

## **HOLYWELL TOWN COUNCIL**

## **CYNGOR TREF TREFFYNNON**

Minutes of the **Special Meeting of Holywell Town Council** held in the Council Chamber, Bank Place Offices, Holywell on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2019 at 6.00pm.

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**PRESENT:** Councillor P.A. Johnson (Deputy Mayor & Chair).

Councillors: M. Brooke, R. Dolphin, J.M. Johnson, S. Johnson, K. Roberts, B. Scragg, S.E. Wallbanks and P.A. York.

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** were received from Councillors L.A. Carter, K. Davies, E.B. Palmer and M.D. Phelan. Councillor A. Coleman was absent without apology.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** J. Baker (Clerk).

### 131. **APPOINTMENT OF ACTING CHAIRMAN**

The Mayor had advised the Clerk prior to the meeting that she was unable to undertake Chair duties due to personal circumstances. In accordance with the Council's standing orders the Deputy Mayor assumed Chair duties for the meeting.

### 132. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT**

None.

### 133. **EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS**

#### **RESOLVED:**

That the public and press be excluded for the following minute, 134, on grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted arising from the financial options discussed.

134. HOLYWELL HIGH STREET FUNDING

Members considered further developments concerning the financial contribution to any permanent de-pedestrianisation scheme undertaken on Holywell High Street, should any future scheme receive the requisite funding from both Welsh Government and Flintshire County Council.

The Clerk provided an update on recent information provided via the High Street Working Group, and also summarised feedback from Welsh Government on the pending funding application due to be submitted by the County Council. The deadline for the funding application was Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2019. The Clerk answered members questions concerning the budget considerations, the operational make-up of the scheme and the financial implications. The Town Council had been requested to make an additional financial contribution to further support the scheme.

A number of discussion points followed:

- Members expressed concern that the inclusion of the Tower Gardens project had resulted in a detrimental impact on the progression of the scheme.
- Members expressed concern that, while the scheme had their full support following the vote in October 2018, the Town Council would find it a challenge to contribute any additional funding and noted a number of current and potential future commitments.
- Members discussed potential suggestions on how the scheme could be financed from within the existing base budget provision.
- Members stated that any agreed outcome should not impact greatly on the precept charge to local residents.
- Members stated that, if permissible, any agreed repayment plan should be set at such a level to mitigate a precept increase, protect existing base budget and maximise the affordability of any agreed increased contribution.

RESOLVED:

- 1) That an additional financial contribution is made to the proposed High Street capital works scheme, over and above the amount previously set aside for this purpose.

Councillor M. Brooke requested that the vote on this motion be recorded:

<b>Councillor</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
M. Brooke	✓		
R. Dolphin	✓		
J.M. Johnson	✓		
P.A. Johnson	✓		
S. Johnson	✓		
K. Roberts		✓	
G.B. Scragg		✓	
S.E. Wallbanks		✓	
P.A. York		✓	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>

- 2) That the total value of the financial contribution to support the proposed High Street capital works scheme be fixed at £100,000. This level of contribution was conditional on the Tower Gardens events area being included in the scheme.

Councillor M. Brooke requested that the vote on this motion be recorded:

<b>Councillor</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
M. Brooke	✓		
R. Dolphin	✓		
J.M. Johnson	✓		
P.A. Johnson	✓		
S. Johnson	✓		
K. Roberts		✓	
G.B. Scragg		✓	
S.E. Wallbanks		✓	
P.A. York			✓
<b>Totals</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>

- 3) That the Audit Sub-Committee be requested to produce an action plan at its next meeting, to determine a preferred option for both the financing of the contribution and the repayment terms. Clerk to make the necessary arrangements.

135. CLOSE OF MEETING

The Deputy Mayor closed the meeting at 7.10pm.

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Deputy Mayor