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Minutes of the **remote Assets, Resources and Projects Committee**, held via Zoom video-conferencing **22 November 2021** at 6.30pm.

**PRESENT:** - Councillors: Mair Rowlands (Chair), Elin Walker Jones, John Wynn Jones, Enid Parry (joined meeting at 6.53pm), Gareth Roberts, Luke Tugwell (joined meeting at 6.37pm), John Wynn Williams, Their Worship the Mayor, Owen Hurcum  
Officers:- Iwan Williams (City Director), Delyth Davies (Translator), Sioned Jones (Minutes); Siân Gwenllian MS for Agenda Item 4.

### **198/21 APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Dylan Fernley, Medwyn Hughes, Huw Wyn Jones, Nigel Pickavance.

### **199/21 DECLARATION OF FINANCIAL INTEREST OR PERSONAL CONNECTION**

None.

### **200/21 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None.

### **201/21 ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR MATTERS: DISCUSSION WITH SIAN GWENLLIAN MS**

The Chair welcomed Sian Gwenllian MS to the meeting. Sian Gwenllian explained that she had responded to concerns about anti-social behaviour in the area around the Cathedral and the Wood Fired Shack. This restaurant was concerned about the image presented and the fact that their staff had been subject to abusive and threatening behaviour.

Ms Gwenllian said that a meeting had been held with several other agencies, e.g. North Wales Police and the homelessness service. Gwynedd Council had taken the lead and had arranged two more meetings. She was very pleased with this multi-agency work.

The outreach teams in these agencies had started working with challenging individuals. She also referred to similar problems in Rhyl where the solution had been, not to drive these people away but to find a shelter where they could congregate. A similar scheme was proposed for Bangor, however she explained the necessity of finding somewhere that would not be a nuisance to other people but would still be in close proximity to outlets selling alcohol. The problem was not so prominent in the colder winter months.

Ms Gwenllian was thanked for her presence in the meeting and **IT WAS RESOLVED** to support the measures put in place to alleviate the problem.

### **202/21 BANGOR PLAY AREAS: DISCUSSION**

This item followed a discussion in the previous meeting, where Cllr Elin Walker Jones had described the excellent work done by the local community in the Maes Tryfan play area. However, she had explained that despite all the hard work, the play equipment was still in urgent need of upgrading.

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Other members expressed concern about play areas in their particular wards. It was said that Gwynedd Council had been approached but their response had been that this was not a priority for the authority, and suggested transferring responsibility to the City Council. Members felt that Gwynedd would be reluctant to help any particular area because it would open the floodgates for other requests.

The City Director advised that the City Council already had ownership of many assets and it would be difficult to take responsibility for any more.

Members felt that it was still worth discussing with Gwynedd Council and that a unified approach should be presented, i.e. not to discuss individual play areas, but to have a vision for the whole of Bangor. Members emphasised that play areas should be a part of the Council's wellbeing strategy.

The idea of seeking sponsorship from large companies, e.g. supermarkets, was also proposed.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** that a working group be set up to discuss this issue and invite officers from Gwynedd on it. Reference was made in particular to Dafydd Einion Jones, as this matter overlapped with the 'Our Area' regeneration project which he is leading on. The City Director to convene a meeting of the working group in the next 1-2 weeks.

## **203/21 STREET CLEANING IN BANGOR: DISCUSSION**

This item again followed from the last meeting, where members had expressed great concern about litter, overgrowing pathways, etc in the city centre. Reference was made to the Bangor Image Group and it was asked if this group is still in existence. It would appear that one meeting has been held since the pandemic but that this had focused on setting up different structures. It was suggested that Bangor First (BID) should be interested in this as well. There had been an agreement for a deep clean of the high street between BID and Gwynedd and it was asked what had happened to this.

Cllr Gareth Roberts said that he had arranged a meeting with the new Chief Executive of Gwynedd Council in late November. Other members would be welcome to join. The idea was to show the Chief Executive around the high street and then have an informal chat.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** to send details out about the informal meeting. Also to push for the deep clean to take place.

## **204/21 COUNCIL ASSETS: CITY DIRECTOR UPDATE**

A detailed report had been circulated before the meeting. Additional points:

- Penrhyn Arms woods were being sold for a nominal fee of £1. Members inquired was there any danger in the area being used to build some kind of development. The City Director replied that a quantity surveyor had inspected the site and had advised that there was no danger of being able to develop dwellings on it given the topography.
- Thanks to the Friends of Bangor Garth Pier (FBGP), work is going from strength to strength. The Pier working group meets every month. It was proposed that an officer from the Council should attend this group, after the departure of the City Director. Cllr Enid Parry said that a lot of the Pier's success was due to hard work by volunteers, that today a group of FBGP volunteers had helped out with the light fittings on the Pier from 10-3.

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The City Director agreed and said that the Council's two outdoor operatives were working really hard, having to respond to a range of issues and challenges, indoors and outdoors.

- The area at the top of Farrar Road was discussed and it was asked whether the Church there had had permission to install new steps, as it is understood that this is City Council owned land. It was suggested that their signs and banners are also becoming very untidy. When the Christmas tree is put up, it was suggested that the Council ensures that people realise it is Bangor City Council who paid for this.

The City Director to make enquiries about this piece of land.

The City Director was thanked for his comprehensive report.

## **204/21 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS INSTALLATION: CITY DIRECTOR UPDATE**

The City Director explained that lengthy discussions had taken place over several months between himself and the Mayor and Bangor First about the Christmas lights. It was agreed that the lights would extend to Upper Bangor this year. The City Council would pay half the sum needed and Bangor First would contribute the other half. The City Council's operatives could install the ones on the high street and an external contractor would install the rest. However, Bangor First had pulled out of this project late in the day. Members expressed their extreme disappointment at this late change of mind.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** to bring this issue to the attention of the full Council, and in the interim for the Mayor to write to Bangor First to express the Committee's disappointment, and to ask them to pay half the costs, as agreed from the beginning.

## **205/21 WELSH GOVERNMENT PLACE MAKING GRANT APPLICATION: CITY DIRECTOR UPDATE**

The City Director had circulated a paper prior to the meeting advising members of the latest developments in this application. Work was ongoing on various matters with the Council's Projects Officer acting as Project Manager. The work itself is expected to begin in the New Year.

## **206/21 INVOICES FOR PAYMENT AND COUNCIL FINANCES**

Members approved the payment of invoices as detailed on the schedule to a total of £25,468.98.

## **207/21 ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

As the next meeting would be held after the departure of the City Director, it was asked whether the Council's Projects Officer could attend the next meeting to update the members about the schemes and projects that involve the City Council (e.g. Grant Application above)

**The meeting came to an end at 8.32pm**

CITY DIRECTOR– Iwan Williams – CYFARWYDDWR DINESIG