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Minutes of the remote meeting of the **City Council**, held via Zoom video-conferencing on **Monday 13th December 2021** at 6.30pm.

PRESENT: - The Deputy Mayor Councillor Gwynant Roberts (Chair)

Councillors : Les Day, Medwyn Hughes, Elin Walker Jones (left the meeting at 8.13pm), John Wynn Jones, John Martin (left the meeting at 7.48pm), Enid Parry, Nigel Pickavance, Gareth Roberts, George Turner, John Wyn Williams (joined the meeting at 6.41pm), Huw Wyn Jones (left the meeting at 6.55pm), Kieran Jones

Officers:- Iwan Williams (City Director), Delyth Davies (Translator), Sioned Jones (Minutes)

213/21 APOLOGIES

Their Worship the Mayor, Cllr Owen Hurcum, Cllrs Mair Rowlands, Luke Tugwell

214/21 DECLARATION OF FINANCIAL INTEREST OR PERSONAL CONNECTION

Cllr John Wynn Jones did not participate in agenda item 222/21 FINANCIAL SUPPORT PROPOSALS: URDD EISTEDDFOD 2022, GORIAD.

215/21 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Dr Glynne Roberts for agenda item 218/21 only.

216/21 ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Deputy Mayor referred to the fact that this was the City Director's last meeting. He thanked the City Director for all his work and said that everyone was grateful for what he had achieved and had enjoyed working with him. They were sorry to see him go. As the Mayor was absent this evening, they had also written a note of thanks.

There had been no response to the advertisement for an interim Clerk. The City Director Appointment Task and Finish group would meet this week to address the issue.

217/21 MINUTES

a) Planning Committee – 6 September 2021- To approve as a correct record

APPROVED

b) Council – 6 September 2021- To approve as a correct record

APPROVED

c) Assets, Resources and Projects Committee - 27 September 2021 – To approve as a correct record

APPROVED

d) Governance, Staffing and Finance Committee - 18 October 2021 – To approve as a correct record

APPROVED

e) Extraordinary meeting of the Council – 15 November 2021 - To approve as a correct record

APPROVED

f) Assets, Resources and Projects Committee - 22 November 2021 – To approve as a correct record

APPROVED

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g) Nantporth Sub-Committee – 6 December 2021 – To approve as a correct record
APPROVED

218/21 COLLABORATION WITH BWYD DA BANGOR: DISCUSSION

Dr Glynne Roberts, from Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB) and a member of the Bwyd Da Bangor steering group, gave a brief presentation on the scheme. He explained that it was a Partnership between Penrhyn House, BCUHB, Gwynedd Council, Adra, North Wales Housing, Coleg Menai and Bangor University. The City Council were also represented on the Steering Group. Preparation work had been ongoing for 3-4 years. The scheme had been led by Penrhyn House, and had evolved from a day centre for the homeless to creating a training café for people coming out of homelessness or overcoming addiction through the Penrhyn House recovery programme.

As well as bringing people back into employment, this is also an environmental scheme that helps to tackle food waste. Surplus food from supermarkets is redistributed, and there is also an emphasis on using local produce.

The people being trained in the café will then be able to go on to do apprenticeships and NVQs in Coleg Menai. They will have a taste of all aspects of the work and will be supervised in a place they feel confident in.

Dr Glynne stressed that this is a prime site by the clock in Bangor and while the aim is to provide opportunities for those furthest away from the job market, the café aspires to provide food of a very high standard always, making it an eating place of choice for its clients.

Members congratulated Dr Glynne on the venture and those members who had been to Bwyd Da Bangor praised the food and service. It was asked how the City Council can help the scheme. Dr Glynne replied that the Council could help to promote the café on any promotional material. They could also exert their influence if any issues were to arise around the café, and their help in getting rid of the phone kiosks outside had been greatly appreciated.

Some councillors asked whether the scheme could be extended to help young people with special needs, e.g. those on the autistic spectrum. It was advised that they needed first to see how the two sets of people already employed will work together. Cllrs Pickavance and Walker Jones agreed to talk to Gwynedd Council about the possibility of other schemes for those young people who cannot access usual work placements.

Although the café is generating income it will always be looking for additional income, and again Council contributions would be welcome.

219/21 COUNCIL ASSETS: CITY DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

A paper had been distributed before the meeting. There was one amendment – the date of Wynne 'Elvis' Roberts's appearance on the Pier is 22 December not the 21st. Some items needed approval from the Council:

- (i) Request from a member of the public to plant daffodils in Ashley Jones fields- APPROVED
- (ii) Additional payment to Council outdoor technicians for opening and closing the Pier 27-31 December while they are on leave – APPROVED

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(iii) Include playing area in the Pier Restaurant lease transfer. This would involve removing the old playing equipment, give the new owners the flexibility to place tables, set up a kiosk to sell drinks/ice-cream. This would remove the responsibility for the asset from the Council. There followed a discussion about this proposal:

Members were sorry to see the play area disappear but some acknowledged that the equipment was in very poor condition and would be a burden on the Council. Some ideas were suggested with regard to accommodating another play area near the Pier.

Cllr Pickavance wished to express his strong opposition to this proposal. He was happy to transfer the outside area but not to lose another play area. He felt that people would be very unhappy to lose the facility. If it's a maintenance problem then the Council should deal with it.

Cllr Parry also wished her objection to be noted, she felt strongly that the play area should definitely remain where it was.

The question was raised about the terms of the transfer with regard to the fact that the new owners would be gaining extra land.

IT WAS RESOLVED to reject the proposal as it stands until members are happy with the terms of the lease.

220/21 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS INSTALLATION: CITY DIRECTOR UPDATE

The City Director explained that lengthy discussions had taken place over several months between himself and the Mayor and Bangor First about the Christmas lights. It was agreed that the lights would extend to Upper Bangor this year. The City Council would pay half the sum needed and Bangor First would contribute the other half. The City Council's operatives could install the ones on the high street and an external contractor would install the rest. However, Bangor First had pulled out of this project late on in mid-November, a month after a three year contract had been agreed with a lighting company. As a result, the Mayor has written to Bangor First to express their disappointment, and to ask them to pay half the costs, as agreed from the beginning.

221/21 WELSH GOVERNMENT PLACE MAKING GRANT APPLICATION: CITY DIRECTOR UPDATE

The City Director said that the application is moving forward, the Council Projects Officer will be leading on this from now on and working with a former Welsh Government civil servant. The money to improve the city centre, a £50k application, will need to be spent by the end of March. A small project management team needs to be set up to keep an eye on developments and he invited expressions of interest from members.

IT WAS RESOLVED that the following members join the group: Councillors Medwyn Hughes, Enid Parry, Nigel Pickavance, Gareth Roberts.

222/21 FINANCIAL SUPPORT PROPOSALS: URDD EISTEDDFOD 2022, GORIAD

Cllr John Wynn Jones left the room at this point.

Members advised that this item was usually discussed at the January meeting. However, they also felt that there was a lack of guidelines to help with discussions e.g. how much to

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donate, setting a cap, eligibility of applicants. Members believed that guidelines had been drawn up in the past.

IT WAS RESOLVED to defer this item to the meeting of the Governance, Staffing and Finance Committee on 24 January. Also to try and find the guidelines and circulate them before the meeting.

223/21 COMMUNITY FOUNDATION WALES: BANGOR CITY COUNCIL CHARITY ACCOUNTS PROPOSAL

The Council has two fairly old accounts, one called the Bangor Community Service Club Fund; the other was the Welcome Home Fund. The second one had been set up for soldiers coming back to Bangor from the two World Wars. As the funds were no longer being used, the Charity Commission had inquired about them. They suggested that the Council work with Community Foundation Wales (CFW) who can advise about repurposing the money. The money would have to be used for the benefit of Bangor people, not for Council work. CFW would require 10% of the funds and also an annual management fee.

IT WAS RESOLVED not to go with CFW but to draw up a strategy for dealing with this and for the Council to spend the funds directly. Members mentioned that the Welcome Home Fund could be used to help veterans in Bangor, and could also support the work of the Royal British Legion. The Governance, Staffing and Finance Committee to discuss further.

224/21 INVOICES FOR PAYMENT AND COUNCIL FINANCES: CITY DIRECTOR UPDATE.

Invoices to the total of £58,722.42 were approved for payment. The City Director explained that the reason for the higher than usual total was that the Pier Linkspan project has now been completed and the invoices submitted.

225/21 REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY AND CIVIC EVENTS: DISCUSSION

Some members who had been present in the Remembrance Sunday commemorations had been unhappy with an apparent lack of organisation and failure to follow protocol on the day. Since then, meetings had been held with the Sub-Dean of the Cathedral and points made for the future.

Members felt that the ceremonial side of the Council needed clarifying. It was suggested to set up a sub-group that would consider events such as the Remembrance Sunday but also other ceremonial issues, e.g. the mace-bearer's role. Cllrs Medwyn Hughes and Les Day gave their names forward for this sub-group that would also include other bodies, and possibly members of the public.

The meeting came to an end at 8.20 pm

CITY DIRECTOR– Iwan Williams – CYFARWYDDWR DINESIG