

At a **MEETING of COUNCIL** held on Wednesday 17th November 2010 in the Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Wellington Road, Rhyl commencing at 6.00pm.

PRESENT

Councillor Mrs W. M. Mullen-James (Deputy Mayor)

Councillors J. Butterfield, Mrs J. Butterfield, Mrs J. Chamberlain-Jones, Mrs L. M. Edwards, I. A. Gunning, Ms D. Hannam, Miss M. A. Jones, G. J. Pickering, A. C. Thomas and D. A. J. Thomas.

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

62. OPENING OF MEETING

Standing in for the Mayor's Chaplain, Father Shagi Punnattu commenced proceedings by leading all present in prayer.

63. APOLOGIES

Apologies for non-attendance were received on behalf of Councillors J. B. Bellis (on holiday), B. Blakeley (indisposed), Mrs P. M. Butters (work commitment), M. C. Espley (work commitment), Ms G. A. Jones (indisposed), Mrs P. M. Jones (indisposed), Mrs M. McCarroll (mayoral engagement), W. N. Tasker (indisposed), G. Williams (indisposed) and the Town Clerk (DCC meeting with the Mayor).

64. MINUTES

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

Council - 20th October 2010 - Min.Nos. 54-61

Proposed by Councillor Ms M. A. Jones and seconded by Councillor Mrs L. M. Edwards and ***RESOLVED*** as a correct record.

Planning - 20th October 2010 - Min.Nos. 36-38
Committee

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

Planning - 3rd November 2010 - Min.Nos. 39-41
Committee

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

To Confirm or otherwise:

Finance & General - 3rd November 2010 - Min.Nos. 99-125
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.

65. MAYOR'S REPORT

The Deputy Mayor referred to the list of engagements she and the Mayor had attended since the last meeting of Council (circulated with Agenda), and in particular to Flintshire and Denbighshire NSPCC's AGM in Holywell, to Rhyl's Remembrance Sunday Services which saw record attendances and to 'The Army for Today' presentation in Abergele.

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk be instructed to send letters of thanks to both Reverend Prebendary John Glover, Father Charles Ramsay and Reverend Stan Walker for conducting excellent services both in Church and at the Remembrance Gardens.

66. PRESENTATION: MR ROGER ELLERTON, PRINCIPAL YOUTH OFFICER, DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Further to Minute No.116 of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 3rd November 2010 (Minute Extract circulated with Agenda), the Chair welcomed Mr Ellerton to the meeting and invited him to address Members on the current Youth Service provision in Rhyl.

Mr Ellerton duly responded and advised that:

- following the commissioning of an independent review of Youth Services in 2009, 21 recommendations had been made and formulated into a three year business plan, which, following scrutiny, began in April this year.
- the new service would provide a flatter management structure to allow for an increase in Youth Workers on the ground.
- Youth Workers were now known as Community Youth Workers (CYW).
- in the light of the impending Local Authority funding cutbacks Youth Services simply did not have the resources to cover every area in Denbighshire.
- they would be working with the voluntary sector with a view to training 30 volunteers annually to assist running youth activities.
- there are two full-time CYWs for Rhyl who were working with Rhyl Youth Action Group and the Princes Trust (Duke of Edinburgh Awards Scheme), West Rhyl Young People's Project, Menter Iaith and the Urdd to identify gaps in provision and put projects together to fill them.
- the Youth Bus was an excellent asset to the Service and was being very well received by young people.
- he was keen to establish a liaison process with the Town Council for mutual benefit.

In response to Members' questions Mr Ellerton stated that:

- he was aware of the challenge in motivating and retaining volunteers for the long term and that this was a key responsibility of the CYWs.
- the main age group was 11-19 but that they would work with young people up to the age of 25 if there was sufficient demand, and that the service was fully accessible to young people with any kind of disability.
- more and more activities would be available during school holidays and that the only period of time not covered was Christmas.
- the service was trying to address Welsh language issues among the youth by encouraging its use and expanding on the Menter Iaith youth group run at the Oak Tree Centre in Rhyl.
- he was pleased to hear of Members' praise for the longer established CYW, James McGuinness and would inform him of the lack of provision in the Cefndy Road area of the town.
- James had done some work in the Bruton Park area, but would be happy for the young people there to meet up with him and the other CYW Adele Taylor to put their ideas to them.
- currently the Youth Bus was only used three evenings a week with some school visits during lunch breaks and agreed that it was under used. Mr Ellerton added that they had been approached by Conwy County Borough Council offering to join with Denbighshire's Youth Service to expand their own 'Bus Stop' project, including shared funding and staffing. Mr Ellerton stated that he would discuss Rhyl with them.
- on his next visit to the Town Council he would bring the Youth Bus along for Members to see.
- street play was on the agenda for urban areas like Rhyl.
- that with regard to volunteer recruitment they had successfully advertised by 'word of mouth' only, which seemed to be working as they had already trained 42 volunteers and were looking forward to making the most of their talents.
- they worked closely with the Denbighshire Voluntary Services Council (DVSC) who helped them with funding applications and gave advice on setting-up projects and venues available, etc, but that they recruited their own volunteers.
- he and the CYWs would be assessing and monitoring needs and levels of provision and reporting to Denbighshire's Lifelong Learning Scrutiny.
- they were hoping to see a big increase in provision in Rhyl in years to come and that they hoped to achieve this principally by sharing resources.
- he agreed that working with schools was key and that he had applied for funding for additional full-time CYWs to work with schools.

- was aware of problems experienced by the Town Council's past representatives on the Rhyl Youth Centre Management Committee and wanted to re-engage with a couple of newly appointed Councillors to work with James, Adele and himself, if possible?
- they had not consulted with parents but that it was an interesting point to which he would give further consideration.
- volunteers were respected and valued and not viewed as cheap labour. The use of volunteers in the plan pre-dated the General Election, the Coalition Government's "Big Society" idea and more recent threats of cutbacks.
- having young people come to the Town Council was a good idea and a great opportunity for them to tell you themselves about the activities on offer.
- recruiting volunteers today is perhaps a little easier than it was years ago due to a general increase in awareness of voluntary work.
- he would be willing to repeat the 'Question Time' type event they had held last year around community safety and working with the Police Authority here in Rhyl, giving young people the chance to put their own questions to people in authority. Mr Ellerton added that the event was a huge success and that the video was in the process of being edited.
- the Rhyl Youth Centre was only open three evenings a week and although there were 250 young people "on the books" he agreed that the centre was under used and that this was something they were addressing.
- the new structure would begin formally on 1st January 2011 and that he would arrange for their new Youth Service newsletters to be sent to the Town Council to keep Members informed, and that they would work towards the information provided in the newsletter being area specific and would include relevant contact details.

The Deputy Mayor thanked Mr Ellerton for an informative and positive presentation.

67. QUESTION TIME

No members of the public were present.

68. 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.

69. COMMENTS MADE AT FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Further to Minute No.122 of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 3rd November 2010, the Chair reported receipt of correspondence from Councillor J. Butterfield (circulated with Agenda) advising that he wished to withdraw the comments he had made at the meeting.

RESOLVED that the correspondence be received.

70. CLOSURE OF MEETING

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

Deputy Mayor:

Date: