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Minutes of the remote meeting of the **City Council**, held via Zoom video-conferencing on **Monday 6 September 2021** at 6.50pm.

PRESENT: - Their Worship The Mayor Councillor Owen Hurcum, the Deputy Mayor Councillor Gwynant Roberts

Councillors : Les Day, Dylan Fernley, Derek Hainge, Medwyn Hughes, Elin Walker Jones (*left meeting at 8.31*), Huw Wyn Jones (*left meeting at 7.50*), John Wynn Jones, Kieran Jones, John Martin, Enid Parry, Nigel Pickavance, Luke Tugwell, John Wyn Williams (*joined meeting at 7.18*).

Officers:- Iwan Williams, City Director, Delyth Davies (Translator), Sioned Jones (Minutes)

92/21 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Gareth Roberts, Mair Rowlands, George Turner.

93/21 DECLARATION OF FINANCIAL INTEREST OR PERSONAL CONNECTION

None.

94/21 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

The standing order whereby members are required to stand in order to speak was suspended

95/21 MINUTES

- a) Full Council – 28 June 2021 - To approve as a correct record – Pages 17-22
Approved as correct record.
- b) Planning Committee – 19 July 2021 - To approve as a correct record – Pages 23-24
Approved
- c) Governance, Staffing and Finance Committee - 19 July 2021 - To approve as a correct record – Pages 25 – 28
Approved
- d) Special Council Meeting – 26 July 2021- To approve as a correct record – Page 29
Approved
- e) Assets, Resources and Projects Committee – 26 July 2021 - To approve as a correct record Page 30-32

Approved

96/21 BANGOR OUTDOOR MARKET PROPOSALS

Two proposals for running the market had been circulated to members, one from an individual involved in several north east Wales markets and the other from individuals involved in Colwyn Bay market. The Mayor reported that everyone was keen to see a market back in Bangor and they invited comments on both proposals. It was stressed, first

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of all, that any individual or group wanting to run a market in Bangor would need to have permission from the Bangor Market Company, according to a law that dates back many years. Furthermore, Bangor City Council would have to insist on being able to supervise any proposal accepted and to manage any arrangements.

There were merits to both proposals, and these were discussed thoroughly.

It was asked whether the market would be able to expand and stalls could be set up in additional places, e.g. on the green next to Storiol or even outside the Cathedral, which is where the original market stood, many centuries ago.

The City Director was also asked to clarify how any profit coming to the City Council would be worked out.

However, the general feeling was that this was not a money-making exercise for the Council but an opportunity to enhance the High Street and bring some much-needed footfall back to it.

It was suggested that further details needed to be discussed further and **IT WAS RESOLVED** to form a Steering Committee comprising members of the Assets Committee, joined by representatives of the Bangor Market Company. A Bangor Market Company representative will be invited to attend the Assets Committee on 27th September to discuss further.

97/21: FUNDING APPLICATION: BANGOR PLAQUE GROUP

a) Councillor Les Day reminded members that she was a member of a group in 2010 that erected 7 plaques to honour famous sons and daughters of Bangor. She gave some background about the membership of that group and how funding was secured. A group is now considering erecting further plaques and would like the support of Bangor City Council. Members were very enthusiastic about the idea and asked how they could help; also who decides who's worthy of a plaque as there were so many famous people in various fields. Cllr Day replied that the last time Bangor City Council had contributed in kind but not in cash. A committee would need to be formed and this committee would invite nominations.

IT WAS RESOLVED to support the request in principle and await further details. Their Worship the Mayor suggested that funding could be used from the Promotions budget.

b) In the meantime, a plaque has been drawn up to be erected on the old Archdeacon's House, and the members were shown a mock-up of the plaque. It commemorates a scene from Shakespeare's Henry IV describing a historical agreement involving Owain Glyndŵr, the "Tripartite Indenture" which purportedly took place in this building. **IT WAS RESOLVED** to support the erection of the plaque, in the style seen. It was asked whether the A4 size was too small for this particular building. There was also a suggestion to add a QR code so that people could read more about the history.

98/21: COMMUNITY ASSETS: CITY DIRECTOR UPDATE

The update had already been circulated to members before the meeting. Additional points:

- a) The City Director reported that contributions at the entrance to the Pier had increased significantly. This was thanks to the presence of volunteers organised by the Friends of Bangor Garth Pier. Two council members, Cllrs Enid Parry and Luke Tugwell had been a key part of this effort.
- b) In his report, the City Director referred again to the danger of Dargie Field and his suggestion was to fence it off. There followed a discussion and in general, members were opposed to fencing off any piece of land. It was felt that this would be inappropriate as this field, like others, had been given to the people of Bangor as an open space. It was felt that erecting signs warning the public that the field was dangerous would be sufficient.
- c) The other problem was dog fouling on Ashley Fields. Council workers has suffered unpleasant experiences when cutting the grass and they had specifically asked for a sign to be put up that all dogs should be kept on a leash. Members felt that this on its own would not stop the dog fouling problem. There is a need to educate the public, and as enforcement officers are rarely seen, it was suggested that an information campaign should be undertaken through channels such as the *Bangor Aye* to remind people that not cleaning up after your pet is an offence.

It was also suggested that the above matters should be discussed in the Assets, Resources and Projects Committee and then ratified by the Council.

IT WAS RESOLVED (i) not to put a fence around Dargie Field but to draw attention to the fact that it was dangerous and (ii) to erect a sign on Ashley Fields that dogs must be kept on a leash.

99/21 GWYNEDD COUNCIL REGENERATION FRAMEWORK - OUR AREA 2035

The City Director had previously circulated information to members regarding the forthcoming regeneration framework led by Gwynedd Council. Members have the opportunity to participate and respond to some consultation questions, asking about the challenges and opportunities for Bangor by 2035. **IT WAS RESOLVED** to invite Gwynedd Council representatives to the Assets Committee on 27th September to discuss further.

100/21 GWYNEDD-MÔN LOCAL WELL-BEING PLAN: BANGOR CITY COUNCIL CONTRIBUTION

Following the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales), the larger Town and Community Councils have a legal duty to report back on how it is fulfilling the requirements of the Act. A local well-being plan was published 4 years ago by Gwynedd-Môn Public Services Board, and Bangor City Council should demonstrate how it intends to contribute to various themes. However, this had not been done before and this was flagged up as a weakness in the internal audit. The City Director has now given examples of the City Council's contribution. Members received the information, apart from the need to clarify that Housing was a County Council responsibility, not a responsibility of the City Council.

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101/21 WELSH GOVERNMENT PLACE-MAKING GRANT

The City Director had circulated a copy of the City Council's bid to the Welsh Government. This is a grant for reviving Wales's town and city centres in the wake of the pandemic. The grant is to the value of £100k of which WG would contribute 70% and the other 30% would have to come through match funding.

The City Director explained that this kind of bid needed a lot of detail and at present the Council lacked capacity, also there was the question of the match funding. However, if the plan is not successful this time, it has laid some important foundations to build on. A decision was expected later in the week.

The City Director was thanked for his hard work in preparing this. While awaiting the forthcoming decision, **IT WAS RESOLVED** to accept the plan and in future to discuss it further in the Assets Committee.

102/21 DEWI WARD: VACANT SEAT

Following the interview with the unsuccessful applicant in July 2021, another individual had expressed an interest in being co-opted to this seat, however, he had withdrawn his interest at the last minute.

IT WAS RESOLVED to leave the seat vacant for now as there will be a Council election in May 2022.

103/21 AFGHANISTAN AND BANGOR REFUGEE SUPPORT GROUP

An e-mail had been received from Bangor Rotary Club who wished to work with Bangor City Council to help refugees from Afghanistan. The Council has worked on projects with the Rotary Club in the past.

Members were definitely in favour of helping the refugees, however they wanted to know what kind of help the Rotary was asking for. It was said that there are many agencies helping the refugees, in particular *Pobl i Bobl* and there was a danger of duplication. It was mentioned that Gwynedd Council are the main agency co-ordinating the aid.

IT WAS RESOLVED to approach Gwynedd Council to say that Bangor City Council would like to help the plight of the refugees in Bangor and to ask for guidance.

104/21 2018/19 AUDIT: ANNUAL RETURN APPROVAL

The City Director explained that the reason the 2018/19 still had not been signed off was the long term effect of the Nantporth report. It only remains for the Council to say that they have received this and for the form to be approved.

IT WAS RESOLVED to approve the audit from 2018/19.

105/21 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ANE ELECTIONS (WALES) ACT 2021: MULTI-LOCATION ATTENDANCE FOR MEETINGS Amendment to Standing Orders

The City Director explained that the Standing Orders needed to be amended to reflect virtual meetings. Welsh Government legislation has ruled that multi-location meetings have

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to be offered. Bangor City Council would continue to meet remotely with the exception of the AGM in Penrhyn Hall.

Members expressed mixed views about this. While virtual meetings were very convenient, there was a general feeling that many things were lost through not being able to meet face to face. If new Councillors join, they will not have the opportunity to get to know their colleagues. It was proposed that efforts should be made to return to normal when circumstances allow.

IT WAS RESOLVED to change the wording of the amendment from *shall be held remotely* to *may be held remotely*. This would provide more flexibility in future.

106/21 AUTHORISED SIGNATURES UPDATE

The list for Council payments needed to be updated. The City Director, the Mayor and the Deputy Mayor would be authorised to sign payments. All were in favour.

107/21 INVOICES FOR PAYMENT

It was agreed to pay half the invoice from the Wales Audit Office Nantporth report this year, and half in the next financial year, as previously discussed. The City Director explained that the biggest payment this time was £8,830 for the CCTV network with Gwynedd Council. Invoices coming to a total of £15,556.40 were APPROVED.

108/21 SIGNING OF DOCUMENTS

To approve the signing of any document pertaining to any decision of this Council Meeting.
APPROVED

The meeting came to an end at 8.51 pm.

CITY DIRECTOR– Iwan Williams – CYFARWYDDWR DINESIG