

At a **MEETING of COUNCIL** held on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2014 in the Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Wellington Road, Rhyl commencing at 6.00pm.

## **PRESENT**

Councillor A. J. Rutherford (Mayor)

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

Mr G. J. Nickels – Town Clerk

### **134. OPENING OF MEETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor announced the sad passing of past Town Councillor and Mayor Mr Eric Davies BEM JP peacefully earlier this morning and the meeting stood in silence to remember him.

Chaplain, Rev. Stan Walker, commenced proceedings by leading all present in prayer.

**RESOLVED** that a card of condolence be sent to Mr Davies' family.

### **135. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for non-attendance were received on behalf of Councillors Ms J. Hughes (indisposed), Mrs M. McCarroll (family commitment), S. H. Ratcliffe (indisposed), Miss R. Siddall (family commitment) and W. N. Tasker (indisposed).

### **136. MINUTES**

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

Council - 19<sup>th</sup> February 2014 - Min.Nos. 117-133

Proposed by Councillor A. J. Rutherford and seconded by B. Blakely and **RESOLVED** as a correct record.

Planning Committee - 19<sup>th</sup> February 2014 - Min.Nos. 53-56

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

Planning Committee - 5<sup>th</sup> March 2014 - Min.Nos. 57-59

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

**To Confirm or otherwise:**

Finance & General - 5<sup>th</sup> March 2014 - Min.Nos. 147-158  
Purposes Committee

Proposed by Councillor P. Prendergast and seconded by Councillor B. Blakeley and **RESOLVED** as a correct record and confirmed for action.

**137. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1974 – VACANCY IN THE OFFICE OF COUNCILLOR**

The Town Clerk presented his report (circulated with agenda) and formally declared a vacancy in the town's Bodfor ward.

A notice would be displayed within the ward on 20<sup>th</sup> March and would be advertised in the Rhyl Journal next week.

**RESOLVED** that the report be received.

**138. MAYOR'S REPORT**

The Mayor referred to the list of engagements he and the Deputy Mayor had attended over the last month and in particular to his participation in the Rhyl Reunion event held over a recent weekend which had resulted in large numbers of people in the Rhyl public houses, and upon a recent donation from their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge to the Mayors Flood Appeal.

**RESOLVED** that the report be received.

**139. PRESENTATION: DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL – MENS SHEDS**

Further to Minute No.102 of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2013 the Mayor welcomed Mr Simon Poole, Mr Dave Cann, and Mr Darren Brag to the meeting and invited them to address Councillors.

Mr Poole outlined the philosophy behind the initiative both globally and from a Rhyl perspective advising that:

- the shed offered a meeting place for men to come together to discuss and share experiences and skills such as health which would not normally be raised
- the Rhyl Shed had begun in October 2013 with three people and had since grown to 40 registered members
- the Rhyl Shed had been given two dinghies which would form the basis of their current restoration project but they would also be making bird houses and planters
- members attended because they wanted to rather than being required to
- he was seeking the support of the Town Council to attract funding for the project

In response to Members' questions Mr Poole advised that:

- women could also attend the sheds
- they would be happy to examine the possibility of establishing a handyman service dependent upon resources
- they would be happy to accept an invitation to attend a meeting of the Rhyl in Bloom Committee

***RESOLVED*** that the Town Clerk to liaise with Mr Poole to establish whether assistance could be provided in making application for external finance and grants.

#### **140. PRESENTATION: DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RHYL TOWN AND AREA PLAN**

The Mayor welcomed Mr Mark Dixon (Coastal Team Leader) and invited him to update Councillors on the progression of the emerging Town and Area Plan for Rhyl (circulated at the meeting).

Mr Dixon advised upon the background to the Town Plans across the County and that initially no Plan had been proposed for Rhyl as it was considered that the Rhyl Going Forward Strategy would address the issues in the town, however it was now accepted that the strategy did not deal with the wider issues affecting Rhyl.

He further advised that the Plan had been developed by representatives of the Town and County Councils and had received input from the Rhyl Going Forward Group which included the business sector and would be submitted to Cabinet next week with a request for funding to commence its implementation. In this respect Council was advised that the view of the Town Council would be important in supporting the funding bid.

Members advised that the document represented an opportunity for the people of Rhyl through their elected Members to take control of what was being done to the town, enabling projects to be delivered which had been requested by the community rather than being imposed on them.

A Member advised on the comments received from the Rhyl Going Forward Group which had been negative towards elements of the Plan particularly in respect of the use of deprivation figures.

A Member commented that he believed that the Plan represented a vehicle by which bids for external funding could be supported.

Following consideration of the document the Town Clerk submitted a written report (circulated at meeting) identifying the specific commitments identified within the Plan required from the Town Council. The report identified links to the Council's Strategic Plan and previously identified major and medium sized projects. The report further identified those areas where expenditure would need to be incurred by the Town Council if delivery was to be achieved. In this respect it was confirmed by Mr Dixon that any additional expenditure by the Town Council beyond what was already budgeted would not be required until 2015/16 financial year.

Following consideration of the document Members expressed their appreciation to Mr Dixon and his team.

**RESOLVED** that:

- i) *the Draft Rhyl Town and Area Plan be approved*
- ii) *subject to costings the Town Council will agree in principle to fund all elements of the Plan allocated to it until the next Local Government elections*
- iii) *the three Town Council representatives appointed to the Rhyl Town and Area Plan Committee be delegated responsibility for overseeing any subsequent expenditure for:*
  - *enhanced planting and future maintenance*
  - *provision of anchor points for bunting and future maintenance*
  - *provision of roses at gateways to the town and future maintenance*
- iv) *the Town Council representatives to provide monthly updates on progress achieved to the Finance and General Purposes Committee*

**141. 'MAKE RHYL CLEAN IN 2014'**

Further to Minute No.126 of the meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2014, the Mayor invited the Chair of the initiative, Councillor Miss S. Roberts to advise on the current position.

Councillor Miss Roberts duly advised that a number of volunteers had been identified and equipment sourced and acquired through Denbighshire Tidy Towns' Officer. However in consideration of the emerging Rhyl Town and Area Plan it was not considered appropriate to progress with the initiative until it was known which street furniture was to be retained as it would be counterproductive to paint something which was to be replaced in the near future.

As such it had been decided to postpone the event until the position had been clarified.

**RESOLVED** that the report be received.

**142. RHYL PHYSICAL ACTIVITY PROGRAMME – REPORT OF TOWN COUNCIL CHAMPIONS**

Further to Minute No.125 of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2014, the Mayor invited the Council's Champions, Councillors Blakeley and James to present their report (circulated with agenda) providing the Council with an update on the programme.

Councillor James presented the report particularly identifying that the programme was being held up as good practice and the subsequent success of young athletes who had benefited from the Elite Athlete Programme.

In response to a Member's question it was clarified that the Physical Activity Programme was a Town Council initiative not a grant.

Members expressed concerns that the programme was not inclusive as charges were made to access the programme which meant it was unaffordable for some families to participate.

A Member also expressed concern that the statistics contained within the report did not provide clarity as to the number of individual participants taking part and only provided information as to the number of session places meaning that the same individuals would be attending more than one session and that this did not allow a clear picture of the number of people benefiting from the programme.

Following further debate it was proposed that the full budget amount (less any surplus) of £24,898.89 be committed to the programme for the 2014/2015 year.

An amendment was subsequently proposed that the budget be reduced to £20,000.

Upon being put to the vote it was **RESOLVED** that the budget be reduced to £20,000 for the 2014/15 year.

#### **143. I.T. REPORT**

Further to Minute No.150 of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2014, the Town Clerk advised that costings for the proposed upgrading of the Council's I.T. network had not yet come in so there was nothing further to report.

**RESOLVED** that the item be deferred to the next meeting.

#### **144. PRESENTATIONS FROM RHYL GOING FORWARD OFFICERS (IF REQUIRED)**

Further to Minute No.29 of the meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2013, the Town Clerk reported that there had been no request to report to the Town Council.

**RESOLVED** that a request be made to the Rhyl Going Forward officers for a presentation to be given to the Town Council identifying future priorities of the programme and that subsequently Council undertake a review of the level of input into the Rhyl Going Forward Programme.

#### **145. MEMBERS' INFORMATION ITEMS**

The Town Clerk advised Members:

i) St. Margaret's Drive Bus Shelter

That in accordance with previous instructions a new shelter had been ordered and was currently being manufactured. It was likely to take six to eight weeks to be installed and that the full cost of approximately £4,000 would fall upon the Council however he was attempting to recover this.

ii) Visit to Liverpool

That arrangements for the visit to Liverpool Social Enterprises on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2014 now needed to be confirmed visit and that the following Members had advised that they wished to attend:

B. Blakeley, Mrs J. Butterfield MBE, Mrs J. Chamberlain Jones, Mrs E. Chard, Mrs P. M. Jones, Mrs M. McCarroll, B. Moylan, W. N. Tasker and Miss C. L. Williams.

The Town Clerk further advised that any spare capacity on the visit would be allocated to other organisations by Ms Sandy Williams and that Members would be required to purchase their own lunch on the day.

The Town Clerk asked that any Member able to help transport their fellow Councillors to the meeting point on the Wirral to contact him.

**RESOLVED** that the report be received and the visit be designated as an approved duty for mileage purposes.

iii) Flood Appeal update

The Mayor provided an update on the current status of the Flood Appeal which currently stood at just under £50,000 and that it had benefited from a significant contribution via the Community Foundation for Wales and a personal donation from the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and from a recent reunion event in Rhyl.

iv) Bridge works

The Town Clerk advised that he had been notified that the Foryd Bridge will be closed for approximately three weeks in early September for essential works and that if required the relevant officers of the County Council would meet with Members to discuss it further.

A Member advised that he had been informed that the Officers were now seeking to undertake the work in October if possible.

**RESOLVED** that the reports be received.

## 146. **QUESTION TIME**

Two Members of the public were present and asked the following questions:

In respect of the Rhyl Town and Area Plan what was designated as the Town Centre Area particularly in so far as Wellington Road was concerned?

A Member responded that the area had been designated as being around the High Street and along Wellington Road to the junction with Elwy Street.

A supplementary question was asked as to how businesses had been consulted on the plan as her business had not been?

A response was provided that input into the Plan from businesses had been through the Rhyl Business Group but that as a business proprietor she may wish to attend a forthcoming meeting of the Town Centre Forum to be held on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2014.

A question was asked from a member of the public as to whether the Talented Athletes Scheme was elitist

A member responded that the scheme was not elitist and demonstrated how the scheme had assisted young athletes regardless of background, to progress in their chosen sports.

**147. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

***RESOLVED** that the Press and Public be excluded from the Meeting for consideration of the following items of business in accordance with Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act, 1960, on the grounds of confidentiality.*

**148. RHYL SHOP FRONT IMPROVEMENT SCHEME**

The Town Clerk reported receipt and details of applications from local businesses and advised that of the six applications received four met the criteria, one potentially met the criteria and one had not enclosed the necessary supporting documentation.

***RESOLVED** that the applications meeting or potentially meeting the criteria be submitted to Denbighshire County Council for payment following the closing date.*

**149. CLOSURE OF MEETING**

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

Mayor: .....

Date: .....