

At a **MEETING of COUNCIL** held on Wednesday 21st July 2010 in the Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Wellington Road, Rhyl commencing at 6.00pm.

PRESENT

Councillor Mrs M. McCarroll (Mayor)

Councillors B. Blakeley, Mrs P. M. Butters, Mrs J. Chamberlain-Jones, Mrs L. M. Edwards, M. C. Espley, Ms D. Hannam, Miss M. A. Jones, D. W. Lee, Mrs W. M. Mullen-James, G. J. Pickering, W. N. Tasker and D. A. J. Thomas.

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

28. OPENING OF MEETING

Due to the absence of the Mayor's Chaplain, Father Charles Ramsay, the Mayor commenced proceedings by leading all present in prayer.

29. CANON HERBERT 'HERBIE' JAMES LLOYD T.D. B.A.

The Mayor regretfully reported the sad passing of Canon Herbie Lloyd peacefully at home on Sunday 18th July, who served Rhyl as its Vicar for 22 years, and was the Mayor's Chaplain on many occasions.

Members spoke of the huge loss of such a great character, and then stood in silence to remember him.

30. APOLOGIES

Apologies for non-attendance were received on behalf of Councillors J. Butterfield (other commitment), Mrs J. Butterfield (other commitment), C. Davies (indisposed), I. A. Gunning (other commitment), Mrs P. M. Jones (indisposed) and G. Williams (indisposed).

Councillor Mrs P. M. Butters left the meeting at around 6.50pm due to having to attend another commitment.

31. MINUTES

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

Council - 16th June 2010 - Min.Nos. 15-27

Proposed by Councillor Mrs M. McCarroll and seconded by Councillor W. N. Tasker and **RESOLVED** as a correct record.

Planning - 16th June 2010 - Min.Nos. 8-13
Committee

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

Planning - 7th July 2010 - Min.Nos. 14-20
Committee

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

To Confirm or otherwise:

Finance & General - 7th July 2010 - Min.Nos. 24-46
Purposes Committee

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

32. 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 meeting she had attended at the College about plans to make a film in Rhyl. The Mayor sought Members' support for inviting the film makers to a future meeting to allow them to explain the project to the Town Council.

RESOLVED that the information be received and that the Town Clerk be instructed to invite the film makers to a future meeting.

33. PRESENTATION TO TOWN MAYOR: GIDEONS INTERNATIONAL

The Mayor welcomed Mr Williams and Mr Graham from the Clwyd Branch of Gideons International, and invited him to address Members.

Mr Graham presented the Mayor with two copies of the Scriptures, which she gratefully received.

34. NORTH WALES COAST STRATEGIC REGENERATION AREA

Further to Minute No.170 of the meeting held on 3rd February 2010, the Mayor welcomed the Welsh Assembly Government's Community Cohesion Lead Officer, Mr Paul Smith to the meeting and invited him to address Members on the work and plans of the Strategic Regeneration Area.

Mr Smith duly responded and thanked Members for inviting him to come and speak to the Town Council.

Mr Smith firstly advised that the word 'strategic' had now been dropped and that the initiative was to be known as the North Wales Coast Regeneration Area or RA for short.

Mr Smith went on to say that:

- the area stretched along the coast from Rhôs-on-Sea to Gronant in Prestatyn and came in land as far as St. George in Abergele and St. Asaph.
- the RA's Action Plan consisted of six programmes (Space for Living – Housing, Health and Well Being, Education and Skills, Community Cohesion, Environment and Transport and Sustainable Economy) and that as yet only three of those programmes had been appointed Lead Officers.
- three areas of work were already underway in Rhyl (Public Transport Modal, Morley Road Car Park and the demolition of the Children's Village).
- the three areas of work in Colwyn Bay were Station Road improvements, Penrhyn Drive improvements and the BayLife Learning Centre. BayLife being a similar initiative to Rhyl's 'Rhyl Going Forward'.
- the RA was supporting the Turning the Tide Visitor Economy Study, 'Rhyl Celebrations' (which was the new name for 'Rhyl Week', as it now held events throughout the year rather than just the one week), two 'Warm Wales' projects, the Rhyl Energy Strategy and Rhyl's Marsh Tracks.
- under the Community Cohesion element, help had already been given to several community projects, Community First partnerships (including a new West Rhyl First project which began on 9th June this year, funded by Communities First), the Community Safety Partnership, Support for Social Enterprise and the creation of a Community Network.
- the RA had £8m to spend next year and that applications for all community groups throughout the whole of Rhyl were welcome.
- plans for the future included working with Rhyl's Bedford Street Residents Association, Tan yr Eglwys in Rhuddlan, the continued reduction of HMOs in West Rhyl, Denbighshire County Council Property and Environmental Grants and working with the Coastal Housing Enabler officer.

In response to Members questions, Mr Smith advised that:

- the scale of the reduction in HMOs in West Rhyl was unknown at this point as ratification was awaited from Denbighshire County Council.
- the RA was also working with Denbighshire's Empty Homes project.
- he would take comments that unscrupulous landlords were buying up properties elsewhere in Rhyl and simply moving the problem on, rather than solving it, back to his Space for Living (Housing) colleague.
- unfortunately the 'Bee and Station' public house was unsuccessful in its bid for European funding, and that they were still awaiting the outcome of a bid submitted to the Convergence Fund.

- his Space for Living (Housing) colleague had recently bought an old factory site in Gronant Street which would now be green space, and that a few allotments had been created just by Marine Lake in Rhyl behind the substation, to hopefully be managed by a local group.
- he would take the comment about not building in Rhyl's green barrier spaces and considering its many brownfield sites instead, back to his colleague.
- the RA was focussing on all towns in their entirety, not just the more deprived parts.
- Denbighshire's Property and Environmental Grants scheme was probably going to operate along the same lines as their Improvement Grants, and that questions should be directed to Mr Phil Ebbrell.
- in terms of job creation in Rhyl there were many schemes underway at the College, via City Strategy's Future Jobs Fund, etc.
- applications for small grants could be made to the Communities First Trust Fund.
- elected Members could feed into the RA via the PACT meetings, although he admitted that it had not met for a while, but that a meeting had been scheduled for September this year.
- Ms Carol Evans had been appointed as the lead officer for the Rhyl Going Forward initiative due to his secondment to the Welsh Assembly Government.

Mr Mark Dixon (Denbighshire's Principal Regeneration Manager) reported that:

- he would look into the current position with the old Park 'n' Ride site in Rhyl and get back to the Town Council.
- the Bee and Station's two uncovered windows had to remain that way as provided much needed light into the building.
- the invitation list for PACT meetings was to be extended and would include Elected Members.

The Mayor thanked Mr Smith for his attendance.

35. LOCAL GOVERNMENT (WALES) MEASURES ACT 2009: DENBIGHSHIRE COMMUNITY STRATEGY

Further to Minute No.243 of the meeting held on 5th May 2010, the Mayor welcomed Denbighshire County Council's Principal Regeneration Manager, Mr Mark Dixon, and Corporate Improvement Officer, Ms Eva Walters to the meeting and invited them to address Members on the development of the new Community Strategy. (Town Clerk's report circulated with Agenda).

Mr Dixon duly responded and advised that:

- six Area Profiles had been set up across Denbighshire, Rhyl being one, to look at issues affecting each area via a series of workshops.

- £4.2m of RA money had been spent by Denbighshire in 2009/10 on a wide range of projects including the acquisition of derelict properties in Rhyl, 'Rhyl Celebrations' (previously known as 'Rhyl Week'), the Marsh Tracks cycle/BMX facility in Rhyl, Rhyl High School, improvements to Morley Road Car Park and the provision of secure coach parking on East Parade, which were set about within a very short timescale to make sure progress was actually made with the available funds.
- more time would be allowed for future projects, enabling a better focus.

In response to the Members' questions and comments, Mr Dixon advised that:

- the 'Warm Wales' schemes were a "one-off" opportunity.
- unfortunately all of the grant funding streams available were for capital projects rather than revenue, the latter being what would be used for more general cleaning and tidying work.

The Town Clerk stated that it would be useful to look back at the Town Council's previous input into the Strategy to see if anything had actually been incorporated, and that as the Cabinet report circulated by Mr Dixon was so detailed, it should be deferred for more informed debate at the next Rhyl Elected Members meeting.

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk to request the Cabinet Report as an Agenda item at the next Rhyl Elected Members meeting.

Ms Walters went on to report that:

- the first Community Strategy had been developed in 2005 and was generally accepted to be too exclusive in that it had failed to consult with key partners and that consultation was lacking. As a result the Welsh Assembly Government had asked for it to be renewed.
- the Local Service Board (LSB) were legally responsible for delivering the strategy, with an onus on Denbighshire County Council.
- That a decision had been taken to integrate the primary strategies to avoid duplication of consultation
- an initial draft Strategy had been submitted to the Integrated Partnership Strategy.
- Rhyl Town Council, along with many other key partners, had been invited to attend an event on 29th July 2010, to look at how best to develop and deliver the areas of work.
- the Strategy was in effect the coming together of three partnership strategies.

In response to Members and the Town Clerk's questions, Ms Walters stated that:

- the Town Council's involvement would be at the sessions like the one scheduled for 29th July, where the content and nature of the strategy would be determined and urged as many Members as possible to attend.

- the invitation to attend two full-day events (July and October 2010) had been e-mailed to the Town Council and apologised if it had not arrived, and said that it certainly was not intentional, as the involvement of all elected individuals was crucial for such an important piece of work.
- she was sorry for the short notice of the first session on 29th July 2010 at Oriel House in St. Asaph, and that dates chosen were bound to be inconvenient for some but were the ones best suited to the majority.

The Mayor thanked Mr Dixon and Ms Walters for attending the meeting, which they found to be very enlightening.

[The Mayor agreed to a five minute comfort break]

36. WELSH LANGUAGE SUB-COMMITTEE – APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER

Further to Minute No.27 of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 7th July 2010, the Town Clerk asked Members to consider appointing a replacement to the Sub-Committee since Councillor Miss Roose-Lloyd's resignation from the group.

RESOLVED that Councillor Mrs W. M. Mullen-James be appointed.

37. MEMBER TRAINING

The Town Clerk submitted his report (circulated with Agenda) asking Members if they still felt the need for training on the Town Council's financial matters, the roles of Committees, procedures and protocols, how to work with the County Council and on matters surrounding health and safety (including risk assessment).

The Town Clerk collected in the forms completed by Members identifying their training requests.

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk to organise the appropriate training for those Members responding by either group sessions or on a smaller, more ad-hoc basis, depending on the number of Members requesting similar training areas.

38. QUESTION TIME

No members of the public were present.

39. AUGUST RECESS – DELEGATION OF EXECUTIVE POWERS

The Mayor requested Members' approval to the arrangements for the delegation of Executive Powers to the Town Clerk, in consultation with the appropriate Chairs during the August Recess, as follows:

- | | | |
|--------------------|---|---|
| Civic Matters | - | Mayor and / or Deputy Mayor |
| Planning Matters | - | Chair and / or Vice-Chair of the Planning Committee |
| All Other Business | - | Chair and / or Vice-Chair of the Finance and General Purposes Committee |

RESOLVED that the arrangements be confirmed.

40. 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.*

41. RHYL LITTLE THEATRE

Further to Minute No.20 of the meeting held on 6th June 2010, the Town Clerk presented his confidential report (circulated with Agenda).

***RESOLVED** that no action be taken pending the outcome of enquiries with the County Council and until the Town Council is satisfied that the theatre has provided all of the information previously requested.*

42. CLOSURE OF MEETING

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

Mayor:

Date: