

Minutes of the meeting of Bangor City Council that was held at Penrhyn Hall on 15th January 2024 at 6.30 pm.

PRESENT: - Her Worship the Mayor Cllr. Elin Walker Jones (Chair), Cllr. Gareth Parry, Cllr. Steve Bell, Cllr. Dylan Fernley, Cllr. Medwyn Hughes, Cllr. Huw Wyn Jones, Cllr. John Wyn Jones, Cllr. Eirian Williams Roberts, Cllr. Gareth Roberts, Cllr. Mark Roberts, Cllr. L. Toth, Cllr. John Wyn Williams.

Officers:- Martin Hanks (City Director), Llinos F. Jones, (Deputy City Director) and Sioned Jones (Translator).

96/23 APOLOGIES: Cllr. Salamatu Fada Cllr, Cllr. Meic Pattison, Cllr. Gwynant Roberts, Cllr. Delyth Russell.

97/23 DECLARATION OF FINANCIAL INTEREST OR PERSONAL CONNECTION.

None

98/23 TO CO-OPT NEW COUNCILLORS.

This item was deferred due to the illness of one of the candidates.

99/23 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

The Council received a presentation from the Innovation and Commercialisation Officer of MSparc. This presentation detailed Cyngor Gwynedd Recharge Programme, which has been established to support businesses' recovery from the effects of Covid 19, Brexit and the energy and cost of living crises. It outlined how the programme would help businesses in the specific sectors covered and ask that Councillors disseminate the information as widely as possible, within their communities.

100/23 CITY DIRECTOR'S REPORT.

The Report had been circulated before the meeting.

The City Director's report had been pre-circulated in advance of the meeting. The Director announced that the first contracts connected to the Transforming Town Grants of £140,000 to improve the look of the High Street will be issued within a week. Other prospective projects, not listed in the report include a recent offer to the City Council that land between Deiniol Road and Sackville Road come under the auspices of the City Council under a 'Dedicated Agreement'. More information will follow on this matter. The City Council were liaising with representatives of the University who are looking to establish a legal and business advice centre on the High Street. It was further reported that, following the success, of the mural project on the CAB building, led by North Wales Police, a wider Bangor Arts project is being discussed including Cyngor Gwynedd, Bangor City Council, North Wales Police, Coleg Llandrillo Menai, Bangor 1876 and others. Again more information will follow soon.

IT WAS RESOLVED: To accept the City Director's Report.

101/23 TO APPROVE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF THE 11th December 2023.

The minutes of the Council meeting of the 11th December had been pre-circulated to Councillors.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to approve the minutes as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

102/23 TO APPROVE THE USE OF CCLA TO MANAGE COUNCIL RESERVES.

Details of CCLA had been pre-circulated to Councillors.

Following comments contained in the Council's Internal Audit Report regarding the financial reserves, a company had been identified which specialised in the management of such public sector reserves. CCLA was established in 1958 and manages some £58 billion of public funds. Its local clients include Colwyn Bay Town Council and Cyngor Gwynedd. The Council were asked to approve the appointment of CCLA to manage its reserve finances.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to appoint CCLA to manage the City Council's surplus finances.

103/23 TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF A SPECIALIST TO THE RACE TO ZERO COMMITTEE.

The City Council's Race to Zero working group requested the authority to appoint additional Members, specifically non-council members to advise and assist with its objectives.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to delegate authority to the committee to appoint additional interested parties to that Committee as it felt was necessary.

104/23 TO APPROVE SUBMITTING AN APPLICATION FOR THE GENERAL POWER OF COMPETENCE.

The Welsh Government's General Power of Competence (GPoC) would allow the Council greater flexibility in undertaking its operations and would extend its ability to undertake projects. GPoC would allow the Council to power to do anything that an individual can legally do, as opposed to having to have a specific legal power.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to apply to the Welsh Government of the General Power of Competence.

105/23 TO APPROVE THE EXPANSION OF THE BANGOR CCTV AS PROPOSED.

Further to the Council's stated objective of having every play park in the City covered by CCTV, a quotation had been received from Cyngor Gwynedd's appointed supplier to add Coed Mawr, Hoel Dewi and Lin y Glyder play areas. The Quotation was £6,500.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to approve the quotation as the next stage of the expansion of CCTV objective and install CCTV at these locations.

106/23 TO DISCUSS OFFERING AN ECONOMIC INCENTIVE TO POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS TO UNDERTAKE RESEARCH OF USE TO THE COUNCIL.

A proposal was received to offer a financial incentive to Bangor University postgraduate students, who undertook their research and completed their thesis on topics that would be of interest to or benefit the City Council. Following a brief discussion, it was considered beneficial to offer fewer bursaries of greater amounts rather than more bursaries of lower amounts.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to approve in principle the concept of establishing a bursary system of about £3,000 per annum for students undertaking Bangor-relevant primary research.

107/23 PLANNING APPLICATIONS.

i. C23/1024/11/LL - Application to divide ground floor shop to create new residential flat and expand shop - 304 High Street.

Objection – on the grounds of density. If successful there would be some nine bedrooms in this premises. Rooms, especially the kitchen are very small and the occupants would be serviced by only two bathrooms.

ii. C24/0002/11/DY - Application to demolish single-storey extension and construct a two-storey extension with off-road parking at 60 Ffordd Ffriddoedd, Bangor.

No objection

iii. C23/0894/11/LL Application to install external decking outside The Boatyard, Ffordd Garth, Bangor.

Objection – on the grounds of noise, litter and increased danger on Garth Road. This application establishes an outside seating area for the public house. It is believed that similar applications have previously been rejected and the City Council has the same concerns as in the past. Also, this application removes a significant portion of the car park. Therefore, when busy it will be difficult for vehicles to turn around resulting in vehicles being forced to reverse out onto Garth Road. Deliveries will also be an issue which would cause greater traffic congestion and reduced safety.

The meeting ended at 7.35 pm

CYFARWYDDWR DINESIG – Martin Hanks – CITY DIRECTOR