

Minutes of the meeting of Bangor City Council held at Penrhyn Hall and via Teams video-conferencing on **25th November 2024** at 6.30 pm.

PRESENT: - His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. Gareth Parry (Chair) Cllr. Medwyn Hughes (Deputy Mayor), Cllr. Steve Bell, Cllr. Dylan Fernley, Cllr. Elin Walker Jones, Cllr. John Wynn Jones, Cllr. Nigel Pickavance, Cllr. Eirian Williams Roberts, Cllr. Gareth Roberts, Cllr. Gwynant Roberts, Cllr. Mark Roberts, Cllr. John Wyn Williams.

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

Before the first agenda item, the Mayor, on behalf of the City Council, offered its condolences to Sioned Jones our usual translator, and her family, on the recent loss of her brother over the weekend.

87/24 APOLOGIES: Cllr. Salamatu Fada, Cllr. Simon Hibbs, Cllr. Beverley Jones, Cllr. Huw Wynn Jones, Cllr. Meic Pattison, Cllr. Delyth Russell & Cllr. Lisa Toth.

88/24 DECLARATION OF FINANCIAL INTEREST OR PERSONAL CONNECTION

Cllr Elin Walker Jones and Cllr Gareth Parry declared an interest in item 95/24 and did not vote on the item.

89/24 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

90/24 TO APPROVE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF THE 21ST OCTOBER 2024.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to accept the minutes of the Council meeting of the 21ST October as an accurate record of the meeting.

91/24 CITY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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

The City Director's report, which detailed updates on Council initiatives and projects, had been pre-circulated in advance of the meeting. However, prior to commencing his report, the City Director thanked Aled Jones for covering for the usual translator at the last minute. He also highlighted that Brian (Bach) Williams, a recent Freeman of Bangor recipient is currently in hospital and wished him a rapid recovery. The Director drew the Council's attention to the following:

- i) It was highlighted that the first round of notices to ask residents of the Menai Ward if they wanted a bye-election to fill the current vacancy, had been published. If ten signatories requesting a bye-election are not received by Cyngor Gwynedd by the 6th of December then co-option notices will be published.
- ii) The first event of the 1500 celebration is scheduled to take place this coming Sunday, 1st December, which is the first Sunday of Advent and the beginning of the religious year. The service, to be held in the Cathedral will be led by the Archbishop of Wales and will be attended by all the Bishops of Wales.
- iii) The Christmas trees have been erected on Caernarfon Road, and Christmas lights will go up over the coming week. It was reported that there had been several

setbacks in the arranging of the Christmas Lights in this area of the City and the type of lights has had to be changed twice due to the restriction on the lighting columns.

- iv) The arrangements for St David's Day, which are as usual, being led by Menter Iaith Bangor, are progressing well and are being supported by Storiell, Pontio, Castell Penrhyn, Gwynedd Youth Services, MSparc, Bangor Library, the Student's Union and others.
- v) The City Director will be recording podcasts later this week to discuss the 1500 celebrations and the future of the High Street, in Welsh on Tuesday and in English on Thursday. Both podcasts will be broadcast in December.
- vi) The City Director was asked about the planning of Bible Gardens and whether this referred to a Planning Application. He responded that the report merely meant that the planning of what to plant was currently being prepared in readiness to commence work in the New Year.
- vii)

92/24 TO SUPPORT JOINT NORTH WALES POLICE VEHICLE.

Details of the proposal had been pre-circulated to Members

The Council discussed the proposal from North Wales Police that Caernarfon Town Council and Bangor City Council help fund the establishment of an additional Police vehicle to target anti-social behaviour in the two connotations. The proposal requested that the City Council dedicate £7,000 in the next financial year to set up this project. Following a brief discussion during which several questions remained unanswered.

Resolved: to approve the project and commitment in principle and to ask North Wales Police for more details on the specifics of the project.

93/24 TO APPROVE INCREASE IN BUDGET FOR CCTV FOR COED MAWR AND MAESTRYFAN PLAY AREAS.

The Council had some eighteen months ago approved £8,000 to fund the first phase of a project to install CCTV coverage of all the play parks in the City. Since that time the costs have spiralled, partially because of the requirement to include additional equipment and partially due to a rise in equipment and manpower. The latest quotation for the same coverage is £25,000. It was proposed to fund half of this project in the current financial year by increasing the budget from £8,000 to £12,500 and to include the residual payment in the next financial year. A detailed discussion on the CCTV in the City ensued.

Resolved:

- i) to increase the budget in the current financial year to £12,500.
- ii) to include the residual £12,500 in the next financial year's budget.
- iii) to ask the relevant Cyngor Gwynedd manager to attend a Council meeting in the New Year to discuss CCTV in the City.

94/24 TO SUPPORT LLANYSTUMDWY PROPOSAL REGARDING AREAS OF LINGUISTIC SIGNIFICANCE.

Details of the Llanystumdwy proposal had been pre-circulated to Members

The Council had received a request from Llanystumdwy Community Council requesting that all Councils in the area consider supporting the Report of the Commission on Welsh Speaking Communities on Empowering Communities, Strengthening the Welsh Language and to confirm its support with representative organisations and the Welsh Government.

Resolved: to support the recommendations of the Report.

95/24 TO CONSIDER A GRANT APPLICATION FROM MAESTRYFAN COMMUNITY GROUP.

The Council discussed a grant application from the Maestryfan Community Group to help fund community parties. The application had been assessed by the Finance Committee and the Chair reported that the unanimous recommendation of the committee was to decline the application for several reasons.

The proposal did not receive a seconder and was therefore dropped.

96/24 TO APPOINT A PART-TIME COMMUNITY HUB MANAGER/ORGANISER.

This item was deferred as it is still being assessed by the Staffing Committee.

97/24 PLANNING APPLICATION

- i. Planning application C24/0828/11/TC – 302 Stryd Fawr, Bangor – Application to convert the first-floor office into a flat.

There were no objections.

The meeting ended at 7.35pm

CYFARWYDDWR DINESIG – Martin Hanks – CITY DIRECTOR