

At a **MEETING of COUNCIL** held on Wednesday 16th June 2010 in the Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Wellington Road, Rhyl commencing at 6.00pm.

PRESENT

Councillor Mrs M. McCarroll (Mayor)

Councillors J. B. Bellis, J. Butterfield, Mrs J. Butterfield, Mrs J. Chamberlain-Jones, Mrs L. M. Edwards, I. A. Gunning, Ms G. A. Jones, Miss M. A. Jones, Mrs W. M. Mullen-James, G. J. Pickering, Miss N. R. E. Roose-Lloyd and D. A. J. Thomas.

Mr G. J. Nickels - Town Clerk
Mr P. M. Thomas - Finance Officer
Miss H. J. Windus - Personal Assistant & Secretary

15. OPENING OF MEETING

The Mayor's Chaplain, Father Charles Ramsay, commenced proceedings by leading all present in prayer.

16. APOLOGIES

Apologies for non-attendance were received on behalf of Councillors B. Blakeley (other commitment), Mrs P. M. Butters (on holiday), C. Davies (indisposed), M. C. Espley (work commitment), Ms D. Hannam (family illness), Mrs P. M. Jones (indisposed), D. W. Lee (work commitment), W. N. Tasker (on holiday) and G. Williams (indisposed).

17. MINUTES

The Minutes of the following Meetings of Council and Committees were submitted for approval as a correct record:

Annual Meeting - 19th May 2010 - Min.Nos. 1-14
of Council

Proposed by Councillor G. J. Pickering and seconded by Councillor Ms G. A. Jones and ***RESOLVED*** as a correct record.

Planning - 2nd June 2010 - Min.Nos. 1-7
Committee

Proposed by Councillor G. J. Pickering and seconded by Councillor Mrs L. M. Edwards and ***RESOLVED*** as a correct record.

To Confirm or otherwise:

Finance & General - 2nd June 2010 - Min.Nos. 1-23
Purposes Committee

Proposed by Councillor D. A. J. Thomas and seconded by Councillor Mrs J. Butterfield and **RESOLVED** as a correct record and confirmed for action.

With regard to Minute No.17 (Naming of New Footbridge near Rhyl College), a Member advised that permissions had been granted by the land owner, but that further permissions were being sought by Denbighshire County Council before the issue of naming the bridge could be decided upon.

With reference to Minute No.5 (Rhyl Community Association Issues) a Member requested that it be amended to reflect the fact that one Councillor did express an interest in sitting on the RCA Working Group.

RESOLVED that the Minute be amended accordingly.

18. MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor referred to the list of engagements she and the Deputy Mayor had attended since the Annual Meeting of Council (circulated with Agenda), and both made particular reference to the Launch of 'Rhyl Week' at the Events Arena, the annual visit to Rhyl of the Chernobyl Children's Lifeline charity and the Flintshire and Denbighshire Branch of the NSPCC Wales' AGM, which they had really enjoyed.

RESOLVED that the information be received.

19. PRESENTATION TO COUNCILLOR G. J. PICKERING

The Mayor presented Councillor G. J. Pickering with a record of his year in office (2009-2010).

20. RHYL RAILWAY STATION

Due to the nature of some of the information Mr Davies was about to impart Members decided that the item be discussed confidentially and therefore asked the member of the public present (the Mayor's Chaplain) to vacate the Chamber.

The Mayor then proceeded to welcome Mr Ben Davies from Arriva Trains to the meeting and invited him to update Members with regard to future plans for Rhyl's Railway Station (minute extract circulated with Agenda).

Mr Davies duly responded and thanked the Town Council for the invitation.

Mr Davies advised:

- that Rhyl Station was the second busiest station in North Wales, after Bangor, with half a million passengers coming through each year.

- that Arriva Trains were working with the BRAND Project, the 'Rhyl in Bloom' initiative and Rhyl's Business Group.
- that the infrastructure at Rhyl was good and lends itself well to the plans Arriva have to refurbish, modernise and improve services at the station. Details of which would be available by the end of 2010, with works set to begin in Spring 2011.
- that the plans included a more prominent Customer Services area, improved signage, a new shelter on Platform Two, better lighting and toilet facilities, improved night-time security and new lifts accessible 24 hours, seven days a week, with CCTV, an extended customer Waiting Room in a Conservatory style, a café and a retail unit.
- that there would be a new focus on customer service.
- Rhyl Station would become an integrated transport hub.

In response to Members questions and comments, Mr Davies stated:

- that the café currently at the station could stay if they wanted to, a new café wouldn't be introduced for the sake of it.
- community noticeboards could be incorporated informing people what's on and where in Rhyl, and added that maps are now outside all stations.
- that unfortunately he couldn't send a class from Ysgol Bryn Hedydd on a trip to London this year, as his budget was all spent. However, he invited Members to submit this type of request to him for 2011. A Member did so on Ysgol Bryn Hedydd's behalf.
- refurbishment work to the footbridge would begin in Spring 2011.
- that as part of this year's 'Rhyl in Bloom' entry, the planters at the station had been cleaned and enhanced for the summer, with regular visits to Rhyl station planned to make sure standards are maintained.
- that the pedestrian gate towards Morrisons would not be opened as part of the works.
- that the station was now staffed until 9.00pm each day.
- that the money being used to spend on stations in North Wales was coming from Welsh European Funding Office, and that a larger amount had been ring-fenced for Llandudno because it falls into the Convergence area.
- that Arriva would not be preventing late night access to the station as it was to become a 24 hour facility, but they would continue to work with the British Transport Police to tackle anti-social behaviour.
 - the public artwork at the bus station could be continued to the train station and vice-versa if that's what people wanted?

- a one-way turnstile near Morrisons was not feasible as it could never be DDA compliant and would need to be staffed 24 hours a day by law, which was not possible.
- that Arriva had invested £26m throughout Wales, including £400k on parking, which included up to £500k for Rhyl alone, much more than our franchise requested.

RESOLVED that the Town Council will extend a further invitation to Mr Davies in 12 months time to enable him to provide Members with an update on the planned refurbishment works to the Railway Station.

21. ADDITIONAL ITEM: COUNCILLOR G. WILLIAMS

The Town Clerk reported that Councillor Williams had very recently undergone an emergency procedure in hospital, but that he was now home and recovering and under instruction to rest for the next six weeks.

The Town Clerk added that a card wishing him a speedy recovery had already been sent.

RESOLVED that the information be received.

22. ADDITIONAL ITEM: COUNCILLOR MRS P. M. JONES

The Town Clerk was pleased to advise that Councillor Jones was doing well after her operation and that the prognosis was good, with follow-up treatment starting next week.

The Town Clerk stated that flowers had been sent to Councillor Jones conveying the Council's best wishes.

RESOLVED that the information be received.

23. ADDITIONAL ITEM: MR P. JONES

A Member reported that Mr Jones (Rhyl Community Association's Centres Manager) was currently in hospital for a surgical procedure that would require a six week rest period.

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk sends Mr Jones a card to wish him well.

24. RHYL TOWN COUNCIL PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Town Clerk submitted his report (circulated with Agenda) following new guidance given to the Town Council's Risk Assessment Sub-Committee by Denbighshire County Council's Monitoring Officer, in relation to the membership of the Town Council's Planning Committee.

The Town Clerk briefly summarised that Members who were also Denbighshire County Councillors could now sit on the Town Council's Planning Committee and take a full role in its meetings. However, it had

been advised that those Members should state clearly during the meetings that their views would be expressed on the information available to the Town Council at the time and could change when and if more comprehensive information became available to them when the same applications were under debate at County level.

RESOLVED that the new guidance be accepted with the addition that no Denbighshire County Councillor should take the Chair at any point during meetings of the Town Council's Planning Committee.

25. CONSULTATION: DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL – DENBIGHSHIRE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2006-2021 – ALTERNATIVE SITES REGISTER

Before the Town Clerk presented his report (previously circulated to Members), a Member advised that they were aware that the document received from Denbighshire County Council was both incorrect and incomplete and that an amended version was to follow with an extension for consultation and responses of four to six weeks. With this in mind, the Member suggested that the above item be deferred until receipt of the new document.

Another Member suggested that in the meantime Members could bring general comments on the format of the Plan to the Town Clerk for him to pass on to the relevant Denbighshire officers.

RESOLVED that:

- a) *the item be deferred until the amended Plan is received by the Town Council.*
- b) *the Town Clerk be instructed to request that comments on the individual maps sit alongside the relevant maps rather than pages away to make the Plan more reader friendly.*

26. QUESTION TIME

No members of the public were present.

27. CLOSURE OF MEETING

There being no further items of business the Mayor declared the Meeting of Council closed.

Mayor:

Date: