

Towyn & Kinmel Bay Town Council

Minutes of the Full Council – (Hybrid Meeting) held on Wednesday 3rd January, 2024 at 7:00pm

Present Cllrs: T Bibby, G Corry, L Formston (Mayor), 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 Cllr D Johnson. Cllr L Knightly was absent without apology.

2. Declarations of Interest

Cllr K Redhead declared a prejudicial interest in agenda item 10 - Planning, as she is a member of the Planning Committee at Conwy CBC and she withdrew from the meeting whilst this agenda item was being discussed.

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 04/12/2023, be approved and signed.

5. Matters Arising

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

6. Proposed Transfer of Assets/Services and Requests for Financial Support from Conwy CBC

Noted that: -

a) Cllr B McLoughlin and the Clerk, had attended a meeting with the CCBC Officer who is responsible for the Conwy CBC public toilets, on 18/12/2023.

b) The portaloos on Sandbank Road are being removed by Conwy CBC, and it is unlikely that they will be re-installed, as Conwy CBC have been covering the significant additional running costs for the portaloos from their other budget lines which they can't sustain.

c) That it's unlikely that Conwy CBC will re-open the public toilets on Sandbank Road as whilst they have applied for a grant to replace the toilets, they are not too confident that it will be approved, and due to the financial constraints at Conwy CBC, they don't have the required funds to refurbish/replace, unless the grant is approved.

d) If Conwy CBC do manage to refurbish/replace the public toilets, they will be looking to transfer ownership from Conwy CBC to the Town Council.

Noted that: -

No further formal communication has been received from Conwy CBC regarding the Proposed Transfer of Assets/Services and Requests for Financial Support from Conwy CBC.

7. Projects

Resolved that: -

The Proposed Projects and Budgets for 2024-25, which were fully discussed/reviewed and provisionally approved in the Full Town Council meeting which was held on 04/12/2023, be approved (Total Projects Budget for 2024-25 £44,010.00).

8. Budgets

Resolved that: -

a) The proposed budget changes for 2023-24 be approved, as presented and explained by the Clerk.

b) The proposed budgets for 2024-25 be approved, as presented and explained by the Clerk (Revenue Expenditure Budget set at £322,191, and the Income Budget set at £27,035, which results in a Net Revenue figure of £295,156).

c) The draft three-year budget forecast/report (2024-25, 2025-26 & 2026-2027), be approved as presented and explained by the Clerk.

CLlr N Smith joined the meeting late at 19:15 (remote attendance).

9. Precept

Resolved that: - The Precept for 2024-25 be slightly reduced to £253,549 (2023-24 Precept £254,069), which would result in a Band D equivalent of £78.78.

A number of the Councillors requested that it be recorded in the meeting minutes, that it is extremely important that the Ear Marked Reserve Balances are fully reviewed, as part of the Annual Precept/Budget Calculations.

10. Planning

0/51281

Proposed change of use of existing A1 caravan information centre building (restricted to caravan sales use by virtue of planning permission 0/37285) to an A1 Pharmacy use, along with associated works.

Resolved that: - No Objection

0/51314

Demolition of existing detached bungalow and erection of pair semi-detached bungalows.

Resolved that: - No Objection

CLlr G Corry asked that it be recorded in the meeting minutes that he abstained from voting on planning application 0/51314.

11. 2024-25 Salary Related Budgets Review

Resolved that: -

a) The Proposed Salary Related Budgets for 2024-25, which have been fully reviewed and recommended by the HR Committee, and include the Proposed Employment of a Deputy Clerk with effect from 01/04/2024, be approved.

b) The Agreed Salary Related Budgets for 2024-25, be signed by both the Chair of Full Council, and the Appointed Financial Councillor, and be witnessed by the Clerk.

12. Staffing Review

Resolved that: - The proposed recruitment of a Deputy Clerk with effect from 01/04/2024, be approved.

13. Permanent Christmas Trees

Resolved that: - The quote to replace the wind damaged tree at Kinmel Bay Church would not be approved.

CLlr B McLoughlin asked that it be recorded in the meeting minutes that she voted against a replacement tree being planted, as she is concerned that the replacement tree will also be damaged by the wind/subject to wind burn.

CLlrs L Gledhill & M Smith asked that it be recorded in the meeting minutes, that they abstained from voting on this agenda item.

14. Conwy CBC Financial Pressures

Noted: -

a) The letter received from the Leader of Conwy CBC advising the Town Council of the difficult financial challenges faced by Conwy CBC.

b) The report received from the Leader of Conwy CBC, which was presented to the Conwy CBC Cabinet on 12/12/2023.

15. St Asaph Avenue Roundabout

Noted the report prepared by CLlr B Griffiths, which questions Conwy CBC decision to remove the mini roundabouts on St Asaph Avenue, as part of the resurfacing scheme, (which is due to commence on Monday 15/01/2024), without any consultation with the Town Council and/or the public.

Noted the Copy of the email which CLlr T Bibby had sent to the Conwy CBC Head of ERF and the Conwy CBC Roads and Infrastructure Manager. CLlr T Bibby is concerned that there has been no Public Consultation and/or advanced notice from our Local Conwy CBC Elected Members that they have given their backing to not reinstate the mini roundabouts after the proposed resurfacing work is completed.

The members debated the benefits and disadvantages of the mini roundabouts being removed, and there were some strong views to remove the roundabouts, and also some strong views for all or part of the roundabouts to be reinstated after the resurfacing work had been completed.

CLlr G Corry requested that it be recorded in the meeting minutes that he had attended various meetings with Conwy CBC Highway Officers/Engineers whilst he was a Conwy CBC County Councillor, and the Conwy CBC Engineers had advised him that Conwy CBC could not remove the mini roundabouts without the relevant formal prior authority from the Welsh Government.

Proposal One - That the Clerk writes to Conwy CBC to request that the Public and the Town Council are consulted regarding Conwy CBC intention not to reinstate the mini roundabouts once the resurfacing work has been completed (Proposed by CLlr B Griffiths – Not Seconded, as a seconder was not requested by the Chairman).

Proposal Two - That the Town Council do not write to Conwy CBC, and that we allow the work to go ahead as scheduled (Proposed by CLlr N Smith and Seconded by CLlr L Gledhill).

Cllr N Smith requested that the voting on this agenda item be recorded in the meeting minutes.

Resolved that: -

The Town Council will not write to Conwy CBC, and that we allow the work to go ahead as scheduled on the week commencing Monday 15/01/2024.

Voting - For 7 (Cllrs A Macauley, M Smith, N Smith, L Gledhill, L Formston, D Mulvaney and K Redhead) Against 4 (Cllrs B Griffiths, L Griffiths, T Bibby & M Jones). Abstentions 2 (Cllrs G Corry and B McLoughlin).

16. Conwy County Borough Councillor Updates/Reports

Cllr K Redhead advised that she had very little to update, apart from the 2.2% increase Conwy CBC will receive from the Welsh Government for 2024-25.

Cllr B McLoughlin advised that it looks like all budgets, even the previously protected budgets, will be subject to cuts in 2024-25.

Cllr M Smith advised that he has no updates, apart from that the Conwy CBC meetings will start again in the next week or so, following the Christmas/New Year break.

Cllr N Smith advised that all Conwy CBC departments in monetary terms will actually see an increase in their overall budgets in 2024-25, but there may well be a decrease in the actual percentage.

Meeting Closed: 20:11

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Signed by the Chair of the next Full Council meeting 15/01/2024.