

HOLYWELL TOWN COUNCIL

CYNGOR TREF TREFFYNNON

Minutes of the meeting of the Town Centre Sub-Committee held in the Council Chamber, Bank Place Offices, Holywell on Wednesday, 15 July 2015 at 11am.

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PRESENT: Councillor: E.B. Palmer (Chairman – see minute No. TC1).  
Councillors: P.J. Curtis, Mrs. M.D. Phelan, B. Scragg and P.A. York (who presided for minute No. TC1).

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Councillors Mrs. M. Auty, Mrs. K. Davies, Mrs. R. Dolphin, J.M. Johnson, P.J. McGarry (Mayor) and E. Watkinson.

IN ATTENDANCE: D.C. Pierce (Clerk) and M.G. Fearnley, Community Engagement Officer.

TC1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN 2015/16

RESOLVED:

That Councillor E.B. Palmer be elected Chairman of the Town Centre Sub-Committee for 2015/16.

TC2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN 2015/16

RESOLVED:

That Councillor P.A. York be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Town Centre Sub-Committee for 2015/16.

TC3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – MEMBERS’ CODE OF CONDUCT

None.

TC4. HOLYWELL STREETSCAPE/ACCESS IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT/WORKS UPDATE

The Community Engagement Officer (CEO) reported that although all works had now been completed, some outstanding areas of work had been identified during a recent ‘snagging’ meeting as follows:

- some canopies had not been painted in Tower Gardens
- paved event area in Tower Gardens to be jet-washed
- locks required for bollards in Tower Gardens
- railing on wall to be put up at Station Road and look at some small damage to wall at same location

- base of sculpture to be jet-washed
- planters failing on Phase 1.

The following additional points were raised:

- painting of remaining town centre notice boards (x2)
- replacement of the trees on the High Street that had failed after planting
- re-siting of bench currently outside 61 High Street
- planting of Christmas tree (October) on bank off Tower Gardens.

Members were generally agreed that the town's appearance had improved as a result of the scheme.

RESOLVED:

That the CEO monitor progress to ensure that the works left to be done are satisfactorily completed.

TC5. STREETSCENE SERVICES – COMMUNITY OF HOLYWELL

Members welcomed Ian Williams and Nigel Seaburg, Flintshire County Council (Streetscene) to the meeting. The Streetscene service had undergone a recent staffing review following the “redesign of Chief Officer portfolios” within the Council.

Nigel was now Area Co-ordinator for a larger area including Holywell, with Ian moving on to cover an adjoining wider area within the County. Further details about the changes and new contact points would be circulated to the Town Council shortly by the service Chief Officer.

RESOLVED:

That Members' appreciation be recorded for Ian Williams's support and that the Council looks forward to good working relations continuing with Mr. Seaburg.

TC6. HOLYWELL SIGNAGE STRATEGY – FINGER-POSTS SCHEME

This item had been referred to the Sub-Committee by the full Council, to consider responding to the issues raised by the County Council regarding the lack of resources to implement the above scheme in its entirety.

The Community Engagement Officer (CEO) reported on the background including that an amount of £15,000 was understood to have originally been allocated towards implementing the scheme.

RESOLVED:

That the CEO make further enquiries of the County Council regarding the reported budget allocation and planning for the scheme with a view to reporting back to the Council at its meeting on 21 July.

TC7. HIGHWAY DIRECTIONAL SIGNS TO HOLYWELL

This item had been placed on the agenda at the request of the Chairman who reported on the notable absence of 'Holywell' as a destination on road signs, compared to some other towns in Flintshire, particularly on the black on white ones on the County roads.

Members agreed that this was a long standing issue where little progress had been achieved.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the Community Engagement Officer clarify the responsible officers/Authority for highway signage on County roads and the A55 within the County and make appropriate representations in relation to the Chairman's report.
- (2) That an update be given at the Council meeting on 21 July regarding progress on this matter.

TC8. HOLYWELL TOWN CENTRE "FREE" EVENTS PROGRAMME 2015

The Community Engagement Officer updated Members on the outcome of events held to date and on the arrangements for the remainder of the events on the 2015 calendar.

Reference was made to the Police co-ordinated 999 Day (Emergency Services Fun Day) on 22 August and also in relation to the possible attendance of Neighbourhood Watch, for which a sum of £250 was required. The annual arrangement for the Council to meet the cost of up to £4 for refreshments for those taking part in the 999 Day was again supported, upon production of a receipt etc.

The preparatory work for the Well Inn Music Festival on 5 September was reported to be going well.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received and that the Council be recommended to consider financially supporting the attendance of Neighbourhood Watch at the 999 Day in the sum of £250.

TC9. COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFERS (CAT)

Councillor P.A York, Chairman – Holywell and Greenfield Development Sub-Committee, summarised the background to CAT in the community of Holywell (which would be covered to in more detail in the minutes of the Holywell & Greenfield Development Sub-Committee) as well as the stakeholder meeting held on 8 July in respect of the Leisure Centre, Library, Youth Centre and adjacent open space areas included in the Holywell Central ward.

Although it was appreciated that final decisions would be taken by the Council, a Member referred to cross – cutting issues arising from CAT that, in his view, did not necessarily wholly fit in the remit of the Holywell & Greenfield Development Sub-Committee.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the update from Councillor York be received and noted.
- (2) That the Council consider whether it wishes to establish a separate Sub-Committee to deal specifically with CAT, or to agree other appropriate arrangement.

TC10. HOLYWELL TOWN CENTRE PARTNERSHIP (HTCP) – RESHAPING THE FUTURE OF HOLYWELL TOWN CENTRE

In his capacity as Chairman of the HTCP, Councillor E.B. Palmer, reported that the externally appointed consultants from ‘People and Places’ had held a workshop on 14 July. The workshop covered the following topics:

- the role of partnerships in improving a town;
- future options for the HTCP;
- future priorities and ‘quick win’ projects;
- potential steps for further developing Holywell as an ‘events town’.

The next meeting of the HTCP was proposed before the end of September to consider outcomes and the next stage.

RESOLVED:

That the position be noted.

TC11. PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960 –  
EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED:

That the public and press be excluded for the following item (11.1) on grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted relating to proposed contractual arrangements.

11.1. Holywell Christmas Lights, 2015

Consideration was given to the arrangements for this year's festive lighting for Holywell. The Clerk reported that it continued to be difficult to get firms interested in doing the work mainly because the existing lights, although being upgraded, were getting older and firms wished to provide from new and maintain their own products.

The Council had received a generally good service from ICRgroup of Holywell since the contract was first awarded to the Group. Market testing had brought with it significant savings for the Authority since the original acquisition of the lights.

Members had before them a letter and quotation from ICRgroup for 2015. The main elements of the quotation were broadly the same as for last year. Members were reminded that another section of the lights would need attention this year as part of a rolling programme towards LED lighting which was more efficient and economical to use. The cost was included in the quotation.

The Community Engagement Officer sought Members' views on continuing with the fireworks display to conclude the annual switch-on event.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the Council be recommended to accept the quotation from ICRgroup of Holywell in the sum of £16,044.22 (+VAT) in respect of the Council's Christmas lighting scheme for the 2015 festive period (and any required replacements of the wall anchor bolts at £60 each), such costs to include £810.55 for the second year LED conversion works.
- (2) That the Council's appreciation be recorded for the service received to date from ICRgroup.

- (3) That the Council be recommended to continue with the fireworks display at the end of the annual Christmas Lights programme.

TC12. CLOSE OF MEETING

The Chairman closed the meeting at 12.50 pm.

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Chairman