

At a Meeting of the **FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE** held on Wednesday 6th October 2010, at the Civic Offices, Wellington Road Community Centre, Rhyl commencing at 6.00pm.

PRESENT

Councillor D. A. J. Thomas (Chair)

Councillors J. B. Bellis, B. Blakeley, J. Butterfield, Mrs J. Butterfield, Mrs P. M. Butters, Mrs J. Chamberlain-Jones, Mrs L. M. Edwards, M. C. Espley, I. A. Gunning, Ms G. A. Jones, Miss M. A. Jones, D. W. Lee, Mrs M. McCarroll, Mrs W. M. Mullen-James and G. J. Pickering.

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

75. MR ANTHONY O'ROURKE

The Chair referred to the recent passing of Mr O'Rourke, son of Councillor Ms D. Hannam. The meeting stood in silence to pay their respects to Mr O'Rourke and Councillor Hannam and their family at this very sad and difficult time.

76. COUNCILLOR G. WILLIAMS

The Chair was pleased to report that Councillor William's operation had gone well yesterday and that he was expected home this weekend.

RESOLVED that a card be sent to Councillor Williams to express the Council's best wishes for a speedy recovery.

77. COUNCIL CHAMBER

The Town Clerk advised that following the lights in the Chamber smoking and producing a strong smell last week, temporary measures had been taken to hopefully prevent the same re-occurring, but that if the fire alarm should be triggered, Members should make their way downstairs to vacate the building and congregated across the road outside the Twiltex store.

RESOLVED that the matter be referred to the Risk Assessment Sub-Committee.

78. APOLOGIES

Apologies for non-attendance were received on behalf of Councillors Ms D. Hannam (family bereavement), Mrs P. M. Jones (no reason given) and G. Williams (indisposed).

79. VACANCY IN THE OFFICE OF COMMUNITY COUNCILLOR

The Town Clerk reported that the By-Election for the Plastirion Ward would take place on Thursday 28th October 2010 at the Maes Emlyn Community Rooms, and that there were three candidates.

80. APPOINTMENT OF SCHOOL GOVERNOR

The Town Clerk submitted his report (circulated with Agenda) requesting that Members consider appointing a replacement Governor to Ysgol Dewi Sant, following Miss N. R. E. Roose-Lloyd's resignation as a Town Councillor.

RESOLVED that Miss M. A. Jones be appointed.

81. APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

The Town Clerk presented his report (circulated with Agenda) requested that Members consider appointing replacement representatives for the Rhyl Youth Action Group and the Rhyl Community Association.

RESOLVED that:

- a) *Councillor Mrs M. McCarroll be appointed to the Rhyl Youth Action Group.*
- b) *the appointing of a Plastirion Ward Member to the Rhyl Community Association be reconsidered after the By-Election in that Ward.*

82. RHYL PACT REPORT ON ATTENDANCE

Further to Minute No.57 of the meeting held on 1st September 2010, Councillor I. A. Gunning and the Town Clerk submitted a report following their attendance at the newly reformed Rhyl PACT meeting (circulated with Agenda) for Members' information.

Councillor Gunning added that the meeting was very informative and included an interesting presentation from the BRAND Project, which he felt would be of benefit to the Town Council. Councillor Gunning reported that both he and the Town Clerk had raised the issues of too much focus being on Rhyl West and South West Wards when there was clear need for resources throughout the whole of the town, and that the Rhyl projects should be the result of a much more vigorous consultation process with the Town Council. Also that the £20m figure spoken of in the past was for the whole coastal area from Colwyn Bay to Prestatyn, not just for Rhyl as was previously implied.

RESOLVED that:

- a) *Councillor I. A. Gunning to continue to represent the views of the Town Council at future PACT meetings.*
- b) *an invitation be extended to the BRAND Project to make a presentation to the Town Council.*

- c) *the Town Council identifies Rhyl projects it would like to see included in the plans for the North Wales Coast Regeneration Area at the next Finance and General Purposes Committee in November, for Councillor Gunning to put forward at the next PACT meeting.*
- d) *the Town Clerk to bring an historical report to the November meeting in respect of the removal of furniture from Rhyl High Street.*

83. COASTAL HAWKS PROJECT

Further to Minute No.42 of the meeting held on 7th July 2010, the Town Clerk presented his report along with the second quarterly report back from the Project (circulated with Agenda).

In agreement with Members, the Chair invited Councillors Edwards and Espley back into the Chamber to receive questions on the work and future of the project. The two Members advised that:

- a second TV documentary was in the pipeline.
- a meeting would take place the next day with Conwy County Council Officials relating to the possibility of the former Butterfly Jungle in Conwy becoming a Falconry Centre and base for the project, despite the project's preference to be based here in Rhyl.
- some progress was being made with Denbighshire County Council with regard to keeping a significant presence in Rhyl to deter Seagulls from the High Street.
- the project had not prepared for the huge interest in their work as a tourist attraction!
- at the request of Denbighshire County Council they had conducted a survey on the streets of Rhyl on people's experiences with Seagulls in the town (the results of which were circulated to Members).
- the project's working hours were 10.00am until 4.00pm (which actually equated to eight hours a day factoring in preparing the birds before and after), Monday to Saturdays.
- unfortunately no revenue had been generated from any of the TV coverage enjoyed by the project since it's launch and that their aim was for their work to become sustainable and not therefore reliant upon other funding streams.
- the Falconry Centre would be a separate part of the company to the main seagull deterrent element.
- they would be happy to work with the Fire Service on their calls to help with nuisance seagulls.
- the project was now viable.

- employee's wages were paid via the Future Jobs Fund on short-term contracts, but that they were working towards the posts becoming sustainable.
- they would always use local unemployed people in the towns they were working in.

Following their presentation the two Members withdrew from the Chamber for the remainder of the item.

RESOLVED that:

- a) *the report be received with thanks and a further report be requested in three months time, but to ask that the Town Council is informed of any developments affecting provision in Rhyl before then.*
- b) *in connection with the seagull problem in Rhyl, the Town Clerk to write to the White Rose Shopping Centre to congratulate them on installing netting over the top floor of their car park to reduce the amount of mess dropped by the birds, which was working very well.*

[Councillor D. W. Lee declared a prejudicial interest due to having a business interest and vacated the Chamber taking no further part in discussions or voting thereon]

[Councillors Mrs L. M. Edwards and M.C. Espley declared a prejudicial interest due to being Directors of the Project and vacated the Chamber taking no further part in discussion or voting thereon but at the request of the Committee returning to respond to questions]

84. MAYOR'S GALA AWARDS EVENING

The Town Clerk submitted his report (circulated with Agenda) for Members' consideration and warned that due to the current recession, he might not be able to secure the same level of sponsorship next time around.

RESOLVED that:

- a) *the Town Council thanks Councillor G. J. Pickering for his work towards the event during his year in office.*
- b) *the Town Clerk writes to the Denbighshire County Council officers heavily involved in the event to thank them for another successful event.*
- c) *the Town Clerk be authorised to begin arrangements for a similar event to be held in 2011 during the current Mayor's year of office.*

85. CONSULTATION: WELSH ASSEMBLY GOVERNMENT – PROPOSED LOCAL GOVERNMENT (WALES) MEASURES ACT 2010

Further to Minute No.58 of the meeting held on 1st September 2010, Councillors Mrs J. Butterfield and Mrs J. Chamberlain-Jones circulated copies of the North Wales Association of Town and Larger Community Councils' response to the above consultation, following their attendance a recently held special meeting.

RESOLVED that the Town Council approves the document circulated and submits it as their response.

FURTHER RESOLVED that Standing Orders be suspended to enable the Town Clerk to act as a matter of urgency.

86. CONSULTATION: CONWY & DENBIGHSHIRE LICENSING AUTHORITIES – REVISED STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY

The Town Clerk presented correspondence from Conwy County Borough Council's Head of Regulatory Services (circulated with Agenda) advising that a draft revised statement of Licensing Policy for Denbighshire and Conwy was available for inspection and comment on Conwy's website.

RESOLVED that:

- a) *the correspondence be received.*
- b) *the Town Clerk be authorised to request that the statement also be made available on Denbighshire's website.*

87. INFORMATION: DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL: (CHELTENHAM AVENUE / TYNEWYDD ROAD, RHYL) (TEMPORARY 10MPH SPEED LIMIT AND NO OVERTAKING ORDER)

The Chair submitted the above Notice (circulated with Agenda) for Members' consideration.

RESOLVED that the Notice be received.

88. INFORMATION: LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR WALES – REVIEW OF ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS REPORT AND PROPOSALS FOR DENBIGHSHIRE

The Chair referred to the Commission's final recommendations to the Welsh Assembly Government (circulated with Agenda) for Members' consideration.

RESOLVED that the document be received.

89. INFORMATION: FUNDERS FAYRE

The Chair informed Members of a Funders Fayre organised by the Denbighshire Voluntary Services Council (DVSC) to be held on Monday 18th October 2010, between 1.00pm and 3.00pm, at the Pavilion Theatre in Rhyl, at which the Town Council would be represented.

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk be instructed to advise the DVSC that unfortunately many voluntary organisation's Treasurers would be working during those hours and therefore unable to attend, and that an evening or weekend event would be better suited.

90. INFORMATION: ANN JONES AM

The Chair presented correspondence from Ann Jones AM (circulated with Agenda) seeking the Town Council's help in encouraging local organisations to use the Rhyl Silver Band at their events in these difficult financial times.

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk asks the band for a price list to enable Members to promote their services throughout the town.

91. INFORMATION: NORTH WALES POLICE AUTHORITY

The Chair submitted correspondence from the above (circulated with Agenda) advising that the Police Authority and Community Forums would no longer be held and would be replaced by an alternative structure in due course.

A Member added that the decision had been taken due to poor attendance by members of the public and was therefore a waste of Police resources, and advised that one possibility being explored was for the Police Authority to join the Local Service Board meetings to engage with local people more effectively.

RESOLVED that the information be received.

92. INFORMATION: ENVIRONMENTAL CRIME

The Chair referred to the information he had provided (circulated with Agenda) on how to report incidents of environmental crime (littering, dog fouling, etc) to Denbighshire County Council, by contacting the Community Safety Enforcement Team on 07733 012 493, 07824 626 232, 07824 431 981, 07909 686 811 or 01824 706 431.

RESOLVED that the information be received.

93. ADDITIONAL ITEM: DVSC HEALTH, SOCIAL CARE AND WELL BEING STRATEGY MEETING

The Town Clerk advised receipt of an invitation for the Town Council to appoint a representative to attend a meeting on Wednesday 13th October 2010 at the Naylor Leyland Centre in Ruthin, starting at 10.15am.

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

94. 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.*

95. RHYL CYCLING CLUB

The Finance Officer submitted his confidential report (circulated with Agenda) following receipt of a request for a donation towards the costs incurred by the Rhyl Cycling Club to host a Cyclo Cross event at Glan Morfa in November. The report identified that all budgeted grant funds had unfortunately been allocated.

***RESOLVED** that the request, with regret, be declined.*

96. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY CONTRACT

The Finance Officer submitted his confidential report (circulated with Agenda) for Members' information. The report set out the details of the invitation to tender and subsequent letting of a contract to maintain the Council's computer network.

***RESOLVED** that the report be received.*

97. BUDGET MONITORING REPORT

The Finance Officer submitted his confidential report (circulated with Agenda) for Members' information. The report set out the projected income and expenditure within the revenue account and the Community Development Fund for the year ending 31st March 2011, with appropriate explanations for variances to the original budget.

With regard to the increase in revenue balances the Finance Officer reminded Members that these related to previously identified savings from 2009/10 which had been reported to the meeting held on 5th May 2010 within the Final Accounts report. Whilst the committee was free to determine a spending purpose for these savings his advice was to retain them and reconsider the issue when the budget for 2011/12 was considered in February 2011.

From within the Community Development Fund certain Members had put forward a written report (circulated with Agenda) including a proposal to allocate £25,000 over two financial years towards a Community Payback Pilot Project. A request to receive a presentation by the Probation Service at the meeting of the committee to be held on 3rd November accompanied by a further detailed Member's report was also proposed.

[At this point Councillor J. B. Bellis declared a prejudicial interest due to his position on the Rhyl Community Association's Management Committee and vacated the Chamber, taking no further part in discussions or voting thereon. Councillor Bellis did not return to the Chamber for the remainder of the meeting]

RESOLVED that:

- a) *the budget monitoring report be received.*
- b) *no specific action be taken with regard to the additional revenue balances identified until the budget report for 2011/12 to be considered in February 2011.*
- c) *the proposal to allocate £25,000 from the Community Development Fund towards the Community Payback Pilot Project be approved in principle.*
- d) *the request to receive a presentation at the November meeting of the committee from the Probation Service be approved.*
- e) *the Town Clerk be instructed to issue the initial outline document from the Probation Service to all Members with the next despatch papers for their information.*

FURTHER RESOLVED that Standing Orders be suspended to enable the Town Clerk to act as a matter of urgency

98. CLOSURE OF MEETING

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed.

Chair:

Date: