

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

PRESENT

Councillor A. J. Rutherford (Mayor)

Councillors I. W. Armstrong, B. Blakeley, Mrs J. Butterfield MBE,
Mrs J. Chamberlain-Jones, Mrs E. M. Chard, R. James, Mrs M. McCarroll, B. Mellor,
Mrs P. M. Jones, J. May, B. F. Moylan, Mrs W. M. Mullen-James, P. Prendergast,
Miss S. L. Roberts, 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

85. OPENING OF MEETING

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

86. APOLOGIES

Apologies for non-attendance were received on behalf of Councillors Ms J. Hughes (work commitment), S. H. Ratcliffe (other commitment), Miss R. Siddall (indisposed) and W. N. Tasker (work commitment).

87. MINUTES

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

Council - 20th November 2013 - Min.Nos. 75-84

Proposed by Councillor A. J. Rutherford and seconded by Councillor Miss C. L. Williams and **RESOLVED** as a correct record.

Planning Committee - 20th November 2013 - Min.Nos. 31-33

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

Planning Committee - 4th December 2013 - Min.Nos. 34-37

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

To Confirm or otherwise:

Finance & General - 4th November 2013 - Min.Nos. 100-123
Purposes Committee

Proposed by Councillor P. Prendergast and seconded by Councillor Miss S. L. Roberts and **RESOLVED** as a correct record and confirmed for action.

88. MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor referred to the list of engagements he and the Deputy Mayor had attended over the last month and in particular to Christmas Pops at St. Thomas' Church and the Normandy Veterans Christmas lunch.

The Deputy Mayor said that his visit to Pengwern College was really heart-warming.

89. PRESENTATIONS

Further to Minute No.47 of the Finance and General Purposes Committee on 5th September 2013, the Mayor reported that unfortunately Mr Martin had not arrived so the two planned presentations would not be given.

90. RHYL FLOODS

The Mayor and the Town Clerk reported the actions they had taken following the flooding in the Bryn Hedydd ward on Thursday 5th December which had naturally taken priority over all other work in the office.

- An Appeal Fund had been set up immediately in the Mayor's name to enable the Town Council to receive the donations coming in.
- The Mayor was updating his Facebook page on a daily basis and included dealing with misinformation, promoting the Flood Appeal Gala Performance at the Town Hall and to report the generous amounts received so far to keep people informed.
- They had established a Flood Recovery Group involving all key players to co-ordinate the first response.
- A Board of Trustees consisting of a good mix of Town Council employees and Councillors, representatives of Rhyl clergy and a St. Asaph Councillor heavily involved in the St. Asaph floods of 2012 had been formed in accordance with the Rhyl Flood Relief charity, which was in the process of being set up and who would eventually allocate monies to flood victims hopefully by mid-January.
- Numerous collection buckets and tins had been distributed throughout the town and would be collected in the New Year.

A Councillor proposed that the Town Council considers making a donation to the Mayor's Flood Appeal Fund.

The Finance Officer was asked to remain in the Chamber to give his advice, which was that the Town Council makes a donation from its hardship / crisis fund. With only three months of the financial year remaining and no applications made to it the balance remained at £4,410. If Members wanted to donate the whole amount then

they should consider ring-fencing £1,410 (30% of the donation) for incidental expenses and set up and winding down costs when the charity's mission is discharged.

The Finance Officer answered Members' questions around the nature of the costs envisaged and Members were disappointed to learn that such costs were now necessary when establishing a charity when that money could be put to better use by being given to the flood victims.

Once the decision was reached the Councillors and Officers were invited back into the Chamber to answer Members' general questions.

The Mayor advised that:

- unfortunately there wouldn't be anything like the amount needed to replace everything people had lost in the fund but hopefully an initial payment of £100 would go to each property in mid-January, with a tiered system to be used thereafter, dependent on the level of damage sustained to people's homes.
- the money would be applied for by affected residents via an application form which would go out once all collection buckets had been received.
- people would be contacted via Denbighshire County Council's official list of affected residents.
- all information would be shared with Town Councillors and widely circulated.

Members reported a mixed reaction from Natural Resources Wales in relation to providing early notification to them as designated Flood Wardens. Some had received calls and texts and others had only had communication from them after the event.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) *the full amount of £4,410 be donated to the charity with £1,410 ring-fenced for incidental expenses and any money remaining from this amount to be donated.*
- (ii) *Any overspend to come back to Council for a decision to be made on how to meet it.*
- (iii) *The Town Clerk is authorised to continue to prioritise flood related work.*
- (iv) *A standing item to be added to all future agendas providing an update for all Councillors on all matters relating to the floods.*

[Councillors A. R. James, B. Mellor, A. J. Rutherford, D. Simmons and the Town Clerk and the Finance Officer declared a personal interest in the proposal as members of the Charity's Board of Trustees and vacated the Chamber taking no further part in discussions or voting thereon]

91. 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.

92. MEMBERS ITEM – BBC’S CHILDREN IN NEED FUNDS

Councillor Mrs J. Chamberlain-Jones advised that she had seen a general invitation to organisations to apply to the above fund and sought Members support in putting an application together as a Council.

The Town Clerk reported that he had looked into it and unfortunately the fund excluded Town and Community Councils.

93. MEMBERS ITEM – BUS SHELTER ON ST. MARGARET’S DRIVE

Councillor Mrs J. Chamberlain-Jones asked the Town Clerk for an update on the progress of the shelter as winter was now in full swing and the shelter was very much needed by local bus passengers.

The Town Clerk reported that as instructed he had written to Denbighshire County Council on this matter and had not received a reply. The Town Clerk asked the town’s County Councillors for the Derwen / South ward to take it forward on the Town Council’s behalf.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) *the County’s ward Members to push the required shelter at the County Council at the earliest opportunity.*
- (ii) *the Town Clerk to raise the matter at his meeting with surrounding Town Clerks tomorrow.*

94. MEMBERS INFORMATION ITEMS

There were no urgent matters arising.

95. QUESTION TIME

No members of the public were present.

96. 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.

97. HONORARY FREEMAN / FREEWOMAN AWARDS

Further to Minute No.64 of the meeting of Council on 19th December 2012 the Town Clerk presented his confidential report (circulated with Agenda) advising of nominations received for consideration for 2013.

A Member had duly nominated a Rhyl resident for the award and had submitted a supporting report (circulated with Agenda) for Members to consider.

Before taking the vote on the nomination the Town Clerk reminded Members that two thirds of the vote was needed to secure the nomination.

RESOLVED that the supporting vote fell just short of two thirds of the total vote, so the nomination was lost.

98. ANNUAL BUDGET

On behalf of the Strategic and Operational Planning Committee (SOP) the Finance Officer presented its recommendations for the Council's Budget and Medium Term Financial Plan (circulated with Agenda) to levy a precept for the 2014/15 financial year and advise Denbighshire County Council accordingly.

The Committee recommended a modest increase in the precept of 2% over and above any increase or decrease required to maintain a standstill precept of £407,000 in the Town Council's tax base to give a headline precept figure of £415,140 to allow a further £15,000 to be available for the Town Council's public realm / beautification projects in the town. This amount will then allow the Finance Officer to apply for match funding from external funding streams.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) *the Town Council's Investment Strategy as set out in Appendix C of the report be approved.*
- (ii) *the Council approves the Committee's recommendation and levies a precept of £415,140 (Four Hundred and Fifteen Thousand, One Hundred and Forty Pounds) upon Denbighshire County Council for the financial year commencing on 1st April 2014, Denbighshire County Council to be advised accordingly.*

99. CLOSURE OF MEETING

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

Mayor:

Date: