

At the **MEETING of COUNCIL** held on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2019 in the Council Chamber, Wellington Road Community Centre, Rhyl commencing at 6.00pm.

## **PRESENT**

Councillor Mrs E. M. Chard (Mayor)

Councillors B. Blakeley, Mrs J. Chamberlain-Jones, A.R. James, A. S. Johnson, B. Jones, K. R. Jones, Mrs D. L. King, Ms J. L. McAlpine, B. Mellor, Mrs W. M. Mullen-James, P. Prendergast, Ms V. Roberts, A. J. Rutherford, R. J. Turner and Miss C. L. Williams.

Mr G. J. Nickels – Town Clerk  
Miss H. J. Windus – Deputy Town Clerk

### **96. OPENING OF MEETING & APOLOGIES**

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

Apologies for non-attendance were received on behalf of Councillors J. Ball, Ms J. Hughes, Mrs P. M. Jones, Miss S. L. Roberts and T. Thomas.

### **97. MINUTES**

The minutes of the following meetings of Council and committees were submitted for approval as a correct record:

Council - 20<sup>th</sup> November 2019 - Min. Nos. 82-95

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

Planning Committee - 20<sup>th</sup> November 2019 - Min. Nos. 28-30

Proposed by Councillor Mrs W. M. Mullen-James and seconded by Councillor Ms J. L. McAlpine and **RESOLVED** as a correct record.

Planning Committee - 4<sup>th</sup> December 2019 - Min. Nos.31-33

Proposed by Councillor Ms J. L. McAlpine and seconded by Councillor A. S. Johnson and **RESOLVED** as a correct record.

To Confirm or otherwise:

Finance & General Purposes Committee - 4<sup>th</sup> December 2019 - Min. Nos.38-49

Proposed by Councillor A. J. Rutherford and seconded by Councillor A. R. James and **RESOLVED** as a correct record and confirmed for action.

## **98. PRESENTATION: RHYL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

The Mayor welcomed Ms Judith Greenhalgh (Chief Executive) and Ms Nikki Jones (Community Development Lead, Rhyl) to the meeting and invited them to address members.

Ms Greenhalgh referred to the recently published Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation figures and the negative results for Rhyl despite the significant investment into the town in relation to the SC2 Centre, new high schools and the further planned Queens Market site.

Ms Greenhalgh advised that she had established the Rhyl Community Development Board comprising of major organisations delivering key services in the town which had led to the appointment of Ms Jones to deliver its objectives.

One of the issues identified by the board had been to develop a mixed housing offer to tackle homelessness and to cease utilising bed and breakfast facilities.

There was also a need to better utilise the funding available from the windfarm funding

Ms Jones advised that she was seeking to keep town and county councillors informed by way of the Local Reference Group meetings and also reported to the Member Area Group meetings. That she considered it important to listen to local people through conversations rather than questionnaires and said that councillors' assistance in this would be most welcome.

In response to members questions the officers said:

- that the news of an additional £6.2 million funding from Welsh Government was welcomed but this figure needed to be set against budget pressures of £11 million, although it would assist in protecting frontline services
- that data used for the WIMD figures was the last available and as such could be a number of years old.

Members commented that:

- licensing of landlords of HMOs was not working,
- schools had a big role to play in addressing worklessness with certain families experiencing 2 – 3 generations of unemployment and accepting this as the norm.
- the planning system was being abused to enable HMOs to be created by the backdoor.
- that the town council used to be able to attend Members Area Group meetings but were now prohibited from doing so by the County Council.
- Not all deprived people live on the Promenade and resources need to tackle issues across the town.
- the town centre looks tired and gives a negative impression – such things as CCTV cameras pointing downwards gives the impression of no one caring.

In response to members' comments Ms Greenhalgh advised that:

- the county council shared the town council's aspirations for Rhyl.
- that the MAGs were part of the county council structure and the Local Reference Group is the forum for town councillors to feed into.
- that she welcomes the town council's ideas but it must be accepted that big retail was not returning to high streets, and was pleased that the Prom was improving and two new hotels had been established.

Ms Jones commented that it was not all about money but about changing residents' perceptions and empowering them. This had been highlighted by the residents' engagement with the Town Vision document.

In response to a question from the Town Clerk Ms Greenhalgh advised that she would share the county council's evaluation of the WIMD data with the town council once it had been undertaken.

On behalf of the town council, the Mayor thanked the officers for their attendance.

#### 99. **MAYOR'S REPORT**

The Mayor referred to her attendance at events over the past month and in particular her attendance at the performance of the "Little Shop of Horrors", the Christmas lights switch-on and the "Rockin' Rhyll" event

**RESOLVED** that the report was received.

#### 100. **AUTHORISATION OF PAYMENTS / ADDITIONS TO THE APPROVED SUPPLIERS LIST (SCHEDULE B)**

Further to minute no.143 of the meeting of council held on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2017 and in accordance with the council's adopted financial regulations, the Town Clerk submitted schedule B (a list of non-regular payments to be released over the coming month) and details of one additional supplier to be added to the suppliers list after members' approval.

**RESOLVED** that the following was approved for payment and signed by two councillors.

*Schedule B payments for approval (30<sup>th</sup> October to 13<sup>th</sup> November 2019)*

Supplier	Details of Supply	Voucher Number	Amount £
P Wilson Busking Charity Account	2 x Tickets for Vale of Clwyd MIND Event 14 <sup>th</sup> December 2019	894	16.00
Denbighshire County Council	Contribution to Events Programme 2019/20	895	19,000.00
Fool's Paradise	Entertainment for Christmas Event 07/12/19	896	984.00
Gunsmoke Communications	Miscellaneous expenses for Halloween and St Dwynwens Events	897	47.40

Llandudno Mayor's Charity Account	Donation	898	10.00
Cymen Cyfyngedig	Translation Services	899	60.00
Rhyl Silver Band	Donation for services on Remembrance Sunday	900	50.00
Cllr E Chard	Mayoral Support November 2019	901	130.94
St John's Ambulance Cymru	Donation for services on Remembrance Sunday	902	50.00
Denbighshire County Council	Garden of Remembrance Rent	903	13.50
Denbighshire County Council	Ysgol Tir Morfa Bus Shelter Rent	904	1.00
<b>Total Schedule B</b>			<b>£20,362.84</b>

**101. REQUEST TO ADDRESS COUNCIL: MR RICHARD KENDRICK, ROYAL BRITISH LEGION**

The Town Clerk advised that he had received an approach from Mr Richard Kendrick on behalf of the Royal British Legion asking to address Council in relation to the local Poppy Appeal and to seek support for events to mark the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VE day.

**RESOLVED** that in consideration of the number of organisations currently waiting to address the Council Mr Kendrick be invited to write to the Council rather than present.

**102. REPRESENTATIVE ON OUTSIDE BODIES: DENBIGHSHIRE DESTINATION PARTNERSHIP**

The Town Clerk submitted correspondence (circulated with agenda) inviting the town council to appoint a representative to attend meetings of the Denbighshire Destination Partnership.

**RESOLVED** that Councillor A. J. Rutherford was nominated..

**103. 2019 CHRISTMAS WINDOWS COMPETITION**

The Mayor formally announced that the winners of the 2019 Christmas Windows competition jointly organised by the town council and Rhyl Business Group were:

“Liffy’s” for the Independent shop category and “MIND” for the charity shop category.

**104. INFORMATION ITEM: WELSH INDEX OF MULTIPLE DEPRIVATION**

The Town Clerk submitted a brief summary document outlining the main results from the recently published Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD).

**RESOLVED** that a further report be submitted following a more detailed evaluation of the data.

**105. INFORMATION ITEM: RNLI'S BOXING DAY DIP**

A member provided details of the planned 'Boxing Day Dip' organised in aid of the RNLI and asked members to circulate details.

**106. INFORMATION ITEM: LETTER FROM THE URDD EISTEDDFOD ORGANISERS**

The Town Clerk reported receipt of a further letter from the organisers of the Urdd Eisteddfod to be held in Denbigh requesting that the town council reconsiders its decision not to provide a financial contribution.

**RESOLVED** that the previous decision of the council was confirmed.

**107. QUESTION TIME**

No questions were asked by members of the public present.

**108. 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.

**109. HONORARY FREEMAN / FREEWOMAN REPORT**

The report of the Town Clerk (previously circulated) was submitted indicating that no nominations for the 2019 year had been received.

**RESOLVED** that the report was received.

**110. ANNUAL BUDGET**

Further to minute no.48 of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2019, the Town Clerk sought formal approval of the budget recommendations and the amended five-year General Reserves Recovery Plan and to levy a precept for the financial year 2020/2021 and to advise Denbighshire County Council accordingly.

Having considered the recommendations of the Finance and General Purposes Committee Members approved them subject to the reduction in the contingency budget from £15,000 to £14,320 with the recommended precept being reduced from £554,291 to £553,661. This would represent a 1.87% increase in the Precept but

due to an increase in the property base would not require any increase in the Band D charge which would remain at £57.68

**RESOLVED that**

- a. *approves and levies a precept of £553,611 (Five Hundred and Fifty Three Thousand, Six Hundred and Eleven Pounds) upon Denbighshire County Council for the financial year commencing 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020, Denbighshire County Council to be advised accordingly.*
- b. *the committee's recommended Five Year General Reserves Recovery Plan be amended as set out within the Town Clerk's report.*

**[This would represent a 0% increase for Band D properties]**

**111. TYNEWYDD COMMUNITY CENTRE – RECOMMENDATIONS OF RISK-ASSESSMENT SUB-COMMITTEE**

The Town Clerk and the Chair of the Risk Assessment Sub-Committee verbally reported its recommendations as determined at the meeting immediately prior to this evening's meeting.

The report outlined details of three options available to the council and the recommendations and it was agreed that the third option, to seek to transfer the centre to the Rhyl Community Association be approved subject to certain conditions.

**RESOLVED that:**

- (a) *the Town Clerk be authorised to proceed with negotiations with the Rhyl Community Association subject to conditions relating to the payment of a contribution towards necessary repairs and safeguards for the future disposal of the building.*
- (b) *The Town Clerk be authorised to act in consultation with the Chairs of Finance and General Purposes Committee and Risk Assessment Sub-Committee.*

**112. CHRISTMAS RECESS – DELEGATION OF EXECUTIVE POWERS**

The Town Clerk requested members' approval of the arrangements for the delegation of executive powers to the Town Clerk, in consultation with the appropriate chairs during the period from 19<sup>th</sup> December 2019 to 15<sup>th</sup> January 2020, as follows:

- |                    |   |   |
|--------------------|---|---|
| Civic Matters      | - | Mayor and / or Deputy Mayor   |
| Planning Matters   | - | Chair and / or Vice-Chair of the Planning Committee                     |
| SOP Committee      | - | Chair and / or Vice-Chair of SOP Committee                              |
| All other business | - | Chair and / or Vice-Chair of the Finance and General Purposes Committee |

**RESOLVED** that the arrangements were confirmed.

**113. CLOSURE OF MEETING**

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

Mayor: .....

Date: .....