

Minutes of the meeting of Bangor City Council held at Penrhyn Hall on **17th July 2023** at 6.30 pm.

PRESENT: - Her Worship the Mayor, Cllr. Elin Walker Jones; Cllr. Gareth Parry (Deputy Mayor), Cllr. Steve Bell, Cllr. Salamatu Fada, Cllr. John Wynn Jones, Cllr. Nigel Pickavance, Cllr. Eirian Williams Roberts, Cllr. Gwynant Roberts, Cllr. Mark Roberts, Cllr. Delyth Russell, Cllr L. Toth, Cllr. John Wyn Williams.

Officers:- Martin Hanks (City Director), Llinos Fôn Jones (Deputy City Director) Sioned Jones (Translator) and one Member of the Public.

30/23 APOLOGIES: Cllr Dylan Fernley, Cllr. Medwyn Hughes, Cllr. Huw Wyn Jones, Cllr. Meic Pattison, Cllr. Gareth Roberts.

31/23 DECLARATION OF FINANCIAL INTEREST OR PERSONAL CONNECTION

None

32/23 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- (i) County Councillor Dafydd Meurig, Cabinet Member for Environment, addressed the Council and discussed Cyngor Gwynedd's recent implementation of the policy to charge retailers for placing tables and chairs outside of their premises. Cllr Meurig explained that this was a County-wide policy. Following his address he asked the Council for its views. The City Council made Cllr Meurig aware of the recent social media campaign against this policy and it also made the case that, given the retention problems on the High Street and the number of empty buildings, Bangor should be considered a special case. Cllr Meurig listened to the views of the City Council and stated he would take these to Cyngor Gwynedd and report back in the fullness of time.

33/23 CITY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Report circulated before the meeting.

The City Director's report had been pre-circulated in advance of the meeting. The Report detailed a range of updates to Council initiatives and events, including the recent attempt to purchase a High Street building for community use, the success of Mayor's Sunday, which had been organised entirely by the Deputy Director, the recent Windrush Commemorations, the recent visit to Soest as part of the 50th anniversary of the Town Twinning initiative and the upcoming Yes Cymru rally, scheduled to take place in Bangor during the second half of September.

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

34/23 TO APPROVE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF THE 5th JUNE 2023

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the minutes are a true and accurate record of the Council Meeting of the 5th of June 2023.

35/23 TO APPROVE THE DRAFT STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND ANNUAL RETURN.

The draft statement of accounts and annual return had been pre-distributed in advance of the meeting.

The City Director reported that supplemental to the Statement of Accounts and Annual Statement that had been pre-circulated, the Internal Audit report had been received early that day. While the Report will be discussed at the next Council meeting, it was reported that there were no significant financial issues in the report.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to accept the Statement of Accounts and the Annual Report and the Council also resolved to thank the City Director and his team for their diligence and hard work.

36/23 TO APPROVE COUNCIL DOCUMENTS

The City Council's Financial Risk Assessment and Investment Strategy had been pre-circulated.

It was reported that the City Council's Financial Risk assessment had been reviewed and minor amendments made. An Investment Strategy had been prepared and published for the first time.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to approve and accept the two Council documents as circulated those being i) Investment Strategy & ii) Financial Regulations

37/23 YOUTH CENTRE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE.

Two proposals were discussed connected to young people:

- i) Mobile Centre: It was reported that North Wales Police are proposing that a new initiative be explored to establish a mobile youth centre, jointly led and funded by the City Council, Caernarfon Town Council and the Police. Such a mobile centre would be deployed to areas where young people gather and would spend half its time in Bangor and half in Caernarfon. Such initiatives elsewhere have led to a reduction in anti-social behaviour.
- ii) Static Centre: It was further reported that Cyngor Gwynedd has been struggling to recruit a youth worker for the previously approved Coed Mawr youth centre, while the Tryfan youth group, previously established in Ysgol Tryfan are looking for a new home. A detailed discussion on these issues ensued.

IT WAS RESOLVED: i) to authorise the City Director to work with North Wales Police and Caernarfon Town Council to explore the proposal further. ii) There was no amendment to the current policy on the static youth centres.

38/23 TO DISCUSS A GRANT FOR THE FIREWORK NIGHT AND THE CHRISTMAS CRACKER.

The Council was asked to financially support the 2023 Firework Night and the Christmas Cracker for the same amount as last year. The previous year's events had been deemed a great success with, according to Police figures, several thousands of people attending. The Council discussed the events in detail and it was acknowledged that these requests were being made much earlier than in previous years.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to confirm that Firework Night be funded by the Council up to £5,000, as per the annual budget and £10,000 be approved towards the Christmas Cracker.

39/23 TO DISCUSS A REQUEST TO SUPPORT A SUMMER HOLIDAY PROGRAMME.

As some required information had not been received by the Council prior to the meeting, this item was deferred.

40/23 TO APPROVE INCREASING THE NUMBER OF SAKURA TREES IN ASHLEY JONES FIELDS

Following a short discussion, during which the Council suggested planting different tree types, the item was deferred to obtain more information and options.

41/23 TO APPOINT REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES

The City Council appointments to outside bodies list were reviewed and updated. Appointments to be representative at One Voice Wales meetings were appointed.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to approve the list of appointments to outside bodies.

42/23 PLANNING APPLICATION

- i) Planning application C23/0497/11/LL To erect a single-story building at Friars School.
There were no objections

- ii) Planning application C23/0484/11/DT To convert a garage to provide a bedroom, shower and utility.
There were no objections

43/23 To Approve Payments

The payment lists for May & June 2023 were approved.

The meeting ended at 8.45 pm
CYFARWYDDWR DINESIG – Martin Hanks – CITY DIRECTOR