

Minutes of the meeting of Bangor City Council held at Penrhyn Hall and via Teams video-conferencing on **9<sup>th</sup> December 2024** at 6.30 pm.

**PRESENT:** - His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. Gareth Parry (Chair), Cllr. Medwyn Hughes (Deputy Mayor), Cllr. Steve Bell, Cllr. Salamatu Fada, Cllr. Dylan Fernley, Cllr. John Wynn Jones, Cllr. Nigel Pickavance, Cllr. Eirian Williams Roberts, Cllr. Mark Roberts, Cllr. Delyth Russell, Cllr. Lisa Toth & Cllr. John Wyn Williams.

Officers:- Martin Hanks (City Director), Carwyn Davies (Administrative Officer) Emlyn Williams (Project Officer) & Rhian Elis Williams (Translator) and three members of the public.

**98/24 APOLOGIES:** Cllr. Simon Hibbs, Cllr. Beverley Jones, Cllr. Elin Walker Jones, Cllr. Huw Wyn Jones, Cllr. Meic Pattison, Cllr. Gareth Roberts & Cllr. Gwynant Roberts.

#### **99/24 DECLARATION OF FINANCIAL INTEREST OR PERSONAL CONNECTION**

None

#### **100/24 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

A representative of YCG presented details of the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations (CDM 2015) to the Council. This Regulation details the Council's responsibility regarding Health Safety and Welfare of construction projects. Given the ongoing renovations of Garth Pier and the likely retirement of the Council's Project Officer later in 2025, raising awareness of the details of the Council's responsibilities was considered timely.

#### **101/24 TO APPROVE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF THE 25<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2024.**

**IT WAS RESOLVED:** to accept the minutes of the Council meeting of the 25<sup>th</sup> November as an accurate record of the meeting.

#### **102/24 CITY DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

*The City Director's report had been circulated before the meeting.*

The City Director firstly, thanked the replacement translator, Rhian Elis Williams, for stepping in to cover for Sioned during her difficult time. He further reported that Sioned is now back in North Wales and hopes to return for the January meeting. A report providing a brief summary of the Council's projects and initiatives had been pre-circulated. The Director highlighted that this report is shorter than usual because it has only been a fortnight since the last meeting and during that time he had been on annual leave for a couple of days.

The Director drew the Council's attention to the following:

- i) The first event of Bangor 2025 was held in the Cathedral on the first Sunday of Advent, that being the 1<sup>st</sup> December, when the Archbishop of Wales led the service, which was attended by all the Bishops of Wales. The Mayor of Bangor was also in attendance.
- ii) The initial notice period to respond to the request for a bye-election in the Menai Ward has now expired and the result will be announced at the next meeting.
- iii) A meeting of the Bangor Strategic Partnership had been held the previous week, during which the positive initiatives progressing on the High Street and center of

the City were highlighted. It was also detailed that the proposed new medical hub is also progressing slowly.

- iv) A meeting with Cyngor Gwynedd's CCTV and Municipal Department Manager was scheduled for later in the week when it was hoped that an agreement could be reached to commence the playpark CCTV coverage programme.

The Council requested more details from the City Director on a couple of the points raised and a brief discussion on some items ensued.

**Resolved:** to accept the report.

#### **102/24 TO APPROVE CONTINUED MEMBERSHIP OF ONE VOICE WALES.**

*Details of the cost of renewal, based on the number of electors, was £2,200 for the next twelve months and this information had been pre-circulated to Members.*

The Chair of the Finance Committee reported that the Finance Committee had evaluated the benefits and costs associated with the Council maintaining its membership of One Voice Wales and reported that the Committee unanimously voted to recommend continuing the Council membership.

**Resolved:** to approve membership of One Voice Wales for another twelve months.

#### **103/24 TO DISCUSS A GRANT APPLICATION FROM POBL I BOBL.**

The Chair of the Finance Committee reported that the Finance Committee had evaluated the grant application and had expressed some concerns about whether this application fitted within the Council's remit. The Chair reported that the City Director had consulted with One Voice Wales on the matter, which concluded that this is a grey area but an auditor was unlikely to challenge any decisions to aid refugees based locally. Following a detailed discussion, it was felt that the application was not clear as to what exactly the Council was being asked to support financially. the project being funded by the grant

**Resolved:** to ask the City Director to meet with representatives of Pobl I Bobl and clarify the details of the application and also to advise them of other sources of assistance to refugees that it was proposing to offer.

#### **104/24 TO APPOINT A TASK AND FINISH WORKING GROUP TO DISCUSS THE NEXT PHASE OF HIGH STREET IMPROVEMENTS.**

Following the successful completion of the first phase of the High Street Improvement project funded through a Welsh Government's Transforming Towns grant, it was proposed to establish a working group to explore ideas that could be incorporated into a second phase of High Street improvements, either within the Welsh Government's central area or in the peripherals of the core area. It is envisaged that once a second phase project is agreed and presented to the Council, grant funding will be sought to fund the agreed improvements.

**Resolved:** to appoint Cllr G. Parry (Mayor), Cllr. M. Hughes (Deputy Mayor), Cllr N. Pickavance, & Cllr L. Toth to High Street Working Group.

#### **105/24 PLANNING APPLICATION**

- i. Planning application C24/0984/11/CR – Ffordd y Coleg, Bangor – Application to retain glass windows within the University removed from another location.

**There were no objections.**

**The meeting ended at 7.40pm**  
CYFARWYDDWR DINESIG – Martin Hanks – CITY DIRECTOR