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Minutes of the meeting of Bangor City Council held at Penrhyn Hall and via Zoom video-conferencing on **16 January 2023** at 6.30 pm.

PRESENT: - His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. Gwynant Roberts; Cllr. Elin Walker Jones (Deputy Mayor), Cllr. Steve Bell, Cllr. Salamatu Fada, Cllr. Dylan Fernley, Cllr. Medwyn Hughes, Cllr. Huw Wyn Jones, Cllr. Jac Jones, Cllr. John Wynn Jones, Cllr. Gareth Parry; Cllr Shane Parsons; Cllr. Meic Pattison, Cllr. Eirian Williams Roberts, Cllr. Gareth Roberts, Cllr. Mark Roberts, Cllr. John Wyn Williams.

Officers:- Martin Hanks (City Director), Llinos Fôn Jones (Deputy City Director) Howard Huws (Translator) Sioned Jones (Minutes).

81/22 APOLOGIES: Cllr. Nigel Pickavance,

82/22 DECLARATION OF FINANCIAL INTEREST OR PERSONAL CONNECTION

None

83/22 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

84/22 TO ACCEPT THE CITY DIRECTOR'S FINANCIAL REPORT

Report circulated before the meeting.

Members approved the report and welcomed the small steps being taken to improve the High Street.

85/22 TO AGREE ON THE INCOME & EXPENDITURE BUDGET FOR THE 2003 – 2004 FINANCIAL YEAR

Reports provided by the City Director before the meeting.

Members thanked the City Director for his detailed reports. The City Director explained that the financial situation was healthy, but pointed out that the brought forward figure was an estimate, which if different by 31st March would impact on the Budget. Some points that required clarification:

- a) The £75k for additional work on the Pier. The City Director explained that this was part the next phase of work to safeguard the Pier, however the work now needs to be started urgently.
- b) It was highlighted that £50k was budgeted to improve the parks and playparks of the City.
- c) Staffing. With the Project Manager retiring soon, consideration would need to be given to the Council's staffing structure. This could possibly incorporate a part-time post linked to events.
- d) The Mayor's allowance was queried, as the figure had been reduced to £1,500. The City Director explained that this was a decision by the Wales Independent Remuneration Panel. However, this figure was for unforeseen payments, the Mayor could still claim expenses as usual on presentation of receipts.

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Members APPROVED the City Director's Financial Budget for 2023-2024.

86/22 TO APPROVE THE 2023-2024 PRECEPT

Following the discussions above, **IT WAS RESOLVED** to increase the precept for the financial year 2023 – 2024. This represented an increase of around £1.20 a month for a Band D household.

87/22 TO RESPOND TO THE PROPOSAL TO REDUCE THE CITY'S SPEED LIMITS

In accordance with Welsh Government legislation, all Bangor roads will have a speed limit of 20mph from September 2023. However, 3 exceptions are proposed: these will remain at 30mph. It was explained that the reason for keeping these at 30mph is to avoid drivers going from 40mph to 20mph very suddenly.

IT WAS RESOLVED to accept the proposal.

88/22 TO SUPPORT AN INITIATIVE TO RENOVATE BIBLE GARDENS

A proposal to renovate Bible Garden and to support the volunteer who maintains the area had been pre-circulated. The proposal included purchasing additional equipment and a storage hut.

The members were very sympathetic to the request and agreed in principle. However, as the ownership of the land is currently being discussed by Gwynedd Council and the Cathedral, it was felt it was necessary to ascertain ownership first.

IT WAS RESOLVED to ask the City Director to clarify the ownership situation.

89/22 TO DISCUSS A CONNECTING CHILDREN AND NATURE PROJECT

It was suggested that the City Council support an initiative to make children more aware of nature. Treborth Botanical Gardens and the Wildlife Trust among others, have signed up to this initiative and included connecting to Nature through walks, gardening clubs, forest schools etc; While the proposal was well received, it was highlighted that challenges existed in working with young and vulnerable people.

IT WAS RESOLVED to support the venture, by supporting established third party organisations which have experience working with children.

90/22 TO DISCUSS ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE KING'S CORONATION

The City Director reminded members of the Coronation in May and pointed out that most of the country would be organising events to celebrate. Members had no particular ideas for celebrations and it felt that it might be useful to find out first what other local authorities were doing.

IT WAS RESOLVED to ask the City Director to gauge the level of interest in other local Councils.

91/22 TO APPROVE THE PAYMENTS LIST

Payments making a total of £58,143 were presented. Members wished to see a full report of the Christmas Cracker event and the City Director said that this would be forthcoming in the next meeting

The schedule of payments was **APPROVED**.

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92/22 ANY OTHER MATTERS

Despite strenuous efforts, the hybrid system is still presenting difficulties, due to trying to connect Zoom and translation facilities. Members asked for this to be an item on the next agenda.

IT WAS RESOLVED that the City Director continues to make further enquiries in order to try and resolve the problem.

The meeting ended at 8.45 pm

CYFARWYDDWR DINESIG – Martin Hanks – CITY DIRECTOR