

At a Meeting of the **FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE** held on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2013, at the Civic Offices, Wellington Road Community Centre, Rhyl commencing at 6.00pm.

**PRESENT**

Councillor Mrs M. McCarroll (Vice-Chair)

Councillors B. Blakeley, 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, P. Prendergast, S. H. Ratcliffe, Miss S. L. Roberts, A. J. Rutherford, Miss R. Siddall, D. Simmons, W. N. Tasker and Miss C. L. Williams.

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

**186. APOLOGIES**

No apologies for non-attendance were received.

**187. G2G COMMUNITIES**

The Town Clerk reported receipt of a request from the above group (circulated with Agenda) to provide the Town Council with a presentation on their work within Rhyl.

**RESOLVED** *that the request be approved.*

**188. COUNCILLOR S. H. RATCLIFFE**

Councillor Ratcliffe spoke to his written report (circulated with Agenda) following his fact finding trip to Liverpool to explore social enterprise initiatives on the Town Council's behalf.

**RESOLVED** *that the Town Clerk to invite Sandy Williams from the Denbighshire Voluntary Services Council to a future meeting to provide further details on the projects visited and how similar schemes might benefit Rhyl.*

**189. WELSH LANGUAGE SOCIETY – LIVING MANIFESTO**

The Town Clerk reported receipt of the above document (circulated with Agenda) seeking the Town Council's support.

**RESOLVED** *that the document be received.*

**190. JANUARY 2014 FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**

The Town Clerk drew Members' attention to the date of the above provisionally scheduled meeting for Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014, which would be a bank holiday and suggested cancelling the meeting and dealing with urgent budget matters at the December meeting as an alternative.

**RESOLVED** *that the meeting be cancelled with planned business transferred to the Agenda for the previous meeting scheduled for Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2013.*

**191. GAMING ACT 2005**

Further to Minute No.73 of the meeting of the Planning Committee on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2013, the Town Clerk submitted his report (circulated with Agenda) seeking the Committee's authority for the delegation of responsibility for responding to applications made under the above Act, relating to licensing applications to be transferred and delegated to the Planning Committee.

**RESOLVED** *that the request be approved.*

**192. RHYL COLLEGE VISIT**

The Town Clerk reported receipt of correspondence from the College's Director, Ms Celia Jones, (circulated with Agenda) following Councillors' recent visit to the campus.

**RESOLVED** *that the Town Clerk to ask Ms Jones for a copy of a recent report published by the College on the transition of the Sixth Form students to the College.*

**193. MEMBERS ITEM: DEFIBRILLATOR FUND**

Councillor Miss C. L. Williams sought Members' support in promoting a charitable appeal for provision of a defibrillator at the White Rose Centre.

A Member advised that the Centre already had a defibrillator which could be accessed by the businesses who had been provided with a code to do so.

**RESOLVED** *that:*

- i) *Councillors to share this information with residents and businesses in the town centre*
- ii) *the Town Clerk to contact the White Rose Centre Manager to ask him to promote the existence, location and how the equipment is to be used throughout the Centre.*

#### **194. ADDITIONAL ITEM: REQUEST FOR 'ANY OTHER BUSINESS' ITEMS**

A Member asked for an Agenda Item to discuss the possibility of adding 'Any Other Business' to future Agendas to allow more flexible debate around urgent issues that arise after the Agenda papers have been dispatched.

The Town Clerk advised that Town Councils could not legally add 'AOB' to Agendas as they are required to give notice to the public of what is to be discussed to enable them to contact their Ward Councillor(s) beforehand to express their views, but that a similar standing item could be considered to allow information sharing and some debate but no decision making.

**RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk to add the request to a future Agenda for further discussion.

#### **195. ADDITIONAL ITEM: PUSH FOR POSITIVE PRESS COVERAGE**

The Town Clerk advised that thanks to a letter from Chris Ruane MP to the Rhyl Journal requesting less focus on negative news stories and more on the positive, the Journal would be running a feature on all of the regeneration projects underway in Rhyl.

Members added their frustration at being regularly misquoted, successful events in the town not being reflected and at the fairly constant gloomy news reports in the Journal.

Another Member agreed with all of the comments made, but said that unfortunately this was the nature of modern day journalism and that we were probably fighting a losing battle.

#### **196. 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.

#### **197. REVIEW OF INSURANCE PROVISION**

The Finance Officer presented his confidential report (circulated with Agenda) detailing the results of the enquiries to a number of insurance companies made by the Council's insurance broker at his request, and sought Members' direction on which company to proceed with and over what term.

**RESOLVED** that the Town Council to re-engage with its current provider Aviva for the next three years.

**198. REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE – RHYL FOOTBALL CLUB**

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

**RESOLVED** *that in line with all other enquiries for assistance received whilst the Town Council's Grant Aid scheme was postponed, the request be deferred until a decision had been made about the future of the scheme via the Council's SMART Group.*

**[Councillors A. R. James and Mrs W. M. Mullen-James declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the above item due to being season ticket holders and vacated the Chamber taking no further part in discussion or voting thereon]**

**[Councillors S. H. Ratcliffe and D. Simmons declared a prejudicial interest in the above item due to being a former Treasurer and Director of the Club respectively and vacated the Chamber taking no further part in discussion or voting thereon]**

**199. REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE – RHYL & PRESTATYN RADIOLINK**

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

**RESOLVED** *that in line with all other enquiries for assistance received whilst the Town Council's Grant Aid scheme was postponed, the request be deferred until a decision had been made about the future of the scheme via the Council's SMART Group.*

**200. ILLUMINATIONS**

Further to Minute No.183 of the meeting of this Committee on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2013, the Town Clerk reported that the meeting with the Town Council and invited Rhyl stakeholders had taken place in the Council Chamber on 24<sup>th</sup> April and that unfortunately only the Town Centre Manager and a representative from the Relax Coffee Lounge had attended as stakeholders.

The Town Clerk suspected that the poor attendance had been due to short notice of the meeting, but that a way forward had been suggested.

**RESOLVED** *that:*

- i) *The Town Council to purchase the current leased stock which would be more cost effective over the next two years than entering into another lease scheme, giving more time to engage with town centre businesses before deciding on the longer-term plan.*
- ii) *The Town Clerk to contact the Manager of the White Rose Centre to ask about the cost and supply of the artificial Christmas Tree on annual display in the Centre, and report back.*

- iii) *A lighting scheme on the Promenade be referred to a future meeting of the Members Area Group.*
- iv) *The Town Clerk to reproduce details of the contract the Town Council has with Denbighshire County Council for the erecting, maintenance and storing of the town's illuminations and report back.*

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

**201. CIPFA CONFERENCE**

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

**RESOLVED** *that the Finance Officer be authorised to attend the conference in London on 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> July 2013 with an approved budget of up to £487.60.*

**202. INCIDENT AT MEETING OF COUNCIL 26<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2013**

Further to Minute No.93 of the above meeting, the Town Clerk reported receipt of correspondence from Denbighshire County Council's Head of Communications, Marketing and Leisure.

**RESOLVED** *that the correspondence be received and considered closed.*

**203. CLOSURE OF MEETING**

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

Vice-Chair: .....

Date: .....