

Minutes of the meeting of Bangor City Council held at Penrhyn Hall and via Teams video conferencing on **14th April 2025** at 6.30 pm.

PRESENT: - His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. Gareth Parry (Chair), Cllr. Medwyn Hughes (Deputy Mayor), Cllr. Steve Bell, Cllr. Salamatu Fada, Cllr. Dylan Fernley, Cllr. Huw Wyn Jones, Cllr. Elin Walker Jones, Cllr. John Wyn Jones, Cllr. Gwynant Roberts, Cllr. Mark Roberts, Cllr. Delyth Russell, Cllr. John Wyn Williams & Cllr. Jackie Spence.

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

139/24 APOLOGIES: Cllr. Simon Hibbs, Cllr. Nigel Pickavance, Cllr. Eirian Williams Roberts, Cllr. Gareth Roberts, Cllr. Lisa Toth & Cllr. Michael Pattison.

140/24 DECLARATION OF FINANCIAL INTEREST OR PERSONAL CONNECTION.

A Declaration of Financial Interest and Personal Connection was declared by the Chair Cllr. Gareth Parry on item 10.

141/24 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

i) RADON AWARENESS & TESTING.

A representative of Terahss (CIC) Ltd presented to the Council on Radon Gas Testing and explained that Bangor and especially Gwynedd and Anglesey are at high risk from Radon Gas. Radon Gas is a colourless and odourless gas that naturally occurs underground. Humans are at high risk of the effects of this naturally occurring gas and it can cause many health problems such as lung cancer. The representative then went on to explain that Terahss (CIC) Ltd has identified solutions to combat the effects of Radon Gas on humans. The representative felt that the Councillors should be made aware of the high risk to the citizens of Bangor.

142/24 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF THE 17TH MARCH 2025.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to accept the minutes of the Council meeting of the 17th of March 2025 as an accurate record of the meeting.

143/24 CITY DIRECTOR'S REPORT.

The report had been circulated before the meeting.

The City Director highlighted several points from his report including:-

- i) That Claire Hughes MP had arranged a meeting of Cyngor Gwynedd and City Council Members and Officers, on the 10th April to discuss the regeneration of the City.
- ii) The Bangor versus Bangor Cricket match proved a great success on, what proved to be, a beautifully sunny day. Confirming the closer links that this match has created, Bangor, Northern Ireland were looking forward to a return visit by our team next year. Also, Bangor Rugby Team has been challenged to a similar friendly tie by Bangor Northern Ireland.
- iii) On the 8th May Bangor, like much of the U.K. will be commemorating the 80th Anniversary of VE Day. As part of this commemoration, at 9.30 pm a beacon will be lit at the top of Memorial Arch by a representative of North Wales Fire and Rescue. A short service of commemoration will take place at the War Memorial and the Cathedral and Church Bells will be rung. Barring any technical issues, the names of those who did not return from the war will be shone onto the wall of Pontio.

IT WAS RESOLVED: To accept the report.

144/24 TO DISCUSS SOLAR POWER FOR PENRHYN HALL.

The final draft quotation for the installation of solar power to Penrhyn Hall was presented in keeping with the request from the last Council meetin. The maintenance and cost implications of installing this equipment via a local supplier was discussed at length.

IT WAS RESOLVED: To defer this item to the June meeting. The Council requested the City Director to invite the Project Officer to the next meeting to explain the maintenance and costs in the future of this option.

145/24 TO COMMIT TO THE ONE VOICE WALES & SLCC CIVILITY & RESPECT CHARTER.

Documentation on Civility and Respect charter was pre-circulated to Councillors before the meeting.

A discussion was held regarding the documents provided in collaboration by One Voice Wales and SLCC (Society of Local Council Clerks). Signing the charter would show that the City Council agree to follow some of the points in the Charter, these are:-

- i) Our council has agreed that it will treat all councillors, clerk and all employees members of the public, representatives of partner organisations, and volunteers, with civility and respect in their role.
- ii) Our council will commit to calling out bullying and harassment when if and when it happens.

Comments were made by Councillors that the charter documents were not available in Welsh.

IT WAS RESOLVED: To defer this item until a Welsh version of the Charter is available.

146/24 ELECTION OF MAYOR-ELECT FOR THE NEXT MUNICIPAL YEAR.

Nominations were invited to stand for Mayor of the City of Bangor for the 2025-2026 Municipal Year. The name of the Deputy Mayor, Cllr. Medwyn Hughes was proposed and seconded. Cllr. Hughes accepted the nomination.

IT WAS RESOLVED: To elect Cllr. Medwyn Hughes as the Mayor of Bangor for the Municipal Year 2025/2026. Cllr. Hughes will be formally appointed at the Council's Annual Meeting on 12th May 2025.

147/24 ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR-ELECT FOR THE NEXT MUNICIPAL YEAR.

Nominations were invited for councillors to stand as Deputy-Mayor of the City of Bangor for the 2025-2026 Municipal Year. Two names were submitted and duly proposed and seconded. A vote ensued.

IT WAS RESOLVED: To elect Cllr. Delyth Russell as the Deputy-Mayor for the Municipal Year 2025/2026. Cllr. Russell will be formally appointed at the Council's Annual Meeting on 12th May 2025.

148/24 OPPOSITION TO WELFARE CUTS BY WESTMINISTER.

A motion was introduced to call upon the Member of Parliament the Right Honourable Ms Claire Hughes to oppose the new Green Paper benefits reform in Westminster. A discussion was held on how the proposed cuts would affect the citizens of Bangor.

IT WAS RESOLVED: The Council requested a recorded vote on this item. Motion carried and that the City Director writes to Claire Hughes Member of Parliament for Bangor Aberconwy on the views of the City Councillors on the Green Paper.

For:

Against:

149/24 TO DISCUSS ACCOMMODATION ISSUE OF STAFF MEMBER.

It was decided by the Council that this item was of a sensitive nature, and that the item should be discussed in camera.

IT WAS RESOLVED: To agree to the following points:-

- i) The Council can only offer accommodation to the staff member only for 6 months until the 31st of October 2025. This will be offered as a benefit in kind.
- ii) That the staff member writes a letter to confirm that they will leave the accommodations.
- iii) That the staff member contributes financially to the utility bills at the property.

150/24 TO CONSIDER COUNCIL ACTION DURING OFFICIAL COMPLAINT PROCEDURE.

A discussion was held on how the Council would handle a serious complaint against a Councillor and whether in such an eventuality, a Member should during the investigation, be suspended. The City Director informed the Council that, as each Member was an elected official, no action can be taken to prevent any Member from attending Council meetings, However, it was more feasible for the Council could opt to suspend a Member from a committee during a formal investigation. Such a change would require an amendment of the standing orders.

Following a detailed discussion there was no support for a formal vote.

The meeting ended at 8.55 pm

CYFARWYDDWR DINESIG – Martin Hanks – CITY DIRECTOR