

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, 20 July 2016 at 11am.

PRESENT: Councillor E.B. Palmer (Chairman – see minute No. TC1).
Councillors: M. Auty, Mrs. K. Davies, J.M. Johnson, (Mayor) – who presided for minute TC1, B. Scragg, L. Thorley and P.A. York.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Councillors P.J. Curtis, Mrs. R. Dolphin, P.J. McGarry, Mrs. M.D. Phelan and E. Watkinson.

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

TC1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN 2016/17

RESOLVED:

That Councillor E.B. Palmer be elected Chairman of the Town Centre Sub-Committee for 2016/17.

TC2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN 2016/17

RESOLVED:

That Councillor P.A. York be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Town Centre Sub-Committee for 2016/17.

TC3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – MEMBERS’ CODE OF CONDUCT

None.

TC4. REGENERATION SERVICE, MARKETS AND TOURISM

The County Council’s new officer team for the above services (Rachel Byrne (Tourism), Gavin Griffith (Town Centre) supported by Alison Brett and Richard Jones were in attendance for this item to update the Sub-Committee following completion of the recent restructures at County Hall and to take questions.

A lively discussion followed regarding present and future arrangements. Among the issues discussed, particular reference was made to the streetscape contract ‘snagging’ delay, the availability of any additional grant funding for various purposes, weekly market re-launch, Town Centre Partnership, town regeneration (including car parking facilities) and the urgent

need to make full use of and develop the acknowledged unique heritage and tourism qualities and opportunities presented within the town and community of Holywell generally, including the Holy Well and Greenfield.

Members were asked to consider its five main priorities for the community, particularly in relation to tourism, and to advise the County Council accordingly of these.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the Sub-Committee records its appreciation to the officers for their attendance and for the useful exchange of information with the Town Council.
- (2) That the full Council at its next meeting consider its top five realistic priorities taking into account the issues covered at the meeting of the Sub-Committee.

TC5. STREETSCENE SERVICES – COMMUNITY OF HOLYWELL

This standard item had been included on the agenda to receive a progress report from the Holywell Streetscene Team regarding work carried out within the community and the current works programme, and to enable matters to be raised that required attention. Mr. Nigel Seaburg, Holywell Streetscene Co-ordinator, attended for this item. Mr. Seaburg's attention was drawn to certain delays in getting routine matters dealt with, particularly in relation to the mechanical sweeping of the High Street, the installation of small bins for cigarette butts and highway maintenance. Members appreciated that limited resources had knock-on effects on the services but felt that more could be done with a more equitable distribution of resources between Flintshire's towns.

Mr. Seaburg reported that manual assistance would continue to be provided wherever possible for specific jobs such as with hanging baskets (Wales in Bloom) and Town Council organised events although it was possible that a nominal charge would sometimes have to be made dependent on the time and day of assistance as well as manpower availability.

RESOLVED:

That Mr. Seaburg be thanked for his attendance and that and any Member reports requiring his attention be channelled through the Council's Bank Place Offices

TC6. COMMUNITY EVENTS PROGRAMME 2016/17

- (1) Proposed 'Pride in Holywell' day and other possible new events

The Mayor referred to the original idea of the former Mayor (Councillor P.J. McGarry) to hold a celebratory day in the town along the lines of a

motorised parade (promoting all schools, clubs and organisations within the community); a Rural and Countryside Market in the High Street; together with a Carnival/Fun Fair event during the afternoon, on the nearest Saturday to St. David's Day.

The Mayor also referred to his intention to hold his Charity Ball on the evening of Saturday, 4 March 2017.

The Community Engagement Officer reported on a possible events programme over Easter (April) 2017 that could perhaps include the theme of Pride in Holywell, whilst giving the opportunity to have a Welsh themed event on 4 March.

Members' views were sought.

The Mayor also raised the possibility of staging a 'Northern Soul' event in Holywell town centre, as part of the Council's 2017 programme.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the possibility of a Welsh themed day event on 4 March 2017 be considered further by the Events Working Group and actioned if practicable within available resources in the current financial year.
- (2) That the principle of staging a 'Pride in Holywell' Day be supported and that this be explored further by the Events Working Group with a preference for the event to be staged during a future Easter holiday period.
- (3) That any proposal(s) arising from the Events Working Group, including estimated costings, regarding the 'Pride in Holywell' and 'Northern Soul' events be reported by the Community Engagement Officer to the Council for consideration.

(2) **Holywell and Greenfield Events Programme 2016**

The Community Engagement Officer updated the Sub-Committee with reference to the current programme. To date, the arrangements had generally gone very well with good turn-out and feedback. The weather had been reasonably good. Unfortunately, however, this could not always be guaranteed and some form of back-up plan would be helpful.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the report be received and that the Community Engagement Officer/Events Working Group consider back-up arrangements for Council organised events wherever possible and practicable.

- (2) That the Council continues to meet the cost of purchase of refreshments to the value of £4 from any Holywell town centre food/drinks supplier for those persons taking part in the 999 Emergency Services Day on 20 August.

TC7. PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960 – EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED:

That the public and press be excluded for minute 7.1 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.

7.1. Holywell Christmas Lights 2016

Consideration was given to the arrangements for this year's High Street 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 in their final upgrading year, were getting older and firms wished to provide from new and maintain their own products.

The Council had received a generally good service from ICR group 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 ICR group for 2016. The main elements of the quotation were broadly the same as in previous years. Members were reminded that the last section of the lights was being attended to 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 ICR group of Holywell in the sum of £16,249.22 (+VAT) in respect of the Council's High Street Christmas lighting scheme for the 2016 festive period (and any required replacements of the

wall anchor bolts at £60 each), such costs to include £915.55 for the last refurbishment of the lighting.

- (2) That ICR group of Holywell be also requested to arrange for the additional lights approved at the precept-setting meeting for 2016/17 - minute F10.(11), to be provided.
- (3) That the format of this year's Christmas Lights programme be finalised by the Events Working Group within the approved budget.

TC8. CLOSE OF MEETING

The Chairman closed the meeting at 12.20pm.

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Chairman