

Towyn & Kinmel Bay Town Council

Minutes of the Full Council – (Hybrid Meeting) held on Monday 14th November, 2022
at 7:00pm

Present Cllrs: G Corry (Mayor), L Formston, L Gledhill, B Griffiths, L Griffiths, M Jones, A Macauley, B McLoughlin, D Mulvaney, K Redhead, M Smith & N Smith

Clerk: Dylan Thomas

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs T Bibby and D Johnson. Cllr L Knightly was absent without apology.

2. Declarations of Interest

Cllr K Redhead declared a prejudicial interest in agenda item 18 – Drone Photography as her husband is a drone photographer, and undertook some drone photography work for the Town Council in 2021, she withdrew from the meeting whilst this agenda item was being discussed.

Cllrs B Griffiths and L Griffiths both declared a prejudicial interest in agenda item 25 – Y Morfa Height Barrier as they are both volunteers at Y Morfa, they both withdrew from the meeting whilst this agenda item was being discussed.

3. Public Participation

There was one local resident at the meeting, as she wished to observe/address the Council regarding agenda item 6 – Chester Avenue Woodland.

4. Minutes

Resolved that: -

The minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 07/11/2022, be approved and signed.

5. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the above mentioned meeting minutes.

6. Chester Avenue Woodland

Noted the resident's concerns regarding the vandalism issues at the Chester Avenue woodland.

The Mayor thanked the resident for her hard work trying to improve the woodland for our residents, and also for taking the time to attend tonight's meeting to update the Council regarding the vandalism issues in the Chester Avenue woodland.

Cllr K Redhead said that whilst she was disappointed regarding the vandalism at the woodland, she felt that the majority of the objectives for the woodland have been achieved, such as the two local schools using the woodland for nature walks, litter picks and an outside classroom.

Noted

a) The report prepared by Cllr B Griffiths regarding the woodland.

b) The proposed site meeting arranged for 15/11/2022, between Town Councillors, Basket Weavers, Llais Y Goedwig and Cartefi Conwy representatives has been postponed until December.

c) Noted that the Llais Y Goedwig representative had completed an informal tree review/report at the woodland. The woodland has excellent species diversity, but is in need of greater age structure, as most of the trees are the same age.

The representative has suggested that the damaged and trees in poor condition are removed, and that the gaps are replanted with saplings species as follows: -

4 x Hazel, 4 x Rowan, 4 x Crab Apple, 4 x Sessile Oak and 4 x Downy Birch.

He has suggested that the saplings are not guarded, as it will draw attention to them. Apparently the trees should be available from the 'Plant a tree for me initiative', and therefore he will source the saplings for the Town Council.

Resolved that: - In view of the vandalism issues at the woodland, the Clerk would explore introducing CCTV Cameras to the woodland, and report back at a suitable future Town Council meeting.

7. Grass Cutting at Park Avenue

Noted that the grassed area on Park Avenue is a designated and signed Conwy CBC biosite, to be maintained and enhanced as meadow grassland for the benefit of local wildlife, particularly wildflowers and pollinators.

Resolved that: - Given that it is a Conwy CBC designated and signed biosite, the Town Council feels that the grass cutting/maintenance of this area, is best left to Conwy CBC.

8. Trees Outside TKBTC Community Resource Centre

Noted that the trees have been re-inspected, and Conwy CBC have now decided to remove any dead branches, and resurvey them again next year, rather than to fell them now, as the ash dieback disease does not appear to be as advanced, as first thought.

9. Y Ddol – Holes in Fence

Noted that door to door consultations were undertaken by Cartrefi Conwy Officers at the Chester Avenue Estate last week (approx. 100 plus responses/suggestions received from residents), and that Cartrefi Conwy will advise the Town Council of the consultation results/proposed way forward over the course of the next few weeks.

10. Redeeming our Communities

Noted the report prepared by Cllr B Griffiths, relating to the event which was held in Towyn on 27/09/2022.

11. Bus Shelters

Resolved that: -

a) The quotes received from Conwy CBC bus shelter contractors to refurbish the Chester Avenue and Seagull bus shelters, for the sum of £4,794.14 plus vat be approved, as it was deemed to be good value and the quote was the only quote which Conwy CBC could obtain.

b) The payment, once the work has been completed, would be paid out the funds which Conwy CBC hold on the Town Council's behalf for the cleaning, maintenance/refurbishment and replacement of the 5 TKBTC bus shelters.

Noted that: -

a) The balance of the funds held by Conwy CBC on the Town Council's behalf was £8,080.75, as at the 20/10/2022.

b) Conwy CBC are presently obtaining a quote to replace the replacement bus shelter which was recently installed by Conwy CBC contractors, as part of an Active Travel Project, as the bus shelter is very poorly constructed, and is not fit for purpose.

c) The Town Council is extremely disappointed with the recently installed replacement bus shelter.

Resolved that: - Given that the original replaced TKBTC bus shelter was in a poor state of repair, and TKBTC would have had to fully refurbish/replace the shelter at some stage, the Town Council would reluctantly agree in principle to 50/50 match funding of a suitable replacement bus shelter, as the recently installed shelter is not fit for purpose.

12. Q4 Internal Tree Survey

Noted the completed Q4 Internal Tree Survey for 2022.

13. Owain Glyndwr Abandoned Play Area

Noted the update from Conwy CBC regarding the proposed transfer of ownership from Conwy CBC to TKBTC.

14. Proposed Flood Improvements Consultation

Noted the update/report from Cllr B Griffiths regarding the Councillor meeting he attended at Abergele Town Council on Thursday 02/11/2022.

Noted that the Conwy CBC public drop in event/consultation relating to the proposed Flood Improvements will be held at the TKBTC Community Resource Centre on Thursday 08/12/2022.

Noted the Clerk will request a poster for the proposed event from Conwy CBC, so that the Town Council/members can actively promote the event.

The Chairman requested that it be noted in the meeting minutes that he is concerned that the proposed improved sea defences, still leave two areas vulnerable to flooding (Woodside Avenue area of Sandy Cove and Residential properties in the Mayquay area).

15. Welcome Signs

Noted that the update regarding the signs which Conwy CBC contractors are presently installing, and that there have been a number of issues with the signs (spelling/water ingress/faded writing and sign posts/signs not straight/level).

Noted that the Town Council will not pay any invoices for the signs, until the identified issues have been fully resolved.

16. Conwy CBC Additional Bins

Conwy CBC have confirmed that they are happy to install the proposed 12 additional litter bins, subject to them not becoming Conwy CBC maintenance assets, and therefore any future replacement/relocation costs will need to be covered by TKBTC.

Resolved that: -

a) The estimated/provisional quote from Conwy CBC for £6,700 be approved as it is considered to be good value for money.

b) A budget of £7,500 will be marked in 2022-23 to cover the cost of the proposed additional Conwy CBC litter bins.

17. Roundabouts on St Asaph Avenue

Noted the large number of issues with the mini roundabouts, especially from the residents who live near/on the mini roundabouts.

Noted that the Conwy CBC Traffic Manager has agreed to remove the mini roundabouts on St Asaph Avenue, the next time that the road is resurfaced.

Noted that Cllrs B Griffiths and G Corry are concerned that there will be the same issues on this road, regardless of there being mini roundabouts or not on St Asaph Avenue, as the speed/volume of traffic will not change.

Cllr G Corry stated that he felt that Conwy CBC should complete a full impact assessment before any decision is made to remove the mini roundabouts.

Noted that the height of the fence at 2 Denbigh Circle continues to be an issue, but apparently Conwy CBC have no powers to enforce the householder to remove/reduce the fence to a more appropriate height.

Noted the email received from the resident regarding the main roundabout (Tir Llwyd roundabout), and that the resident has held site meetings with Conwy CBC Officers to discuss his concerns/issues.

Resolved that: - In an attempt to reduce the speed of the traffic on St Asaph Avenue, the Clerk will contact Conwy CBC to ask if they would consider installing two additional speed sensory cameras, if the Town Council contributed towards the costs involved (one by the Park Avenue Junction and one by the Bronwen Avenue Junction, both heading in a southerly direction).

18. Drone Photography

Resolved that: - The 2022-23 Drone Photography budget of £300 be cancelled, and that the Town Council look to review the position in 2023-24.

19. Remembrance Bench

Resolved that: - The Town Council install an additional remembrance Day Bench in the Square in Kinmel Bay, on the existing base next to the Conwy CBC car park across the road from the Doctors Surgery, at an estimated cost of £1,900, which would be paid out of the Remembrance/Bench Budgets for 2022-23.

20. Defibrillators

Noted that Conwy CBC have given their consent for a defibrillator and defibrillator cabinet to be installed in Tir Prince Park.

Resolved that: - The Clerk will obtain quotes for a power supply, from the existing power supply for the fountains, to the wooden bridge by the pond.

21. Mass Bulb Planting

Noted that the 2022 mass bulb planting had been completed in Tir Prince Park, Llys Madoc grass verges, and the grass verge on St Asaph Avenue, across the road to the Kinmel Bay Church.

22. Community Skip Event

Noted that whilst the recent community skip event had been successful at the Kinmel Bay Community Centre, the skip was only half full.

Resolved that: - A skip event would be held at the Kinmel Bay Church car park in late January 2023.

Noted that Cartrefi Conwy have indicated that they are keen to be involved in a future skip event at Chester Avenue, and that they will look to fully support and contribute towards the cost of the event.

23. Playgrounds

Noted that the awaited quotes/plans for additional toddler related play equipment for the Owain Glyndwr park have still not been received from Conwy CBC, and therefore this agenda item will be deferred to the Full Town Council meeting on Wednesday 23/11/2022.

24. Risk Assessments for Insurance Purposes

Resolved that: - The completed 2022 risk assessments and action plans for insurance purposes be approved, as presented/explained by the Clerk.

Cllr B Griffiths and L Griffiths left the meeting early at 20:45

25. Y Morfa Height Barrier

Noted that there has been a further delay with the proposed installation of the height barrier, and that it will now be installed in mid-January 2023.

26. 2022-23 Environmental Improvements Work Schedule

Noted the updated schedule, and noted that the Clerk has negotiated a £1,913.12 reduction with the Town Councils main groundwork contractor (Greenfingers) for 2022-23, in view of the ongoing issues with grass cutting and required works not being completed, as per the contract.

27. Conwy County Borough Council Updates/Reports

Cllr N Smith advised that Conwy CBC are in for a rough ride for the next 3 to 4 years, due to funding shortfall issues.

As a result of the present funding shortfall/constraints Cllr N Smith is concerned that the proposed Flood Defence Improvements may be delayed/impacted.

Cllr M Smith mentioned that Social Care within Conwy will be greatly impacted by the funding shortfall/constraints moving forward.

The County Councillors advised that the proposed development on the Tir Llwyd Industrial Estate is still subject to embargo, and have been assured that they will update the Town Councillors as soon as the embargo is lifted.

Meeting Closed 20:55

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Signed by the Chairman of the next Full Council meeting 23/11/2022.