

Minutes of the meeting of Bangor City Council that was held at Penrhyn Hall on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2023 at 6.30 pm.

**PRESENT:** - Cllr. Gareth Parry (Chair), Cllr. Steve Bell, Cllr. Salamatu Fada, Cllr John Wyn Jones, Cllr. Meic Pattison, Cllr. Eirian Williams Roberts, Cllr. Gwynant Roberts, Cllr. Delyth Russell, Cllr. L. Toth.

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

**82/23 APOLOGIES:** Cllr. Elin Walker Jones Cllr. Dylan Fernley, Cllr. Medwyn Hughes, Cllr. Huw Wyn Jones, Cllr. Mark Roberts, Cllr John Wyn Williams.

### **83/23 DECLARATION OF FINANCIAL INTEREST OR PERSONAL CONNECTION**

Cllr John Wyn Jones declared an interest in item 90/23 below as he is a trustee of Glanadda Community Centre.

### **84/23 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None

### **85/23 CITY DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

*The Report had been circulated before the meeting.*

The City Director's report had been pre-circulated in advance of the meeting. The Director's report confirmed that there were now two candidates interested in the vacant Menai seat. Both will be invited to attend the next meeting, where the Council will undergo its co-option process to co-opt one of the candidates. The Director confirmed that a meeting between the Cathedral and Cyngor Gwynedd Officers, held earlier in the day at the City Council offices had gone relatively well and a potential framework, as well as possible funding, for Bible Gardens, the area around the Police station and for Tan y Fynwent area had been identified. There were still issues to resolve but the City Council were working with all parties to progress the matter. The City Director was questioned on one or two items in the report, including the status of Garth Public Toilets and Garth Gardens, which were clarified by the Director.

**IT WAS RESOLVED:** To accept the City Director's Report.

### **86/23 TO APPROVE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF THE 6<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

*The minutes of the Council meeting of the 6<sup>th</sup> November had been pre-circulated to Councillors.*

**IT WAS RESOLVED:** to approve the minutes as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

### **87/23 TO ACCEPT A REPORT FROM THE CHAIR OF FINANCE**

The Chair of Finance reported on the discussions and recommendations of the last two meetings of the Finance Committee. Most of the important matters, it was reported are on this agenda for Council approval, including the payments lists, financial reports, two grant applications and the breakdown of the Summer Festival costs. The Chair advised the Council that she would inform it of the Committee's recommendations as each item was raised.

**IT WAS RESOLVED:** to accept the chair of the Finance Committee's report.

### **88/23 TO ACCEPT THE FINANCIAL REPORTS**

**i) 3 MONTHS BUDGET VERSUS ACTUAL REPORT**

*The budget report had been pre-circulated to Members in advance of the meeting. The Council were advised that the report had been analysed by the Finance Committee and it recommended approval. Following a brief discussion*

**IT WAS RESOLVED:** to accept the 3 Month Budget versus Actual Report.

**ii) 6 MONTHS BUDGET VERSUS ACTUAL REPORT**

*The budget report had been pre-circulated to Members in advance of the meeting. The Council were advised that the report had been analysed by the Finance Committee and it recommended approval. Following a brief discussion*

**IT WAS RESOLVED:** to accept the 6 Month Budget versus Actual Report.

**89/23 TO APPROVE MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES FOR 2023 – 2024.**

*A Summary of the Independent Remuneration Council for Wales's Annual Report has been pre-circulated to Members.*

Following a brief summation by the City Director, the latest recommendations of the IRPW were discussed by the Council. Councillors were reminded that if any of them need to pay for a babysitter or carer to facilitate their attendance on Council business or a Council meeting then, on the production of a receipt, such an expense will be repaid.

**IT WAS RESOLVED:**

- i) to adopt the flat rate of expenses by Councillors of £52 per annum.
- ii) To ask all Councillors to sign the template letter as supplied by the IRPW confirming that Councillor works from home.
- iii) To maintain the Mayoral and Deputy Mayoral allowance at the same rate as previous years, i.e. £1,500 and £400 respectively.

**90/23 TO EVALUATE A GRANT APPLICATION FROM GLANADDA COMMUNITY CENTRE.**

*Details of the grant application documents had been pre-circulated to Members.*

The Council had received a request for financial support from Glanadda Community Centre to assist in renovating the building for the continued use of the community. The application detailed several initiatives of varying costs. The Council were advised that the Finance Committee had evaluated the application and recommended a grant of £10,000.

**IT WAS RESOLVED:** to award the Glanadda Community Centre a grant of £10,000.

**91/23 TO EVALUATE A GRANT APPLICATION FROM BANGOR ARTS INITIATIVE.**

*Details of the grant application documents had been pre-circulated to Members.*

It was reported that a request for financial support had been received from the Bangor Art Initiative, to assist with the funding of art workshops and a lantern parade in the City. The application had been assessed by the Finance Committee, which raised some unanswered administrative questions. Therefore, given the Council's limited budget for grants and that this initiative had been supported in previous years, the Finance Committee recommended rejecting the application.

**IT WAS RESOLVED:** to award the Arts Initiative a grant of £1,000 and ask that in future years the application be submitted earlier to allow more time for any queries to be resolved.

### **92/23 TO UPDATE ON THE TRANSFORMING TOWNS GRANT.**

The City Director reported that the Council's application to the Welsh Government's Transforming Towns Grant had been successful. The grant to improve the visual image of the High Street will need to be spent by the end of March 2024. The City Council had allocated £30,000 to this project and were advised that to achieve the maximum benefit of £100,000 from the Welsh Government, an additional £10,000 would need to be found. However, it was further reported that Bangor First (formerly Bangor BID) had offered to input this additional (up to) £10,000 to ensure that the benefits of the project are maximised.

**IT WAS RESOLVED:** to accept Bangor First's offer of contributing to the match funding of this project and to include them in the publicity.

### **93/23 REVIEW SUMMER FESTIVAL COSTS AGAINST GRANT.**

A breakdown of the Summer Festival Costs had been pre-circulated with the meeting papers.

In keeping with the condition of the Council's funding of the Summer Festival, a full breakdown of the costs of the Festival was supplied to the Council. It detailed the funds that were raised from grant applications and detailed all the expenses (excluding staff time) associated with the event. Overall, the event cost the City Council £11,693.85.

**IT WAS RESOLVED:** to accept the report.

### **94/23 PROPOSAL TO AWARD HYWEL WILLIAMS A CIVIC AWARD.**

A proposal was received to recognise the extensive contribution to the local community made by Mr Hywel Williams MP. Mr Williams is planning to step down as the local Member of Parliament in 2024 and retire from politics. The Council were also appraised of the many years of community work undertaken by Williams outside of the political sphere.

**IT WAS RESOLVED:** to award Mr Williams MP the Freedom of Bangor.

### **95/23 TO ACCEPT THE PAYMENT LISTS FOR SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER 2023.**

*The payment lists for September, October and November had been pre-circulated to Members.*

The Council were advised that the payment lists had been scrutinised by the Finance Committee and that this committee recommended their acceptance.

**IT WAS RESOLVED:** to approve the payments list for September, October and November.

### **95/23 PLANNING APPLICATIONS.**

- i. C23/0919/11/DT Application to replace the single-storey section of the building and construct a porch and parking space in Rhodfa Belmont, Bangor.

**No objection**

- ii. C23/0949/11/HY Application to upgrade an illuminated sign to the front of the building.

**No objection**

**The meeting ended at 8.30 pm**

**CYFARWYDDWR DINESIG – Martin Hanks – CITY DIRECTOR**