

Minutes of the meeting of Bangor City Council held at Penrhyn Hall and via Teams video-conferencing on **21st October 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. Huw Wyn Jones, Cllr. John Wynn Jones (left at 7.30 pm), Cllr. Eirian Williams Roberts, Cllr. Gareth Roberts (left at 8.10 pm), Cllr. Gwynant Roberts, Cllr. Mark Roberts, Cllr. Lisa Toth, Cllr. John Wyn Williams.

Officers:- Martin Hanks (City Director), Carwyn Davies (Administrative Officer) & Sioned Jones (Translator) and three Members of the public.

64/24 APOLOGIES: Cllr. Salamatu Fada, Cllr. Simon Hibbs, Cllr. Beverley Jones, Cllr. Meic Pattison, Cllr. Nigel Pickavance & Cllr. Delyth Russell.

65/24 DECLARATION OF FINANCIAL INTEREST OR PERSONAL CONNECTION

None

66/24 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Council received a presentation from the Menai Heritage Trust detailing the history and local importance of the Menai Suspension Bridge and highlighting that it will be two hundred years old in 2026. The trust is planning to commemorate this milestone and asked if Bangor would also wish to celebrate the event.

Following the presentation a question and answer session ensued. The Council thanked the representatives of the Trust for the interesting and enlightening presentation.

67/24 TO APPROVE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF THE 9th SEPTEMBER 2024.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to accept the minutes of the Council meeting of the 9th of September with one minor grammatical change.

68/24 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. Of the items in the Report, the Director drew the Council's attention to the following:

- i) The traditional Remembrance Sunday commemoration will take place on the 10th of November this year. It was reported that preparations were going well and Councillors were asked to be in Penrhyn Hall by 9.30 a.m. Following the service, light refreshments will be served in Penrhyn Hall.
- ii) There will also be a short commemoration on Armistice Day, the 11th November, when the Lord Lieutenant will lay a wreath at the War Memorial.
- iii) The City Director reported that, since the last meeting, he had attended the one-day One Voice Wales (OVW) National Conference. This Conference was significant as it commemorated both the 50th anniversary of local government re-organisation and the 20th anniversary of One Voice Wales's existence. He had

also attended a two-day National SLCC Conference. The message from both conferences was similar, that being 'prepare for change'. It was reported that OVW concentrated on changes to Town and Community Council's responsibilities brought about by financial restrictions at Unitary Authority levels resulting in increasing workloads, while the SLCC theme was the changes to working practices and environments brought about by changing technologies and AI, as well as sustainability and bio-diversity.

- iv) Bangor First (formerly BID) had, since the last meeting, confirmed that it would contribute to this year's Christmas Lights. On this topic, it was reported that Gwynedd had now clarified that some of the Christmas Lights that had previously been accepted could not be used on Caernarfon Road.
- v) Within the last week, the Council has been informed that Age Cymru wished to terminate its agreement with the Council for Cafe Hafan.

69/24 TO ACCEPT THE 6 MONTHS BUDGET VERSUS ACTUAL REPORT.

The 6 Month Budget Versus Actual Report had been pre-circulated to Members

The Council were advised that the 6 Month Budget versus Actual Report had been scrutinised by the Council's Finance Committee and it had recommended its acceptance. A few brief questions about budget items were answered by the City Director.

Resolved: to accept the 6 Month Budget Versus Actual Report.

70/24 TO ENDORSE SIAN GWENLLIAN'S PETITION FOR A DENTAL SCHOOL IN BANGOR.

Details of the petition and the wording of the proposal had been pre-circulated to Members

A summary of the proposal is as follows: 'That this council endorses

- The increasing demand for dental professionals across Wales, particularly in North Wales, where access to NHS dental services is increasingly limited.
- The urgent need to expand training opportunities for dentists in Wales, in order to improve dental health services and address workforce shortages in the region. . . .

Resolved: to endorse the petition for a Dental School.

71/024 TO REVIEW THE NUMBERS OF THE STAFFING COMMITTEE

The Council's Staffing Committee consisted of six Members and, following a brief discussion during which it was clarified that Cllr Roberts was indeed on the Staffing Committee, it was proposed that the addition of two more Members would assist the Committee fulfill its responsibilities.

Resolved: to appoint Cllr. Eirian Williams Roberts and Cllr. John Wyn Williams to the Staffing Committee.

72/24 TO APPOINT A PART-TIME COMMUNITY HUB MANAGER/ORGANISER.

The Council discussed the advantages and cost implications of appointing a specific manager or organiser for the Community Hub.

Resolved: to ask the Staffing Committee to prepare a specification for this role and analyse the cost implications.

73/24 TO SUPPORT THE VE DAY BEACON PROJECT.

Details of the National VE Beacon Project had been pre-circulated to Members

Following a detailed debate about this project and whether it commemorated the end of war or the beginning of peace, it was argued that many people in the City would like the event to be commemorated, while those who did not, needn't attend.

Resolved: to support the National Project.

74/24 TO SEARCH FOR A TOWN IN THE CELTIC AREAS OF EUROPE TO TWIN WITH BANGOR.

It was proposed, following the recent resolution to approve a formal declaration of friendship with Roche-La-Moliere in France and May Pen in Jamaica, that the Council should commence efforts to identify locations in Celtic areas, with which the City could foster closer cultural links.

Resolved: to approve a search for locations in Celtic areas of Europe with which to foster closer cultural links.

75/24 TO APPROVE THE INCREASE IN CYNGOR GWYNEDD'S CCTV MAINTENANCE COSTS

Details of Cyngor Gwynedd's CCTV proposed maintenance costs to the City Council for 2025-2026 had been pre-circulated.

The proposed cost for maintenance of the City's CCTV for 2025-2026 was almost 50% higher than for the current year. This was partially explained by an increase in cameras in Bangor over the last twelve months. However, it was reported that costs had also risen considerably during that time.

Resolved:

- i) to request details of where each camera was located in Bangor,
- ii) to ask Gwynedd if the City Council could have a say in where these cameras were positioned;
- iii) to request a breakdown of the increase in costs.

76/24 PLANNING APPLICATION

- i. Planning application C24/0782/11/TC - 49 Ffordd Caergybi, Bangor – Application for a Development Certificate to confirm use as 3 separate flats.

There were no objections.

- ii. Planning application C24/0813/11/CR – 252 Stryd Fawr – Internal alterations to create one dwelling house.

There were no objections.

The meeting ended at 8.45pm

CYFARWYDDWR DINESIG – Martin Hanks – CITY DIRECTOR