

Minutes of the meeting of Bangor City Council held at Penrhyn Hall and via Zoom video-conferencing on **12 June 2023** at 6.30 pm.

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

Officers:- Martin Hanks (City Director), Llinos Fôn Jones (Deputy City Director) Sioned Jones (Translator) and two Members of the Public.

14/23 APOLOGIES: Cllr. Huw Wyn Jones, Cllr. Meic Pattison, Cllr. Lisa Toth.

15/23 DECLARATION OF FINANCIAL INTEREST OR PERSONAL CONNECTION

None

16/23 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- (i) Siobhan Robson from ABG Design attended the Council remotely and discussed the Bangor Signage Project and asked the Council's opinion on the four colour schemes for the new associated Bangor map. Following a brief demonstration and discussion it was requested that ABG Design attend the next Council meeting to discuss the matter further.

17/23 CITY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Report circulated before the meeting.

The City Director's report had been pre-circulated in advance of the meeting. The Report detailed updates on a host of initiatives, including the change to the meeting's support structure and an amendment to staff duties. As a result of these changes, Hughes Dyson Accountants is no longer required to input the Council's accounts. The Report also included an update of the Council's assets and on upcoming Council events.

18/23 TO APPROVE THE COUNCIL'S COMMITTEE STRUCTURE AND TO ESTABLISH A STAFFING COMMITTEE.

Draft Terms of Reference for Staffing Committee circulated before the meeting.

The Council's current committee structure was discussed and it was reported that it was felt that one of the weaknesses in the current structure was the absence of a permanent Staffing Committee. Such a committee would be required to meet a minimum of once per annum but could be assembled if circumstances required.

A draft Terms of Reference for the Staffing Committee had been pre-circulated for consideration. A discussion ensued during which it was proposed to add a provision to ensure that a Staffing Committee could not be dominated by one political party.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to establish a permanent Staffing Committee and to approve the proposed Terms of Reference with one minor addition, that being that no more than three Members from the same political party be appointed to it. The Staffing Committee will be made up of the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor, the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Assets Committee and two additional Councillors. Cllr Roberts and Cllr Fada were appointed.

19/23 TO APPROVE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF THE 24TH OF APRIL 2023.

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the minutes are a true and accurate record of the Council Meeting of the 24th of April.

20/23 TO CONSIDER JOINING ONE VOICE WALES

A document detailing the benefits of being a Member of One Voice Wales has been pre-circulated and the City Director expanded on some of these points. It was highlighted that Bangor City Council had considered the joining fee too high in the past, but there was currently an offer to join at a 50% discount for the 1st year, which would allow the Council to assess the value of such Membership.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to join One Voice Wales and gauge the benefits after 12 months.

21/23 TO ARRANGE COUNCILLOR TRAINING COURSES.

The benefits of Councillors attending specific Community Councillor training courses were discussed, including allowing Councillors and the Council to make more informed decisions and Bangor City Council attaining the General Power of Competency. While online courses are offered by One Voice Wales, another option considered was to arrange a course in Penrhyn Hall. While several Councillors had attended Gwynedd Council courses as County Councillors, it was stressed that Community Councils are governed by different regulations.

IT WAS RESOLVED to organise a training course in Penrhyn Hall to cover the foundation topics and then to offer additional courses via One Voice Wales.

22/23 TO REPORT ON RECENT DEVELOPMENTS CONNECTED TO NANTPORTH

The Council was appraised that Nantporth CIC had recently been the beneficiary of a financial investment and had used the investment to pay its arrears to the Council in full. As such the CIC was no longer in breach of the lease and under legal advice, the court action had therefore been withdrawn.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to delegate the authority to the Nantporth sub-committee to evaluate the Council's position and decide on how best to work with the CIC going forward.

23/23 TO CONSIDER A PROPOSAL TO INCREASE CAR PARKING CHARGES BY 10%

A Gwynedd Council proposal to increase the parking fees in the City's car parks by 10% and for funds raised from this increase to be used to supplement the City Council's income, was discussed.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to reject the offer.

24/23 SIGNAGE PROJECT – MAP OPTIONS

Following the presentation by ABG in Public Participation and its agreement to attend the next meeting, this item was deferred.

25/23 REQUEST TO ESTABLISH A HOT FOOD PROJECT

A proposal to work with elements of Bangor University's Students Union to establish a hot food project was considered by the Council. The scheme, to make available hot food to those in the City in most need, is to commence, initially, once per month but it is envisaged to increase its frequency and make this something of a community gathering. There were two primary elements of the City Council's contribution to the project, the use of Penrhyn Hall and to award of a set-up grant of up to £1,500.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to support both elements of the project.

26/23 TO SUPPORT THE BANGOR SUMMER FESTIVAL

A request had been received that the City Council take the lead in organising the Bangor Summer Festival and for the Council to underwrite the costs or give a grant of up to £13,000 (£5,000 had been received since the agenda had been prepared). It was highlighted that much of the organisation had been completed by the Bangor Regeneration and Vision group and this group had secured some funding.

A detailed discussion ensued during which some concerns were raised both about the Council's responsibility and the amount being underwritten.

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the City Council take the organisational lead in the event and underwrite the full costs of the festival (£18,000) until the various grants have been confirmed and received.

27/23 TO APPOINT REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES

This item was deferred until the next meeting.

28/23 PLANNING APPLICATION

Planning application C23/0410/11/LL to convert a pub at 342 High Street into a restaurant and ancillary takeaway, was considered. There were no objections.

29/23 To Approve Payments

The payment lists for April & May 2023 were approved.

The meeting ended at 8.30pm

CYFARWYDDWR DINESIG – Martin Hanks – CITY DIRECTOR