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Minutes of the remote **Governance, Staffing and Finance Committee**, held via Zoom video-conferencing on **Monday 19th July 2021** at 6.30 pm.

PRESENT: - Councillors George Turner (Chair), John Martin, Enid Parry (left 8-14pm), Gwynant Roberts, Gareth Roberts, Luke Tugwell, Les Day, Kieran Jones, John Wynn Jones, Dylan Fernley, John Wyn Williams (joined 6-54pm)

Officers:- Iwan Williams (City Director), Gwynfor Owen & Delyth Davies (Translators), Sioned Jones (Minutes)

70/21 APOLOGIES

None

71/21 DECLARATION OF FINANCIAL INTEREST OR PERSONAL CONNECTION

Councillor Luke Tugwell expressed an interest in Frân Wen as he had been active with this company.

72/21 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Kate Jones, Maggie Doherty, Colin Daimond (Bangor Arts Initiative); Nia Jones, Gethin Evans (Frân Wen).

73/21 ARTS AND CULTURE IN BANGOR: DISCUSSION WITH FRÂN WEN AND BANGOR ARTS INITIATIVE

The Chair welcomed to the meeting Kate Jones, Maggie Doherty and Colin Daimond from Bangor Arts Initiative and Nia Jones and Gethin Evans from Frân Wen. He invited both groups to give an overview of their aims and plans:

Bangor Arts Initiative

The representatives outlined the purpose of their project and said that its aim is to create community engagement and participation in Bangor, Caernarfon and Llŷn.

- Main project is called *Lleu – Light Up Gwynedd*
- It will run from Summer 2021 to Spring 2023
- It has already been given funding to the tune of £143,000 from the Arts Council of Wales. It hopes to reach total funding of £166,000, to be divided between the 3 geographical areas.
- The project will actually begin in the autumn and the intention is to create a project that's led by the community who become involved.
- The project will be divided into 3 hubs – the hub through Bangor Arts Initiative will be led by Maggie Doherty. Kate Jones from *Cimera*, circus and dance is also part of the partnership, as is Colin Daimond, a musician, dancer and educator.

- Lleu is an old Welsh word for light and the idea is to use light or themes of light to create parades, standalone outdoor activities, installations, music. There will be a series of different pop-ups.

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- The emphasis is on the community steering this, but they are interested in using the City's green spaces, also the Pier. They would hope to engage the businesses of the City and try and build a long-term event (annual/biannual).
- They have already been working in the City Centre but would like to extend out to areas like Hirael and Coed Mawr as well.
- Possible stories: would like to bring the sea and the coast into Bangor more; also keen to explore the diversity that exists in Bangor. Celebrating the different people that live in Bangor.
- Circus, fine art, drumming, drama, dance, range of things they can bring to it. Can respond to ideas and wishes of participants.
- Consultation is about to start with the hope of having a small event over December 21 – March April 2022. The main event will take place in the spring and summer of 2023.

The Chairman thanked the representatives for their lively presentation and asked how could the Council help in the short term.

The representatives replied that the Council could help with providing green spaces, support on social media and publicity.

A steering group would be established and they would like to invite a member of the Council to be on this Group.

IT WAS RESOLVED to support Bangor Arts Initiative in future and to discuss having a member on the steering group when the members of the public had left.

Fran Wên

- Frân Wen is a Theatre Company run by and for young people. It has 80 young people from north west Wales contributing regularly to its activities, split into different age categories. They work on everything from governance to staging, devising the programmes and creating shows. All are welcomed and attempts are always being made to target under-represented groups.
- It is a Welsh medium company. It produces local shows and also productions that travel all over Wales.
- The emphasis is on innovation
- The pandemic did not stop its work and it managed to produce a digital theatre production that was viewed by thousands.
- In August Frân Wen will take over a unit in the Deiniol Centre to showcase its work.
- Amongst other projects, they are now working on a new show by Bangor musician and poet, Casi Wyn.
- They envisage many opportunities to work together with the local community, they already do a lot of work in education, and Arts on Prescription.

- Having grown out of their present building, they bought the old St Mary's Church in 2019 and since then they have worked hard at renovating the building. The community has been a part of this and Councillor Luke Tugwell was thanked for his support. The

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building will house studios for smaller and bigger productions, and these will be multi-purpose rooms. An open day is to be held on 29 July, registration essential.

- The cost of purchasing the building and renovations came to £3.8 million. They have succeeded in raising £3.77 million from different funding sources, e.g. Lottery, Arts Council of Wales, various foundations. The centre will be known as *Nyth* (Nest).
- It is expected that the tender process will be over by the beginning of August with the work completed by September 2022. They hope to be open to the public in January 2023 but work with the community will be ongoing including volunteering opportunities.

The Chair thanked Nia Jones and Gethin Evans for another excellent presentation and some questions were discussed, including the relationship of *Nyth* with *Pontio*. Members were assured that *Pontio* was key to the whole project and that they would continue to work closely together. Like the previous group, they were keen to work in the open air as well.

The representatives left the meeting.

IT WAS RESOLVED

- a) To nominate Cllr Gareth Roberts to sit on the Bangor Arts Initiative steering group.
- b) As neither group had made a request for funding, not to offer a financial contribution at present, but to bear both groups in mind later in the financial year.

74/21 FUNDING APPLICATIONS

War Memorial Booklet

The City Director reported that a local historian had asked the Council for financial support to print a booklet about two War Memorial plaques that had had to be moved from St David's Church, Glanadda when it closed and were reinstalled at the Railway Station. The booklet, about 10 pages, would cost between £600 and £1000 to print.

There was some discussion about the cost involved and some doubts as the subject matter, although interesting and poignant, was very local, pertaining to about 10 families. Some members suggested charging for the booklet, however the logistics of collecting this money seemed difficult. It was asked whether this was good use of public funds. As it was unclear how and where the applicant proposed to distribute these booklets, **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the City Director approach the individual again to find out and receive further information.

Bangor Plaque Group

Councillor Les Day spoke on behalf of this Group as she is a member of it. She reminded the Committee of the successful attempt to install 7 plaques in 2008 to honour 7 famous sons and daughters of Bangor. Bangor Civic Society is one of the main drivers of this campaign, and they are now in the process of researching and costing the new plaques. They have already had a price of £225 per plaque. She asked for the committee's support to proceed

with this work. All were in favour in principle, although no financial commitment was made at this time.

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75/21 COUNCIL BUDGET 2021/22: VIREMENT OF FUNDS

The City Director explained how he proposed the virement of funds from different budget headings, as follows:

£1,200 for insurance (from Town Twinning)

£10,000 for Trees (from Clock refurbishment). This was on top of the £15,000 already allocated and it was for the urgent work of dealing with the problem of Ash Dieback in Menai Woods.

£5,000 for Pier Repairs/Maintenance (from Clock refurbishment). This was for the urgent work to purchase timber and proceed with the Linkspan and Pumping station projects

£6,000 for Pier Repairs/Maintenance (from Crime Prevention / CCTV). This was on top of the £12,000 already allocated

The budget of £7,500 allocated to the Covid Committee Support Fund will need to be discussed further as the situation unfolds over the coming weeks/months.

RESOLVED: All were in favour.

76/21 STAFF STRUCTURE

Closed item.

77/21 FINANCIAL MATTERS

- Invoices for Payment
- Outstanding debts
- To accept the pre-circulated first quarter accounts.

The above documents had all been circulated before the meeting and the Committee APPROVED all the payments.

78/21 ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

None

The meeting came to an end at 9.00 pm

CITY DIRECTOR– Iwan Williams – CYFARWYDDWR DINESIG