

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GAOL & COURTHOUSE SUB-COMMITTEE OF
BEAUMARIS TOWN COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY 30 JULY 2018 AT 8.00 PM IN THE TOWN HALL**

PRESENT: The Town Mayor Councillor J P Zalot
The Deputy Mayor Councillor C J Theakston
Councillor G Evans-Jones
Councillor R A Jones
Councillor J A Rowlands

The Town Clerk was in attendance

APOLOGIES: Councillor K M Jones
Councillor S Zalot

The Deputy Mayor took the Chair

1.0 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest

2.0 TO ELECT A CHAIRMAN FOR THE FORTHCOMING YEAR

It was proposed, seconded and carried unanimously that Councillor G Evans-Jones be elected Chair for the forthcoming year.

3.0 TO ELECT A DEPUTY CHAIRMAN FOR THE FORTHCOMING YEAR

It was proposed, seconded and carried unanimously that Councillor K M Jones be elected Deputy Chairman for the forthcoming year

4.0 ARRANGEMENTS FOR TRANSFER TO TOWN COUNCIL

The Town Clerk said that Council had resolved to take over responsibility for the operation of the Gaol and the Courthouse on the understanding that the assets were transferred and not handed over on a short-term lease. This meant that any investment in the buildings by the Town Council would be protected. He had met with officers of the County Council earlier in the year, and had discussed transfer arrangements. It had been agreed that Anglesey County Council would run these facilities during the present summer season, and the Town Council would take over responsibility in the autumn. Staff operating the facilities were seasonal, and whilst the Town Council may engage them in future years, it would not take over any TUPE responsibilities. As a goodwill gesture, the Town Council had painted the outside of the Courthouse building, but at the same time required the County Council to undertake emergency repairs to the roof of the old Gaol and to the windows of the Courthouse. It did not appear that these works had been completed.

The Town Council had produced a business plan for the future running of the facilities, and it appeared that there would be a financial deficit, even if tourist numbers increased. This was primarily because of the need for extensive repair works to both buildings. During negotiations, the County Council had offered the income from the Coach Park for a five-year period. Two options had been offered: the first required the Town Council to empty the cash machines, enforce parking arrangements and carry out any repairs that might be needed to the car park. The second option was for the County Council to carry out parking enforcement, to empty the cash machines and

carry out any repairs that might be required. The Town Council would then receive a proportion of the income. Clearly a lot more negotiation was required prior to the Town Council taking over these facilities.

There was a general discussion on the points raised, and a need for all Councillors to have full understanding of the commitment required.

Councillor R Jones said that she had asked for a copy of the business plan and the cash flow statement. Upon reading them, she had been concerned because there were a lot of loose ends and assumptions. The condition surveys of the buildings showed that over £650,000 needed to be spent, and the business plan only covered part of this over a five-year period. Whilst the Town Council accounts did show a surplus of income, this might not cover the costs required to operate the buildings and to put them into good repair. Councillors also identified a number of Capital Projects introduced in the Rates Estimates, and many of these were of higher importance to the local community. It was clear that the reserves of Council had been accumulated by prudent management over a long period of time, and it might be negligent if the Council were to proceed with the transfer without further information. A new independent evaluation of the proposal was needed, with legal advice on indemnity that would be required and a possible exit strategy. It was felt that the new Councillors needed to understand the liabilities of the project.

Members thanked Councillor Jones for her report.

It was proposed, seconded and carried unanimously that a copy of the report should be circulated to all Councillors for full discussion at the next Finance & Planning Committee meeting.

The Town Clerk advised that Anglesey County Council was pressing for a meeting to finalise the transfer arrangements for the Gaol and Courthouse. Several dates had been offered during August.

It was proposed, seconded and carried unanimously that the Town Clerk should advise Anglesey County Council that Beaumaris Town Council was in recess in August, and a full discussion of the transfer process needed to be agreed by a full Council meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm