



MINUTES

of the Quarterly Meeting of the Association held on
 Friday 19th July 2019 at 10.30am
 at The Civic Halls Connah's Quay

1. Record of attendance:

| Council | Attending | Apologies received |
|-----------------------------|--|---------------------------|
| Officers | Cllr P Morton Vice Chair Cllr J Butterfield President R A Robinson Secretary | Cllr J Ellis Chair |
| Abergele Town Council | Cllr B Roberts Cllr S Jones-Roberts Cllr R Waters | |
| Amlwch Town Council | | |
| Argoed Community Council | | |
| Bagillt Community Council | Cllr C Williams | |
| Bangor City Council | Cllr D Hainge Cllr J Martin Ian Jones (Clerk) | |
| Bay of Colwyn Town Council | Cllr B Barton Cllr H Meredith Tina Earley (Clerk) | |
| Broughton Community Council | | |
| Buckley Town Council | Cllr V Blondek Cllr A Wooley | |
| Caerwys Town Council | Cllr L Edwards | |
| Caia Park Community Council | | |
| Connah's Quay Town Council | Cllr I Smith Cllr P Davies Cllr E Faulkner Cllr G Faulkner S Goodman (Clerk) | |
| Conwy Town Council | | |



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|---------------------------------------|---|-------------------|
| Denbigh Town Council | Cllr R Tickle | Cllr D Derry |
| Flint Town Council | Cllr S License | |
| Holywell Town Council | Cllr K Davies Cllr P York Jason Baker (Clerk) | |
| Llanasa Community Council | | |
| Llandrinio/Arddleen Community Council | | Carol Davies |
| Llandysilio Community Council | | Cllr F Buckingham |
| Llandudno Town Council | Cllr B Bertola | Cllr M Lyon |
| Llanfairfechan Town Council | | |
| Menai Bridge Town Council | Cllr D H Davies | |
| New Hawarden Community Council | | |
| Penmaenmawr Town Council | Cllr M Baines Martin Hanks (Clerk) | |
| Prestatyn Town Council | | |
| Rhuddlan Town Council | | |
| Rhyl Town Council | Cllr J Chamberlain-Jones | |
| Ruthin Town Council | Cllr S Beach Cllr K Robson | |
| Shotton Town Council | | |
| St Asaph City Council | | |
| Towyn and Kinmel Bay Town Council | Cllr M Jones | Cllr B McLoughlin |
| Welshpool Town Council | Cllr C Robinson Cllr F Veenstra | |

2. Homeless Issues in Wales

The meeting was informed that many of the County Councils and Welsh Government were asked for someone to attend the meeting on this subject. No one was available or offered anyone who could attend. The Secretary is to contact each to say that the Association was disappointed in this regard.



The meeting received a presentation from Cllr C Robinson on the homeless (in particular to Liverpool as an example).

The Committee received the Rough Sleeping Report of 2017 and the meeting accepted the report.

There was much discussion with the following noted:

- a) MORE SENIOR CITIZENS ON STREET FOR OVER A DECADE
- b) MEDICALLY RETIRED ARMED SERVICES LEFT TO FEND FOR THEMSELVES
- c) MANY ON THE STREET ARE RELIANT ON DRUGS AND ALCOHOL TO SURVIVE
- d) HOMELESS ISSUES NOW WORSE THAN IN LIVING MEMORY
- e) LOTS OF PEOPLE JUST A MONTH AWAY FROM BEING HOMELESS

The meeting also noted the following actions that Town and Community Councils could take to help (some are doing this already):

- A) Understand that most do not wish to be homeless
- B) Understand that Universal Credit is a real issue
- C) Understand that under 18's are not recognized as they are not claiming
- D) Understand there are issues around Arm Services support
- E) Understand there is much abuse towards homeless
- F) What can we do:
 - i) Help with forms, referrals, knowing where to signpost people to help
 - ii) Receive the information pack
 - iii) Community meals

The meeting asked for the following actions to be taken forward by the Association as follows:

- a) To invite a senior civil servant or Minister to meet with the Association on the subject of the homeless.
- b) To post the Sleep Rough Report on the web site.
- c) To include this item as a standing item on the agenda for the foreseeable future.

3. Members contact details

Members were asked to give their email addresses for receipt of agenda and minutes etc so that it is more likely that the papers will make to members.



4. Minutes of the last Meeting

The meeting considered and approved the minutes of the last meeting.

5. Actions from the last meeting

The meeting received a report on actions to be taken forward from the last meeting:

| No | Heading | Action |
|----|-------------------------------|---|
| 1 | Homeless | Arrange for a speaker for the July 2019 quarterly meeting. |
| 2 | Welsh Language Policy | Prepare a draft policy which reflects the current position of the Association. |
| 3 | Audit Office Welsh Government | A letter to be sent seeking a 'softer approach' by the external auditor. |
| 4 | Climate Change | To implement the Climate Change Policy. |
| 5 | Business Rates | A letter to be sent regarding both a change in business rates and a relief for Town and Community Councils. |
| 6 | Hospital Letters | A letter to be sent to the NHS on letter information about headings. |
| 7 | Bank Mandates | Information on bank mandates to be passed to the secretary for circulation if members are willing. |

6. Financial Report

The current bank balances were received.

7. Executive Meeting Minutes

The meeting received the minutes of the last meeting of the Executive.

8. Future of Local Councils

The meeting considered the next stage of the consultation as follows:

| Item for discussion | Notes | Response |
|--|--|--|
| Consider how desirable, possible and how it work to appoint clerks from a national list including wider work implications. | The idea is that there would be a list of Clerks registered at the Society of Local Council Clerks. Councils would be required to select a Clerk from that list. There may be a requirement for the larger Councils to have a Qualified Clerk from that approved list. | The meeting is opposed to any restriction on how or who the Council appoints as their Clerk. |



| Item for discussion | Notes | Response |
|---|--|---|
| Consider if Councillor training should be mandatory. | The idea is that training would be mandatory, maybe via County Councils, maybe via One Voice Wales or maybe via the Local Councils own resources. Such training would be required to be to a set standard. | The Association supports the provision of training but is opposed to making it mandatory. The Association would also not wish to be required to use any particular source for their training. |
| Explore what can be done to facilitate relationships between the two tiers of Councils and if there needs to be a statutory relationship. | There were a lot of Local Councils that complained about the relationship between themselves and their County Council – it was almost universal. There were various reasons given. The Welsh Government wants to know how Local Councils would like to resolve this issue. | This item is to be deferred to the next meeting. |

9. Archives

To meeting considered approving the safe keeping of the Association records held by the Secretary at Welshpool Town Council. These records are from the very start of the Association. The recommendation is that the Library of Wales is approached to store the original copies for the Association so that a record is kept. Current records would be stored in the same way on an annual basis. The meeting agreed with the proposal.

10. One Voice Wales

The meeting considered the attached email from Tina Early from By of Colwyn Town Council. See appendix 1. The meeting considered the contents and agreed to contact both NALC and IESE to seek corporate membership for information.

10. Minister for North and Mid Wales

The meeting agreed to call for a Minister for Mid and North Wales and agreed that a letter should be sent to the Welsh Government seeking same.



11. Council Tax and Business Rates

The meeting considered if they should invoke a national campaign to seek the abolition of Council Tax with a suitable replacement.

The meeting considered the same for Business Rates.

The meeting agreed to consider the Council Tax proposal at its next meeting with full information on the alternatives.

The meeting also agreed to consider the Business Rates proposal at a future meeting.

12. Dates of future meetings

To note the dates for future meetings as agreed at the Annual Meeting held on the same day.

Quarterly Meetings

25th October 2019

17th January 2020

24th April 2020

17th July 2020

Connah's Quay Civic Halls

Executive Meetings

20th September 2019

13th December 2019

13th March 2020

12th June 2020

All Executive Meetings are held at Rhyl Town Council Offices.

All meetings commence at 10.30am

**13. Actions to be taken forward**

The following actions to be taken forward:

| | |
|---|--|
| To invite a senior civil servant or Minister to meet with the Association on the subject of the homeless. | |
| To post the Sleep Rough Report on the web site. | |
| To include this item as a standing item on the agenda for the foreseeable future. | |
| Archives to be placed in the Library of Wales | |
| Contact to be made with NALC and IESE to seek association membership | |
| Seek a North and Mid Wales Minister dedicated to those areas via an approach to Welsh Government. | |
| Prepare a paper for the next meeting on Council Tax and the alternatives. | |

APPENDIX 1

Dear Robert,

As you know, this Council is one of those from North Wales that have, so far, resisted being in membership of OVW. There were historical reasons for this, that you will be well aware of, but also in recent years the decision has been taken on financial grounds, due to the level of memberships fees for a larger Council such as this one (£4,167 at full price this year).



I and some of our members, together with Clerks from some of the other local councils, have some concerns. We feel we are being left ‘out of the loop’ in relation to information/advice coming out of NALC, such as the new model standing orders released in 2018 and their regular legal advice notes. It is sometimes only possible to get documents such as this from other Clerks whose Councils are in membership and this does not sit well with me.

With the support of my Council, we have previously suggested that OVW moves to a two tier membership structure – with tier 1 (at lower cost) – ‘associate membership’ - giving access to the information and advice available on-line and reduced rates for training and conferences and tier 2 being ‘full membership’, with existing pricing methods (but preferably with bands/caps, like NALC/CALCs in England). This would benefit those larger Councils, like ours, that would benefit from receiving the legal advice notes, but could buy in our own professional advice/consultancy, as and when required, at a much cheaper cost. I did discuss this with Lyn last year, but it doesn’t seem to have got anywhere. This led me to thinking about your recent meeting with Lyn. I would be interested to know what was discussed and whether you think there may be any merit in is all joining forces to make a request such as this, for a review of the membership package? I note that they are now inviting motions for their annual meeting, but only member councils can submit these.

I look forward to receiving your views.

Kind Regards,

Tina

Mrs Tina Earley

Clerk – Bay of Colwyn Town Council

Tel: 01492 532248