

At a Meeting of the **FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE** held on Wednesday 2nd November 2011, at the Civic Offices, Wellington Road Community Centre, Rhyl commencing at 6.00pm.

PRESENT

Councillor D. A. J. Thomas (Chair)

Councillors B. Blakeley, Mrs J. Butterfield MBE, Mrs J. Chamberlain-Jones, Mrs E. M. Chard, Mrs L. M. Edwards, I. A. Gunning, Ms D. Hannam, Mrs G. A. Smith, Mrs P. M. Jones, Mrs M. McCarroll, Mrs W. M. Mullen-James, A. J. Rutherford and T. Thomas.

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

77. COUNCILLOR GLYN PICKERING

Following the sudden passing of Councillor Pickering on Monday 24th October, the Chair advised that Rev. Stan Walker had been invited to tonight's meeting to lead all present in a special prayer and period of silence as a mark of respect to Glyn and his family.

Members expressed their shock and sadness on losing both a friend and colleague, who would leave such a void in the Council Chamber.

The Chair reported that a card had been sent to Glyn's family and a donation would be made on the Town Council's behalf at his funeral.

78. APOLOGIES

Apologies for non-attendance were received on behalf of Councillors J. B. Bellis (indisposed), J. Butterfield (indisposed), M. C. Espley (work commitment), Miss M. A. Jones (on holiday), D. W. Lee (work commitment), W. N. Tasker (work commitment) and G. Williams (family commitment).

79. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 1972 SECTION 86 – DECLARATION OF VACANCY IN THE OFFICE OF COMMUNITY COUNCILLOR FOR THE TRELLEWELYN WARD OF RHYL

The Town Clerk regretfully declared the above vacancy after the death of Councillor Pickering and advised that the Notice would be in next week's Journal.

The Town Clerk added that if 10 electors made the written request for an election to be held by Monday 28th November, then the Town Council would have to decide whether to go ahead with an election or to wait until the elections in May 2012, as the vacancy has been declared within six months of them.

80. CONTRACT STANDING ORDERS

The Finance Officer submitted his report (circulated with Agenda) following the Council's Risk Assessment Sub-Committee's recommendations for changes to be made to the Council's Contract Standing Orders.

RESOLVED that all of the recommendations be approved.

81. RECEIPT OF PETITIONS

The Chair reported receipt of three petitions from the Rhyl Townswomen's Guild (circulated with Agenda) and asked the relevant Denbighshire County Councillors to duly submit them to the Local Authority on the Guild's behalf.

RESOLVED that:

- a) the Town Clerk to write to the Townswomen's Guild to advise on the work of the Rhyl Going Forward programme.
- b) the Denbighshire County Councillor for the South East ward, Councillor Ms D. Hannam, to submit the petitions to the next County Council meeting.

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

82. CONSULTATION: DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS TO RHYL'S 'H' BRIDGE

The Chair reported receipt of the above (circulated with Agenda with full plan on display in Council Chamber) for response by 4th November 2011.

Although Members welcomed any improvements to the bridge, there was some confusion as to how the proposals would work and whether they might actually contribute to traffic 'backing up' on surrounding roads which are meant to provide a 'safe route to schools', particularly with an increase in traffic on Marsh Road since the new Tip site and the Marsh Tracks cycling facility.

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk to contact Denbighshire County Council to arrange a site meeting with interested Town Councillors.

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

83. REQUEST FOR LETTER OF SUPPORT: DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL COUNTRYSIDE SERVICES – RHYL CUT PROJECT

The Chair reported receipt of the above (circulated with Agenda) for Members' consideration.

Members welcomed the planned improvements to create a new community green open space.

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk:

- a) provides a letter of support to the project.
- b) asks Countryside Services if the opening of the sewer sluice in the vicinity which flows into the River Clwyd was still happening?

84. INVITATION: DENBIGHSHIRE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN EXAMINATION

The Chair reported receipt of the above (circulated with Agenda) inviting the Town Council to appoint a representative to attend a Pre-Hearing Meeting at 10.00am on Tuesday 8th November at Rhyl Town Hall.

The Chair of the Planning Committee, Councillor Mrs W. M. Mullen-James, advised that she had a mayoral commitment that morning, so was unable to attend.

RESOLVED that the Vice-Chair of the Planning Committee, Councillor Mrs G. A. Smith, will attend.

85. MEMBERS ITEM: MEMBERS' PRE-MEETINGS

Councillor Mrs J. Butterfield requested that Members discuss arrangements for group meetings prior to each future meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee and Council.

The Town Clerk read aloud a letter he had previously written to Councillor Butterfield on this matter, advising that the Council had no legal powers to utilise resources to facilitate political meetings within the Council offices.

The majority of Members agreed with the principle of pre-meetings, which they felt streamlined formal meetings, and a general discussion followed on whether the Town Council's political groupings should meet here at the Council suite without excluding any Member from joining them.

RESOLVED that the Council Chamber be made available at 5.30pm prior to each Finance and General Purposes Committee and Council meeting for Labour group members one month and Conservative group members the other for a trial period of three months, but that any individual Member could come along to the pre-meetings and join in with the discussions.

86. INFORMATION ITEM: RESPONSE TO CORRESPONDENCE – QUAY STREET CAR PARK

Further to Minute No.56 of the meeting held on 7th September 2011, the Chair reported receipt of the above (circulated with Agenda).

RESOLVED that the correspondence be received.

87. INFORMATION ITEM: COMMUNITY AND ACUTE REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT REFERENCE GROUP

The Chair reported receipt of the above (circulated with Agenda).

RESOLVED *that the information be received.*

88. INFORMATION ITEM: DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL – DENBIGHSHIRE CORPORATE PLAN 2012-2016

The Chair reported receipt of the above (circulated with Agenda) consultation document.

RESOLVED *that the document be received.*

89. INFORMATION ITEM: SOUTH WEST RHYL COMMUNITIES FIRST

The Chair reported receipt of the above (circulated with Agenda) informing of a Network Lunch at 2.00pm on Wednesday 7th December 2011 at the John Davies community facility on Marsh Road in Rhyl.

RESOLVED *that the information be received.*

90. SPECIAL EVENING FOR MAYOR'S CHAIRS AND CLERKS

The Chair reported receipt of the above from Denbighshire County Council (circulated with Agenda) inviting the Mayor and the Town Clerk to the annual informal event hosted by the Chairman, the Chief Executive and the Leader.

The Mayor, Councillor Mrs W. M. Mullen-James, advised that she could not attend the meeting of Council or the Special Evening for Mayors, Chairs and Clerks on 16th November, due to a personal commitment.

RESOLVED *that the invitation be passed to the Deputy Mayor, Councillor W. N. Tasker, and the Chair of the Finance and General Purposes Committee, Councillor D. A. J. Thomas, be asked to Chair the Council meeting on that night. If Councillor Tasker was unable to attend, the invitation should be passed to the previous Mayor, Councillor Mrs M. McCarroll.*

91. ADDITIONAL ITEM: FORYD HARBOUR PROJECT

The Town Clerk reported receipt of an e-mail from Denbighshire County Council (circulated at the meeting) inviting the Town Council to an information morning on Thursday 10th November at Rhyl Yacht Club in respect of the planned scheme for the Harbour.

RESOLVED *that the invitation be received.*

92. 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.

93. PURCHASE OF LIMITED EDITION PRINT BY LOCAL ARTIST

Further to Minute No.70 of the meeting held on 5th October 2011, the Town Clerk presented his confidential report (circulated with Agenda), following Councillor Mrs J. Butterfield's request for the Town Council to consider buying a framed photograph taken at Rhyl Miniature Railway's Centenary event earlier this year.

RESOLVED that the Town Council purchases the print at a cost of £150 and displays it in the Council Chamber.

94. TOWN CENTRE MANAGER

The Town Clerk submitted his confidential report (circulated with Agenda) and added that he had written to the Town Centre Management Group to offer the Town Council's 'in principle' support and had asked for further information in terms of what role it would like the Town Council play, but as yet no response had been received, which now left the Council in a difficult position.

The Town Clerk warned Members not to enter into partnerships without knowing what they were signing up to, as recently determined by the Town Council's Risk-Assessment Sub-Committee, and as such could not recommend any further commitment to the Management Group until the Town Council was in receipt of all of the details it had requested.

The Town Council's nominated attendees to the Management Group meetings, Councillors A. J. Rutherford and T. Thomas, spoke of the speed in which things were now moving with the establishment of the post, and asked for some clarification on the remit of their roles as they felt quite restricted in how they could offer the group their assistance in progressing matters.

RESOLVED that Councillors A. J. Rutherford and T. Thomas continue to attend the meetings, but as official representatives now rather than just observers to allow them to take on a more useful and involved role, whilst the Town Council awaits further information from the Management Group.

[At Members' request, the Chair agreed to a five minute comfort break]

95. MAYOR'S GALA AWARDS 2012

The Town Clerk presented his confidential report (circulated with Agenda) and asked for Members' assistance in seeking sponsorship for next year's event, if they decided to go ahead with it.

RESOLVED that all of the recommendations be approved.

96. ILLUMINATIONS

The Town Clerk submitted his confidential report (circulated with Agenda).

RESOLVED that the report be received and the Town Clerk's actions approved.

97. NATIONAL EISTEDDFOD DENBIGH 2013

The Chair reported receipt of correspondence from the above (circulated with Agenda) inviting the Town Council to send up to two representatives to a special meeting at 6.30pm on Tuesday 8th November 2011, at the OpTic Glyndwr in St. Asaph, to inform them of the plans for the 2013 Eisteddfod and the Eisteddfod in general.

RESOLVED that the offer be declined and an invitation extended to the organisation to apply for financial assistance via the Town Council's Grant Aid Scheme in January 2012.

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

98. BUDGET ISSUES 2012/2013

At the suggestion of a Member it was agreed to defer this item for full consideration at the November Council meeting and it was **RESOLVED** accordingly.

99. CLOSURE OF MEETING

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

Chair:

Date: