

At a **MEETING of COUNCIL** held on Wednesday 15th September 2010 in the Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Wellington Road, Rhyl commencing at 6.00pm.

PRESENT

Councillor Mrs M. McCarroll (Mayor)

Councillors J. B. Bellis, B. Blakeley, Mrs J. Butterfield, Mrs P. M. Butters, Mrs J. Chamberlain-Jones, C. Davies, M. C. Espley, Ms D. Hannam, Ms G. A. Jones, Mrs P. M. Jones, D. W. Lee, Mrs W. M. Mullen-James, G. J. Pickering, D. A. J. Thomas and G. Williams.

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

43. OPENING OF MEETING

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

44. APOLOGIES

Apologies for non-attendance were received on behalf of Councillors J. Butterfield (family commitment), I. A. Gunning (family commitment), Miss M. A. Jones (indisposed) and W. N. Tasker (on holiday).

45. MINUTES

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

Council - 21st July 2010 - Min.Nos. 28-42

Proposed by Councillor Mrs M. McCarroll and seconded by Councillor B. Blakeley and **RESOLVED** as a correct record.

Planning Committee - 21st July 2010 - Min.Nos. 21-23

Proposed by Councillor Mrs W. M. Mullen-James and seconded by Councillor M. C. Espley and **RESOLVED** as a correct record.

Planning Committee - 1st September 2010 - Min.Nos. 24-25

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

To Confirm or otherwise:

Finance & General Purposes Committee - 1st September 2010 - Min.Nos. 47-74

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

46. MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor referred to the list of engagements she and the Deputy Mayor had attended since the last meeting of Council (circulated with Agenda), and in particular to the Rhyl Air Show, 'Fun in the Sun', the re-opening of the new Comet store and the Breaking of the Day Fast during Ramadan at the Islamic Cultural Centre, the Benefits Advice Shop's AGM, the Prestatyn branch of the Royal British Legion's Dinner and Abergele Town Council's Civic Service. All of which had been great events that the organisers had really welcomed them to.

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk writes to Denbighshire County Council to:

- a) *convey its thanks to the Rhyl Events Manager, Ms Sian Davies and her team for the brilliant Air Show and 'Fun in the Sun' events, and in the light of the forthcoming cut backs, asks that Ms Davies' post is protected due to the massive impact these events have on the town in terms of tourism and the business community.*
- b) *request that for next year's Air Show (if it goes ahead) the use of more 'portaloos' and speakers along the Promenade be considered and better advertising of the fact that Point FM provided live commentary to keep people fully informed throughout the weekend.*

47. PRESENTATION: NORTH WALES POLICE – INSPECTOR DYFAN JONES

The Mayor welcomed Inspector Jones to the meeting and invited him to introduce himself to Members and give a brief presentation on local policing issues.

Inspector Jones duly responded and advised that he had been in post now for six months, but actually began his career here some years ago, so has a real personal connection with Rhyl.

Inspector Jones was pleased to report that overall crime figures were down by 10.1%, with serious crime down by 25.8% and anti-social behaviour by 13.9%, despite a recent spate of burglaries, which was now under control with several individuals charged. Inspector Jones added that the usual summer spike had occurred during the school holidays in areas like criminal damage and general nuisance.

Inspector Jones advised that the focus was now on alcohol licensing and asked Members to contact him with any alcohol related issues in their wards.

With regard to the Town Council's recent request for basic information to be passed to the relevant Members when a major incident has taken place in their Ward, Inspector Jones asked for direction on what Members would consider to be a "major" incident?

In respect of the predicted budget cuts within the whole of the Police force, thought to be around 25%, Inspector Jones did not yet know what impact this would have, but advised that 'Project 2011' had been set up to look at how the cuts would best be

made. Inspector Jones reassured the Council that although restructuring was sure to be on the cards, Rhyl Police Station would remain manned and that resources would still be directed to Rhyl as it was the busiest area.

In response to Members' questions Inspector Jones advised that:

- tackling drug use was part of the Proactive Crime Team's remit and that three fairly significant local dealers were the subject of their focus at the moment, and that seizures had increased due to more patrolling in the town and working with Denbighshire County Council's Community Safety Team.
- in terms of asset seizures, monies collected go into a central pot and as far as I know, the money is spent wherever the need is the greater and does not necessarily come back to the area where the seizures were made, but he find out and clarify this.
- he would consider increasing the use of bicycles by his officers, which were of particular use in the evenings.
- the Community Beat Manager (CBM) posts had been ring-fenced and therefore protected from the cuts, but there was no suggestion that the Community Support Officers (CSOs) would be as they are considered as 'staff' rather than 'officers', but stated he would do his utmost to keep them. Inspector Jones suspected that the roles of the CSOs may change?
- he would ask his CBMs to telephone Ward Members to inform them of major incidents or would provide Members with a number to ring in such instances.
- in comparison with other towns in Denbighshire, crime reduction was slightly better here in Rhyl and that is certainly wasn't the "hot bed of crime" it perhaps once was.
- he was disappointed with a Member's report of two of his Police Officers ignoring his request for vehicles parked within the zig zag lines outside Ysgol Llewelyn to be penalised, as it was an automatic fine and points and would address this.
- not all premises were licensed for preventing alcohol to be consumed in and around the building and so unfortunately it was beyond Police control, but he would familiarise himself with the town's Bye –Laws.
- environmental crimes were being addressed by the Joint Enforcement Team (currently four/five officers for the County) and although it was an important area to tackle, it wasn't a priority, and ultimately is the responsibility of Denbighshire County Council. Inspector Jones said he would review the situation but could not promise anything.
- the use of CCTV was invaluable for crime detection and as a deterrent.
- next time he would provide Members with actual figures rather than percentages, although he did offer to give Members the figures there and then, as he had them with him.

- although not considered to be 'emergencies', areas like Child Protection and Firearms licensing were extremely important issues often demanding immediate attention.
- Mounted Police were no longer used in this area.
- speed cameras were under the control of the Local Authority rather than the Police, including the Arrive Alive vans.

Inspector Jones asked Members to e-mail either himself or the Town Clerk with any issues they would like to discuss or be addressed, and left a number of cards and flyers with his and the CBMs and CSOs contact details.

Members thanked Inspector Jones for his time and praised him and his officers, particularly the CSOs who were making a real difference within their communities.

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk will provide Members with information on how they can bid for monies raised via the seizing of assets by the Police.

48. APPOINTMENT OF SUB-COMMITTEES

The Town Clerk submitted his report (circulated with Agenda) detailing the background to the Committee's previous decision to consider appointing two additional Councillors to both the Risk Assessment and Welsh Language Scheme Sub-Committees.

Some Members were aggrieved with the recent article in the Rhyl Journal commenting on poor attendance at the Town Council's Sub-Committees, which they felt to be a misrepresentation and taken entirely out of context, not to mention being inaccurate. The Town Clerk advised that the newspaper had received his written report, along with all other non-confidential paperwork, prior to the last Finance and General Purposes meeting in the usual way, so there really was no excuse for misunderstanding the issue.

On a general point, a Member suggested that the Town Clerk issue full attendance reports to the Press on an annual basis, as done regularly many years ago, to show a true reflection, and other commented that as Councillors they all tried their best to attend as many meetings as they could, but that sometimes it was not possible for very good reasons.

Some Members expressed confusion about where and how the policy to re-consider appointments if a Member failed to attend a Sub-Committee meeting on two occasions had been reached. The Town Clerk clarified that the decision was taken by the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held in March 2010, and that this had come about due to Sub-Committee meetings being regularly inquorate leaving important work not able to be progressed, which was the real issue here, not about naming and shaming individual Members. The Town Clerk added that the Finance and General Purposes Committee felt that by increasing membership, this would reduce the risk of future meetings being inquorate.

RESOLVED that due to no nominations being made, the previous level of membership be continued (i.e. five Members including the ex-officio Members, the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Finance and General Purposes Committee) with a review should the same problems arise.

49. PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Town Clerk presented his report (circulated with Agenda) asking Members to consider membership of the Town Council's Planning Committee.

RESOLVED that no additions be made to the current membership.

50. ALL WALES STANDARDS AND ETHICS CONFERENCE

Further to Minute No.67 of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 1st September 2010, the Town Clerk presented his report (circulated with Agenda).

RESOLVED that the Town Council will not submit a representative.

51. QUESTION TIME

No members of the public were present.

52. ADDITIONAL ITEM: 'BATTLE OF BRITAIN' PARADES AND SERVICES

The Town Clerk advised that the this year's parades and services will be held this Sunday (19th), starting at 10.30am in Windsor Street, to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the famous battle and that Members intending to take part should be in Windsor Street for 10.15am.

RESOLVED that the information be received.

53. CLOSURE OF MEETING

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

Mayor:

Date: