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Minutes of the remote meeting of the **City Council**, held via Zoom video-conferencing on **Monday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2021** at 6.30 pm.

**PRESENT:** - Their Worship The Mayor Councillor Owen Hurcum, the Deputy Mayor Councillor Gwynant Roberts  
Councillors : Les Day, Dylan Fernley, Derek Hainge, Elin Walker Jones, Huw Wyn Jones, John Wynn Jones, Kieran Jones, John Martin, Enid Parry, Mair Rowlands, Luke Tugwell.

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

### **48/21 APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Medwyn Hughes, Nigel Pickavance, Gareth Roberts, John Wyn Williams.

### **49/21 DECLARATION OF FINANCIAL INTEREST OR PERSONAL CONNECTION**

None.

### **50/21 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None.

### **51/21 ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Their Worship the Mayor announced that Martin Hanks's time as (formerly) Acting Town Clerk and (presently) Adviser to the Council was coming to an end and that this was his last meeting. They thanked him on behalf of the Council for his hard work and said that it was always a pleasure working with him. Martin Hanks then thanked everyone for their support, with a special mention to Gwynfor for coping with his mixed Welsh/English contributions! It had been a very challenging 20 months for Bangor, with a global pandemic and the demise of the High Street. However, he had helped to lay the foundation for a new working model for Bangor with workshops and strategic plans and the City Director had already begun to build on these. He extended his best wishes to the new Mayor and Council.

### **52/21 A SAFER BANGOR: DISCUSSION WITH BANGOR POLICE**

The Mayor welcomed Sergeant Arwel Hughes and PC Lisa Thomas from North Wales Police to the meeting. Sgt Hughes drew attention to some of the main issues and developments in Bangor:

- a) CCTV cameras. CCTV cameras had been installed as a result of funding some years ago and they have helped to analyse crime patterns and figures. However, there had been a lack of cameras in Hirael ward where county lines were often active. There had been a number of burglaries as well, mainly from student houses. Additional cameras have been planned for that area and should be operational by October/November.

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Members mentioned other locations where they felt that cameras would be beneficial, namely Upper Garth Road and the road leading down to M&S. Another camera would be useful too, by the Pier entrance, especially before Freshers Week. Mobile cameras would be useful in these locations, however, the disadvantage is that often the pictures are not clear enough to be used as evidence.

- b) Members drew attention to complaints and anti-social behaviour in various parts of Bangor, mainly noise issues. Sgt Hughes replied that these were ongoing investigations and that they were trying to ensure that pub landlords were adhering to obligations and licensing conditions.

As members were receiving complaints from residents in their wards, they were anxious to know whom to contact. Sgt Hughes agreed to share contacts at the end of the meeting.

- c) Links with the University. An additional CCTV camera and a new officer are being provided for the university. The police liaise regularly with Bangor University and there were plans to hold sessions on safety with the students and improve lighting on footpaths etc.
- d) Traffic concerns, in particular the back roads between Glasinfryn and Llandygai; and outside the Maesgeirchen area. This concerned cars and motorcycles. Members were concerned that speed cameras were not being monitored. Sgt Hughes responded by saying that there are no resources to monitor cameras. He said that giving information about registration numbers and known individuals might help, however some members were reluctant to do this for fear of repercussions.

Their Worship the Mayor thanked the police officers for their attendance and detailed presentation and said that the Council looked forward to further collaboration in future.

## **53/21 MINUTES**

- a) Assets, Resources and Projects Committee - 17 May 2021

The minutes were approved as a correct record.

- b) Planning Committee – 17 May 2021

The minutes were approved as a correct record.

- c) Planning Committee – 7 June 2021

The minutes were approved as a correct record.

- d) Governance, Staffing and Finance Committee – 14 June 2021

The minutes were approved as a correct record.

## **54/21 CONFIRMATION OF COMMITTEE AND SUB-COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

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Assets, Resources and Projects: Councillors: Mair Rowlands, Medwyn Hughes, Enid Parry, John Wyn Williams, Huw Wyn Jones, Elin Walker Jones, Luke Tugwell, Nigel Pickavance, Derek Hainge. Also Their Worship The Mayor Cllr Owen Hurcum (non-voting position)

Governance, Staffing and Finance: Councillors: George Turner, Gareth Roberts, Kieran Jones, Les Day, John Wynn Jones, Dylan Fernley, John Martin, Ifan James, The Deputy Mayor Gwynant Roberts. Also Their Worship The Mayor Cllr Owen Hurcum (non-voting position)

Planning: Every member of the Council are committee members. The committee to discuss strategic applications only, and therefore meets on an ad hoc basis.

Membership of the Covid-19 Support and Nantporth sub-committees were approved, as discussed.

Covid-19 Support: Their Worship The Mayor Cllr Owen Hurcum. Councillors: The Deputy Mayor Gwynant Roberts, Les Day, John Wyn Williams, Luke Tugwell, Ifan James

Nantporth: The Deputy Mayor Cllr Gwynant Roberts, Their Worship The Mayor Cllr Owen Hurcum. Councillors: John Wyn Williams, Medwyn Hughes, Huw Wyn Jones, Dylan Fernley

### **55/21 CONFIRMATION OF COMMITTEE AND SUB-COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

Approved as discussed. Cllr Mair Rowlands confirmed as Chair of the Assets, Resources and Projects Committee, and Cllr George Turner confirmed as Chair of the Governance, Staffing and Finance Committee. Their Worship The Mayor Cllr Owen Hurcum confirmed as Chair of the Covid-19 Support Committee, and The Deputy Mayor Cllr Gwynant Roberts confirmed as Chair of the Nantporth sub-committee.

### **56/21 CONFIRMATION OF COMMITTEE AND SUB-COMMITTEE DEPUTY CHAIRS**

Approved as discussed. Cllr Medwyn Hughes confirmed as Deputy Chair of the Assets, Resources and Projects Committee, and Cllr Gareth Roberts confirmed as Deputy Chair of the Governance, Staffing and Finance Committee. The Deputy Mayor Cllr Gwynant Roberts confirmed as Deputy Chair of the Covid-19 Support Committee, and Their Worship The Mayor Cllr Owen Hurcum confirmed as Deputy Chair of the Nantporth sub-committee.

### **57/21 COMMITTEES' TERMS OF REFERENCE**

Having listened to members' comments, a small group had looked at these and the final versions had now been circulated. It was proposed that the Council's standing orders (No 12) be amended to reflect the changes. It was felt that the terms of reference now provided a clear focus, remit and purpose for the Council and the two main committees.

IT WAS RESOLVED to amend the standing orders to reflect changes.

The former Acting Town Clerk and current Adviser was thanked for his hard work and valuable advice in helping to prepare these.

### **58/21 APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

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The list of Council representatives had been circulated prior to the meeting.

It was proposed that the City Director should join the Bangor University Liaison Group and he accepted.

Cllr Rowlands said that she had been unable to attend meetings of the Coleg Menai Board and would therefore be happy for another member to join this group. As no-one came forward, Cllr Rowlands agreed to stay on it.

With the resignation of former Cllr Colin King, there was one vacancy on the Bangor Community Group. However, members were unsure whether this group was still in existence:

- North Wales Town Councils Association – Cllr Derek Hainge; Cllr John Martin
- Citizens Advice – Cllr Elin Walker Jones
- Garth Community Centre – Cllr Les Day; Cllr Huw Wyn Jones
- Bangor University Community Liaison Group – Cllr Les Day; Their Worship The Mayor Cllr Owen Hurcum; City Director
- Bangor Community Group – VACANT
- Nantporth Community Interest Company – The Deputy Mayor Cllr Gwynant Roberts
- Maesgeirchen Partnership – Cllr Nigel Pickavance
- Coleg Menai College – Cllr Mair Rowlands
- Bangor Strategic Partnership – Their Worship The Mayor Cllr Owen Hurcum; The Deputy Mayor Cllr Gwynant Roberts; Cllr Mair Rowlands
- Menai Strait Fishery Order Management Association – Cllr Gareth Roberts

## 59/21 ASSET REGISTER REVIEW

The review had already been circulated to members.

- (i) The City Director had made two recommendations as a consequence of the report:

That the Council agrees to the sale of Penrhyn Arms Woods, and Dargie Fields.

A question was raised about the conditions for selling these assets, one member suggested that the Council should find out first whether there are restrictions or covenants on these lands. One member believed that this should be checked first. However, other members believed that Penrhyn Arms Woods was too much of a liability not to dispose of it immediately.

Following a vote, 9 members were in favour of selling both sites, Cllr Hainge voted against the proposal, and Cllr Parry abstained.

- (ii) The issue of Ash Dieback on trees in Menai Woods was discussed further and it was said that this was an urgent issue.

This could be very expensive indeed. One member knew of an ash dieback officer working for Anglesey County Council and believed that there was funding available to tackle this – the member would make enquiries.

- (iii) It was proposed that the structural inspection work on the Pier be delayed until next year.

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All were in favour.

### **60/21 DRAFT FINAL ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

To approve recommendations from the Governance, Staffing and Finance Committee in respect of:

- a. Statement of Accounts
- b. Figures for the Annual Return 2020/21
- c. Statement of Assurance 2020/21
- d. Internal Audit Report 2020/21

These were all approved.

### **61/21 CITY DIRECTOR'S UPDATE**

(i) The City Director reported that the agreement for grass cutting with Gwynedd Council was nearly in place. £10,000 had been allocated for the work and agreed by the former Finance Committee in March 2021. Members drew attention to the fact that there are a lot of weeds growing on paths and pavements. Although this is not part of the grass cutting contract, this needs to be discussed with Gwynedd Council forthwith.

(ii) No formal applications for an election for the vacancy on Dewi Ward had been made; the next step was to advertise for a co-opted member.

IT WAS RESOLVED to advertise the vacancy the following day (29<sup>th</sup> June) with a closing date of 16<sup>th</sup> July.

(iii) The City Director had circulated the letter from the Planning Inspectorate re the Pen y Ffridd development. The only option left now is to go to the High Court.

IT WAS RESOLVED to hold an extra meeting of the Assets, Resources and Projects Committee on 26 July.

(iv) The City Director reported that he had attended a meeting with Bangor University and Gwynedd Council to discuss the Welsh Government's "Place-Making" Grant Scheme. There was an invitation to bid for money to be spent this financial year, with ideas for improving external infrastructure in the city centre. The City Director said that preparing this bid was now a priority. A Friendship Bench was already in place in Ashley Fields and it had received a lot of positive attention, with its reference to the Beatles' visit in 1967. Another one was soon to be installed at the bottom of Penchwintan Rd, and local craftspeople and artists had been working on both benches.

(v) The Sakura trees are growing but some have been vandalised, one had been snapped in half at the top of Penchwintan Rd. This was very disappointing and indeed dealing with this issue had not been budgeted for.

(vi) The City Council is now on Facebook and Twitter, with posts being made bilingually. Of the two, Facebook is the more popular. Although there are some detractors, the response has been very positive in the main and this is a good way of communicating what the Council is doing.

### **62/21 INVOICES FOR PAYMENT**

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The list had been shared with the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor and the Chair of the Governance, Staffing and Finance Committee. Members of that Committee had queried the substantial sum due to the Wales Audit Office (WAO) for the Nantporth Stadium report. The City Director has checked this sum with WAO and was advised that the total cost was £18,000 with town and community councils sharing 2/3 of the cost. Therefore, the payment due is £11,956 which can be paid now or spread over two financial years. After some discussion, IT WAS RESOLVED not to pay this amount straight away as it had not been budgeted for, but to pay in instalments. To be discussed further in the next Council meeting.

The remaining invoices as detailed on the schedule, a total of £12,509.02, were agreed.

**15 SIGNING OF DOCUMENTS**

To approve the signing of any document pertaining to any decision of this Council Meeting. Agreed.

**The meeting came to an end at 8.25 pm.**

CITY DIRECTOR– Iwan Williams – CYFARWYDDWR DINESIG