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Minutes of the remote **Governance, Staffing and Finance Committee**, held via Zoom video-conferencing on **Monday 18th October 2021** at 6.30 pm.

PRESENT: - Councillors George Turner (Chair), Their Worship the Mayor, Owen Hurcum, Les Day, John Wynn Jones, Kieran Jones, John Martin, Enid Parry (left the meeting at 8.05), Gareth Roberts (left the meeting at 7.52pm), Gwynant Roberts.

Officers:- Iwan Williams (City Director), Paul Rowlinson (Translator), Sioned Jones (Minutes)

120/21 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllrs Elin Walker Jones, Nigel Pickavance, Mair Rowlands.

121/21 DECLARATION OF FINANCIAL INTEREST OR PERSONAL CONNECTION

Councillor Les Day in item 6 Grant Application as she is a Trustee of Gwynedd Citizens Advice.

122/21 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Maris Stewart-Parker from Alzheimer's Society Cymru.

123/21 DEMENTIA FRIENDLY BANGOR: DISCUSSION WITH ALZHEIMER'S SOCIETY

Maris Stewart-Parker from Alzheimer's Society Cymru was introduced as the Dementia Friendly Communities Officer for north Wales. She explained that her role was to help facilitate the dementia friendly communities programme in north Wales, and was in the meeting to see how Bangor City Council could potentially become a dementia friendly organisation.

She gave some background to the programme and its aims and explained that the first step in becoming a dementia friendly organisation would be for the Councillors (and employees) to become dementia friends themselves. Members would be invited to attend a 45 minute session (available bilingually) explaining what dementia is and isn't, and ways in which you can support people and spread awareness. Following this, it is helpful to have a 'dementia champion' in the organisation who would lead on ensuring that the organisation remains dementia friendly. The next aspect is to consider the environment, i.e. offices and public spaces to see what can be done to make them approachable and easier to navigate around. Eventually the organisation would draw up an Action Plan. There are plenty of resources available and Maris herself is willing to discuss further. Ultimately the Welsh Government wants Wales to become a dementia friendly nation so there is plenty of support for organisations such as the City Council to begin their journey.

Mavis was thanked for her interesting and inspiring presentation.

IT WAS RESOLVED to adopt this strategy and arrange for every council member and staff to have training to be a dementia friend, as a first step. **IT WAS ALSO RESOLVED** that Their Worship the Mayor, Owen Hurcum be a point of contact for establishing this campaign.

124/21 EVENTS UPDATE AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT APPLICATIONS

(i) Halloween Pier event

Cllr Enid Parry reported that a family Halloween event was being organised on the Pier on the 30th October, from 3-7pm. This would include Halloween costumes, Samba band, the Encôr choir, circus acts and refreshments. The main organisers are the Bangor Arts Initiative and they have asked the Council for a match-funding donation of up to £500.

IT WAS RESOLVED to contribute to this event but to ask for a report detailing how the money was being spent.

(ii) Fireworks display

The City Director reported that this event which was scheduled to take place on the Pier had had to be cancelled. The previous week similar events were being cancelled in other towns across north Wales, due to fears over Covid-19. Were the event in Bangor to proceed, it would potentially attract thousands of people from the north west, with huge implications for health and safety, Covid and otherwise on the Pier. This was why an urgent announcement cancelling the fireworks had been made the previous week.

The members all AGREED with this decision. A brief discussion followed about the way forward for next year. The Lions Club used to organise a popular display on Beach Road, however, their membership is getting older and with fewer volunteers, and therefore unlikely to be able to cope with the event again.

IT WAS RESOLVED that the Council thinks about staging a firework display next year, this would need a lot of planning and should be considered therefore in plenty of time.

(iii) Remembrance Sunday

The City Director reported that preparations were going ahead and invitations had been sent out. A new sound system was needed, with the old one being ineffective and possibly dangerous. A new one has been ordered for around £500, with the funds to come from the Events budget. A further £500 had been allocated for refreshments in Penrhyn Hall afterwards, this to come from the budget for Remembrance Sunday.

Members APPROVED the above arrangements. One member asked whether white poppies from the Peace Pledge Union could be displayed once again and all were in favour of this.

(iv) Awyr Las Pier Launch Event

An event similar to last year's was to be held on 10th December, where families could sponsor a light on the Pier to celebrate and remember loved ones. Bangor Community Group is also organising entertainment to go alongside the Awyr Las Pier launch event. They have asked for £200 to buy presents to be given by Santa.

IT WAS RESOLVED to give £200 to Bangor Community Group.

125/21 GRANT APPLICATION: GWYNEDD CITIZENS ADVICE

Detailed background papers from CAB had been sent out prior to the meeting. Gwynedd Citizens Advice usually received an annual contribution (£1,500) from Bangor City Council, however this had not happened in 2020/21. They explained that this donation helped to keep their Bangor office going.

All were in favour in principle, however, it was pointed out that Gwynedd Citizens Advice does not acknowledge the donation in its annual report. It was felt that people needed to know that Bangor City Council contributes to the service; it would also be just one more way of replying to the popular question of what does the Council DO?

IT WAS RESOLVED to make a contribution of £1,500 for 2021/22 subject to the above.

126/21 STAFF STRUCTURE

IT WAS RESOLVED to exclude the press and public from this item.

The item was held in camera.

127/21 GLYNDWR PLAQUE: CITY DIRECTOR UPDATE

Following recent discussions about erecting a plaque noting the location of the famous Tripartite Agreement, the City Director reported that there is now some doubt as to the exact location. Having consulted leading historians, it would now appear that the building housing *So Chic* was the Dean's house and not the Archdeacon's. Although no-one is really sure, the consensus is that the location would actually have been Penrhyn Hall itself. There was some discussion about the value of erecting a plaque if the historical details are unclear. However, as the wording says "it is believed ..." it was felt that Penrhyn Hall would be a suitable place to erect it and **IT WAS RESOLVED** to continue with this scheme.

128/21 LOCAL DEMOCRACY AND BOUNDARY COMMISSION: GWYNEDD BOUNDARY REFORMS AND BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR WALES 2023 REVIEW CONSULTATION

a) The Boundary Commission has announced that the number of seats on Gwynedd Council is being reduced from 75 to 69, with Bangor going down from 11 seats to 7. Members were unhappy with this substantial loss for Bangor. It was explained that one possible reason was that students are no longer automatically registered on the electoral roll, so it appeared that Bangor's population had decreased but this is not the case.

IT WAS RESOLVED that the Council write to Gwynedd Council and Welsh Government to voice their concerns about this lack of representation.

b) The Boundary Commission has proposed changes to electoral wards for the Westminster government. Under the new proposals, the Arfon constituency would disappear, Bangor would be split in half with the City Centre joining the Aberconwy constituency and half of Penrhosgarnedd joining Dwyfor Meirionnydd. Again **IT WAS RESOLVED** to express concerns about this artificial division and ask that the whole of Bangor be kept as one unit.

c) Following on from these discussions, it was noted that members were still unclear about the future composition of Bangor City Council. It is believed that the same number of Councillors would be kept but with a redistribution of wards. However, no record of decisions could be found after November 2018. **IT WAS RESOLVED** to seek clarity on this issue from Gwynedd Council, bearing in mind the forthcoming elections in May 2022.

179/21 COUNCIL BUDGET: VIREMENT OF FUNDS

The City Director reported that another £3k was needed to set up the CCTV system on the Pier, as previously agreed. He proposed transferring £2k from the events budget (fireworks) to the CCTV budget line. Also £1k from the presently unused twinning budget.

All were in favour.

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It was noted that income from the Pier has increased significantly already this year thanks to the presence of Friends of Bangor Garth Pier volunteers, and this will be taken into account when setting next year's budget.

180/21 INVOICES FOR PAYMENT AND FINANCIAL MATTERS

Invoices to the total of £21,977.18 were approved for payment. The City Director explained that the majority of this had gone towards scaffolding and timber for engineering projects on the Pier. The Council's accountants had updated the Income and Expenditure report. Some work needed to be done on other accounts that were used less frequently, with regard to updating signatories. Members accepted the report.

181/21 ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

Staffing issues were ongoing and would be dealt with promptly. To finish, members referred to the recent tragic murder of Sir David Amess MP and asked Their Worship the Mayor whether they had been subject to any threatening behaviour. They replied that they had not been subject to any intimidating behaviour due to their post as Mayor of the City.

The meeting came to an end at 8.35 pm

CITY DIRECTOR– Iwan Williams – CYFARWYDDWR DINESIG