF COVID-19 ON LLANDUDNO AND, THE RESURGENCE OF THE TOWN

The Mayor welcomed Mrs J E Finch-Saunders, AM, to the meeting. The AM thanked the Council for the invite to discuss challenges facing the local area and outlined her new role as Shadow Minister for Climate Change, Energy and Rural Affairs.

Mrs J E Finch-Saunders spoke about the impact of Covid-19 on the constituency area and her associated work. She outlined the number of Covid-19 cases in Wales, the largest area affected being the Betsi Cadwaldr Health Board area and highlighted her concerns over access to testing, and delays in, and the importance of ramping up testing.

Reference was made to announcements just made by the Welsh Government and that re-opening of the hospitality sector was welcomed. Llandudno was very much an area of businesses related to tourism and the Coronavirus pandemic had disproportionately impacted the tourism, business, and arts sectors. The AM had highlighted to the Welsh Government the challenges faced by the hospitality sector and she was working with both the Transport Minister on welcoming tourism back to the area and the Minister for Culture on the re-opening of attractions.

The AM brought to members attention a Seaside Town fund and a strategy to support businesses during the winter months; there being many challenges in coastal areas. The AM also touched upon speeding up business rate appeals, initiatives to boost town centres, an Ignition Fund for small and new businesses, business rate free zones, and High street vacancy rates. Mrs J E Finch-Saunders was also trying to find out how pots of money were being spent.

The importance of Arts to Welsh Culture and Tourism, the damage caused by Covid-19, and the support for this sector was also discussed. The AM also had a keen interest in Carers support and the impact of Covid-19 on the farming community. For the latter, mental health was a key issue as well as the impact on finances and isolation. Reference was made to an awareness campaign for farmers.

Members discussed various questions with the AM including differences between England and Wales over the wearing of masks, funding for mental health services for farmers, local involvement in any planned funding spend, help for small businesses, and any review of social distancing rules.

The Mayor thanked Mrs J E Finch Saunders for attending and the constructive discussions. The AM then left the meeting.

94. URGENT ITEMS

The Chairman of the Fireworks Sub Committee reported on a meeting held this week with partners and relevant bodies to discuss further the 2020 display. This year's event had been deliberated at length and much advice and guidance sought. It was regretted, however, that due to the additional logistical, health and safety, and financial challenges presented by Covid-19, this year's display would not be able to proceed. The Chairman of the Fireworks Sub Committee thanked all involved for evaluating the viability of the display for 2020.

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95. MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL

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

<u>Council</u> Held on Friday 17 th July 2020.....	316 - 351
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96. MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEES

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

<u>Community Services & Tourism Committee</u> Held on Tuesday 14 th July 2020.....	352 - 366
Includes:	
• Llandudno in Bloom Sub Committee held 12 th February 2020 (pages 355 - 358)	
• Miss Alice Sub Committee held 25 th February 2020 (pages 359 - 360)	
• Fireworks Sub Committee held 10 th March 2020 (pages 361 - 363)	
• Fireworks Sub Committee held 16 th June 2020 (pages 364 - 366)	

97. MINUTES OF SUB COMMITTEES

The minutes of the following Sub Committees were approved:

<u>Llandudno in Bloom Sub Committee</u> Held on Wednesday 8 th July 2020.....	367 - 370
<u>Fireworks Sub Committee</u> Held on Thursday 16 th July 2020.....	371 - 373

98. TO RECEIVE THE CLERK'S FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR JUNE 2020

98.1 To receive and approve the Financial Report for June 2020

IT WAS RESOLVED that the financial statements for June 2020 be approved.

98.2 A Rialtas Budget Report April – July 2020 *was received*. A report was received from the Clerk indicating that it was too early to predict the full impact of Covid-19 on the 2020/21 budget but that there would be underspends and unspent budgets to discuss later in the year. Many underspent budgets related to events or partnership projects that had not been able to proceed in 2020. Various options had been identified by the Clerk to be considered at a future date and were briefly discussed by members. These included: carrying over some underspends as ear marked reserves for 2021; topping up the Community and capital project funds; identification of new projects/partnerships/a recovery fund; build-up of general reserves for greater future resilience; and any off set of the 2021/22 budget and Precept. Members further discussed that, going forward, some events and services, if they could proceed, might cost more to run from 2021 due to increased regulations and requirements.

99. ANNUAL REVIEW OF FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

99.1 Internal Financial Regulations 2020/21.

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99.2 Financial Risk Assessment 2020/21.

99.3 Annual Investment Strategy 2020/21.

99.4 Appointment of Internal Auditor 2020/21.

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 2020/21.*

IT WAS RESOLVED *that JDH Business Services be re-appointed as the Town Council's Internal Auditors for 2020/21, in view of their excellent services.*

IT WAS FURTHER RESOLVED *to record a Vote of Thanks and Support to the Clerk and staff for the work on the Town Council's finances and audits.*

100. WELSH GOVERNMENT REPURPOSED TOWN CENTRE REGENERATION INVESTMENT FUNDING

Information from Conwy County Borough Council regarding Welsh Government grant funding to support the recovery of town centres as businesses re-opened was considered. The fund, administered by the County Council, could be used for small scale capital projects and applications were welcomed up to £12,500. There would, however, be a requirement for Town & Community Councils to provide 20% match funding (ie up to £10,000 grant and £2,500 in match funding). Examples of eligible projects were outlined in the information and included benches and planters. Applications had to be submitted by end September 2020 and the funding to be used by end March 2021.

Members further noted the availability of Sustainable Transport Funding to assist town centre recovery and Active Travel Funding to promote cycling and walking. Interest was expressed by members in a project for Madoc Street. **IT WAS RESOLVED** *that members submit any projects suitable for the funding to the Town Clerk for discussion at a future meeting.*

101. ANNUAL MEETING AND MAYORAL

To decide on when to hold the 2020 Annual meeting and to discuss timing of the Mayoral 2020 succession. A copy of The Local Authorities (Coronavirus)(Meetings)(Wales) Regulations 2020 had been re circulated, for reference.

It was noted that there was a requirement to hold the Annual Meeting in 2020 and that, whilst the Council may decide not to hold an election of a Chair, the election needed to be held by 1 May 2021. The Mayor invited the views of the Mayor Elect, Deputy Mayor Elect, and members. As well as discussion on the best timeframe to hold the elections, members also discussed the importance of the Mayoral role to the Town in respect of the number of civic engagements annually undertaken by a Mayor, the importance of these engagements to the role and possibly once in a life time opportunity of being Mayor, the Mayor's role in the Town terms of leadership and as a figure head for Council traditions, and the impact of Covid-19 on the 2020 Mayoral year and accompanying civic events and engagements. There was also discussion on the challenges of remote versus physical meetings and whether a return to the latter might be viable at a future date and to hold a physical AGM. A proposal was made and seconded to progress the normal business of the Council and to hold the AGM and elections on the 14th August 2020, but in view of concerns raised above

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IT WAS RESOLVED that the election of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor for 2020/21 be postponed and that the Mayor and Deputy Mayor for 2019/20 continue to hold office until 2021, as per the powers of the Regulations 2020.

102. CIVIC AND COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN ALLOWANCES 2020/21

To consider payments of Mayoral and Committee Chairmen allowances 2020 and the annual donation to the Mayor's Charity Account. **IT WAS RESOLVED to pay the allowances for 2020/21, and in accordance with the IRP recommendations previously adopted by Council for 2020/21.**

103. REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES

103.1 To consider a request from the North & Mid Wales Association of Local Councils (NAMWALC): Proposed North Coast & Conwy Valley Rail Liaison Committee (NCRLG).

The proposal from NAMWALC was seeking Town and Community Council representatives from across the relevant area to join the Committee, but also welcomed any observations. The following was observed by members: that the Town Council had its own, pro-active, Transport Sub Committee attended by representatives from the Transport sector and Conwy Valley Rail Partnership; that the potentially high membership of the proposed NCRLG could provide challenges of communication and engagement; that neither representation from the Wrexham-Bidstone line or Avanti West Coast was included and; that the North Wales Economic Ambition Board had a Public Transport Sub-Group ably attended by Town & County Councillor GJT Robbins. **IT WAS RESOLVED to submit the Town Council's observations to NAMWALC regarding the proposed Rail Liaison Committee as requested but decline the invitation to appoint a Town Council representative.**

103.2 Conwy & Denbighshire Public Service Board. One representative was sought from Town and Community Councils to represent the Conwy area. **IT WAS RESOLVED to put forward the Community Services & Tourism and Llandudno Hospital Action Group Chairman, Cllr Mrs C Marubbi, for consideration as a suitable candidate.**

104. CONWY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL WINTER EVENTS

A report from Conwy County Borough Council on a potential Winter Lights programme **was received**. In view of the decimation of local events in 2020 due to Covid-19, interest was expressed by members in any projects to lift the Town in the Winter, if viable. Further developments would be awaited from Conwy County Borough Council, and it was noted that a representative might meet with the Town Council in the Autumn to discuss further.

88. TO DISCUSS OR NOTE CONSULTATIONS OR ITEMS OF CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

88.1 National Association of Local Councils (Nalc): the latest guidance on holding in-house Council meetings **was received**. It was noted that Nalc still advised local councils to continue to work remotely but a checklist was provided should councils not be able to conduct business except through a face to face meeting.

88.2 A Letter of Appreciation from the AM for Aberconwy in respect of recent maintenance work to Llandudno War Memorial by the Town Council **was received**.

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88.3 Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner: A Road Legislation Changes Survey was received. Members were encouraged to respond individually.

88.4 To consider a request from the RNLI for the Town Council to act as a licensee for a defibrillator installation.

Exempt Information EX 1/2020

Reason for the exemption: the consideration of licence information.

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.

Members had been circulated with a request from the RNLI for the Town Council to act as licensee for a proposed defibrillator on an RNLI building, along with a copy of the proposed licence. Members expressed support for the project but concern about the responsibilities, insurance, monitoring, and liabilities for the Town Council and queried how the Council could be a licensee for equipment on another organisations property. ***IT WAS RESOLVED*** not to accept taking on the role of a licensee for this project due to concerns about the responsibilities and liabilities.

The public were invited to return.

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

There were none received.

90. TO NOTE THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING.

It was noted that the next meeting of the Council would be held on Friday 2nd October 2020 at 7pm.