

## CAERNARFON ROYAL TOWN COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING 17 NOVEMBER 2015

#### Present

His Worship the Mayor – Cllr W L Davies

#### Councillors

B Owen, W R Owen, I C Thomas, H W Roberts, A W Bohana,  
G Thomas, A Hopcyn, E Hughes, T Thomas, K Williams, C Williams,  
G Thomas, M Sarnacki

Before the meeting started a minute silence was held in memory of those who were killed during the Paris disaster .

**Guest Speaker :** Mandy Jones and Sally Baxter Betsi Cadwaladr Health Board

They were welcomed by the Mayor

They stated that they were mainly here to listen to our concerns even though the consultation period had technically come to an end.

Cllr G Thomas © noted that when a member of his family was about to give birth last year they were advised to go to Glan Clwyd. If it wasn't for the fact that a member of the family was a midwife who insisted on going to Bangor the baby would have been born on the A55.

The answer given was that staffing levels across the North Wales meant that the 3 hospitals have historically worked together to help. Therefore if Bangor were short staffed compared to number of mothers and children then Glan Clwyd would be used. The priority is to ensure a safe service which is monitored weekly. It was noted that there were no concerns that the current situation isn't safe. Community care would still continue.

It was noted that they are aware of peoples concerns about the extra burden on the ambulance service.

Cllr A Hopcyn stated that the birth figures are very similar in all 3 hospitals and therefore it would be impossible to close one, and the problems of the A55 should not be underestimated.

It was answered that all those factors are currently being considered by the board, and stressing that they are only looking at a temporary situation.

All factors would have to be considered carefully.

The Ambulance service do not have problems as they use blue lights.

Discussions will continue with relevant bodies such as the Royal college of Nursing to ensure the service is safe.

It was noted that they receive daily statistics which show that there aren't enough midwives. Sometimes a unit has to be closed as not enough midwives, which is a National problem.

Some thought the new scheme is already being actioned as in some cases Cancer patients already go to Glan Clwyd.

It was noted that the hospitals work together so that expertise is available quicker

It was asked where the border is?, noting that the mileage alone isn't the problem but the state of the roads . No dual carriageway in most places. How many children need emergency care after birth?

It was emphasized that they are not looking to shut the unit un Bangor, rather consider moving those who require specialist services to Glan Clwyd.

The border has been considered by the board and it's all to do with level of service required. Sometimes it is required to travel in order to get specialist treatment such as Alderhey etc.

Staffing problems seem to be key and this is an historical weakness.

It was acknowledged that staffing levels and moral are an issue, but that they are trying to ensure a stronger staffing network. This is a UK problem. National vacancy levels are 25% locally has been as high as 40%. The area would need 2500 births in order to get allocated trainees , but unfortunately that doesn't happen.

Noted that they held a recruitment drive over the summer even searching abroad seeing as though over 200 job vacancies over the 3 sites.

A nurses role isn't anything like it was 5-10 years ago

Everyone asking what "short term" means, and it was felt hard to answer as too many factors influence the answer.

However, they are looking to open the new unit in 2018 so just over a year.

AT present aprox 36 children go to Arrowe park therefore the plan is for the new unit to keep them in Wales. The new unit will be in Glan Clwyd.

The Mayor thanked them both for their intricate answers and to the councillors for sensible questions.

## **1. Apologies**

Cllr M Thomas and Cllr E Lovgreen

## **2. Mayor's Announcements**

Awards Ceremony Your Champions, Llandudno  
Age Cymru Conference, Caernarfon  
M.P.C.T. Awards, Brailsford Centre, Bangor  
Gwynedd Challenge, Syr Hugh Owen  
Opening the new Poppy Shop at Rayners  
Visiting the new Bryn Seiont Hospital

## **3. Declaration of Personal Interest**

Cllr I C Thomas – item 9 if discussion  
Cllr E Hughes – Ti a fi application in Finance Panels  
Cllr M Sarnacki – didn't take part during guest speakers section

## **4. Urgent Items (Chairman/Clerk).** For information or for action by the Clerk. Resolutions are not permissible

Dates of National Grid consultation

## 5. Minutes

To confirm the following minutes:-

- i) Council 3 November 2015
- ii) Finance Panel 3 November – *verbal report on the night*  
**Resolved**
  - i) To accept as a true record
  - ii) Accept the recommendations of the finance panel ( written copy for information only in agenda December 1<sup>st</sup>)

Cllr C Williams left after this item at 6.55

## 6. Planning Applications

- i) To approve planning applications (*no Planning Applications*)
- ii) Notice of Licensing Application (*Appendix 6/ii*)

**Resolved**

- ii) Premises Licence

Morrisons, Ffordd y Gogeldd, Caernarfon

*Agree*

Cllr I C Thomas did not take part )

## 7. Accounts

To approve the bills for payment

**Resolved**

Accept and pay

## 8. Council's Working Document

**Resolved**

- i) clerk to get process for 2 separate cameras rather than one that rotates
- ii) Appoint Alwyn Jones and Andy Rowlands to share the Macebearer role.

**9. Letter from Menai Straits Fishery Order Management Association**

**Resolved**

Not to comment as outside of our boundaries

**10. Equality and Human Rights Commission**

Event Llandudno Junction 9 December

**Resolved**

Accept for information only

**11. Letter from Les Burridge**

**Resolved**

Not to purchase the painting

**12. Her Gwynedd**

Proposition for Meeting with voluntary organisations 27 November at 10.00

**Resolved**

Mayor , Deputy and clerk to attend with Cllr A Bohana on standby

**13. Arrangements for the Council's Festive Evening**

**Clerk asked**

- Was there a preferred location church or somewhere else?
- Competition – create a Christmas tree decoration or festive poster
- Nativity
- Santa Hats

**Resolved**

- Leave in clerks hands as long as toilet available
- Festive Poster
- Yes
- Buy 200

## 14. Questions

Can we get a card for the clerk to pay bills?

Can we ask the football club to work together to be same night as fireworks so that animals only scared once?

Is there an answer re bus shelters? No, but not expecting one as they were only asking for suggestions

## 15. Dates of National Grid consultations

Resolved

To accept for information only

Meeting ended at 7.25

Signed..... Dated .....