

At a **MEETING of COUNCIL** held on Wednesday 20th March 2013 in the Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Wellington Road, Rhyl commencing at 6.00pm.

PRESENT

Councillor W. N. Tasker (Mayor)

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

Mr G. J. Nickels - Town Clerk

85. OPENING OF MEETING

The Mayor's Chaplain, Father Charles Ramsay, commenced proceedings by leading all present in prayer.

86. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors B. Blakeley (family commitment), Mrs J. Chamberlain-Jones, (on holiday), S. H. Ratcliffe, (on holiday), and Miss C. L. Williams (work commitment) and Miss H. J. Windus (Personal Assistant & Secretary) (on holiday).

87. MINUTES

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

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

Proposed by Councillor W. N. Tasker and seconded by Councillor A. J. Rutherford and **RESOLVED** as a correct record.

Planning Committee - 6th March 2013 - Min.Nos. 56-58

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 Purposes Committee - 6th March 2013 - Min.Nos. 160-175

Arising from consideration of Minute No.172 (Proposed Car Parking Initiative), a Member requested that the minute be not confirmed and the matter be referred back to the next Finance and General Purposes Committee for further consideration.

Proposed by Councillor P. J. Williams and seconded by Councillor Mrs M. McCarroll and **RESOLVED** as a correct record and confirmed for action subject to Minute No. 172 being referred back to Finance and General Purposes Committee for further consideration.

88. MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor referred to the list of engagements he had attended over the last two months (circulated with Agenda) for Members' information.

89. PRESENTATION: RWE NPOWER RENEWABLES – GWYNT Y MOR OFFSHORE WIND FARM

Further to Minute No.79 of the meeting held on 3rd October 2012, a presentation was received from representatives of RWE (Ms Karen Maurice and colleague) in relation to the introduction of the above new offshore wind farm.

The representatives advised that:

- the windfarm was located 8 miles off land north of the existing Rhyl Flats and North Hoyle sites.
- it would cover an area of 79km²
- it would involve 160 wind turbines
- it was envisaged to be operational in 2014
- it would be constructed/serviced by way of the Port of Mostyn
- there would be two off shore sub-stations
- an 11km underground cable would take generated electricity to a new sub-station in St. Asaph Business Park.
- the construction had resulted in a new apprentice scheme to fill jobs created by the development one of which had been awarded to a lady from Rhyl.
- the Community Benefit Fund would provide £19 million community benefit funding over its 25 year operation and details of a public consultation undertaken to determine how the funding should be distributed.
- details of two Supporting Tourism Fund projects undertaken which related to Llandudno Pier and a new disabled access to Rhyl Beach.

In response to Members questions the representatives responded that:

- discussions were still ongoing in relation to the mechanisms for how the Community Benefit Fund would be distributed locally but the Council's views had been noted
- the substation difficulties being experienced in relation to the Ocean Plaza site would not be addressed by the Windfarm
- consideration had been given to utilising Rhyl Harbour for crew transfers and the Harbour was likely to benefit from the Supporting Tourism Fund
- the new Sub-Station at St. Asaph Business Park was automated and unstaffed
- any jobs created would be advertised locally
- there was unlikely to be direct energy cost benefit to Rhyl Town Centre from the development as the electricity generated was fed into the national grid
- dredging would occur at Port of Mostyn
- the Gwynt Y Mor was not in a shipping lane and appropriate authorities had been advised to ensure that shipping maps had been amended.

- the information provided by a Member in respect of the future Lifeboat provision was noted and would inform future considerations.
- the wind turbines would operate between certain wind speeds only and this explained why on occasions on windy days the turbines were not rotating.

At the conclusion of the presentation the Mayor thanked the representatives for the informative presentation.

90. PRESENTATION: FORYD CENTRE, RHYL

The Town Clerk advised that one of the speakers due to give the presentation was now unavailable and that the item be deferred to a future meeting.

RESOLVED *that the item be deferred to a future meeting.*

91. PRESENTATION: PHYSICAL ACTIVITY PROGRAMME

Further to Minute No.169 of the meeting held on 6th March 2013, the Mayor welcomed Denbighshire County Council's Ms Rhian Roberts and Mr Brett Jones to the meeting.

The Town Clerk advised that the purpose of the additional presentation was to enable the officers to provide information on the likely impact on the programme of any reduction in funding in the 2013/14 financial year, and reminded Members that the Council had appointed Councillor B. Blakeley and A. R. James to act as the Council's appointed Champions for overseeing the project.

The officers (together with Councillor James) then provided the Council with a presentation on the performance of the programme in 2012 and the planned programme for 2013.

The presentation identified that the sport zones had attracted 2,500 participants (although many would be the same children attending on the different days).

The top up swimming had achieved an 85% success rate

The Talented Athlete Scheme had benefited 17 athletes of which 13 were national competitors

That 125 juniors had participated in the golf sessions

That 116 over 50's had been involved in the Aqua Arobics

That net ball had attracted 95 participants

That overall the 2012 funding had resulted in 3,400 participations.

That the visit of Mark Colbourne to local schools had provided a powerful inspiration to local children

In response to Members' questions the officers responded that:

- Sports zones operated throughout the school holidays
- it was inappropriate to discuss whether any cuts to funding would result in officers losing employment
- four Talented Athletes applications were waiting to be process for 2014
- the initiative were provided in conjunction with local sports clubs
- they would wish the scheme to provide coaching courses in the new year
- they had previously provided a breakdown of the cost of the programme to a previous presentation following which the Council had advised that such detail was not required from presentations
- a daily charge of £3.00 was made for children attending Sports Zone activities but should a participant subsequently progress to membership of a sports club then any membership fees etc. would be matter between the individual and the club concerned
- hire charges for the use of facilities such as the Rhyl Leisure Centre were paid for from the programme
- they were looking to the Council to indicate which elements of the scheme should be reduced.

In response to the last of these points, Members advised the Officers that the Town Council were responsible for allocating ratepayers money and had to assure themselves that any and all allocations represented value for money.

At the conclusion of the Members questions the Officers advised that they required early confirmation of the level of funding to enable the programme to commence at Easter holidays.

The Town Clerk advised that it was for this purpose that they had been requested to attend the meeting so that an early decision could be made.

At the conclusion of the presentation the Mayor thanked the Officers for their presentation.

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. PHYSICAL ACTIVITY PROGRAMME

Further to Minute No.91 above, Members referred to a breach of protocol by the Officers when leaving.

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk be instructed to write to Mr Jamie Groves, Head of Communication, Marketing and Leisure to advise him of the situation.

Members then considered the allocation of the budget provision for the programme for 2013/14.

Members in noting the urgency of the matter expressed frustration at the lack of financial information made available which would have informed any debate to reduce the level of the Programme.

A Member queried why the Programme Officers believed that the Council were intending to reduce the budget?

The Chair of the SMART Group advised that the reason for Members of the SMART Group not approving this particular budget was due to the high level of the budget provision involved when compared to the other budgets being approved under delegated authority by the Group.

At this point in proceedings the Mayor called a five minute recess. [Councillors B. Mellor and P. J. Williams left the meeting]

RESOLVED *that the Town Clerk be instructed to advise the Programme Officers that:*

- (i) The Council would require a further presentation in June at which a full breakdown of budgeted expenditure should be provided for the 2013/14 year, at which time the Council will confirm the full level of budget provision.*
- (ii) In the interim the allocation be paid in four separate instalments of £6,250 with the first payment being made immediately to ensure programme provision for the Easter school holidays.*

94. RHYL TOWN COUNCIL STRATEGIC PLAN

The confidential joint report of the SMART Group and the Town Clerk (previously circulated) was submitted advising of the desktop assessment of the implications on budget provision and of the draft Strategic Plan and seeking instructions from Council as to how the Plan should be now progressed.

The Chairman of the SMART Group reminded Councillors that meetings were open to all Members and that if the Plan was to be successful it was important for all to be involved.

RESOLVED *that Councillors Miss S. L. Roberts and Miss R. Siddall be formally appointed to the Group.*

95. CLOSURE OF MEETING

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

Mayor:

Date: