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Minutes of the meeting of Bangor City Council held at Penrhyn Hall and via Zoom video-conferencing on **6 March 2023** at 7.10 pm.

PRESENT: - Cllr. Gwynant Roberts (Mayor), Cllr. Elin Walker Jones (Deputy Mayor), Cllr. Salamatu Fada, Cllr. Medwyn Hughes, Cllr. John Wynn Jones, Cllr. Gareth Parry, Cllr. Meic Pattison, Cllr. Eirian Williams Roberts, Cllr. Gareth Roberts, Cllr. Mark Roberts, Cllr. Nigel Pickavance, Cllr. John Wyn Williams.

Officers:- Martin Hanks (City Director), Llinos Fôn Jones (Deputy City Director) Howard Huws (Translator) Sioned Jones (Minutes).

99/22 APOLOGIES: Cllr. Dylan Fernley, Cllr. Huw Wyn Jones

100/22 DECLARATION OF FINANCIAL INTEREST OR PERSONAL CONNECTION

Cllr. Meic Pattison as Chair of Menter Iaith Bangor, declared an interest in item 107/22 St. David's Day Grant.

101/22 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

102/22 CITY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The City Director reported that, contrary to expectations, January and February had been a very busy 2 months. The main points were as follows:

- Cyngor Gwynedd are about to instal vehicle electric charging points in Kyffin Square car park and have asked for ideas for other places.
- The programme *Prosiect Pum Mil* is coming to film in Hafan. Volunteers are required to help paint and tidy the place.
- A project is afoot to change the old telephone kiosks into mobile phone charging points and local wi-fi provision.
- The City Director has written a letter of support for Bangor University in their bid to have 5G installed in Bangor city centre.
- Bangor BID is working on a SMART towns application for Bangor.
- The Cathedral has set up a group called *Stone Shout Out*- the City Director will sit on this group.
- Cyngor Gwynedd and the Probation Service are working on removing graffiti.
- The City Director has been invited to report to the University community group.
- City Director looking at the potential and condition of buildings on the High Street.
- The City Council is working much closer with Cyngor Gwynedd – considering bins, graffiti etc in Upper Bangor. Also grass cutting and public footpaths.
- An expression of interest has been made to Transforming Towns. A new bid under the Shared Prosperity grant is being prepared. One of the challenges of grant applications is that frequently there is very little time given to prepare an application. The City Director suggested preparing 4-6 projects that would help Bangor and do a lot of the work before hand, ready for the call for grants.
- Gwynedd's Master Plan for Bangor – there is scope for another workshop for the Council, but a more focussed one, possible looking at a Greener Bangor identity.

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- The City Director had had very positive meetings with Cwmni Bro Ffestiniog and Partneriaeth Ogwen and there was room for collaboration. Parternaeth Ogwen especially had expertise in electric community buses etc.
- A meeting had been held of the sub-group to discuss the Soest visit in October.
- The City Director had arranged a meeting with the Caernarfon Town Clerk to discuss common issues.
- He had had a meeting with Siân Gwenllian MS, the main points being business rates and the medical Hub.
- The ceremony to grant Freedom of the City of Bangor would take place on 27 March, all Councillors are invited.
- A new IT system has been considered, to incorporate Zoom meetings. This would be a considerable outlay for the Council.
- In 2 years, Bangor Cathedral will be 1500 years old, thus Bangor will be 1500 also. It is time to start thinking about how to note this milestone.
- There are now 2 vacant seats on the Council (Hendre and Marchog), 2 people have expressed an interest and this will be discussed in the next meeting.

The Mayor thanked the City Director for his comprehensive report and his hard work.

Some points were discussed:

- Support for placing defibrillators in former kiosks. More information needed about how these are used, and how is their use recorded.
- 5G – if this is installed, would it mean the discontinuing of the 3G signal.

103/22 COUNCIL STRUCTURE

i) Formal meetings

Traditionally, every 3 months a full Council meeting is held with Council members and officers wearing full regalia. With the return of face to face meetings, the appetite for wearing Council robes has diminished. However, this is stipulated in the Standing Orders.

IT WAS RESOLVED to limit the wearing of robes to important meetings only, e.g. the Annual Meeting, Remembrance Sunday, Granting Freedom of the City, with the Standing Orders amended accordingly.

IT WAS RESOLVED also to approve the minutes of the previous meeting in every committee meeting, not as a block at full Council meetings only.

ii) Planning Applications

Currently planning applications are circulated to Members and only come to Council if they are major strategic applications. However, Members felt that messages did not go back to Cyngor Gwynedd as a formal response from Bangor City Council.

IT WAS RESOLVED to add planning applications to the monthly meetings, whether full Council or not.

iii) Staffing Committee

A staffing committee had been convened the previous year to deal with appointing a City Director. It was proposed that a permanent staffing committee be established.

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IT WAS RESOLVED to maintain the previous structure of the staffing committee and to add appoint two additional Councillors. These being Cllrs Fada (permanent) and Roberts (temporary) appointments.

104/22 SIGNAGE PROJECT – MAP OPTIONS

Options for the style and colours for maps on information boards in the High Street had been circulated before the meeting. Concerns were raised about the suitability of some colours for people with visual difficulties.

IT WAS RESOLVED to ask the City Director to seek expert advice.

105/22 TO DISCUSS AN INVITATION TO TWIN WITH A FRENCH TOWN

An approach had been made by a town near Paris to twin with Bangor, and this had been discussed by the twinning sub-group. It was felt that the invitation was unsuitable as the town had little in common with Bangor.

It was felt that a more suitable project was the Bangor around the world project. It was also felt that links could be made with places in other Celtic countries.

IT WAS RESOLVED to reject the invitation from France but to investigate the other possibilities.

106/22 TO DISCUSS RECYCLING

It was felt that improvements could be made to the levels of recycling in the City. Also, concerns were raised about problems with litter in some parts of Bangor.

IT WAS RESOLVED to establish a sub-committee of the Assets, Projects and Resources Committee to explore possibilities. The following Councillors were appointed: Cllrs. Fada, Hughes, Parry, Pattison, Pickavance, Williams Roberts.

107/22 ST DAVID'S DAY GRANT

It was reported that the St David's Day Parade and activities had been a great success.

IT WAS RESOLVED to approve a grant of £3,000.

108/22 TO APPROVE KING'S CORONATION PROPOSALS

The City Director had been tasked with finding out how other Town and Community Councils in the area were celebrating the Coronation. Very few had planned activities, some were giving grants to local ventures. The Pier in Bangor was holding its own anniversary celebration a few days later therefore

IT WAS RESOLVED to contribute funding and resources to this event instead.

109/22 TO APPROVE PAYMENTS

The schedule of payments was APPROVED.

The meeting ended at 9.25pm

CYFARWYDDWR DINESIG – Martin Hanks – CITY DIRECTOR