

At a **MEETING of COUNCIL** held on Wednesday 17th October 2012 in the Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Wellington Road, Rhyl commencing at 6.00pm.

PRESENT

Councillor W. N. Tasker (Mayor)

Councillors I. W. Armstrong, Mrs J. Butterfield MBE, Mrs J. Chamberlain-Jones, Mrs E. M. Chard, Mrs J. Hughes, A. R. James, Mrs M. McCarroll, B. Mellor, B. F. Moylan, Mrs W. M. Mullen-James, P. Prendergast, S. H. Ratcliffe, Miss S. L. Roberts, A. J. Rutherford, Miss R. Siddall, D. Simmons and Miss C. L. Williams.

Mr G. J. Nickels - Town Clerk
Miss H. J. Windus - Personal Assistant & Secretary

39. OPENING OF MEETING & ANNOUNCEMENT

In the absence of the Mayor's Chaplain, Father Charles Ramsay, Mr John Graham from the Clwyd Branch of Gideons International led all present in prayer.

The Mayor regretfully reported the passing of Mrs Maureen Davies, Councillor D. Simmons' Mother-in-Law, and referred to the disappearance of Machynlleth's April Jones. The meeting stood silent as a mark of respect to both families.

40. APOLOGIES

Apologies for non-attendance were received on behalf of Councillors B. Blakeley (no reason given), Mrs P. M. Jones (other commitment) and P. J. Williams (work commitment).

41. PRESENTATION FROM GIDEONS INTERNATIONAL TO THE MAYOR

The Mayor welcomed Mr John Graham to the meeting and invited him to address Members.

Mr Graham duly responded and was pleased to present the Mayor with copies of the Scriptures.

42. MINUTES

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

Council - 19th September 2012 - Min.Nos. 32-38

Proposed by Councillor A. J. Rutherford and seconded by Councillor Mrs J. Butterfield and **RESOLVED** as a correct record.

Planning - 19th September 2012 - Min.Nos. 21-24
Committee

Proposed by Councillor Mrs E. M. Chard and seconded by Councillor A. R. James and **RESOLVED** as a correct record.

Planning - 3rd October 2012 - Min.Nos. 25-27
Committee

Proposed by Councillor Mrs E. M. Chard and seconded by Councillor B. Mellor and **RESOLVED** as a correct record.

To Confirm or otherwise:

Finance & General - 3rd October 2012 - Min.Nos. 71-86
Purposes Committee

A Member advised that she should have given Councillor B. F. Moylan's apologies but had forgotten to do so at the meeting.

Proposed by Councillor Mrs M. McCarroll and seconded by Councillor Mrs W. M. Mullen-James and **RESOLVED** as a correct record and confirmed for action.

43. MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor referred to the list of engagements he and the Deputy Mayor had attended since the last meeting of Council (circulated with Agenda) for Members' information, and in particular to his Memory Walk for the local Alzheimers Society branch and to the Britain in Bloom Awards in Guernsey, at which Rhyl received a Silver.

The Deputy Mayor said that the Minister's visit to mark the start of the works at Foryd Bridge was really interesting and that the plans were impressive.

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk to write to the Rhyl in Bloom Committee to thank them for their efforts in both the Wales in Bloom and Britain in Bloom competitions this year.

44. PRESENTATION: MR GARRY DAVIES, DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL'S COUNTRYSIDE SERVICES

Further to Minute No.63 of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 5th September 2012, the Mayor welcomed Mr Davies to the meeting and invited him to update the Council on the development of the Rhyl Cut.

Brickfield Pond - Mr Davies explained that he was part of a small team of three who were based at the pond here in Rhyl, and that the Nature Reserve there was the first project given to him back in 1993. In 1996 it became the first Nature Reserve in North Wales and was opened by HRH the Prince of Wales. Mr Davies was proud to report that the project attracted 66,000 visits every year and was an important community site, working well with local organisations like the Rhyl Environmental Association.

Bruton Park - the woodland including paths and tree planting was looking good but was in need of more investment now.

Maes Gwylim – a great green space with wild flowers was perfect for dog walking and was a direct response to what the local community wanted.

Rhyl Harbour – Countryside Services were asked to catch and re-home wildlife there before work began on the site and to assist with creating a sand dune system. Mr Davies added that Countryside Services would manage the area in the future and would be continuing work there next summer once the works had been completed.

Cycle Centre – that he and his team were brought in to ensure that wildlife was unaffected by the Marsh Tracks facility, etc, and that in fact biodiversity there had actually increased as a result. Mr Davies said that the facility was a fantastic resource.

Mountain Bike Track – this new addition would run alongside Marsh Tracks and would be a quiet recreational area, free for all to use.

Rhyl Lynx – was a scheme encouraging people to use the many cycle and foot paths Rhyl was blessed with.

Rhyl Cut – that the plan was to widen and deepen the Cut and create a wildlife island and community / family fishery including a path all the way around and a bridge. There were already otters and water voles in the Cut. All excavated waste would be used within the Mountain Bike Track instead of going to landfill sites. Mr Davies concluded by stating that the introduction of allotments would be considered.

In response to Members comments and questions, Mr Davies said that:

- unfortunately a small minority of irresponsible dog owners were spoiling the environment for everybody by not picking up their dog's mess. The only answer was to prosecute the offenders.
- the tenders for the excavation of the Cut had gone out this week and would be completed by Christmas, followed by autumn/winter planting by the local community, including the schools with completion of the main works by the end of March 2013.
- with regards to fly tipping, they were hoping that peer pressure by community involvement and ownership would prevent the problem. If it did not, then they would look for an appropriate course of action.
- hopefully the Cut project would stand us in good stead for securing further grants to extend the work along the Cut.
- a cemetery could not be introduced at Maes Gwylim as it was designated for quiet recreation purposes only.

Members congratulated Mr Davies and his team for their excellent work which contributed hugely to the health and well being of the community, both animal and human!

45. DENBIGHSHIRE TOURISM FORUM

The Mayor reported receipt of a flyer (circulated with Agenda) for the above event to be held on Wednesday 24th October at the Oriel House Hotel in St. Asaph.

The Town Clerk advised that he had taken the liberty of securing two places at this important event and asked for Members to consider appointing two Councillors to attend on the Council's behalf.

RESOLVED that Councillors Miss S. L. Roberts and D. Simmons be appointed to attend.

46. QUESTION TIME

There were no members of the public present.

47. CLOSURE OF MEETING

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

Mayor:

Date: