

At a **MEETING of COUNCIL** held on Wednesday 16th March 2011 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, J. Butterfield, Mrs J. Butterfield, Mrs J. Chamberlain-Jones, I. A. Gunning, Ms D. Hannam, Miss G. A. Jones, Miss M. A. Jones, Mrs W. M. Mullen-James, G. J. Pickering, W. N. Tasker, T. C. Thomas 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

On behalf of the Mayor's Chaplain, Father Shagi Punnattu, commenced proceedings by leading all present in prayer.

105. APOLOGIES

Apologies for non-attendance were received on behalf of Councillors Mrs L. M. Edwards (work commitment), M. C. Espley (family commitment), Mrs P. M. Jones (on holiday), D. W. Lee (indisposed) and G. Williams (family commitment).

106. MINUTES

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

Council - 16th February 2011 - Min.Nos. 95-104

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

Planning Committee - 16th February 2011 - Min.Nos. 64-67

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

Planning Committee - 2nd March 2011 - Min.Nos. 68-71

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

To Confirm or otherwise:

Finance & General - 2nd March 2011 - Min.Nos. 162-185
Purposes Committee

Proposed by Councillor D. A. J. Thomas and seconded by Councillor Ms G. A. Jones and ***RESOLVED*** as a correct record (except for Minute No.201) and confirmed for action.

A Member stated that Minute No.201 (Rhyl Community Association) was inaccurate in that certain statements made by a fellow Member who was the Secretary and Treasurer of the Association had not been included and it was her view that they should be.

The Town Clerk advised that if the Members wished to discuss the detail behind the minute then the press and public should be excluded.

Another Member requested that the Town Clerk should look into the legitimacy of including things said by Members in the Minutes when debate took place as part of a confidential agenda item and the rules regarding discussion of confidential items when approving Minutes.

RESOLVED that the confirming of the wording of Minute No.201 be deferred to the Finance and General Purposes Committee to be held on 6th April 2011.

107. MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor referred to the list of engagements she had attended since the last meeting of Council (circulated with Agenda) for Members information and referred to the first of a number of Mayor's Receptions she would be hosting having taken place the week before, photographs of which were on display at the meeting. The Mayor advised that she had distributed the dates of all Receptions arranged so far around the table and invited Members to join her if they were able to.

The Mayor also reported that tickets for her Gala Awards Evening on Tuesday 12th April 2011 were now on sale at £4.00 each from the Pavilion Theatre's Box Office, and referred to the invitations to her pre-show Reception which Members' had in front of them.

RESOLVED that the report be received.

108. PRESENTATION: RHYL STEAM PRESERVATION TRUST

Further to Minute No.140 of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 1st December 2010, the Mayor welcomed Trust Secretary and Marine Lake Users Forum Committee Member Mr Simon Townsend to the Chamber, and invited him to address Members on the Trust's Museum status, the Marine Lake Nature and Heritage Trail and the forthcoming Centenary celebrations in May 2011.

Mr Townsend duly responded and advised that he would like to update the Council on four different areas of work:

The Trust's Museum

After three years of work by a large team, Mr Townsend was delighted to report that the Trust had achieved the 'Museum' status it was working towards. The status means that national standards now have to be met as a continuing commitment to retain it, and that this would be done via a three year Forward Plan.

The Marine Lake's Nature and Heritage Trail

The Trail idea was born out of a Denbighshire County Council strategy in 2009 which led to £20,000 becoming available for use at the Lake if the Marine Lake Users' Forum could secure match funding. The Forum had been successful in receiving funds from the Welsh Assembly Government's Regeneration Area initiative and were asked how they wanted to spend the money to develop the area. The Forum decided on a Nature and Heritage Trail which would include sculptures, a number of information panels, sound boxes and a Rubbing Trail, and would compliment the miniature steam railway and add an entirely different attraction to the site. The Trail will open at the end of May 2011.

On-Site CCTV

Thanks to a small amount from the Town Council's Grant Scheme last year and to funding from the Tidy Towns project, work was underway on an application for £29,500 for two CCTV cameras which would provide good quality coverage on the majority of the whole site. They were awaiting the outcome of their application and should hear by the end of March.

The Trust's Centenary Celebrations

The miniature railway opened on 1st May 1911 making 2011 it's centenary year. To mark the occasion the Trust would be hosting a Gala Dinner on 1st May for invited guests who have contributed to the railway over the years. On the 28th, 29th and 30th of May (the start of 'Rhyl Week') there would be a range of family based attractions taking place on and around the railway, the focal point being all six locomotives would be in operation, which would be a real 'one-off' experience.

At the conclusion of the Mr Townsend presentation, Members thanked and congratulated the Trust and the Users Forum for their members' enthusiasm and hard work over the years, which the whole town was now reaping the rewards of.

109. CORRESPONDENCE: RHYL RUGBY CLUB

The Mayor reported receipt of the above (circulated with Agenda) inviting the Council to appoint a representative to attend a meeting on Tuesday 22nd March 2011.

RESOLVED that Councillor I. A. Gunning be nominated to represent the Town Council at the meeting.

110. MEMBERS ITEM: PETITION

Councillor Mrs M. McCarroll reported that she had received a petition and letters (circulated with Agenda) from local residents in respect of parking problems on Marsh Road.

Members stated that they had every sympathy for the residents.

The Town Clerk reported that the Police were already taking action and that Members were pursuing this matter with both Denbighshire County Council's Planning and Complaints departments.

RESOLVED that the petition and letters be submitted to Denbighshire County Council's Planning Committee by the County Ward Member, Councillor D. A. J. Thomas on the residents' behalf.

111. QUESTION TIME

Mr Owen Ryan, a resident of Buxton Court in Rhyl, asked if members of the public could attend Denbighshire County Council's Planning meetings. A Member confirmed that they could.

112. 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.

113. COMMUNITY PAYBACK PILOT SCHEME

Further to Minute No.160 of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 5th January 2011, the Town Clerk presented his confidential report (circulated with Agenda) and the Mayor welcomed Mr Roly Schwarz to the meeting to speak to the report he had submitted prior to the meeting provided to the Council (circulated with Agenda).

Prior to Mr Schwarz' presentation, a Member advised that she had met with Mr Graham Thomas from Probation Services to ask why the original scheme was unable to proceed. Mr Thomas had confirmed that Probation Services could go ahead with the proposed scheme and that he would be happy to come to the Town Council to give a presentation.

The Town Clerk stated that the statement made by the Member contradicted what Probation Services had previously told him.

Mr Schwarz explained that the confusion could be that he had spoken to Mr Thomas and his colleague twice in the last few weeks and had discussed the possibility of both services coming together to provide an enhanced scheme for Rhyl.

Mr Schwarz then began his presentation, advising that:

- the Community Safety Partnership's proposal would pick up the shortfall between Denbighshire County Council's reduced statutory obligations and the work needing to be done to ensure Rhyl was kept clean and tidy.
- the service would be nothing to do with Denbighshire County Council and that all income generated would go to the supervisors' salaries.
- the cost to the Town Council on a daily basis and the minimum level of commitment required.
- the service would continue to carry out certain 'social' responsibilities like the clearing and tidying of the occasional unsightly garden belonging to an elderly or disabled resident, or the making safe of the Ocean Plaza site after the recent high winds blew the hoardings down, or removal of chewing gum from the High Street, without charge to the Town Council.

In response to Members' questions Mr Schwarz stated that:

- work would be directed by Town Councillors and that his team of seven committed supervisors and operators would quickly move in, complete the work and move out again, and that if the Town Council was not happy with the results he would not expect to be paid.
- the service would work at weekends to give an added flexibility.
- the Community Safety Partnership has set aside funding for the year to subsidise Rhyl's scheme, which would of course need to be sustainable in the future.
- details of work currently undertaken by the Community Safety Partnership for other organisations and the respective levels of funding received.
- the work carried out would be community led, via Town Councillors.
- the supplies needed like specialist cleaning fluid to remove chewing gum for example, would be provided by Denbighshire County Council and had been factored into the daily rate.
- our operators are a mix of self-employed individuals and people carrying out community service. We have a good core of supervisors and operate a 'role model' system with the possibility of employment at the end of the job if they have worked hard and well.

Members thanked Mr Schwarz for his presentation before asking him to leave the Chamber to allow them to come to a decision as to how to proceed.

[At Members' request, the Mayor permitted a five minute comfort break]

Councillor G. J. Pickering left the meeting and did not return.

The Town Clerk suggested that in light of the new information provided at the beginning of the item, Members might want to now invite Mr Graham Thomas from

Probation Services to provide a detailed report and presentation on the organisation's proposal. Members confirmed that a decision on Mr Schwarz' scheme be left in abeyance to enable a future comparison between the two schemes.

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk be instructed to invite Mr Thomas from Probation Services to submit a report to a future meeting at which he could also attend to give a presentation on his proposed scheme.

114. CLOSURE OF MEETING

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

Mayor:

Date: