

At a **MEETING of COUNCIL** held on Wednesday 20th January 2010 in the Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Wellington Road, Rhyl commencing at 6.00pm.

PRESENT

Councillor G. J. Pickering (Mayor)

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

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

104. OPENING OF MEETING

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

105. APOLOGIES

Apologies for non-attendance were received on behalf of Councillors Mrs P. M Butters (family illness), Mrs L. M. Edwards (indisposed), M. C. Espley (other commitment), I. A. Gunning (other commitment), Ms G. A. Jones (indisposed), Miss M. A. Jones (indisposed), Mrs M. McCarroll (indisposed), W. N. Tasker (indisposed) and G. Williams (family illness).

106. MINUTES

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

Council - 16th December 2009 - Min.Nos.96-103

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

Planning - 16th December 2009- Min. Nos. 35-39
Committee

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

107. MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor referred to the list of engagements he had attended since the last meeting of Council (circulated with Agenda), and in addition he was pleased to have seen that Mr Robert Brooks, for his voluntary service to the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association (SSAFA), Mr Derek Bartley, for his association with the Rhyl Music Club and the

Midland Association of Mountaineers and Mr and Mrs Howes, for their community spirit and their work with the Thursday Luncheon Club in particular, had been honoured by the Queen and appointed MBEs.

RESOLVED that the Mayor to write letters of congratulations to Mr Brooks, Mr Bartley and Mr and Mrs Howes.

108. HARRY WEALE V.C. REPLICIA VICTORIA CROSS

Further to Minute No.193 of the meeting held on 4th February 2009, the Mayor welcomed Mrs Jacqueline Ward and her husband Michael and Mrs Ward's Cousin, Mrs Gillian Weale and her partner Mr Rhys Jones to the meeting to see their relative, Mr Harry Weale V.C's replica Victoria Cross, before being displayed in the Mayor's Parlour for future generations to appreciate.

On the family's behalf Mr Ward thanked the Town Council for honouring Mr Weale in this way. Mr Ward added that it was very touching for Mr Weale to be recognised by his local community, and particularly poignant as Mr Weale had also been an employee of the Local Authority working in the then 'Highways' department.

109. PRESENTATION: DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL - SOUTH WEST / EAST RHYL NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL AREA EXIT STRATEGY

Further to Minute No.102 of the meeting held on 7th October 2009 (Minute Extract circulated with Agenda), the Mayor welcomed Denbighshire County Council's Principal Housing and Area Renewal Officer, Ms Carol Evans, and the Housing and Renewal Manager, Mr Gareth Roberts, to the meeting and invited them to address Members.

Ms Evans and Mr Roberts duly advised that the current strategy was now nearing its end (August 2011) and that they were in the process of developing an Exit Strategy and a new Declaration for the next phase of work, which would focus on private housing stock rather than privately owned business properties falling within the boundary drawn up to improve the areas in most need.

The officers showed a number of 'before and after' photographs of the many properties refurbished in Rhyl as part of the current scheme, which had made a significant visual impact on the immediate areas, and spoke of specific cases where individuals were enjoying a better quality of life as a result.

Ms Evans stated that the Town Council's previous financial contribution of £5,000 had enabled them to undertake the study and attract £8m worth of improvements with a further £2m planned, and asked Members to consider a contribution to allow them to put the next programme of works together.

In response to Members' questions, the officers advised that:

- consultancy fees would cost between £10-£15k and that they wouldn't expect the Town Council to meet that full cost, just a contribution towards it would be very much appreciated.
- any further work under the strategy on West Parade would be of an environmental nature rather than more property improvement, particularly because it now fell within the remit of the new Coastal Strategic Regeneration Area and so could access those funds.
- any monies invested by the Town Council would be spent in Rhyl and not in other areas of Denbighshire.
- unfortunately as funds are limited wherever we draw a boundary there will be people just outside of it feeling disappointed, and with regard to Fforddlas in Rhyl, those properties are not considered to be in as much need as elsewhere.
- we intend to better publicise our work to inform communities of our criteria and accomplishments so far via the local Press.
- property owners are means tested to determine their own level of contribution to planned improvements.
- the scheme does not include working with social landlords and that if it did, the landlord would have to pay 100% of the costs.
- individual property owners could not apply to the strategy themselves, that they would have to fall within an identified area to enable that area as a whole to be improved rather than 'pepper potting'.

The Mayor thanked Ms Evans and Mr Roberts for their presentation and congratulated them on the excellent work that was making a real difference to the look and feel of Rhyl.

[Councillor D. A. J. Thomas declared a prejudicial interest in the above item due to his position on Denbighshire County Council's Cabinet, and vacated the Chamber taking no further part in discussion or voting thereon]

110. PRESENTATION: DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL – ENFORCEMENT WARDENS

Further to Minute No.136 of the meeting held on 2nd December 2009 (Minute Extract circulated with Agenda), the Mayor welcomed Denbighshire County Council's Community Safety Manager, Mr Roly Schwarz, to the meeting and invited him to address Members in respect of the Town Council's possible contribution towards the costs of appointing two Enforcement Wardens for Rhyl.

Mr Schwarz firstly explained that his role had changed slightly in that his job title was now Community Enforcement Manager, and then went on to

advise that since the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005, additional measures could be implemented by Local Authorities to tackle environmental crime, namely dog fouling, defacement and littering.

The Act applies pressure to Local Authorities to reduce environmental crimes as links have been made to it having a detrimental effect on people's physical and mental health.

Mr Schwarz advised that he had brought a very short DVD along with him to play for Members, which was actual footage of environmental crime taking place in Rhyl, and that all of the offenders featured had been prosecuted.

In respect of the nature of the DVD, Members voted to view the recording as a confidential part of this Agenda item.

Mr Schwarz stated that the County Council now had a dedicated Enforcement Team, but that unfortunately this was not enough to effectively serve the whole of Denbighshire.

In response to the questions the Town Council had submitted to him prior to the meeting, Mr Schwarz stated that:

- a) the County Council had only started this type of work over the last 12 months and that they were learning what works best. Although we are seeing big improvements, with only two Wardens covering the whole of the County, we are limited. The Wardens objective was very much long-term and preventative rather than just about issuing fixed penalty notices and that they were not only patrolling, but investigating offences as well, responding to intelligence gathering from a number of sources, like CCTV, Police, members of the public).
- b) Rhuddlan Town Council had appointed an Enforcement Warden who has been trained by the County Council. Prestatyn Town Council were looking to do something this year.
- c) the Town Council would have a Service Level Agreement (SLA) with the County Council and this would be tailored to the Town Council's needs and flexible enough to change as and when priorities change. Denbighshire County Council would be accountable and would report to the Town Council.
- d) if the Wardens were employed by the County Council then there would be no legal or ongoing obligations on the Town Council in respect of their employment.
- e) the period of employment of Wardens would depend upon the amount of money available to the Town Council to allocate, but that he would suggest a minimum of one year.
- f) if a Warden falls ill or leaves the post it would be my responsibility to ensure full service provision under the SLA, as the Town

Council would be funding a service rather than a particular person in post, so there should be no impact in this regard.

- g) monies raised from the issuing of fixed penalty notices was subject to negotiation, but if the Town Council was paying for a service, then it was doubtful that the money could be used to offset the Town Council's contribution. Currently this money was reinvested back into educational elements of the overall service.
- h) Wardens would not be redeployed in other areas of Denbighshire without the Town Council's permission and subject to the SLA. What ever level of service provision the Town Council funded would be in addition to the current not instead of.

In response to Members' further questions, Mr Schwarz advised that:

- he should be contacted in respect of fly posting on public property and the Planning Authority for privately owned buildings.
- 25% of all prosecutions made in Rhyl are from the Town Centre.
- because of the links to ill-health, they were working in partnership with the Health Authority and that they had provided the funding for the 'stubby' packs distributed around the table to encourage smokers to dispose of their cigarette ends responsibly.
- Warden provision would be from 6.00am until 2.00am and would be very flexible depending on what the Town Council required.
- Rhyl taxpayers would not be paying twice for this service as the County Council have decided not to fund any additional posts to the two already existing as other budget priorities have been determined - i.e. in Education.
- he would ask for the statistics under the previous Chief Constable of North Wales Police, who was very committed to tackling environmental crime and had directed his officers to issue tickets, however since the appointment of the new Chief Constable this appeared to be less of a priority.
- they use the Probation Service five days a week throughout Denbighshire and that this is paid for the Community Safety Partnership.
- he estimated that the cost of providing two Wardens for a six month period would be in the region of £20,000.

The Mayor thanked Mr Schwarz for his presentation, which Members had found to be very informative.

111. CONSULTATION: NORTH WALES POLICE AUTHORITY

The Mayor reported receipt of correspondence from the above (previously circulated with F&GP Agenda papers) for the Town Council's consideration.

RESOLVED that Members were of the view that:

- a) *they had not noticed a reduction in motorcyclists visiting North Wales.*
- b) *they had not noticed a change in speed and behaviour of motorcyclists in North Wales.*
- c) *they were in agreement with the Police Force's high visibility approach to tackling motorcycle casualties.*

112. CONSULTATION: DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL – WEST RHYL COASTAL DEFENCE SCHEME

The Mayor reported receipt of correspondence from the above (previously circulated with F&GP Agenda papers) along with the actual consultation document (in the Committee Room) for the Town Council's consideration.

RESOLVED that document be received.

113. SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN – NEW VETTING AND BARRING PROCEDURE

The Mayor and the Town Clerk reported that they had attended the above training workshop on 13th January 2010 and that the procedure had limited relevance to the work of the Town Council.

RESOLVED that the information be received.

114. CODE OF CONDUCT TRAINING

The Mayor reported receipt of an invitation for the Town Council to consider appointing representatives to attend training exercises being undertaken by Denbighshire County Council's Monitoring Officer, Mr Ian Hearle (previously circulated with F&GP Agenda papers).

The Town Clerk reported that both of the St. Asaph Cluster dates clashed with tonight's meeting of Council and next week's Rhyl Elected Members meeting and that he had contacted Mr Heale and was awaiting his response.

RESOLVED that the information be received.

115. PLANNING TRAINING SESSION

The Town Clerk reported receipt of correspondence from Denbighshire County Council advising of a Planning Training Session to be held at 6.30pm on Monday 25th January 2010 at the Town Hall (circulated with

Agenda) and inviting the Town Council to consider appointing two representatives to attend.

RESOLVED that Councillor Mrs W. M. Mullen-James be nominated to attend.

116. MEMBERS ITEM: RHYL CUT FISHING PROJECT

Councillor G. J. Pickering sought Members' support for a visit to be made to the proposed fishing project at 2.00pm on Wednesday 10th February 2010.

RESOLVED that Councillors J. B. Bellis and G. J. Pickering and the Town Clerk visit the location of the proposed project.

117. QUESTION TIME

There were no members of the public present.

118. ADDITIONAL ITEM: LETTERS OF THANKS

The Town Clerk reported receipt of letters from the Rhyl Steam Preservation Trust and the Y Dyfodol project, thanking the Town Council for its contribution to the 'Santa Special' days at Marine Lake and for Members personal donations to the homeless project at Christmas (displayed at the meeting).

RESOLVED that the letters be received.

119. 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.

120. RISK ASSESSMENT ANNUAL REVIEW

The Town Clerk presented his confidential report (previously circulated with F&GP Agenda papers) for Members' consideration. The report set out the work undertaken and planned by the Risk Management Sub-Committee.

RESOLVED that the recommendations contained within the report be approved - namely.

- approved the Risk Management Plan
- noted the additional work to be undertaken this year
- no additional areas of work were identified
- Approved the Assurance protocol for inclusion within Financial Regulations
- Noted the changes made to internal audit work so that it will now encompass an interim audit

121. CLOSURE OF MEETING

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

Mayor:

Date: