

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, 11 January 2017 at 10am.

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PRESENT: Councillor E.B. Palmer (Chairman).  
Councillors: J.M. Johnson, (Mayor), P.J. McGarry, Mrs. M.D. Phelan and B. Scragg.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Councillors P.J. Curtis, Mrs. K. Davies, Mrs. R. Dolphin, E. Watkinson and P.A. York.

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

TC9. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – MEMBERS’ CODE OF CONDUCT

None.

TC10. STREETSCENE SERVICES – COMMUNITY OF HOLYWELL

Nigel Seaburg, Area 1 Streetscene Co-ordinator, including Holywell, attended for this item and reported on work carried out and ongoing within the community. Members also received from him a copy of a schedule showing the deployment of resources in Area 1 and Holywell town centre. Work items covered included parks, shrub maintenance, litter/dog bins, general cleansing, grass rounds, mini sweeper – town centre and highway/pothole works. In addition, Mr. Seaburg circulated a list of the costs of operatives and vehicles per hour which would apply should County Council assistance be required by the Town Council outside normal daily working arrangements. Implementation of the charges would be subject to prior discussion and agreement.

Members expressed their concern about the delay in getting the bollards controlling vehicle access to the High Street repaired. An earlier reported fault had been repaired. However, the control unit had since been damaged beyond repair by a vehicle and was in need of replacement. A quotation from the contractor to do the work was awaited. The position regarding enforcement of unauthorised vehicles entering the High Street was also being investigated.

RESOLVED:

That Mr. Seaburg be thanked for his attendance at the meeting and that the information provided be noted.

#### TC11. iBEACON NETWORK PROJECT - HOLYWELL

Sarah Jones, Natural Resources Officer, together with Heritage interpretation consultants Jo Danson and Bill Smuts (Cadwyn Clwyd) attended for this item.

Members received a short presentation on how iBeacons (small electronic devices that enable site-specific messages on location(s) to be sent to people via their smart phone or tablet without the need for wifi) would work in the Holywell community, project implementation and future maintenance. Project funding was already secured for the whole of this project across North East Wales although there was a requirement to sign a project participation agreement to take part. The aim was to have a working app. featuring six communities available for Easter 2017.

For Holywell, the iBeacon network would be 'owned' by the Town Councils. Volunteers from participating communities would work with the appointed consultants to bring together interpretive information for the project. They would be taught how to put the information onto the iBeacon systems. The volunteers would also be taught how to manage and look after their content for the future. Key themes and locations for up to 10 beacons within each community would need to be agreed before collating content. Members felt that the project would be an ideal opportunity to provide important information about and links between key places to enhance the visitor experience.

#### RESOLVED:

- (1) That the Council be recommended to sign an iBeacon project participation agreement.
- (2) That an iBeacon Working Group be established, co-ordinated by the Community Engagement Officer, to take the project forward including Council Member involvement and community volunteers.

#### TC12. REGENERATION/TOURISM PRIORITIES

County Council Officers Gavin Griffiths (GG) Regeneration Manager, and Rachael Byrne (RB) Business Development Manager, attended for this item to report on future working arrangements and support as well as regarding the resources position for the community of Holywell following further changes within their services.

RB referred to the Town Council's submitted five main realistic tourism priorities and explained the level of support that was available from the County Council, although now further limited as part of the ongoing austerity measures at County Hall. RB reported on the Destination Management Strategy, presently in draft form, adding that an action list and timescales would follow once the document had been finalised and approved.

GG confirmed with regret that, with reduced financial resources, further staff reductions meant that generally there would probably be only one officer available to cover Flintshire towns. This would bring additional pressure on the local Councils concerned to have a greater involvement, operationally and financially, in bringing their plans to fruition. This would probably have to include the Holywell Town Partnership administration in due course, although some assistance with the Holywell wifi, Teenage Market and Window Dressing projects was likely to continue.

Members expressed their concerns at the prospect of having to further raise the precept to take account of the impact of the reduction in support from the County Council.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That RB and GG be thanked for attending the meeting and also for their agreement to take part in the Community Engagement meeting with the public later that day.
- (2) That the service position updates be noted with disappointment but that the Town Council seeks to minimise the impact of the cuts wherever possible, with particular reference to the Holywell Town Partnership.
- (3) That the knock-on effects of (2) above be kept in mind at the forthcoming precept-setting meeting and in relation to any changes that may be considered to the present duties etc of the Town Council's staff.

TC13. COMMUNITY EVENTS PROGRAMME – 2016/17 AND 2017/18

The Community Engagement Officer reported on a generally successful events programme 2016/17, with the Mayor's 'Welsh Day' proposal for Saturday, 4 March intended to finish off a busy and successful year. He was currently working on a draft programme for the following twelve months and looked forward to setting up an Events Working Group once again after the May elections, to enable ideas to be developed and events co-ordination to be managed collectively.

RESOLVED:

That the position be noted.

TC14. CLOSE OF MEETING

The Chairman closed the meeting at 11.45am.

.....Chairman