



St Asaph City Council
Cyngor Dinas Llanelwly

Minutes of the Meeting of St Asaph City Council held on Wednesday 13th December 2017 at 7pm in the Community and Council Meeting Rooms, Roe Plas Meadows.

Present: Cllrs: C Hardie (City Mayor), R. Williams (Deputy Mayor), G. D. Hodgkinson BEM, P.G. Morton, J O Roberts, J Ellison, M Gedd, B Williams, P Scott, B Rust, D A Thomas, E Winter

Clerk: Clerk S Pierce

1. Apologies for Absence

- No absentees

2. Declarations of Interest

- Info only, Cllr P Scott has an interest in the Bowling Club

3. Public Participation

Mr Troy Baker was in attendance to address the Council.
Bill Cowie was in attendance in an observation capacity.

4. 39 Steps issue – Mr T Baker

- Colin Hardie provided an overview of the current issue relating to the steps and invited Mr Troy Baker to address the council. Mr Troy Baker provided an overview of the past and current issues. A structural engineer has attended and provided a report regarding the wall, Mr Baker is willing to fix his side of the wall. He has been informed the steps are not up to code/standard also requiring work but there is no one taking ownership or responsibility.
- John Roberts provided an overview of the work that was achieved during 2014, by DCC.
- The steps are not on the definitive map of local footpaths.
- Cllr J Roberts has requested that Cllr D A Thomas investigate this on our behalf within DCC and believes that DCC should take ownership of the footpath but the definition needs to be very clear. There are two ways i.e. “adopted” or closed.
- Cllr C Hardie requested CC & Cllr D A Thomas liaise with DCC to investigate this issue and we will provide Mr T Baker with an update.
- Mr T Baker is seeking authority to continue to do the work to his side of the wall (planning for spring time), Cllr D A Thomas suggested that he can continue with this work.

Cllr Cm Hardie invited the room regarding further questions?
No further comments made.

5. Urgent Matters

- None raised.

6. North Wales Police

Report provided by PCSO D Jones.

- Dawnus pressure washer has been stolen.
- Elderly lady been affected by fraud (via internet), hopefully she will get the money back
- Business on the high street having a few issues, anti-social behavior.
- Bowls club fire, enquiries on going.
- Reminder regarding Christmas drink & drive campaign continues.

Mayor & Cllr invited the room regarding further questions.

Cllr E Winter raised the noise levels from the Muga area, young ladies have now joined the groups and there seems to be a number drinking and smoking.

PCSO D Jones suggested the area will be patrolled as usual and is one of the areas that is patrolled regularly. Cllr C Hardie asked if the yew tree was trimmed more to the sides, would that help? Cllr E Winter suggested it would.

Cllr P Scott – Muga lights need checking – Clerk SP to speak to Mick Dodd regarding the settings.

No further questions were raised.

7. Mayor's Reports

Report provided by Mayor & Cllr C Hardie:

- Has been very hectic and busy period.
- Remembrance Sunday
- Book signing at the Deanery
- X3 charity dinners attended
- Window judging competition – awarded to the Chippery (they were very pleased)
- Winter Fayre was held and was a great success.
- X3 Carol Services and a concert in the Cathedral for the “ten of us” charity.
- We have met with our Solicitor a couple of times to discuss relevant issues
- Discussions with the Clerk are held most days
- Time has been spent regarding the Bowling Club Fire
- NRW flood works meetings and progress updates
- Removed all the banners and signs
- Regarding the flood defense work, not much work has happened over the last week due to the harsh weather but work has recommenced however, will finish shortly for the Christmas period. There are a couple of areas still not defended which will be worked on in the new year.
 - One item discussed was a type of landscaping required by the library, the community association is happy for landscaping to go on there. This area is looking likely for the “Plant” trees campaign.
 - This will be an improvement within the area.
- Afon Elwy, Rotary, NRW and ourselves are all planning on commencing planting very shortly.

Mayor & Cllr C Hardie invited the room regarding further questions:

Cllr Hodgkinson asked if the Orchard has been planted yet? Cllr C Hardie responded it has been fenced ready but the planning is outstanding. Cllr C Hardie explained there will be x30 trees planted. NRW will plant them and they will tend them for the first 5 years.

Cllr E Winter asked if the people of St. Asaph could donate and plant trees in this area? Cllr C Hardie suggested it had been scoped for a certain number of trees so when they are mature they will be spaced appropriately. It is a good suggestion and maybe it's something we can consider in the future.

Nothing further was raised.

8. County Councilors Reports

Cllr P Scott

- Bro Havard – community updates are available. The programme has been delayed until the new year due to the weather. Work shutdown commences on the 19th.
- Site visit to a school in Ruthin
- Bowling Club Fire – significant issue to be resolved.
- Land for Sale, work commenced on 20th Nov
- Resident issues and Queensland house plans have been granted (subject to conditions).
- Chaired the Full Council at Denbighshire
- The brown sign – St. Asaph, Denbigh and Rhuddlan. The sign is looking probable but the cost is still significant at over £150k however, there will be some funding available so the cost impact to St. Asaph is not yet known.

End of Cllr P Scott's report.
Cllr C Hardie invited the room regarding further questions.

Cllr B Rust wanted to thank Cllr P Scott for his recent actions.

Cllr D A Thomas

- Liz Greaves, how can we benefit from being a city and having city status. This is work in progress.

Mayor & Cllr C Hardie invited the room to raise further questions or issues.

No further questions or comments were raised.

9. Minutes

The previous minutes were discussed regarding accuracy (previously Circulated prior to the meeting)

- Accuracy confirmed, Proposer Cllr P Scott, seconded by Cllr R Williams – Cllr Hardie signed as correct.
- Matters arising:
- Note on Item 16: Cllr J Roberts stated he attended the Eisteddfod meeting and St. Asaph needs to raise £8K towards the Eisteddfod costs.
- Note on 19: Correspondence. The Library, the council members need to provide Liz with a list of any special requirements, could all councilors consider what might be useful and provide feedback to Cllr C Hardie asap.
 - Clerk SP provided a brief update regarding the conversation with Liz today.
 - Clerk SP needs to add as an Agenda item for January
 - Clerk SP can we find the minutes from the previous meetings regarding the library in relation to what was previously agreed in readiness for the meeting in January (January 2 years ago).

No further matters were raised.

10. Matters Arising

- None raised.

11. Events Committee

- Mayor & Cllr C Hardie provided a brief synopsis of the Winter Fayre and invited any comments to be noted for next year:
- Cllr D Hodgkinson, noted it was good that notices were up within the Cathedral regarding "filming and photography" as we had an incident regarding an unhappy parent reporting a child being published in a photograph but we could point out the signs that were up around the building.
 - Noted: Perhaps we could talk to the schools next time to understand if there are any issues to be aware of.
- It was reported the food stalls within the Cathedral did a roaring trade and all would like to come back next year.
- It was noted that the fairground rides were not missed.
- It was noted that the event really benefits from being inside the Cathedral and we should keep it that way going forward.
- Cllr B Rust, the "Beulah Brass" band based in North Wales are very good, if we book them early enough in the year then they could attend next year's event.
- The Northop band are also very good.
- Cllr B Rust suggested that all indoor food stalls should pay a fee going forward. Agreed by all.
- The changes that we made for this year's Fayre were much improved and we should keep the format going forward.
- Cllr R Williams asked should we stay with the same date as it does fall on the same date as Denbigh (Clerk SP has spoken to Denbigh who will not move theirs). Should we stay with the same date or move it?
 - The resolve was to stick with the same date.
 - Cllr R Williams suggested booking the event with the Dean now, agreed by all.
- Cllr C Hardie, we donated the stall donations and the tea/coffee table donation to the Cathedral (£275.00).
- Cllr D A Thomas proposed giving the cathedral a further donation of £225 to make the total to £500 so a cheque was made out to the Cathedral and signed this evening.

No further questions or comments were raised.

12. Financial Management

- a) To approve the schedule of payments detailed in Appendix A
 - a. Resolved Cllr D A Thomas and seconded by Cllr B Rust. Schedule of payments approved and signed.
- b) To review the Budget, income and expenditure - to be provided at the meeting
 - a. A Financial pack was provided and reviewed.
- c) Budget meeting - Clerk SP set a meeting for January 8th 7pm – Budget Setting meeting

Cllr C Hardie invited the room to raise further questions or issues.

No further questions or comments were raised.

13. Planning Applications

Application: 46/2017/1098
Proposal: Erection of extension to dwelling
Location: Perthi, Mount Road, St. Asaph
Application Name: Mr & Mrs Austin & Vera Savage
Consultation End Date: 18/12/17

Application: 46/2017/1116
Proposal: Change of use of dwelling to a file storage facility with an ancillary office for a temporary period of 2 years.
Location: The Cottage, Mount Road, St Asaph
Application Name: Kathryn Lee- Williams
Consultation End Date: 11/12/17

No objections for either of the planning applications.

Clerk SP provide to DCC

14. Projects

Projects Update previously circulated and provided within this meeting.

The Project update report was discussed briefly with the following Updates noted:

- The project brief has been previously circulated.
- Council Vacancies will be reviewed in the new year
- Council Social Media. Clerk SP has set up a Council Twitter account which can be utilized. A Facebook page still needs creating and managing going forward (if this is required).
- Muga netting, 10/12/17 – Clerk SP has written to Gareth Williams providing an update regarding the professional quote of £20 plus endeavoring to contact Denbigh golf club to no avail, had the Allotment club have any ideas of their own?
- Play Area Formal Annual Assessment. 06/12/17 – Alan Dymond plans to do the risk assessments on Tuesday December 12th or Wednesday 13th December.
- Bus Shelters, 10/12/17 – Clerk SP still awaiting further detail from Martin Griffiths.
- Spring Gardens Bridge - Outstanding – Following a meeting with the City Council Solicitor, Outcome was for Clerk SP to write a letter to NRW regarding Colin Marriott's concerns to obtain relevant feedback. St. Asaph City Council does not own the land either side the bridge is built from nor has previously assisted with any funding, there has been no reason why NRW would have engaged with St. Asaph city council regarding the replacement as the council has no responsibility for the bridge.
- No Dog fouling signs – Clerk SP has requested a quote from JT & M Signs – await feedback.
- Cllr John Roberts has requested work to be done to the Sports pavilion doors (Andrew Peach) – Outstanding (due to other priorities).

15. Land for Sale

- Cllr C Hardie provided a Monday 11th October Councilor has a set amount of time for x2 minutes to raise any queries or update reports regarding subjects.
- The Project update reports discussed briefly.
- Cllr C Hardie provided an overview of the work to date that has been progressed with several different bodies. (which commenced on November 20th as soon as we were informed).
- Cllr C Hardie informed the group that our solicitor was invited to attend this evening but has had to decline due to illness.
- DCC have logged an objection as they have ownership of some land.
- Cllr C Hardie ran through the options open to the Council, i.e., do nothing or bid.
- Press and radio are all interested in the outcome and they will be looking for a statement this evening following the discussions tonight.
- Cllr P Scott provided an overview regarding feedback from DCC and their stance on the matter.
- Cllr B Williams suggested we do nothing.
- Cllr P Morton suggested it's all about the minerals that are under the ground. Whoever buys this land will have an interest in the minerals below ground.
- Cllr C Hardie – they would still require planning permissions to be able to drill, which would be stopped.
- Cllr E Winter, this has happened before and the relevant costs may escalate in the future and advocates that we enter the auction and make a bid.
- Cllr D A Thomas concurred with Cllr B Williams previous suggestion and we should not enter something that could significantly cost the council, especially with the professional advice we have been given not to.
- Cllr D A Thomas also suggested we have collated all the relevant information.
- Cllr D Hodgkinson suggested that we should be mindful of potential future encroachments on the land and prevent them from happening. (for example, where BT and Co-op is now, this was originally part of the common, we must protect what is there going forward).
- Cllr P Scott – Proposed the council to take our solicitors advice and step back and Cllr D a Thomas seconded. Cllr C Hardie requested a show of hands, stepping back and doing nothing. All of them were in support of doing nothing apart from Cllr E Winter who wished to make a bid for the land.
- Cllr C Hardie stated the person who buys the land can do nothing with it.
- Cllr D A Thomas asked if anyone was going to the auction on Thursday? Cllr P Morton will be attending the auction.
- Cllr C Hardie noted that everyone if they wish can attend the auction but please take note that you are not there on behalf of the St. Asaph City Council so please be mindful of that fact.

16. Bowling Club Fire - Issue

- Cllr C Hardie provided an overview of the bowling club fire issue.
- Cllr P Scott provided an overview of the Loss Adjuster visit and plans for a replacement, but there is lots to do before then:
 - The building will need demolishing.
- Cllr C Hardie asked if the Bowling Club team will be able to project manage the replacement of the bowling club? Cllr P Scott was happy that they could. Cllr C Hardie proposed the bowling club obtain the relevant proposals and work directly with the loss adjuster.
- Clerk SP to speak to the loss adjuster to see if we need his authorisation to demolish the bowling club or can we just get on with it.

17. Correspondence

Cllr J O Roberts provided an overview of the following: Alison Watkins memorial, a pheasant wood carving, can we ask them where would they like to put it and then the council OK it. The carving will be done by the same person who has done all the others (for continuity).

- Noah's ark, unfortunately the Council will not be able to support. Clerk SP to inform.
- Cllr B Rust suggested that the Bowling Club get in touch with NRW to see if they could make any donations.
- Cllr R Williams suggested some young people of St. Asaph would like to get involved regarding the Bowling Club and would like to progress some fund raising to help. Cllr P Scott welcomed this.
- Regarding Village Green feedback requirement, Cllr D a Thomas suggested Councillors review the website details and bring the detail to the council meeting in January. Clerk SP to add to the Agenda for January.

18. Date of the next meeting

Wednesday January 10th 2018

The Meeting Closed at 20:55

Signed
Chairman of the Full Council Meeting held on 10th January 2018