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Minutes of the remote **Assets, Resources and Projects Committee**, held via Zoom video-conferencing on **Monday 17 May 2021** at 6.30 pm.

**PRESENT:** - Their Worship The Mayor Councillor Owen Hurcum (Chair), The Deputy Mayor Councillor Gwynant Roberts  
Councillors : Les Day, Luke Tugwell, Medwyn Hughes, Huw Wyn Jones, Enid Parry, Elin Walker Jones, John Martin, John Wynn Jones, Kieran Jones, Mair Rowlands, Nigel Pickavance, John Wyn Williams, Dylan Fernley.

Officers:- Iwan Williams, City Director, Gwynfor Owen (Translator) Sioned Jones (Minutes)

### 11/21 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Ifan James.

### 12/21 DECLARATION OF FINANCIAL INTEREST OR PERSONAL CONNECTION

Their Worship The Mayor declared that as an employee based in the Pier Pavilion, they would not participate in the Asset Register Review A) Bangor Garth Pier – Pavilion application agenda item.

### 13/21 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

### 14/21 APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

**The 2 main Committees:** As this was the first meeting following the restructure of Committees, there were lengthy discussions as to who was sitting on which Committee. The City Director explained that the idea was to have 10 members on both committees, with at least one representing each Ward. A proposal by Their Worship The Mayor was that political parties would also be split. After some discussions, all members were allocated to either the Assets, Resources and Projects Committee, or the Governance, Staffing and Finance Committee. This was split evenly between members of the same ward. It was noted that political affiliations were not an issue here as all were working for the good of the people of Bangor.

**RESOLVED** – the City Director to confirm with the members who were not present this evening in order to finalise the list.

### Planning

**RESOLVED** also that the Planning Committee would comprise either the members of the Assets, Resources and Projects Committee, or the members of the Governance, Staffing and Finance Committee, depending on whichever committee met that evening. Other members would be welcome to join the Planning Committee but they would not have a vote. The Chair of either Committee would also chair the Planning Committee meeting that evening. Alternatively, all members would attend if a Planning Committee meeting were to be held

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on the same evening as Full Council. Planning Committee meetings would only be held to discuss strategic planning applications.

It was proposed that the Planning Committee be held before the main Committee as this would ensure that all members who so wished, could be present for the start at 6.30pm.

If planning meetings were called for in between scheduled meetings, these would be convened on an ad hoc basis.

### **Invoices**

A question was asked about verifying invoices if committees are not going to be meeting as often as before. The City Director to check the position on invoices going to committee and to ensure that audit requirements were met.

### **15/21 APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE CHAIR AND DEPUTY**

The name of Cllr Mair Rowlands was proposed and seconded. All were in favour.

Cllr Medwyn Hughes was proposed and seconded as her Deputy.

However, as Committees have yet to be ratified (Full Council on 28<sup>th</sup> June), it was proposed that the Mayor continue in the chair for this evening. All were in favour.

### **16/21 CONFIRMATION OF DECISIONS MADE**

Similarly, again as the Committees were not fully ratified, all decisions made this evening would be subject to confirmation by the full Council on 28<sup>th</sup> June.

### **17/21 ASSET REGISTER REVIEW**

The City Director presented the following review of Assets:

#### **A - Bangor Garth Pier**

- Working on the Heritage Lottery Fund bid, needs further details on specific costings (overall cost £170k-£250k). Five main proposals: establishing a small landing stage; restore the jetty; build two new kiosks; introduce e-charging points for bikes near the entrance; introduce the Pier's history via information/interpretation boards/signs;
- Pier 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary: Plaque unveiled by the Mayor 14<sup>th</sup> May, Pier lit up in the evening. Digital Programme also published online. Over next 12 months, a series of online talks/interviews drawing attention to the history of the Pier and Garth. Subject to Covid regulations, possibility of small events on the Pier from late summer onwards. 4<sup>th</sup> September: proposed date for Beaumaris-Bangor swim & 'Jump Off The Pier' (Betsi Cadwaladr UHB Awyr Las Fundraising);

- Fundraising on the Pier: Friends of Bangor Garth Pier will have volunteers on the Pier entrance & other kiosk, this should help raise money. In addition, 'Feed the Menai Monster' proposal for the entrance has been shared with Bangor schools, designs welcomed until 31<sup>st</sup> May. Cardreader also proposed for the entrance and car park barrier (frequent problems with using coins);
- Insurance: Waiting for an insurance company to provide a quote for a short-term sea-based insurance policy. Recommended that the Council adopts this policy;
- Pavilion application: Discussions continue on a potential alcohol licence for the Pavilion. A small task and finish group might be required to discuss this further and provide some steer/clarity from the City Council;
- Inspection of the superstructure: Undertaking this work could involve individuals requiring rope access along the Pier to properly inspect and treat the structure. There is no immediate risk, however delaying this work could result in increased costs for the Council over the long-term. One kiosk area also requires specific attention and maintenance to secure its placement. Something that the Council may wish to consider for the 2022/23 budget
- Piermaster's house and Council yard: Foundation works are needed on the house, which could be carried out by Council staff. Alongside this is the issue of the Council yard. Nantporth is not an option to move Council equipment and infrastructure, and should there be an intention by the Council to sell the Council yard site, the Council will need to consider an alternative site for the equipment;
- Italian restaurant transfer of lease: discussions continue between the relevant parties;
- The Pier office (two portacabins worth £10k) will be removed once the pumping station is installed and the linkspan removed (target of late summer).

#### **B Nantporth**

- Discussions continue between Nantporth CIC and Bangor City FC regarding payments/rental arrangements;
- With a new Assets, Resources and Projects Committee in place, should the Committee incorporate the Nantporth sub-committee? Or should the sub-committee remain in place?

#### **C - Menai Woods**

- Requires regular monitoring, especially in adverse weather. The lower footpath requires further maintenance. However, these woods are generally low risk and are valued by residents

#### **D - Penrhyn Arms Woods**

- The site is little visited and has received no maintenance. As a high-risk asset (fallen tree incident in 2019), selling these woods could raise income for the Council, subject to planning permission

#### **E - Ashley Jones Fields**

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- Building on the recent introduction of the Sakura Trees and the forthcoming Information Board and friendship bench, a number of ideas have been suggested to improve the fields e.g. introduce a playing area for children; introduce wildflowers; open up the stream running through the fields. The fields are a valuable Council asset with enormous potential and further discussions are needed regarding the look and use of these fields. Some dogwalkers letting their dogs free and dog faeces is an issue with the fields

### F - Dargie Field

- The area is now in a state of disrepair and requires a substantial investment to make the area safe - e.g. relay the footpaths, new seating, wall repair etc. The City Council has been working with North Wales Police, who have experienced considerable problems on the site over several years with anti-social behaviour, drug taking and county lines gangs. As a high-risk asset, selling the field could raise income for the Council

### + Clock Tower

- Some maintenance work is required on the clock tower, which would cost the Council around £20k. This is something to consider in the 2022/23 budget.

### Observations

Their Worship the Mayor left the meeting during discussion of 7a, Pier licence.

#### a. Bangor Garth Pier

Members discussed the potential alcohol licence application and associated opportunities and concerns with such an application. It was suggested that a working group could look into all the implications at the appropriate time.

It was suggested that the Pier Master's House was a very valuable asset to the City and could be converted for use in a number of ways in the long-term.

Pier Superstructure – the City Director explained that this sum was part of a general maintenance scheme that slipped in the 1980s. The pier has now been restored to a high standard so this will prevent huge costs in future.

#### b. Nantporth – as there is already a small sub-committee for Nantporth which is fully cognisant with the context and background, it was proposed to leave that topic for the sub-committee to discuss.

#### c. (also d-f) Green spaces. Members gave suggestions for utilising and enhancing the city's green spaces, for the benefit of the public. However, it was acknowledged that there were some problematic ones. Dargie Fields in particular was one such problem and it might be better to sell it.

It was noted that there are other green spaces in the Council's ownership and that all assets should be looked at in their entirety.

### **18/21 HIGH STREET UPDATE**

#### **The City Director reported the following**

Discussions were ongoing to set up a possible Health and Wellbeing Hub in the City Centre; the open-air market hopes to resume by the end of June, discussions were still ongoing but it was hoped that stalls selling essential goods would be in place; it was hoped that the demolition and repair work at Nos 164-166 High Street would be complete by the end of the Summer and that section of the High Street could finally reopen.

It was proposed to discuss setting up a partnership venture for the High Street.

**RESOLVED** to accept the report and to discuss a partnership in future Council / Committee meetings.

### **19/21 BEACH ROAD FAIR PROPOSAL**

It was reported that the Fair wishes to return to Beach Road from 15-18 July 2021 and Gwynedd Council has asked for observations from the Council. Cllr Pickavance, as part of the Bangor Carnival Group, suggested that this would be very beneficial for Bangor in the summer. Obviously, it would have to comply with risk assessments and Covid rules. It was suggested that the funfair could make a donation to the Friends of Bangor Garth Pier and people could be urged to go from the fair to the Pier.

### **20/21 COMMITTEE PRIORITIES 2021/22**

Cllr Pickavance had to leave the meeting at this point.

The point was made that this should happen at the beginning of the first assets committee proper when all members have been ratified. However, it was felt that the whole Council should be involved in setting out priorities. From next year, every council will be required to have an Annual Plan, so it would be good practice to work towards this now. It was proposed that this required a separate meeting, more like a workshop, to set out vision and priorities for the City.

**RESOLVED** to hold a Council workshop to discuss Strategy. This to be held **Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> June 2021**.

### **21/21 INVOICES FOR PAYMENT**

The City Director informed the Council that the invoices had been approved for payment by the Mayor and Deputy Mayor as detailed on the schedule £27,551.

In response to members' questions, the City Director explained that the pumping station work had been completed earlier than anticipated; this was why it was presented as a separate item. The electricity bill needed to be queried because Council staff had not been

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working in the offices for months. It was also proposed to have one supplier rather than a separate company for Penrhyn Hall.

**RESOLVED** to approve the report subject to clarification of the above.

**The meeting came to an end at 8.40 pm.**

CITY DIRECTOR– Iwan Williams – CYFARWYDDWR DINESIG