

Minutes of the meeting of Bangor City Council held at Penrhyn Hall and via Teams video conferencing on **17th March 2025** 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. Simon Hibbs, Cllr. John Wyn Jones, Cllr. Nigel Pickavance, Cllr. Gareth Roberts, Cllr. Gwynant Roberts, Cllr. Eirian Williams Roberts, Cllr. Mark Roberts, Cllr. Delyth Russell, Cllr. Lisa Toth, 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.

130/24 APOLOGIES: Cllr. Salamatu Fada, Cllr. Huw Wyn Jones, Cllr. Elin Walker Jones, Cllr. Gareth Roberts & Cllr. Michael Pattison.

131/24 DECLARATION OF FINANCIAL INTEREST OR PERSONAL CONNECTION

None

132/24 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

i) NORTH WALES POLICE INSPECTOR UPDATE

The Police Inspector gave a brief update from the North Wales Police Service Clear Hold Build Initiative. The presentation contained information on the concept and its potential impact on crime rates around Bangor. The Inspector also explains the North Wales Police and City Council joint Safe Spaces project, this is the first such project in Wales and is designed to give members of the public, who feel threatened or vulnerable, a Safe Space in the City from which to obtain assistance. The Council thanked the Inspector for his presentation.

ii) PRESENTATION ON THE SMART TOWNS PROJECT

This item was deferred.

iii) ADDRESS FROM NATPORTH CIC REPRESENTATIVE

The Council was addressed by a representative of Nantporth CIC, who discussed the operation, the recent improvements made to the stadium and the current challenges, especially the issues with the pitch.

133/24 TO APPROVE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF THE 17TH OF FEBRUARY 2025

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

134/24 CITY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The report had been circulated before the meeting.

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

- i) Menai Ward Vacancy – Following the successfully filling of this Ward at the last meeting, the resignation of former Cllr Beverly Jones had now been received, meaning that there now another vacancy in this Ward. Notices will be published shortly.
- ii) Since the last meeting, it has been confirmed that on Saturday the 5th April, Bangor City Cricket Club will host a team from Bangor, Northern Ireland in an exhibition match, organised as part of the Bangor's Across the World project.
- iii) Bangor Community Hub is now fully established in the former Caffi Hafan and is proving popular with third-sector users. There is an increasing programme of talks and events taking place in the Centre.

IT WAS RESOLVED: To accept the report.

135/24 TO ACCEPT THE 9 MONTHS BUDGET VERSUS ACTUAL REPORT

A discussion was held regarding the City Council 9 Month Budget versus Actual Report. This report has been pre-circulated to councillors before the meeting.

IT WAS RESOLVED: To approve the report.

136/24 TO DISCUSS SOLAR POWER FOR PENRHYN HALL

This item was deferred as there were no further updates from the last meeting.

IT WAS RESOLVED: To request the City Director to include this item on the agenda for the next Council meeting on the 14th April 2025.

137/24 TO DISCUSS INSTALLING REMOTE MONITORING & PAYMENT SYSTEM

An installation method report from a remote monitoring & payment system company was distributed to Councillors before the meeting.

The Council discussed the above topic. The installation method reports detailed information on how an ANPR monitoring system will be installed in the Pier Car Park. The Chair explained that this would create a good opportunity for the Council to benefit from charging cars to park at the Car Park. At present, the old barrier on the entrance to the car park has been removed last year, if the Pier entrance kiosk is not manned, cars are not charged to park in the Car Park. The revenue collected from charging for parking will be contributed towards the upkeep and maintenance of the Pier. However, it was highlighted to the Council that the guests of the Pier restaurant will not be charged. There will be an option to opt-out made available at the restaurant for their guests.

IT WAS RESOLVED: It was voted to approve this as a concept pending further investigation of other companies, who can provide a similar service.

138/24 TO DISCUSS A REQUEST FROM NANTPORTH CIC

A revised proposal from Nantporth CIC was distributed to the Council before this meeting.

Following the presentation made during public participation the Council discussed the proposal to:

- i) Extend the current lease to fifty years, to help the CIC obtain external grant funding and also give the CIC confidence to continue to invest its own money.
- ii) To aid the CIC to identify and apply for grant funding to continue the upgrade work at the stadium.
- iii) Give the CIC a three year rent holiday, to help it fund the pitch upgrade to reduce wotterlogging.

The Council acknowledged the extensive investment and improvements made to the stadium by the CIC and discussed the above proposals in detail.

IT WAS RESOLVED: To approve points i) and ii) but to reject point iii).

However, the Council further resolved to award the CIC a £50,000 grant once it could demonstrate that it had the remaining funds available to upgrade the pitch. The Council also asked for confirmation of the CIC's commitment to the Bangor teams playing regularly at the stadium to continue to do so.

The meeting ended at 8.12 pm

CYFARWYDDWR DINESIG – Martin Hanks – CITY DIRECTOR