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Minutes of the remote **Governance, Staffing and Finance Committee**, held via Zoom video-conferencing on **Monday 14th June 2021** at 6.30 pm.

PRESENT: - The Deputy Mayor Councillor Gwynant Roberts (Chair until Agenda item 40/21)
Councillors : Gareth Roberts, John Martin, Les Day, Ifan James, George Turner (Chair after Agenda item 40/21), John Wynn Jones, Kieran Jones

Officers:- Iwan Williams, City Director, Gwynfor Owen (Translator), Sioned Jones (Minutes)

36/21 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Their Worship the Mayor, Cllr Owen Hurcum.

37/21 DECLARATION OF FINANCIAL INTEREST OR PERSONAL CONNECTION

None.

38/21 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

39/21 ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councillor John Wynn Jones said that he was proud of the attention given to Bangor's new Mayor in the media, as the first openly non-binary Mayor in the world. Not only had there been articles in the local and national press (*Golwg*) but an article had recently been published in the *Guardian*, putting the Mayor and Bangor on the map.

40/21 NOMINATION FOR COMMITTEE CHAIR

The name of Councillor George Turner was proposed and seconded. All were in favour. Councillor Turner said that he was grateful for the vote of confidence from his fellow councillors and that he hoped to be able to make a useful contribution in this capacity. He then took over the Chair from the Deputy Mayor for the remainder of the meeting.

41/21 NOMINATION FOR COMMITTEE DEPUTY CHAIR

The name of Councillor Gareth Roberts was proposed and seconded. All were in favour and Cllr Roberts duly accepted the role.

42/21 COMMITTEES' TERMS OF REFERENCE

The City Director had drafted Terms of Reference for the two main Committees. He had consulted with the previous Acting Town Clerk, who had suggested some amendments. He asked this committee for any observations before the final version was produced for Council. Cllr George Turner asked whether he faced any legal responsibilities as Chair of the Committee but was assured that the role did not entail any additional responsibility.

43/21 STAFF STRUCTURE

Closed item.

44/21 PIER MEMORIAL BENCHES, PLAQUES AND NAMEPLATES

The City Director reported that he had received regular requests from the public to erect benches or memorial plaques on the Pier. However, he had been advised that the Council had decided at the end of 2016 not to allow more memorial benches etc as the Pier was in danger of becoming over-run with them and concerns with on-costs. Therefore, recent applications have been turned down. Gwynedd Council has given permission for a memorial bench to be erected in Garth Gardens in memory of Irfon Williams, originally planned for the Pier. The City Director proposed the following:

- a) that commemoration benches be offered to the families of ex Bangor City Council mayors (this followed a recent request from the family of one former Mayor)
- b) following a request from one member of the public, that he be allowed to add his family's names on an existing nameplate. The individual had offered to take the nameplate down and re-erect it at no cost to the Council

There followed a discussion where members reiterated the general feeling that the Pier had become too full of memorabilia. It was suggested that other locations in Bangor would be suitable e.g. Ashley Jones fields. The committee discussed that a new flower holder had been seen attached to the Pier railings. As the Pier is a Grade II* listed building, people are not allowed to attach anything to it, this may constitute a criminal offence. Members felt that there was a clear demand from the public to use the Pier to remember loved ones, but that no exemptions should be made.

RESOLVED:

- a) not to agree to allow families of former Mayors to erect a commemorative bench
- b) not to allow the individual in question to add family names to the existing nameplate
- c) to encourage the public to think of other locations to remember their loved ones, or even to plant a tree in their memory
- d) that the City Director finds out exactly what the rules are for Grade II* listed structures so that members can be clear about this.

45/21 DRAFT FINAL ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

- a) **To approve statement of accounts** The statement had already been circulated to members and it was APPROVED.
- b) **To approve figures for the Annual Return 2020/21**
APPROVED
- c) **To resolve within the requirements of the Statement of Assurance 2020/21**
Resolved
- d) **To receive the Internal Audit Report 2020/21**

Cllr Gwynant Roberts drew attention to one important cause for concern, namely:

Failure to comply with the Council's Financial Regulations due to insufficient tendering arrangements with respect to the major restoration project

If tenders are worth above a particular sum, they should be subject to a public procurement exercise. However, no steps were taken against the Council. Members agreed that past arrangements cannot be rectified, but any procurement in future will adhere to proper procedures. The City Director to look into this matter further.

RESOLVED to accept the report.

46/21 ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

Finance

The City Director advised that some funds would need to be transferred from one budget line to another i.e. sufficient funds for the Council's annual insurance policy.

An invoice had come from the Wales Audit Office for £11,956.50 for a report discussing Nantporth stadium. This had been queried so would not be approved in this meeting.

Consideration had been given in a previous meeting to donating to Frân Wen and Bangor Arts Initiative. The City Director proposed inviting representatives from these two bodies to discuss how any financial support from the Council would be used.

RESOLVED to ask for presentations from Frân Wen and Bangor Arts Initiative at the next meeting on 19th July but not to make a financial commitment, until the above matters were resolved.

47/21 INVOICES FOR PAYMENT

Invoices as noted on the schedule totalling £19,916.95 were approved, with the Wales Audit Office invoice excluded until queries had been resolved.

The meeting came to an end at 7.52 pm

CITY DIRECTOR– Iwan Williams – CYFARWYDDWR DINESIG