

Towyn & Kinmel Bay Town Council

Minutes of the Full Council – (Hybrid Meeting) held on Monday 12th June, 2023 at 7:00pm

Present Cllrs: T Bibby, L Formston (Mayor), B Griffiths, L Griffiths, D Johnson, M Jones, L Knightly, A Macauley, B McLoughlin, K Redhead, M Smith & N Smith

Clerk: Dylan Thomas

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr D Mulvaney. Cllrs G Corry and L Gledhill were absent without apology.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest.

3. Public Participation

There were no applications from the public to address the Council.

4. Minutes

Resolved that: -

The minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 07/06/2023, be approved and signed.

5. Matters Arising

230607-26. Mass Bulb Planting

At last Wednesday's meeting the members resolved to approve a quote for £8,100 from Lubbe & Sons for the planting of 300 square meters of crocus bulbs. (Cost £27 per square meter).

Normally, for amounts in excess of £7500, to comply with our Financial Regulations, we require a minimum of THREE quotes, however the Financial Regulations state that we don't need three quotes for specialist services.

Before I placed the order, I checked with OVW to ensure that mass bulb planting qualifies as a specialised service, under the Wales Audit/Welsh Government guidelines.

OVW advised that they would have thought that there would be other specialist companies in the market that could be invited to quote for this work, and it might be a preferred option to test the market to assess what represents best value.

They went on to say: - If there are special reasons as to why the single quote is preferred such as experience of already using the company, the recommendation from the County Borough Council, and also time factors - It would in their view be reasonable for the Council to suspend its Financial Regulations to enable the single quotation to be

accepted. The resolution to suspend Financial Regulations would need to include detailed reference to the rationale as to why this approach was adopted.

I spoke to Fraser at Lubbe today, and he has confirmed that they are the only company in the UK that provides this service, apparently there is a company in Holland and one in Poland which provide a similar service, however the ferry costs alone would make their quotes uncompetitive, even if they were interested/prepared to quote.

I asked Fraser that given we are repeat customers with orders placed the last three years running, would he consider a loyalty discount. Fraser has agreed that he will provide the bulbs at £24.95 per square meter, which amounts to £7,485, a saving of £615, if the order is placed within the next seven days.

Resolved that: - The Clerk contacts Lubbe & Sons to confirm the order for 300 square meters of mass crocus bulb planting, at the reduced cost of £24.95 per square foot/Total cost £7,485 plus VAT.

Noted that the revised quote of £7,485 will need to be formally approved at the next Full Town Council meeting which is on 26/7/2023.

6. Payments & Receipts

Resolved that: - The list of payments and receipts for the period 01/04/23 to 31/05/23, which has been fully reviewed and signed by the Clerk and Cllr M Jones (Appointed Finance Councillor) be approved as presented by the Clerk, and be signed by the Chairman.

7. 2023-24 Budget Monitoring Report

Resolved that: - The 3 x 2023-24 year to date budget monitoring reports as at 31/05/2023, including one with explanations for reportable/notable variances, be approved as presented and explained by the Clerk.

8. Bank Reconciliations

Resolved that: - The balances as at 30/04/2023 and 31/05/2023, which have been fully reviewed and signed by the Clerk and Cllr M Jones (Appointed Finance Councillor) be approved as presented by the Clerk, and be signed by the Chairman.

9. 2023-24 Proposed Budget Changes

Resolved that: - The proposed budget changes for 2023-24, be approved as explained by the Clerk.

10. Draft 2022-23 Town Council Annual Report

Resolved that: - The draft 2022-23 Town Council Annual Report be approved.

11. Community Support Expenditure

Noted the updated 2023-24 Community Support Expenditure Report which presently stands at £841.30.

Cllr L Knightly joined the meeting late at 19:15.

12. Community Awards

Resolved to defer agreeing a date for the 2023 Community Awards Event until later in the year, and in the mean-time nominations will be invited via the TKBTC Website and Facebook page.

13. Civic Service

Noted that the 2023 Civic Service will be held on 10th September at St Mary's Church, Towyn (provisional venue, pending confirmation from the Chair).

14. Grants

Resolved that the following Grant be approved: -

- **Approx. £650 – Sandy Cove Residents Association for 30 Fruit Trees for the greens at Sandy Cove.**

Noted that the Chairman of Sandy Cove Residents Association has confirmed that the association have obtain permission for the trees to be planted, from the Charity who own the land.

Noted that the Town Council will purchase the 30 Fruit trees, stakes and tree ties in November, as the trees will be bigger and there will be more choice of varieties at that time of year.

Noted that the Clerk will ask the Tree Contractor to ensure that the trees supplied are suitable for planting close to the sea.

15. Past Mayors Medals

Resolved that: -

1) 10 Medals will be purchased from Fattorini at a cost of £222.53 (Ex VAT) plus postage per medal. Whilst it was the only quote received, it was considered to be excellent value for money, and Fattorini have previously supplied medals to the Town Council, and they hold a proof on file.

2) That a budget of £2,250 will be marked in the 2023-24 budget to cover the cost of the medals.

16. UK Prosperity Funds

Noted that Conwy CBC, have added a link on their website for the UK Prosperity Funds.

17. Conwy & Denbighshire Public Service Board – 2023-28 Local Well-being Plan

Noted the recently approved Conwy & Denbighshire Public Service Board 2023--28 Local Well-Being Plan.

18. School Budgets 2023-24

Noted that the members are disappointed that it has taken over 2 months, to receive the response from Conwy CBC.

Noted the response from the Conwy CBC Leader (Cllr Charlie McCoubrey) regarding the Town Councils concerns/observations regarding the Conwy School Budgets for 2023-24.

19. RBL (Abergele Branch) 100th Birthday

Noted that the pennant has been ordered, and that the Mayor is possibly looking to present it to the Local RBL Branch at the Towyn & Kinmel Bay Town Council Civic Service in September.

20. Members Allowances & Expenses paid in 2022-23

Noted the members allowances and expenses paid in 2022-23.

21. Towyn and Kinmel Bay Place Plan

Noted that the Conwy CBC Public Consultation has now been completed, and that there were only 4 comments received, all of which were supportive of the Place Plan.

Noted that the Towyn and Kinmel Bay Place Plan Supplementary Planning Guidance will now be recommended for adoption by Conwy CBC, via their political process.

22. PFR Work Schedule for 2023-24

Noted the updated PFR work related Work Schedule for 2023-24.

23. Conwy County Borough Councillor Updates/Reports

Given that the County Councillors provided an update at last Wednesday's Full Council meeting, there was little further to report.

Cllr M Smith advised that he had recently attended a Governors meeting.

Cllr K Redhead advised that she had been in contact with the Conwy CBC Ecologist, regarding the trees which they planted on St Asaph Avenue last week, as given the recent dry weather, they need watering.

Meeting Closed: 19:47

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Signed by the Chairman of the next Full Council meeting on 26/07/2023.