

Minutes of the meeting of Bangor City Council held at Penrhyn Hall and via Teams video-conferencing on **9th September 2024** 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. Elin Walker Jones, Cllr. Huw Wyn Jones, Cllr. John Wynn Jones, Cllr. Nigel Pickavance, Cllr. Eirian Williams Roberts, Cllr. Gwynant Roberts, Cllr. Mark Roberts, Cllr. Delyth Russell, Cllr. John Wyn Williams.

Officers:- Martin Hanks (City Director), Llinos Jones (Deputy City Director) & Sioned Jones (Translator) and six Members of the public.

50/24 APOLOGIES: Cllr. Beverley Jones, Cllr. Meic Pattison & Cllr. Lisa Toth.

51/24 DECLARATION OF FINANCIAL INTEREST OR PERSONAL CONNECTION

None

52/24 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Council received a presentation on Building the Bridges of Friendship, from representatives of the North Wales Jamaica Society. The Society had successfully obtained the financial backing from the Welsh Government for the project, which was looking to create closer links between the Bangor and May Pen, in Jamaica.

Following the ten-minute presentation a question and answer session ensued. The Council thanked the representative for the presentation.

53/24 TO APPROVE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF THE 22nd OF JULY 2024.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to accept the minutes of the meeting of the 22nd July 2024 as a true and accurate record of the Council Meeting.

54/24 CITY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The City Director's report had been circulated before the meeting.

The City Director's report, which detailed updates on Council initiatives and projects, had been pre-circulated in advance of the meeting. Of the items in the Report, the Director drew the Council's attention to the following:

- i) The City Director welcomed everyone back after the summer recess and he hoped that Councillors had enjoyed a nice break.
- ii) Councillors were reminded that on the 22nd September, this year's Civic Sunday was being held, which would include a parade through the High Street. Councillors who were planning to attend were asked to be in Penrhyn Hall by 10.30 am to collect their gowns.
- iii) The new Bangor First (formerly BID) manager took up her post in June and confirming the closer working relationship between Bangor First and the City Council, from the 1st September this manager is based in the City Council Offices.
- iv) Since the last meeting the City Council has been working with a new community group, established to manage Dargie Fields. The Council assisted this group in successfully obtaining a grant of £5,500 to develop the location.

- v) The Council were advised that the meeting scheduled for the 14th October, due to training and conferences it was operationally necessary to postpone that meeting and include it with the scheduled Assets meeting the following week.

55/24 TO APPROVE ESTABLISHING BCC AS PROJECT LEAD FOR THE BANGOR MARITIME PROJECT

The Council had received a presentation on this topic at the last meeting and the associated grant proposal had been pre-circulated to Members

The Bangor Maritime Project is a multiphase education project designed to establish a Maritime learning centre to help engage young people from underprivileged backgrounds. The ambition is to fund this multimillion pound project via a two-stage Heritage Lottery grant. Bangor City Council has been asked to be the foundational lead for this project.

The Council debated the proposal at length and explored various possibilities.

Resolved: to decline the offer to lead this project as the Council does not have the resources or specialist knowledge required but to continue to offer support as much as it is able.

56/24 TO APPROVE THE PROPOSAL FOR FUTURE MAINTENANCE OF BIBLE GARDENS.

It was reported that following months of discussions between Cyngor Gwynedd, St. Deiniol's Cathedral, the Representative Body of the Church in Wales and the City Council regarding the future of Bible Gardens, a proposal, first explored last December, had been agreed by the other parties. This agreement, included Cyngor Gwynedd sourcing grant funding to upgrade the gardens and the City Council taking responsibility for overseeing the upgrade and for the ongoing maintenance of the Gardens under a long-term agreement with the Cathedral, which would include a break clause every five years.

Resolved: to approve the proposal to adopt the long-term maintenance of Bible Gardens.

57/024 TO ACCEPT THE 2024-2025 ANNUAL REPORT

The Annual Report had been pre-circulated to Members

The Council's Annual Report, which contained details of its objectives under the Wellbeing and Future Generations Act 2015 was discussed. The City Director answered questions on the document and parts of its contents.

Resolved: to accept the 2024 -2025 Annual Report and approve its publication.

58/24 TO RESPOND TO CONSULTATION ON CHANGE OF VOTING TO SINGLE TRANSFERABLE VOTE.

Details of Cyngor Gwynedd's consultation to adopt a change of voting to a Single Transferable Vote system had been pre-circulated.

The Council briefly discussed the consultation by Cyngor Gwynedd to adopt the system used in Scotland, that being of a Single Transferable Vote.

Resolved: to encourage each Councillor to respond to the consultation individually.

59/24 TO GIVE THE FINANCE COMMITTEE POWER TO APPROVE EXPENDITURE WITHIN THE APPROVED BUDGET AND UP TO £5,000.

It was proposed that to reduce duplication of items which appear on the Finance Committee agenda and then again on the Council agenda, the Finance Committee be given authority to approve expenditure of up to £5,000, for items which are included in annual budget. Thus

saving time. Following a brief discussion it was argued that the Finance Committee should remain solely an oversight committee and not be given any executive authority.

Resolved: not to proceed with this proposal.

60/24 TO RESPOND TO A REQUEST FOR FRIENDSHIP/TWINNING FROM

I) MAY PEN JAMAICA,

Further to the presentation at the beginning of the meeting, a formal request from May Pen in Jamaica for closer links with a view to a town-twinning arrangement with Bangor was discussed. It was reported that the Welsh government had awarded a grant to further explore this proposal. A detailed debate ensued.

Resolved: to approve a formal declaration of Friendship between Bangor City and May Pen and to review a town-twinning arrangement in five years.

II) ROCHE-LA-MOLIERE, FRANCE.

The Council were advised that a request to explore town twinning had also been received from Roche-La-Moliere in France.

Following a brief discussion

Resolved: to explore a formal declaration of Friendship between Bangor City and Roche La Moliere with a view to town-twinning at a later date.

61/24 TO RE-ESTABLISH A BANGOR IN BLOOM COMPETITION

It was proposed that the City Council re-establish a Bangor in Bloom competition in time for the summer of 2025. The idea had been postulated on social media in some areas of the City and, it was reported, that very positive responses had been received. Several local residents had come forward and offered to assist with the arrangements. The cost implications to the Council were minimal beyond staff resources to set up and publicise the competition.

Resolved: to re-establish a Bangor in Bloom Competition for 2025.

62/24 TO RESPOND TO CONSULTATION ON LDP FOR BANGOR AREA.

It was reported that the consultation was open for the next Local Development Plan. The Plan, once approved, will govern planning policy for the next five years. This policy will impact on a host of City wide relevant issues, including the number of HMO's, the establishment of residential properties in the City Centre etc.

Resolved: each Councillor should take the time to respond individually to the consultation and the Council should organise a workshop to discuss in more detail.

63/24 PLANNING APPLICATION

- i. Planning application C24/0638/11/TC - 2 Ffordd y Tywysog, Bangor – Application for a Development Certificate to use entire property for Multiple Occupancy.

The Council objected to this application on the grounds that there are excessive number of Houses of Multiple Occupancy in the that area of the City.

- ii. C24/0672/11/DT – 21 Lon Y Gogarth – Single and two-storey extension to the rear.

There were no objections.

The meeting ended at 8.35pm

CYFARWYDDWR DINESIG – Martin Hanks – CITY DIRECTOR