

**MINUTES OF THE RECONVENED MEETING OF THE FINANCE & PLANNING COMMITTEE
OF BEAUMARIS TOWN COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY 29 FEBRUARY 2016 AT 7.00 PM IN THE TOWN HALL**

PRESENT: The Town Mayor Councillor J P Zalot
The Deputy Mayor Councillor G Evans Jones
Councillor F R Carr
Councillor I Davies
Councillor D W Gallichan
Councillor A J V Grant
Councillor D G Jones
Councillor M Jones
Councillor R J Parry
Councillor S Zalot

The Town Clerk was in attendance

APOLOGIES: Councillor C M Brimecombe
Councillor J R Carr
Councillor A J V Grant
Councillor B L Kotkowicz

The Deputy Mayor took the Chair

118.0 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

119.0 REPORT ON TOWN & COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS GROUP MEETING

Councillor S Zalot said he had attended a meeting on behalf of the Town Council. One issue raised was the fact that Town and Community Councils could easily increase their rates in order to take over the provision of some local services. They were not constrained by the limits placed on County Councils. Menter Mon had set aside a sum of £60,000 that Town and Community Councils could apply for in order to enable the transfer of facilities. The money would be allocated on a 'first come, first served' basis. A Partnership Toolkit had been devised to encourage more public involvement and community spirit in towns and villages. Comment was made that this seemed to be a 'back door' mechanism for increasing charges for local ratepayers. Concerns were expressed at the continuing transfer of responsibility for the management of local facilities. The local community had already taken over the responsibility for the running of the Canolfan, and the Town Council was operating the public toilets. Any additional grant funding might help to support these, but there was a worry about taking on too much responsibility. The Pier, Gaol and Courthouse were all likely targets for transfer away from the County Council to local enterprises.

Recommendation to Council:

An application be made to Menter Mon for a grant to help operate local services.

120.0 REFURBISHMENT OF MAYORAL CHAINS

The Town Mayor said that the Chains had been refurbished about three years ago, but they were badly scratched and needed renovating again. The gilt was worn and it was impossible to read the names on some of the discs on the Chain. He had a commitment later in the week, but after that the Chains could be sent away to be refurbished.

Members questioned whether the company that had refurbished the Chains before should be used once again. It was pointed out that the new Chains were nowhere near as robust as the 1930s set. They could easily scratch, especially if not replaced in their travel box. It was noted that the lock on the regalia box was not working.

Recommendation to Council:

The Town Clerk investigates companies for the possible refurbishment of the Mayoral Chains. Upon obtaining competitive prices he should have powers to act in having them refurbished.

121.0 SEIRIOL COMMUNITY FUND APPLICATION

The Chairman said that she had attended the Seiriol Committee meeting with the Town Clerk, and presented a bid for the purchase of a marquee that could be used by Community groups to hold functions on the Green or elsewhere. The bid had been successful and £2,000 had been allocated. A question was raised as to whether the funds could have been used for a different project. The Town Clerk said that the criteria set for grant applications meant that any project had to be for the benefit of the whole community and had to demonstrate pull from local organisations. There had been just over two weeks to produce the bid. Bearing in mind that several groups had suggested the need for a marquee in which to hold events in bad weather, this project seemed the most suitable. The outline bid had been put forward to both the Audit & Personnel and Greens & Buildings Sub-Committees. Both Sub-Committees had registered their support for the project, thus that was the one that had been put forward within the short time frame available. The meeting thanked the Chairman for her efforts in obtaining the grant.

122.0 QUOTES FOR PURCHASE OF NEW SAFE

The Town Clerk said it had not been possible to repair the safe used by the Green attendant. He had thus carried out an internet search to find a safe of a comparable size with a suitable insurance rating. He had identified the model that required keys rather than a combination to open it. Subsequently he had obtained several prices and recommended the purchase from the cheapest supplier.

Recommendation to Council:

A new safe be purchased.

The Town Clerk said he had looked at the possibility of buying an additional smaller safe for daytime use.

Recommendation to Council:

That a separate safe for daytime use be purchased. The Town Clerk had powers to act.

123.0 FUTURE OF POST BOXES AT POST OFFICE

Members were concerned at what would happen to the present pillar box when the Post Office closed. It was important that such a facility remained within the town so that items could be posted at any time.

Recommendation to Council:

Royal Mail be contacted to determine what would happen to the Post Box.

The meeting moved on to consider the old brass post box in the wall of the present Post Office. It was felt that it would be nice if this item was retained, either in its present location or elsewhere within the town.

Recommendation to Council:

Sir Richard Williams-Bulkeley be approached to ask his intentions with regard to the old posting box.

124.0 FESTIVE STREET LIGHTING

A member said that most of the strings across the road now had lights missing, and he felt that the Town Council should invest in new LED lamps. It might be possible to purchase new lamps that could have a managed service agreement with the company. It was noted that the replacement of the festive street lighting had been put forward as a project by the Audit & Personnel Sub-Committee.

Recommendation to Council:

Prices be obtained for the replacement of sections or the whole of the festive street lighting with and without managed service agreements.

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Chair
Councillor G Evans Jones

Date