

HOLYHEAD TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE FINANCE/PROPERTY SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY 24 JANUARY 2019 9.00 a.m.

Councillors present: Mrs Ann Kennedy, Keith Thomas, Richard Parry, Hywel Williams and Jennifer Saboor
In attendance: R W Jones Deputy Town Clerk
Robert Henderson Communities Services Manager
Mrs P R Scott Clerk/Typist

1. Apologies for absence were received from Councillors W J Chorlton, Keith R Roberts and Alan Williams

2. **DECLARATION OF INTEREST** by any Councillor or Officer:

Councillor Keith Thomas and Councillor Mrs Ann Kennedy in respect of the discussion regarding the finance towards works to the sunken gardens at Newry Beach as they are Board members of Môn CF.

3. **TO CONSIDER AND DISCUSS DRAFT ESTIMATES FOR 2019/2020:**

Richard W Jones explained that the draft Estimates had been prepared and broken down in detail which showed how much it was proposed to spend on each function the Town Council was responsible for – Town Hall, Empire complex – (Play-centre and Cinema) Town Park, Parks and play-fields so that the members could be informed exactly how much it cost to run each facility.

It was hopeful that some of the payment from Conygar for the Newry Beach greens could be used to fund the Town Council maintaining the sunken gardens at Newry Beach in the future.

Richard W Jones stated that funds had been set aside to up-grade the Christmas lighting and features for December 2019 and it was proposed that the businesses in town would be requested for the eye-bolts to be raised so that the new lighting could be erected higher up throughout the town centre.

The Anglesey County Council had recently informed the Town Council that the cleaning of the Celtic Gateway Bridge would now have to go out to tender from April 2019. The Left Luggage office staff were currently carrying out these duties as part of their day-to-day duties so there would be TUPE issues concerning this. The Mayor stated that he would invite the Leader of the Anglesey County Council, Councillor Llinos Medi and the other Holyhead County Councillors to attend a Council Meeting in the future so that various issues could be discussed.

The problem of vandalism to the glass panels on the Celtic Gateway Bridge was highlighted as this was costly to the Anglesey County Council each time a panel was broken.

The Mayor stated that it was proposed for improvements to be made at the Holyhead Railway Station in the very near future and that the Economic Development Department of the Anglesey County Council would be receiving funding towards these improvements.

It was proposed to find out from the 5 Towns Committee whether the North Wales Police had given a financial contribution towards the CCTV budget as the cost of the maintenance Contract for the CCTV was £6,000.00. Dewi Lloyd (Economic Department of the Anglesey County Council) was arranging for extra CCTV cameras to be installed in the future to cover the Victoria Road, the Parish Church and Swift Square areas of the town.

Empire complex:

Robert Henderson, Empire Manager stated that the complex was still doing well financially with locals and persons from further afield using the facility. Councillor Richard Parry stated that he would like to see a comparison of income between ticket sales, kiosk sales and play-centre bookings. Robert Henderson confirmed that a lot of ticket sales were booked on-line. Profit from the sale of confectionery was going towards the cost of staff wages. Some of the low-paid staff's wages had recently been increased, as per the National pay award and that a large per cent of costs were due to staff wages.

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Town Hall:

Robert Henderson informed the Committee members that as most of the Planning applications were now being E-mailed and also posted by CD disc from the Anglesey County Council that it would be advantageous to have a projector screen in the Council Chamber- then Councillors at Meetings could be furnished with the information re: planning applications and a projector in the Chamber would also be of assistance to any other organisation who were renting the Council Chamber. He informed the meeting that he would soon look into the cost of a new projector screen and arrange to up-date the wi-fi coverage in the building.

Water leaks into the building was also being looked at, into the kitchen area on the first floor and also down the side of the building. Richard Jones Deputy Clerk had been advised that the problem was due to the outside of the building needing to be re-pointed. Also the inside kitchen area on the ground floor needed to be improved.

Charitable donations made by the Holyhead Town Council:

It was suggested by the Deputy Town Clerk that all donations to be considered in the future would be from local organisations from Holyhead in the first instance and then from the rest of Anglesey and that requests from other areas further afield could no longer be considered.

Town Park:

Councillors were hopeful that revenue from the Pavilion would substantially increase in the Spring and Summer months. Town Council staff were busy at the moment landscaping around the new skatepark area. There was scope for the skatepark area to be increased sometime in the future and the works at the Town Park was an on-going project, subject to funding. It was discussed that it would be a good idea to plant trees and to provide information re: the standing stones area in the future as well as a new crazy golf course, better parking facilities, better lighting, drainage and disabled access in the future. Also to arrange the possibility of youth volunteers who could assist at the Park.

Robert Henderson, with the approval of the Town Council, would be arranging a meeting in the future with representatives of Menter Môn so that the Town Council could re-submit it's application for Lottery funding re: improvements at the Town Park.

The Mayor requested that the Welsh flag be erected outside the Town Hall on St David's Day on 1st March 2019. It was discussed that new flag poles were required around the Cenotaph War Memorial and that Nathan Blanchard (THI Officer) of the Anglesey County Council be contacted re: the Town Clock in Victoria Place which had stopped keeping time since Christmas of 2018.

Staff structure for the future:

This would be discussed in more detail in the next meeting of the Staffing/Audit Sub-Committee when it next met.

Richard W Jones, Deputy Clerk explained the background re: the Penrhos Almshouses Charity which were the listed building properties in Kingsland which the Town Council administered, with an annual administration fee paid to the Town Council – this was explained to Councillor Jennifer Saboor who had been a Councillor since the 2017 elections. A meeting of the Trustees of the Charity would be called in due course.

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4. Current financial Statement:

The Minutes of this meeting and the accompanying documentation would be forwarded for consideration and approval to the next meeting of the full Council for adoption.

5. Up-date by Councillor Ann Kennedy re: Plas Road allotments:

Councillor Mrs Ann Kennedy stated that she did not have any up-date to report to the Committee.

A booklet/leaflet depicting the town's history was thought to be a good idea to be considered in the future in memory of John Cave deceased.

Councillors also wished to call a special meeting with members of other organisations in the near future re: the closing down of businesses in the town centre to try and regenerate the area and bring in new businesses.

It was discussed the importance of supplying a new de-fibrillator for the town centre which could be stored in the vicinity of the Celtic Gateway Bridge.

The meeting concluded at 11.45 a.m.
