



St Asaph City Council
Cyngor Dinas Llanellwy

Minutes of the Meeting of St Asaph City Council held on 11th December 2019 at 7.00 pm in the Community and Council Meeting Rooms, Roe Plas Meadow.

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

1. Apologies for Absence

Cllr Winter.

2. Declaration of Interest

None

3. Public Participation

None

4. Urgent Matters

None.

5. North Wales Police

Report provided by PCSO Dave Jones:

Neighbourhood dispute in Heol Esgob.

Several incidents of making off at a service station.

Several incidents of shoplifting.

A bicycle was stolen and subsequently found.

Altercation at a Public House.

A couple of cannabis warnings were issued.

A home security reminder was given to lock all doors and windows and keep presents out of sight.

Reminder of the drink drive campaign in December.

The van on Lower Street was reported to the DVLA.

The Mayor invited questions from the room. There were none.

The Mayor thanked the PCSO who left the Chamber.

6. Mayor's Report

Report given by Cllr Scott:

Opened the St Kentigern Fair at Glan Clwyd School.

Attended John Owens, Solicitors, with the Clerk to discuss the Council's property.

Attended VP School where there was a protest about road crossing. A speed indicator is being considered.

Attended the Winter Fair at the Cathedral.

Attended the Chair of DCC's Carol Service at St Mary's Church Denbigh.

The Mayor invited questions from the room.

7. County Councillor Reports

CC & Cllr Thomas:

Looked at Chester Street to check whether any maintenance was required. He was satisfied with conditions so did not progress further.

Chasing up the issue of conkers etc underfoot on Upper Denbigh Road.

A number of meetings have been cancelled including Elwy MAG.

End of Cllr Thomas' report.

CC & Cllr Scott:

Attended Cabinet.

Attended meetings re: Schools, Performance. Scrutiny. Budget, Licensing and Planning.

End of Cllr Scott's report.

8 Minutes

The previous minutes of the meeting 13th November 2019 were discussed regarding accuracy (previously circulated prior to the meeting).

Resolved to accept the minutes as accurate.

9 Matters Arising

Item 9 – the floodlights at the green bridge have been repaired.

Item 9 – correspondence from a resident was discussed requesting that redactions are made to documents in the Council's records.

Resolved that no amendments are made to the City Council's records.

Resolved that all correspondence on this matter is to be put before Full Council.

Item 14 – an updated was given following the Mayor and Clerk’s discussions with John Owens, Solicitors (JOS):

Cllr Scott will sign the declaration re: the Common when complete.

Recommendation from JOS that the Council’s title to Roe Plas Meadow should be registered at the Land registry at a cost of approximately £100 & VAT. Cllr Williams explained the benefits of registration.

Resolved the Clerk should instruct JOS to register the City Council’s title to Roe Plas Meadow.

Confirmed that JOS offer a deed storage facility free of charge.

Resolved the Clerk should deposit the City Council’s documents relating to the title to its properties with JOS.

JOS checked the Land Registry’s database of land titles in relation to the bus stops at Elwy Crescent and Ashly Court:

Plot of land at Elwy Crescent is registered land. In response to enquiries, Denbighshire County Council have confirmed that this land has been in its ownership since 1931. There have been no transfers or disposals.

Resolved that the parcel of land at Elwy Crescent should be removed from the City Council’s Asset Register.

Plot of land at Ashly Court is unregistered land. This is the only parcel of land where the title documents or records cannot be traced. The Clerk will make enquiries with HSBC (previous bankers) in case the deeds are in safe custody. The City Council has maintained this land over a number of years.

Resolved the Clerk should give instructions to JOS to register the City Council’s interest in this plot of land at Ashly Court if enquiries at HSBC are not successful.

Resolved that Cllr Scott is to sign any declaration necessary.

JOS confirmed that the agreements relating to the Bowling Club, Football Club and Allotments were all prepared by them and do protect the City Council’s interests. Nether the Football Club nor the Bowling Club have exclusive possession of the property.

However

The Allotment Society does have exclusive possession. This is the reason for the disparity between the agreements. JOS will review the agreements and see if the Allotment lease can be simplified and how this might be achieved.

Item 17 – Re: MUGA lights. Cllr Cowie confirmed that the timer has been changed so that the lights go off at 9pm. Mick Dodd confirms that cowling is not the best option. The lights have now been turned downwards. The Mayor expressed his thanks to Cllr Cowie and Mick Dodd for all their work in resolving this issue.

Item 17 – BT Kiosk consultation. Cllr Morton confirmed he has received further correspondence from Rick Thompson confirming that the City Council can only have a defibrillator in the adopted kiosk which would be the newer glass type. The Council will await further developments.

10 Financial Management

a) To approve the schedule of Payments.

Payment to D M Jones £1560 relating to Christmas Trees supplied from 2006 to 2018.

The City Council were under the impression the cost of the tree was included in the bill from Mick Dodd each year. There was a discussion regarding the Statute of Limitations and that monies owed from over six years ago are statute-barred.

Resolved that a payment of £720 in relation to trees received from 2013 to 2018 should be made.

The cheque for £1560 is not to be authorised.

Resolved to approve the Payments Schedule (Amended to show adjustments above) – total value £5357.18

b) The Finance Report

(circulated prior to the meeting) was discussed. Final instalment of the precept is due end of December. Net Winter Fair income from stalls was £610.

Resolved that a cheque for £610 in favour of St Asaph Cathedral be approved.

Resolved that costs of £1362 be transferred from the Meeting Room to Contingency budget as this expenditure was not planned in the 2019-2020 budget.

Resolved that the cost of the MUGA lights be allocated to the Contingency budget as provision was made here in the budget for 2019-2020.

Resolved that the cost of room hire for the meeting at Oriel House be allocated from the Contingency budget as this was not planned expenditure.

Resolved the payment to Designweb be paid from the Contingency budget as this was not anticipated in the budget planning for 2019-2020.

The Clerk's expenses include the annual subscription to the SLCC.

Resolved the Clerk can purchase two updated reference books and register for ILCA.

Resolved to approve the Income and Expenditure budget and Finance report.

c) Draft Annual Budget

The draft annual budget and minutes including recommendations from the Policy Resources and Finance (PRF) Committee meeting of 6th December 2019 (circulated prior to the meeting) were discussed. Cllr Scott explained that the Council Tax Base was 1499 for this year, as opposed to 1511 for last year. This was due to a number of empty properties and also a number of anticipated new build properties which had not been completed.

Resolved to approve the Budget for 2020-2021.

Resolved to approve the Precept of £92758. This would result in a cost per household of £61.88, a rise of £3.66 per annum or 7p per week on last year.

11 Planning Applications

a) 46/2019/0997

Works to trees within St Asaph Conservation Area.

Location: Greystones, Cathedral Walk, St Asaph

Applicant: Mr Trevor Williams

Consultation Closing Date: 19th December 2019

Resolved the Clerk should advise Planning Department that the Council has no objections.

12 Biodiversity

The Biodiversity Report was considered by Council. Cllrs Rust and Hardie, the Afon Elwy Environment Group, Natural Resources Wales and Foxons were thanked for their assistance in preparing the report.

Resolved the Biodiversity Report be approved.

Resolved the Biodiversity Report should be published on the website.

13 Open Spaces Commuted Sums

The minutes of the Steering Group mee21st November 2019 were reviewed. Groups and Clubs will be able to make applications for their own projects. E-mail received from Amy Selby at Denbighshire County Council advising that the installation of flagpoles would not be an eligible project for this funding. The Clerk informed the meeting that if Planning Permission was required, this would need to be acquired before making the application.

Cllr Scott suggested that the Steering Group meet again to review the proposed projects and report back to the FCM 8th January 2020.

Open Spaces Steering Group to meet 6th January 2020 at 10 am.

14 Future Objectives

There was a discussion regarding a City Plan. It was agreed the Council should ask the Public for their views, It was agreed the City Council would await the outcome of their Open Spaces applications and then re-visit this subject.

15 LNS Garage

Cllr Hardie gave a report to Council that he was concerned about the condition of the premises, particularly on the High Street. There are approximately thirty vehicles on the forecourt. Cllr Hardie highlighted that, with vehicles being stationary for long periods, there could be seepage of oil and petrol into the sub strata and the river. There were also concerns that, with so many vehicles, there was no room for lorries to be parked in the appropriate place.

Resolved the Clerk should contact Denbighshire County Council and ask them to enforce Planning conditions.

Resolved the Clerk should contact NRW regarding the environmental risks.

16 Events

There was a discussion to de-brief the Council following the recent success of Remembrance Sunday and the Winter Fair, which were both well-received.

Resolved to approve a payment of £100 to Denbigh Music Co-operative.

17 Correspondence

Written statement from Welsh Government re: Local Government and Elections (Wales) Bill – received.

E-mail from Rhian Evans, Denbighshire County Council re: Scrutiny Committees' Annual Report 2018-2019 – received.

E-mail from Rhian Pritchard, Welsh Government, re: A More Equal Wales – Commencing the Socio-economic Duty – received.

Letter from Aled Sion, Urdd re: fundraising – received.

E-mail from Peter McDermott re: Denbighshire Destination – Partnership Invitation. Cllr Thomas would like to attend – awaiting details of February meeting.

The meeting concluded at 8.15 pm

Date of Next Meeting:

Wednesday 8th January 2020 at 7 pm.

Signed

Chairman of the Full Council Meeting held 8th January 2020