

At a Meeting of the **FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE** held on Wednesday 4th May 2011, at the Civic Offices, Wellington Road Community Centre, Rhyl commencing at 6.00pm.

PRESENT

Councillor D. A. J. Thomas (Chair)

Councillors B. Blakeley, J. Butterfield, Mrs. J. Butterfield, Mrs. J. Chamberlain-Jones, Ms D. Hannam, Miss M. A. Jones, D. W. Lee, Mrs. M. McCarroll, Mrs. W. M. Mullen-James, G. J. Pickering, W. N. Tasker, and T. Thomas.

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

231. APOLOGIES

Apologies for non-attendance were received on behalf of Councillors J. Bellis (other commitment), C. Davies (holiday), M. C. Espley (work commitment) I.A. Gunning (other commitment) Ms G. A. Jones (family commitment) and Mrs. P.M. Jones (Indisposed).

232. ELECTION FOR PENDYFFRYN WARD

Further to Minute No. 208 of 6th April 2011 the Town Clerk reported that the election would be held on 12th May 2011 and gave details of the two Candidates.

233. FINAL ACCOUNTS 2010/11 (PRE AUDIT)

The Finance Officer submitted his written report (circulated with Agenda) for Members approval. The report set out the pre-audit statement of accounts for the year ended 31st March 2011, incorporating changes to the definition and valuation of assets as previously approved by Council. The report identified that the date for the External Audit had yet to be confirmed but was likely to be 31st July 2011 and this would be subject of publicity and a further report in due course.

The report identified that, as a larger Community Council, the Town Council would be the subject of an Intermediate Audit the final requirements of which would be identified by the External Auditor in due course.

The report identified the process to be followed and sought approval for the Statement of Accounts (subject to internal and external audit) and the Balances Policy Statement set out therein.

In response to members questions the Finance Officer clarified that the under-spend identified within the report would be retained within the revenue balance and would be further considered at the budget review meeting in October 2011 and when the budget was determined in February 2012 due to anticipated pressures on the budget for the 2012/13 financial year.

RESOLVED that the Statement of Accounts and the Balances Policy Statement be approved.

234. COASTAL HAWKS PROJECT

Further to Minute No.83 of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 6th October 2010, the Town Clerk submitted his written report (circulated with Agenda) relating to a condition on the previously awarded grant to the Coastal Hawks Project requiring the submission of quarterly progress reports.

The Town Clerk identified that the second quarterly report was now overdue and following enquiries the Project had requested that Councillor M.C. Espley as a Director of the Project be permitted to give a verbal report to the Committee which the Town Clerk had agreed to and it had been anticipated that the verbal report would have been received at this meeting.

However unfortunately Councillor M. Espley had been unable to attend the meeting and as such the Town Clerk was seeking instruction as to how to proceed.

A Member commented that without the benefit of a report the Council could not respond to residents questions and it was

RESOLVED that the Coastal Hawks Project be requested to provide a written progress report for consideration by the June meeting of the Finance and General purposes Committee.

[Councillor D. Lee declared a prejudicial interest due to his business involvement with another pest control company and vacated the chamber during consideration and voting on the above matter]

235. COASTAL RESORTS EAST MARKETING AREA PARTNERSHIP

The Town Clerk reported that an invitation (copy circulated with Agenda) had been received for the Council to send a representative to a meeting of the above Partnership to be held on Monday 16th May 2011.

RESOLVED that Councillor T. Thomas be appointed to represent the Council.

236. CONSULTATION: DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL: FORYD HARBOUR PUBLIC SQUARE AND SAFE HAVEN PROPOSALS – REQUEST FOR ENVIRONMENTAL COMMENTS

The Town Clerk reported receipt of correspondence (copy circulated with Agenda) from Mr Eric Price, Principal Projects Manager, Denbighshire County Council seeking environmental comments in respect proposals for the Foryd Harbour. The Town Clerk further advised that a copy of the scoping report had been deposited in the Members Library.

RESOLVED that no comment be expressed.

[Councillor D. Lee declared a prejudicial interest due to his employment as a Coastguard and membership of various nautical institutions and vacated the chamber during consideration and voting on the above matter

Councillor Mrs. J. Butterfield declared a prejudicial interest due to her membership of the Foryd Harbour Working Group and vacated the chamber during consideration and voting on the above matter

Councillor Mrs. J. Chamberlain Jones declared a prejudicial interest due to her being the appointed Town Council representative on the Foryd Harbour Working Group but remained and participated within the meeting in accordance with the provisions of Paragraph 12(2)(a)(iii) of the Code of Conduct]

237. MEMBERS ITEM – POTENTIAL DISCLOSURE OF CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

The Town Clerk advised that Councillor J. B. Bellis who had requested this item was not in attendance but had requested Councillor D. Hannam to present it on his behalf.

Councillor Hannam advised the Committee that she had attended a recent public meeting at Rhyl Town Hall called by Mr. Chris Ruane M.P. which had been chaired by Councillor Mrs. J. Butterfield. Councillor Hannam further advised that during the course of the meeting Mr. Ruane M.P. had told the meeting that “*Rhyl Town Council had agreed to give a ring fenced grant to the Community Payback Team as part of Wales in Bloom*” and requested the Council to instruct the Town Clerk to investigate this potential breach of confidentiality.

Councillor Mrs. Butterfield confirmed that she had also attended the meeting but disputed what had been said by Mr. Ruane M.P. and proposed that no further action be taken on the matter and this was seconded.

The Chairman advised that he did not intend to open the matter for debate

In response to a question from a Member the Town Clerk and Chairman advised that the wording on the Agenda was an historical introduction to Members items and advised that no debate should take place on the item to avoid prejudicing any subsequent investigation.

RESOLVED that no action be taken

238. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ITEMS

The Town Clerk advised that he had circulated information relating to Rhyl Steam Preservation Trust Gala Day, and had also available a schedule of events programmed to take place over the summer period within Rhyl. The Town Clerk also advised that he been requested to bring to Members attention a Meet the Patient event in June.

239. CLOSURE OF MEETING

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed and expressed his appreciation to Members for their support over the past 12 months.

Chair:

Date: