

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND PLANNING COMMITTEE OF
BEAUMARIS TOWN COUNCIL
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 11 APRIL 2018 AT 4.00 PM IN THE TOWN HALL**

PRESENT: The Town Mayor Councillor J P Zalot
The Deputy Mayor Councillor C J Theakston
Councillor D T Evans
Councillor A J V Grant
Councillor R A Jones
Councillor J A Rowlands

The Administrative Assistant was in attendance

APOLOGIES: Councillor G Evans-Jones
Councillor D W Gallichan
Councillor K M Jones
Councillor H Mattocks
Councillor M G Sarsfield
Councillor S Zalot
The Town Clerk

The Deputy Mayor took the Chair

149.0 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

150.0 VISIT OF MR MEIRION EDWARDS, ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL, TO DISCUSS ENFORCEMENT OF LITTERING/DOG FOULING IN BEAUMARIS

Mr Edwards described the background to the contract with Kingdom. About £1.3m is spent on the contract with Biffa to clean and litter pick streets. Education and enforcement is designed to prevent litter being left in the first place. Historically enforcement performance has been poor and recently many local authorities have looked to the private sector to improve enforcement. A 12 month trial was started with Kingdom in May 2017. There was an option to extend the trial, which Kingdom have decided not to take up. They will also withdraw from the existing contract on 13 April, approximately one month early.

On the face of it Kingdom offered a good deal. Three Enforcement Officers employed by the Council would cost around £75,000. Kingdom offered a cost neutral service, paid for by the proceeds of the fixed penalty notices (Anglesey retained 5% of fines paid to cover its own costs). Enforcement performance improved: 67 Dog Fouling notices were issued during the trial compared with 6 or 7 that would previously been issued.

No decision has been taken as to how to proceed. Meirion Edwards has been tasked with coming up with options for enforcement. In response to a question, he said that he expected to do some consultation once some proposals had been developed. The County Council will have to decide what kind of enforcement it wants to have and how to deliver it. Meirion Edwards's aim is for a cost neutral service.

Councillors explained the Council's concerns about the contract. That it was essentially a commercial money making activity on the Green. In general the Town Council does not allow commercial activity on the Green.

The possibility of joint working was discussed whereby the Town Council employs a 'warden' who would work on behalf of the County Council. The cost of the 'warden' could be covered by proceeds of the fixed penalty notices (just as the Kingdom contract was). Meirion Edwards indicated that this option was worth looking at. In practice the County Council can authorise anyone to issue penalty notices provided they have the right qualifications and training. Town Councillors would welcome further discussions of third party involvement – Beaumaris has led the way in local provision of services.

In response to Councillors' concerns about enforcement on private land, Meirion Edwards acknowledged that following the trial, what had been thought to be a clear position (that enforcement could take place on private land) was now less certain. Meirion Edwards did refer to the fact that Anglesey County Council emptied the litter bins on the Green at their expense. He was not aware of any reluctance to allow commercial contractors onto Town Council property for this purpose. In response Town Councillors stated that their objection was to commercial activity, ie that Kingdom benefited directly for each notice issued on the Green.

There was a discussion of the style of enforcement. Would a mix of education and enforcement be appropriate – for example getting someone to pick up something that had been accidentally dropped might sometimes be better than a fine. Meirion Edwards' response was that a degree of zealousness was needed for effective enforcement. In his view a mix of education and enforcement would not be cost neutral.

Councillors expressed their opinions about what would be important to include in a new contract:

1. Local employment
2. Welsh speaking as much as possible
3. Clear understanding about how to deal with situations like the Green and Canolfan
4. Clear understanding of local issues, eg deliveries to shops

A future contractor should have a 'humane' approach; Councillors felt that it was no accident that there has been widespread ill-feeling about the Kingdom contract. In response Meirion Edwards did say that local employment and Welsh speaking had been part of the previous contract. A lot was learned during the trial and these lessons will be incorporated into the development of options for future enforcement.

There was a discussion about encouraging traders to use less packing. This is a big issue and needs action by National Government. However economics (it is now cheaper to recycle than dispose in land fill) are driving more companies to recycle. The possibility of segregating waste in litter bins was discussed. A previous trial was not successful, segregation was not good and the recyclable waste was not 'clean'. However people are more generally aware of recycling now and it might be time to try again.

Meirion Edwards acknowledged that plastic bottles etc blowing off of the recycling lorry was an issue. The doors should be shut while on the move. The issue is being tackled by both Anglesey and Biffa management.

Finally the issue of horse droppings in White Lion Square was discussed. Meirion Edwards' initial reaction was that the legislation is specific to dog fouling. Fouling by other animals is probably not an offence. That is not to say that given the particular circumstances the horse owner should have cleaned up after their horse.

In conclusion Councillors felt that the discussion had underlined the benefits of working together on this issue. Meirion Edwards thanked Councillors for the opportunity to have this discussion.

The meeting closed at 17.10

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Chairman
Councillor C J Theakston

Date