

At a **MEETING of COUNCIL** held on Wednesday 18th September 2013 in the Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Wellington Road, Rhyl commencing at 6.00pm.

PRESENT

Councillor A. J. Rutherford (Mayor)

Councillors I. W. Armstrong, Mrs J. Butterfield MBE,
Mrs J. Chamberlain-Jones, Mrs E. M. Chard, Ms J. Hughes, A. R. James,
Mrs P. M. Jones, J. May, B. Mellor, B. F. Moylan, Mrs W. M. Mullen-James,
S. H. Ratcliffe, Miss S. L. Roberts, Miss R. Siddall, D. Simmons and Miss C. L. Williams.

Mr G. J. Nickels – Town Clerk
Mr R. A. Hughes – Finance Officer
Miss H. J. Windus - Personal Assistant & Secretary

48. OPENING OF MEETING

The Mayor's Chaplain, Rev. Stan Walker, commenced proceedings by leading all present in prayer.

49. APOLOGIES

Apologies for non-attendance were received on behalf of Councillors B. Blakeley (DCC commitment), Mrs M. McCarroll (indisposed), P. Prendergast (on holiday) and W. N. Tasker (on holiday).

50. MINUTES

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

Council - 17th July 2013 - Min.Nos. 30-42

Proposed by Councillor D. Simmons and seconded by Councillor A. R. James and **RESOLVED** as a correct record.

Planning - 17th July 2013 - Min.No. 12
Committee

Proposed by Councillor Mrs E. M. Chard and seconded by Councillor A. R. James and **RESOLVED** as a correct record.

Planning - 5th September 2013 - Min.Nos. 13-16
Committee

Proposed by Councillor Mrs E. M. Chard and seconded by Councillor A. R. James and **RESOLVED** as a correct record.

Councillor Mrs W. M. Mullen-James asked that her late arrival at the meeting, causing her to miss the first item on the agenda, be recorded in the minutes.

RESOLVED that Councillor Mullen-James' late arrival be reflected in the minutes.

Proposed by Councillor A. J. Rutherford and seconded by Councillor A. R. James and **RESOLVED** as a correct record.

To Confirm or otherwise:

Finance & General - 5th September 2013 - Min.Nos. 39-61
Purposes Committee

The Town Clerk referred to Item No.46 (Request to Address Council – RWNPower) and advised that RWNPower had confirmed that the Windfarm would be in the South of the County and was therefore irrelevant to Rhyl, so the presentation was no longer required. The Town Clerk stated that Councillor A. J. Rutherford had suggested inviting representatives from the Post Office and the Trade Unions as a replacement to the scheduled presentation, following the planned closure of Rhyl's Crown Post Office.

RESOLVED that the Post Office and Trade Unions be invited to attend the October Council meeting.

With regard to Item No.50 (Appointment of Reps on Outside Orgs – Rhyl Town & Area Plan Steering Group and Sub-Groups) Councillor Mrs J. Butterfield MBE advised that an additional nomination to the Town Centre Strategy / Vibrant & Viable Places Application Work Stream Sub-Group was necessary.

RESOLVED that:

- i) Councillor A. R. James be appointed.
- ii) The Town Clerk to write to Welsh Government Minister to convey the Town Council's disappointment at being unsuccessful in its Vibrant & Viable Places bid.

Proposed by Councillor Miss S. L. Roberts and seconded by Councillor A. R. James and **RESOLVED** as a correct record and confirmed for action.

51. MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor referred to the list of engagements the Deputy Mayor and himself had attended since the last meeting of Council (circulated with Agenda) for Members information, and made particular reference to the British Heart Foundation's 'Appreciation Afternoon', 'Festival in the Park' at Botanical Gardens, 'Proms on the Prom' and the Air Show. All fantastic events.

52. PRESENTATION: DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL – SHOP FRONT IMPROVEMENT SCHEME

Further to Minute No.37 of the meeting held on 17th July 2013, the Mayor welcomed Ms Kirsty Hutton Davies, Business Investment Officer, and invited her to address Members on the initiative (background documents circulated with agenda).

Ms Hutton Davies stated that £5,000 was available for Rhyl and that grants of £1,000 would be allocated to each successful shop front, by completing a simple one page application form which would be submitted to the Town Council for it to apply the pre-prepared scoring matrix, as supplied by her office.

Ms Hutton Davies accepted that £5,000 per town was not a lot of money but that it was all she had, adding that she was hoping to redistribute any monies not taken up by other towns to top-up the pots for those accepting involvement.

The Mayor thanked Ms Hutton Davies for her attendance and said that the Council would consider its involvement in the scheme under confidential session later on tonight's agenda and that the Town Clerk would be in touch with her shortly to let her know of the outcome.

53. PRESENTATION: DENBIGHSHIRE VOLUNTARY SERVICES COUNCIL

Further to Minute No.188 of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 1st May 2013 (circulated with agenda), the Mayor welcomed Ms Sandy Williams, Social Enterprise Officer, and invited her to address Members on the social enterprise initiatives the DVSC had been working with recently.

Ms Williams introduced herself and explained that her role was to develop partnerships and organise networking events with key people to help build up a portfolio of Social Enterprises (S.Es) that could benefit Denbighshire in a way that has benefited Liverpool.

Ms Williams advised that:

- An S.E. is defined as “a business with social objectives. Their left-over profits are reinvested for that purpose in the business or the community, instead of raising profit for shareholders and owner”.
- S.Es are separate from existing sectors and are not public, private or third/charitable.

And that the benefits of S.Es are:

- New employment opportunities, reducing worklessness.
- Addresses market failures in communities.
- Underpins the local Regeneration Strategy.
- Creates a new 'offer' to communities and the tourist economy of the area.
- Contribution to local GVA.
- Keeps money in the local economy through local employment.

Ms Williams reported on projects in Liverpool that were working well. Projects like:

'Rampworx' an indoor skate park that has been operating for 10 years and is a sustainable business creating employment opportunities and a safe environment for young people. Ms Williams felt that this type of project could work just as well here in Rhyl and that links could be made to the Marsh Tracks facility.

'Your Travel' a sustainable community transport operation run by Knowsley Development Trust.

'The Brink' Liverpool's first dry pub which sits amid a dedicated row of S.Es and is a Recovery S.E with all profits going to those who have suffered through alcoholism and addiction and is a welcoming, creative and intelligent space for all walks of life to enjoy.

'Baltic Creative' an affordable creative space that meets the changing needs of the creative and digital sector.

'Can Cook' teaching children and adults how to cook healthy meals at home.

In response to Members' questions, Ms Williams advised that:

- These types of S.Es could help to fill the units currently empty on sites like Wood Road and Marsh Road with a sliding scale of rent charges as time goes on.
- She would carry out a feasibility study before bringing Beach Huts back to Rhyl. This was something again Ms Williams believed would be really welcome here in Rhyl.
- She would be happy to help to organise a trip to Liverpool for Town Councillors to visit these S.Es, particularly to 'Rampworx'.

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk to organise a mini-bus to Liverpool for a delegation of Councillors to visit a number of the social enterprise schemes referred to by Ms Williams.

54. PRESENTATION: DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL – NEW RHYL HIGH SCHOOL PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT

Further to Minute No.44 of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 5th September 2013, the Mayor welcomed Ms Jackie Walley, Project Manager, and invited her to address Members on the progress of the new school (report circulated with agenda).

Ms Walley advised that:

- The new build was not about replacing Rhyl High School and would include enrolment for students from Ysgol Tir Morfa.
- They had received agreement 'in principle' for funding along with funding for a feasibility study.
- It was essential to engage with the community as they had just one chance to get this right.
- Because of traffic concerns around access to the Tynewydd site, the designs were being refined.
- They hoped to include leisure facilities after the results of a review were available, which might mean improving the current provision or relocating them as part of the new school?
- There would an emphasis on partnership working with local businesses to promote entrepreneurial spirit in school with students providing and delivering IT themselves to give the school and Rhyl something unique and quite apart from academic ability.
- Planning permission would be submitted in November 2013.

- External consultation had been completed and had highlighted some concerns from residents living close to the site, which they would do their best to eliminate.
- Welsh Government had given them the go ahead.
- Works would begin in Spring 2014.
- The school would be operational in 2016.

In response to Members' questions, Ms Walley stated that:

- They were listening to the views of the community and were adjusting the plans in accordance with the concerns identified during the first round of consultation. Once the plans were ready they would go out into the community again as part of a second round.
- She would welcome a regular item on the Town Council's agendas to bring Members up to speed with the plans as they progressed, and apologised for not having brought the plans to the Town Council earlier.
- A sweep through including a 'drop off' area was planned and that they would consult fully with Arriva Buses about the necessary turning circles, etc.
- The swimming pool in the Leisure Centre would not be decommissioned until a new pool was up and running.
- The old school building would be demolished and replaced with playing fields, pitches, etc, which was all part of the plans.

The Mayor thanked Ms Walley for her attendance.

RESOLVED *that the Town Clerk to organise the regular displaying of the plans, including any planning issues, at future Council meetings with presentations welcome as and when required.*

55. DRAFT STANDING ORDERS

Further to Minute No.27 of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 3rd July 2013, the Town Clerk presented his report and proposed draft Standing Orders for the Town Council (circulated with agenda), and drew Members' particular attention to two new areas he had introduced in relation to comfort breaks, close of meeting times and time limits on speeches and replies by Members.

Members congratulated the Town Clerk on a well written, comprehensive piece of work.

RESOLVED *that:*

- i) *The report and draft Standing Orders be received.*
- ii) *A 10 minute comfort break be taken at an appropriate time within the agenda after the meeting has sat for two hours or more.*
- iii) *No meeting of Council or the Finance and General Purposes Committee will go beyond 9.00pm.*
- iv) *Speeches made by Members be limited to five minutes, with three minutes for a right to reply.*

56. PRESENTATIONS FROM RHYL GOING FORWARD OFFICERS (IF REQUIRED)

Further to Minute No.29 of the meeting held on 3rd July 2013, the Town Clerk reported that there had been no request to report to the Town Council.

57. MEMBERS INFORMATION ITEMS

There were no urgent matters arising.

58. QUESTION TIME

Mr John Toy, a Denbighshire County Council Public Realm employee asked if the Council were aware that Remembrance Gardens was being used as a public toilet?

The Town Clerk stated that he was aware of this and would speak to Mr Toy in the next few days to discuss this further.

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk to contact Mr Toy as soon as possible.

59. 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.

60. RHYL TOWN COUNCILS ANNUAL GRANT SCHEME 2013/14

Further to Minute No. 34 of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 3rd July 2013, the Mayor, in his capacity as Chair of the SMART Group, presented the group's report (circulated with agenda) in respect of the outcome of their deliberations on the 27 applications received, and sought Council's approval for both the process adopted and for the award recommendations.

RESOLVED that the process and recommendations be unanimously approved.

61. PRESENTATION: DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL – SHOP FRONT IMPROVEMENT SCHEME

Further to Agenda Item No.52 above the Mayor opened debate on the merits of the scheme and asked Members to determine the Council's involvement.

The Town Clerk advised that the scheme would be open to all Rhyl businesses and that the perimeters of the initiative would be defined by the Town Council.

Members felt that the amount available to each town should be more proportional in terms of the size of the town and number of businesses within it, rather than a set £5,000 for each, which really wouldn't go very far in a town the size of Rhyl, so would therefore have little impact, albeit a little help was better than none at all.

RESOLVED that:

- i) Members who are also County Councillors to raise the disproportional funds aspect of the scheme at the County Council at the earliest opportunity.

- ii) *The Town Clerk to write to Denbighshire County Council to congratulate them on securing the funding for the scheme and accepting the proposal, but to ask that consideration be given to allocating amounts according to number of businesses and potential applicants in each town rather than a set figure of £5,000 to each.*

62. CLOSURE OF MEETING

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

Mayor:

Date: