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Minutes of a meeting of the Bangor City **Assets, Resources and Projects Committee** held remotely, via Zoom video-conferencing, at 6.30 pm on the 11th of April 2022.

**PRESENT:** - Councillor Mair Rowlands (Chair), Councillors Medwyn Hughes, Huw Wyn Jones, Enid Parry, Elin Walker Jones, Nigel Pickavance, Kieran Jones (non-voting), Les Day (non-voting), Their Worship the Mayor (non-voting).

Officers:- Martin Hanks (Acting Town Clerk), Delyth Davies (Translator), Sioned Jones (Minutes).

**260/22 APOLOGIES**

None.

**261/22 DECLARATION OF FINANCIAL INTEREST OR PERSONAL CONNECTION**

None.

**262/22 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None.

**263/22 TO DISCUSS THE FUTURE OF THE PIER PLAY AREA**

**i. Consider Play Equipment Report and Potential Removal**

The Town Clerk reported that the specialist who did the original inspection had not submitted a written report and had now left the company. They had offered to send another inspector at further cost. In the meantime, the Town Clerk had contacted a Play Officer in a nearby local authority. Although his written report had not arrived, his verbal report was clear: the equipment does not meet modern guidelines; it could be welded and repainted but without removing it and treating it properly, it will start to rust again. But the real issue is the floor: this would have to be replaced at an estimated cost of between £25k and £40k.

The main fence should also be removed but the little fence at the side of the restaurant could be kept.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** to dismantle the existing equipment and fence.

**ii. To appoint a Landscape Architect**

The Town Clerk reported that the next step would be to obtain detailed plans from landscape architects. Members agreed that the whole area should be considered, i.e. another play area, the car park, the council depot. These plans could be prepared now so that there were options ready to present to the new Council after the election.

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**IT WAS RESOLVED** to commission detailed reports to consider the future of the playground, as part of the whole area outside the Pier.

On a wider note, it was suggested that other parks in Bangor could be considered at the same time. Cllr Walker Jones was congratulated on the excellent work that has taken place in Maes Tryfan. Cllr Walker Jones said that the upgraded play area at Maes Tryfan was a result of fantastic team work with the local community. There are grants available, and as was seen in Maesgeirchen as well, community involvement is the secret to securing funding and seeing the project through.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** to propose that looking at the play parks of Bangor in their entirety be part of the new Council's programme.

**264/22 TO SUPPORT GARTH PIER EVENTS AND CELEBRATON**

**i. Pier of the Year**

The Committee congratulated everyone involved with the award of National Pier of the Year 2022 to Bangor Garth Pier, in particular the Friends of Garth Pier, and operatives of the City Council. Their Worship the Mayor reported that a small celebration had taken place the previous Saturday where volunteers and City Council staff had been thanked.

The Town Clerk reported that it had been suggested buying two big banners to celebrate this success. There was some discussion about the location of the banners, obviously they should be in the vicinity of the Pier but members also felt that signs were needed outside the area to draw people to Bangor and the Pier. It was said that the Partnership was working on signage in the City Centre. The Town Clerk said that having brown tourist signs noting that Bangor had won Best Pier 2022 would be a starting point.

This led to a discussion about signage in the City. Cllr Pickavance was congratulated for his part in the work on the new sign on the Llandygai side of Bangor and the raised beds around it. Members wished to see attention given to the signs on the other 2 approaches to Bangor i.e. the ones by Tesco roundabout, and the Antelope Inn.

**IT WAS RESOLVED**

- a) to purchase banners to celebrate the Pier's award
- b) to ask the new Council to consider upgrading the signs on the other 2 approaches to Bangor

**ii. Events**

Friends of the Pier had asked for support from the City Council to host a 126<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration in May and events to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee in June.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** to support these events but to refer to the Finance Committee for a decision on funding.

**iii. Exhibition**

An exhibition on the history of the Pier had been held at Storiel. This was very interesting and informative, but unfortunately, due to Covid staff shortages, Storiel had been closed for some of the allocated time for the exhibition. Because of this, it was suggested that the exhibition might find another home so that more people can see it.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** to consider moving the exhibition to one of the following venues: Penrhyn Hall, Deiniol Centre, Pontio.

**265/22 OTHER POINTS ON ASSETS**

- Awaiting schedule of cutting grass verges from Gwynedd, if not forthcoming, City Council has a budget for this work
- Pumping station issues nearly resolved.
- Roof of Penrhyn Hall has been repaired. Usage of the Hall has increased noticeably since January.
- Pier coin barrier needs replacing.

**265/22 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

This was the last meeting for some Councillors who were standing down this time. Congratulations were extended to those members already elected and all other members were thanked for their contributions, some over many years. Their Worship the Mayor said that it was his intention to organise a small gathering soon at Penrhyn Hall to thank everyone formally.

**The meeting came to an end at 7.35pm**