

Minutes of the meeting of Bangor City Council held at Penrhyn Hall and via Teams video conferencing on **13th January 2025** at 6.30 pm.

PRESENT: - His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. Gareth Parry (Chair), Cllr. Medwyn Hughes (Deputy Mayor), Cllr. Steve Bell, Cllr. Salamatu Fada, Cllr. Dylan Fernley, Cllr. Huw Wyn Jones, Cllr. John Wynn Jones, Cllr. Elin Walker Jones, Cllr. Gwynant Roberts, Cllr. Eirian Williams Roberts, Cllr. Delyth Russell, Cllr. Lisa Toth & Cllr. John Wyn Williams.

Officers:- Martin Hanks (City Director), Carwyn Davies (Administrative Officer) & Sioned Jones (Translator) and three members of the public.

106/24 APOLOGIES: Cllr. Simon Hibbs, Cllr. Beverley Jones, Cllr. Meic Pattison, Cllr. Nigel Pickavance, Cllr. Mark Roberts & Cllr. Gareth Roberts.

107/24 DECLARATION OF FINANCIAL INTEREST OR PERSONAL CONNECTION

None

108/24 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- i) Representatives of the North Wales Fire Service presented the findings of their recent 'Bridges of Friendship' visit to the May Pen region of Jamaica, together with other North Wales Jamaican Society members. They reported that the quantity and availability of fire-fighting equipment in Jamaica are significantly lower than in the U.K., for example, May Pen has only one (ex-U.S.) fire engine to cover an area the size of Gwynedd County, as well as a lack of breathing apparatus, etc. The Council was asked to support the project, which has already secured one advanced fire engine from the UK and is actively trying to secure a second engine together with other equipment.
- ii) The Council was addressed by the Health and Wellbeing Manager from Cyngor Gwynedd on the future of HWB Bangor. The Council was advised of her success in obtaining some grant funding to help set up the HWB. A list of potential users was highlighted that have proved popular in other locations in North Wales. The Manager offered to assist the Council in establishing HWB Bangor.

109/24 TO APPROVE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF THE 9th DECEMBER 2024

IT WAS RESOLVED: to accept the minutes of the Council meeting of the 9th of December 2024 as an accurate record of the meeting.

110/24 CITY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The City Director's report had been circulated before the meeting.

A report providing a brief summary of the Council's projects and initiatives had been pre-circulated to councilors beforehand.

The City Director highlighted a few of the points from his report to the council on the following:-

- i) The Bangor's Across the World exhibition is scheduled to open in Storiol imminently. This exhibition will run over the coming twelve months and each month details of another Bangor (or sometimes 2 or 3 smaller Bangor communities) will be displayed. The exhibition highlights the influence that our Bangor has had across the World and is part of the 1500 celebrations.
- ii) On the 14th of February there is a Welsh rock concert in the Cathedral. The event is free but booking is recommended.
- iii) Other elements of the 1500 marketing strategy are now becoming apparent, with reports already appearing in the Bangor Aye, Business News Wales, Herald Wales, North Wales Chronicle, and the websites of the Church in Wales and the University. BBC 1 One Show and Heno have both expressed an interest in reporting on the planting of 18,000 Daffodils on the approaches to the City.

IT WAS RESOLVED: To accept the report.

111/24 TO DISCUSS THE 2025-2026 BUDGET

A discussion was held regarding the City Council Budget for 2025-2026 report which had been pre-circulated before the meeting. After discussion and debate, it was voted to defer this item until an additional meeting of the Council, which will be held in conjunction with the Assets Committee meeting on the 27th January 2025, to facilitate some amendments.

IT WAS RESOLVED: It was resolved to defer this until the 27th of January 2025.

112/24 TO DISCUSS THE 2025-2026 PRECEPT

As item 111/24 was deferred until the 27th January 2025, this item could not be completed.

IT WAS RESOLVED: It was resolved to defer this item until the 27th of January 2025.

113/24 TO DISCUSS THE BANGOR COMMUNITY HUB

A discussion was held on the future HWB Bangor. It was reported that with the recent purchase of the Deiniol Shopping centre, the costs related to Caffi Deiniol were rising. It was further reported that since the last meeting, it had been highlighted that, the half of Caffi

Hafan that is under lease from Cyngor Gwynedd, has a covenant that expresses that it can not be used as a commercial venture. Therefore, it was suggested that HWB Bangor be relocated from Caffi Deiniol, where the Council is required to pay rent, to Caffi Hafan, which is half owned by the City Council and half under lease from Cyngor Gwynedd, for £1 p.a. thus reducing costs and allowing of greater flexibility.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to relocate HWB Bangor to Caffi Hafan

114/24 TO APPROVE COUNCILLOR'S EXTENDED LEAVE OF ABSENCE

It was reported that Cllr. Meic Pattison is approaching the 6 months allowed for absence from council meetings and, due to ongoing health issues, has requested an extended leave of absence to allow for a full recovery.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to grant Cllr Pattison an extended leave of absence due to exceptional circumstances. It was also agreed to send a get-well card is to be sent to Cllr. Meic Pattison.

The meeting ended at 8.30 pm

CYFARWYDDWR DINESIG – Martin Hanks – CITY DIRECTOR