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Minutes of the meeting of Bangor City Council held at Penrhyn Hall and via Zoom video-conferencing on **14 November 2022** at 6.30 pm.

PRESENT: - His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. Gwynant Roberts; Cllr. Steve Bell, Cllr. Dylan Fernley, Cllr. Medwyn Hughes, Cllr. Jac Jones, Cllr. John Wynn Jones, Cllr. Gareth Parry; Cllr Shane Parsons; Cllr. Meic Pattison, Cllr. Nigel Pickavance, Cllr. Eirian Williams Roberts.

Officers:- Martin Hanks (City Director), Llinos Jones (Administrator) Sioned Jones (Minutes).

64/22 APOLOGIES: Cllr Janet Abas; Cllr Huw Wyn Jones; Elin Walker Jones;

65/22 DECLARATION OF FINANCIAL INTEREST OR PERSONAL CONNECTION

None.

66/22 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Council received a presentation on the upcoming 50th Anniversary of the City's twinning with Soest in Germany. The presentation covered the background to the concept of twinning towns across Europe and further afield.

Bangor twinned with Soest in Germany in 1973. Since there have been many visits between the two places. As 2023 would be the 50th anniversary the Council were asked to support a visit by dignitaries from Soest.

Resolved: that the Council establish a sub-committee to oversee the visit, and to ask former Councillor Les Day to chair this group given her experience in liaising with Soest.

67/22 TO ACCEPT AN ADDRESS FROM THE CITY DIRECTOR

Report circulated before the meeting.

The City Director stated that the recent public events organised had been a success, namely, the Fireworks Display, Armistice Day and the Remembrance Service.

The closing date for nominations for co-option on the 2 vacant seats on the Council was 25 November.

The Council had now appointed a full-time administrator who was welcomed to her first City Council meeting.

68/22 TO APPROVE FINANCIAL REPORTS:

- (i) 3 months budget versus actual report
- (ii) 6 months budget versus actual expenditure.
- (iii) Members Allowance for 2022-2023.

The budget reports had been pre-circulated to Councillor and detailed the actual expenditure made by the Council compared to the annual budget for the period specified. Also, a report on Members Allowances for 2022-2023 had been pre-circulated, which recommended that the Allowances remain unchanged.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to accept the reports and recommendation on Allowances.

69/22 TO DISCUSS THE 2023 – 2024 PRECEPT

The Council discussed the current inflation levels and how this was going to impact Council expenditure during the remainder of the current financial year and especially during 2023 –

2024 financial; year. The Council also discussed a range of projects to be included in the next financial year in preparation for the annual budget.

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70/22 TO CONSIDER EXTENDING THE BANGOR MAPPING PROJECT

The Council were advised that an initiative for providing new signage in the City Centre was being run by a Welsh Government initiative. However, the current project did not include the Upper Bangor area. The project leaders, appointed by Cardiff, also felt that the City would benefit from a new map to accompany the project. To add these elements to the existing project will cost around £3,200.

IT WAS RESOLVED

- a) that the City Council pay for extending the signage scheme to Upper Bangor
- b) to engage the contractor to seek new maps that would be more suitable than the present ones.

71/22 TO APPROVE THE CONCEPT OF PURCHASING HIGH-STREET BUILDINGS

The Council discussed the benefits and liabilities of purchasing buildings in the centre of the City, with a view to offering such premises to local community groups and projects. Such a project would assist with improving the image of the High Street, while also assisting community groups.

Resolved: to task the City Director with exploring option and reporting back to Council

72/22 REQUEST FOR SUPPORT FOR CHRISTMAS CRACKER

The Bangor Community Group proposed to organise a Christmas celebration in the City on 4 December 2022. It was reported that a request to financially support this event with a grant of £10,500 had been received. The application was evaluated by the Council.

IT WAS RESOLVED:

- a) to agree to fund the event with a grant of £10,500. It was suggested that the BID be approached to jointly fund the event. If such funding were approved by BID it could reduce the Council's liability.

73/22 TO APPROVE THE PAYMENTS LIST

The list of payments for September and October had been pre-circulated.

Resolved: The list of payments covering September and October was APPROVED.

CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

The Press and Public were excluded from the next item and it was discussed 'in camera'.

74/22 TO DISCUSS NANTPORTH LEASE

The Council received a report from the chair of the Nantporth sub-committee. It detailed the actions undertaken to ascertain the continued financial viability of Nantporth CIC.

Resolved: To task the City Director to

- i. Liaise with the CIC regarding the non-conformities to the Lease.
- ii. Discuss the future plans and the viability of the Nantporth CIC.
- iii. To take the agreed actions, as required.
- iv. To appoint resources, if required.

The meeting ended at 9.10 pm
CYFARWYDDWR DINESIG – Martin Hanks – CITY DIRECTOR