St Asaph City Council
Cyngor Dinas Llanelwy

Minutes of the Meeting of St Asaph City Council held on Wednesday 14 September 2016 at 7.00pm in the Community and Council Meeting Rooms, Roe Plas Meadows.

**Present:** Cllrs: J Ellison, M Gedd, C Hardie (City Mayor), G D Hodgkinson BEM, P G Morton, D Owens, B J Rust, P Scott and D A Thomas

**Clerk:** H Stewart BEM

1. **Apologies for Absence**
Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs: P Mitchell (Unwell) and J Roberts (family engagement).

2. **Declarations of Interest**
There were no declarations of interest.

3. **Public Participation**
Mrs. Jackie Jones was in attendance at the meeting to ask the Council to release the £300 bond being held against the Gala Event which was held in August on Roe Plas Meadows.

Mrs. Jones told the Council that everyone who attended seemed to have enjoyed themselves and she did not know of any reason why the Council could not release the money.

The Mayor Cllr Hardie proposed that Agenda Item 18; Gala Compensation Claim be considered after Item 6 so as not to detain Mrs. Jones at the meeting any longer than necessary. All Members agreed.

4. **Urgent Matters**
The report of the External Auditor was noted and the requirement for closer budget monitoring. This would be much more achievable now that the new budget software had been populated and full reports on all expenditure could be produced for each Council Meeting. The Council approved the amending of the figures in Box 3 as indicated by the Auditor.

***RESOLVED that: The report of the External Auditor be noted.***

5. **Mayor's Report**
Even though August may be considered a month for Councils to be in recess the Mayor reported that he had attended numerous functions. These included a couple of civic services and meetings with Oriel House and St Kentigerns about the plans to celebrate the 5th anniversary of receiving City Status.

There had also been a meeting with officers at Denbighshire County Council (DCC), about imposing a weight restriction on HGV's travelling through the High Street. DCC agreed to pursue this with the local police and the Mayor was of the opinion that DCC would support posting such a restriction if there were no issues for the police.

Cllr Hardie said he had enjoyed his Civic Services tremendously as had his grandchildren.

6. **North Wales Police**

July and August are considered one of the busiest periods for experiencing anti-social behavior but PCSO Dave Jones was pleased to report, that there had been no such incidents in the St Asaph area. There had been a few other incidents that required attention including a dispersal order to move more than 36 people on who were camping just beyond the stile on Roe Plas Meadows. Unfortunately the theft of a substantial amount of wood items stolen from the allotments, was attributed to this group having a bonfire.

One good thing worth reporting was that Trading Standards had been involved with the sale of a car for £800 to

a local resident that had on closer inspection, obviously been patched together. Trading Standards involvement resulted in £3000 compensation being paid.

**7. County Councillor Report**

Cllr Owens updated the Council on a few matters and said he was hopeful that the HGV restriction would be implemented but the City Council should keep up the pressure. There was a possibility that the speed restriction in Mount Road might be extended because of the amount of traffic on the Fairholme side of Mount Road.

The use of Livingstone Place as a name linked to the development at HM Stanley was still a matter of concern for Members. Correspondence was being exchanged to ensure the road names suggested by the City Council were being considered.

As part of Cllr Cowie's report he informed the Council that the trial holes on the A525 had revealed a problem with the substrata. Consequently there was a need for more substantial work than the resurfacing planned for October, it could be months before anything is done. There was a delay on imposing the rest of the parking restrictions at Ysgol Esgob Morgan because of "positive" objections from some members of the public.

Cllr Cowie having completed his report, left the meeting at 7.28pm.

**8. Minutes**

***RESOLVED that: The minutes of the meeting held on 13 July 2016 be signed as a correct record.***

The minutes of the 6 September 2016 need amending to show that Cllr Thomas was present and Cllr Hodgkinson BEM had given her apologies because of an accident.

The last sentence of the minutes referring to additional meetings should read "Advisory Group" rather than "Full Council".

***RESOLVED that: the minutes of 6 September 2016 having been amended as above be signed as a correct record.***

**9. Matters Arising**

Cllr Thomas wanted it minuted that he had handed ~~£715~~ £1175 to Clerk after the meeting on 13 July which he had collected from local businesses as a contribution towards the flower baskets.

**10. Environment & Assets Committee**

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 September 2016 were noted. The last sentence of Para 7 needed completing. Cllrs Gedd, Hardie and Scott had inspected the litter and dog bins just before the meeting this evening. This was in preparation of drafting a specification for tendering the contract for emptying these and the grass cutting contract.

Cllr Williams (Deputy Mayor) said that there had been a lot of activity on Facebook about the state of overflowing rubbish bins. A discussion ensued about who owned and emptied all of the bins in the City. No one seemed sure about those bins outside of the contract the City Council had with Glascoed Timber.

**11. Events Committee**

The minutes of the meeting held on 26 July 2016 were noted. It was confirmed that Father Christmas, courtesy of Rotary Club was required for the Winter Fair.

**12. Regeneration Group**

The summary report of the Group's progress had been circulated in advance of this meeting. it was agreed that the vinyl car stickers would be available free of charge and that a letter should be sent to DCC to request funding from the Special Events Grant towards the anniversary celebrations for City Status, Cllr Williams agreed to draft the letter.

Cllr Thomas was keen to point out that there were several omissions from the summary and that it had not been produced by the Clerk as quickly as he had wanted even though he had pointedly asked for it. One of the things missing was the need for a follow up meeting. It was agreed that a follow up would be included on the agenda for the next Events Committee meeting in November.

**1-5 Chester Street** – Loading Bay on the summary report had now been completed.

**13. Financial Management**

A full print out of all income and expenditure for the year to date was provided for all Councillors present at the meeting. These papers would be produced for every Council Meeting so that Councillors were in a position to closely manage the budgets. The papers would also be scrutinised in detail by the Policy, Resource and Finance Committee so that Councillors could become more familiar with the reports.

The £600 funding towards the winter dressing of the bowling green had not been included in any budget provision for this year.

***Resolved that: The payments as presented be approved, including the £300 PB grant previously held as a bond, to the Gala Committee.***

**14. Planning Applications**

There were no objections to any of the planning applications received as listed on the agenda.

**15. Code Of Conduct**

Denbighshire County Council had offered training to the Council on the Code of Conduct. It was agreed that it would be held on Tuesday 1 November at 6.30pm when all councillors were available. Cllr Owens offered his apologies but stated that as a County Councilor he received regular training on the Code.

**16. Bowling Green**

Cllr Scott declared an interest in this item, completed a form and left the meeting.

There were no objections to the agreement as presented, which in fact needed renewing for another 3 years. The £600 payment towards the winter dressing for the green should be included in the agreement. The Council approved the proposals by NRW to replace the hedge with a wall as part of the flood defense work but the maintenance of such should be the responsibility of the Bowls Club and included in the agreement.

The Bowls Club would be asked to produce an annual report before the payment of the dressing, which should include the number of public users. It was agreed that when the new agreement had been typed it could be signed on behalf of the Council by the Mayor and Clerk.

**17. County Conversation – Planning the Future Where You Live**

Councillors Rust and Scott agreed to attend the Forum Meeting on behalf of the Council. There was a level of skepticism about yet another "plan" being produced which than got left on the shelf like the City Plan.

**18. Gala**

Councillors agreed that the event this year had been very successful. Although sympathetic to the claim for compensation from a hirer of the meeting rooms being unable to hold a class because of an incident when the Fair equipment was being brought on site, the Council agreed that the £300 bond being held could be released in full to the Gala Committee.

***RESOLVED that: The £300 Participatory Budget grant being held as a Bond be paid to the Gala Committee***

**19. Flood Risk Management Scheme**

The pre-application consultation was noted with no comments arising. The registering of the land owned by the Council on the Common to be discussed with NRW.

**20. Cyclecross**

Subject to the Bond being confirmed as £300, the basis for the event as presented was approved. Farmer Williams would need to agree to part 12 about starting in the Meadow. The organiser of the event would be asked to ensure public notices were displayed at least a week before, informing of the restricted access to the area on the day.

Cllr Owens left meeting at 8.52pm.

**21. Training**

The schedule of training provided by One Voice Wales was noted. Any Councillor wanting to attend any module was asked to contact the Clerk.

**22. Correspondence**

Cllr Hodgkinson said she would take orders for Poppy Wreaths but was not able to participate in street collections. There were no volunteers from the remaining Councillors.

A letter would be sent to Pure Developments in support of the sentiments expressed in the letter from Mrs. Vera Savage on behalf of Merched y Wawr, opposing the use of Livingstone Place as a name for the development.

The meeting concluded at 9:05 pm

Signed .....
Chairman of the Full Council Meeting 12 October 2016