

Minutes of the Bangor City Council Assets, Resources and Projects Committee meeting held at Penrhyn Hall and via Zoom video-conferencing on **20th November 2023** at 6.30 pm.

PRESENT: - Cllr Medwyn Hughes (Chair); Her Worship the Mayor, Cllr. Elin Walker Jones (left at 8.10 pm); Cllr. Gareth Parry, Cllr. Steve Bell, Cllr. Salamatu Fada (online), Cllr. Huw Wyn Jones (left at 7.45 pm), Cllr John Wyn Jones, Cllr. Nigel Pickavance, Cllr. Eirian Williams Roberts, Cllr. Gwynant Roberts, Cllr. L. Toth (arrived 7.15 pm), Cllr John Wyn Williams.

Officers:- Martin Hanks (City Director), Llinos F Jones, (Deputy City Director), Sioned Jones (Translator).

78/23 APOLOGIES: Cllr. Dylan Fernley, Cllr. Meic Pattison, Cllr Gareth Roberts, Cllr. Mark Roberts, Cllr. Delyth Russell.

79/23 DECLARATION OF FINANCIAL INTEREST OR PERSONAL CONNECTION

None

80/23 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

81/23 TO DISCUSS THE PIER AREA

The Chair advised the Committee that this meeting had been arranged to discuss the future of the Council's largest asset.

i) Pier Management

The future management of the Pier and surrounding area was discussed in detail. Various options were explored, including maintaining the current arrangements, establishing a social enterprise to manage the Pier area, both with or without Councillor involvement or trying to find a private owner. The potential benefits of each option were discussed and potential challenges were highlighted.

It was resolved:

- a) that the status quo could not be continued indefinitely.
- b) that other options for management of the Pier and surrounding area should be further explored.
- c) that a report be prepared detailing the financial viability of each option identified by action b).

ii) Pier Master's House

The former Pier Master's House has been empty for several months while underpinning and other minor works were completed. These works have been completed and it is available for occupation. Again several possibilities were explored by the Committee including, short or long-term lettings, use as a temporary office, use it as an information or exhibition centre or sell the property. Following a full and open discussion the Council

Resolved:

- a) Not to consider selling the property as it is a valuable Council asset.
- b) To contact local letting agents and obtain assessments of the potential income and expenditure of letting the premises on short and long-term lets.

- c) To prepare an estimate of the cost of furnishing the premises to the standard required to offer it for let on a short-term basis.
- d) To apply for a change of use on the property from domestic to office use as soon as possible.
- e) To explore the viability of using the property as an exhibition centre over the winter months and as short-term lets over the summer months.

iii) The Future of the Workshop

The current workshop is used primarily as a storage location and as a base for the Council's two maintenance operatives. Over recent years the area around the workshop has been used to locate storage units, a temporary canteen and a temporary office for workers engaged in the Pier renovation work. There is also an enclosed temporary yard holding supplies. The Committee discussed the continuing need for these facilities, the improvement of the image of the area around the workshop, the potential of freeing up of car parking spaces and the future need for facilities when the next renovation phase begins.

The long-term ambition of the Council to renovate the whole Pier area was also discussed, as was the potential implication on the area if the management of the Pier area was transferred to a 3rd party.

It was resolved:

- a) To remove the temporary office and canteen, as soon as possible.
- b) To relocate the roof of the lookout, located in the enclosed compound
- c) In January, to evaluate the equipment in the workshop and to dispose of any that are considered unnecessary.
- d) To relocate the contents of the storage container into the workshop
- e) To use the Pier Master's House as a temporary office, if required.
- f) To begin exploring alternative locations for the Council workshop, with a view to relocating it in time for the development of the area either by the Council or a 3rd party organisation.

iv) Public Toilets

FOR INFORMATION: It was reported to the Committee that negotiations with Cyngor Gwynedd regarding the potential transfer of ownership of the Garth Road public toilets, either as a freehold or on a long-term lease, were progressing well. The concepts had now been approved by the relevant Gwynedd department and the matter had been transferred to Gwynedd's legal department.

v) Garth Gardens

FOR INFORMATION: As with iv) above, the negotiations with Cyngor Gwynedd have been positive and the potential transfer of ownership is at the same stage. Gwynedd has confirmed that it would not object to the City Council renovating either the toilets, the gardens or both. It was also confirmed that any renovation of the Garths would include a play area.

vi) Image to include, bins, car park surface, kiosks, painting, waste disposal.

This item was discussed briefly. However, due to time constraints, it was considered prudent to defer any decision-making until the next meeting, which, it was proposed, be held towards the end of January 2024.

The meeting ended at 8.35 pm

CYFARWYDDWR DINESIG – Martin Hanks – CITY DIRECTOR