

At a Meeting of the **FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE** held on Wednesday 6th February 2013, at the Civic Offices, Wellington Road Community Centre, Rhyl commencing at 6.00pm.

PRESENT

Councillor Mrs M. McCarroll (Chair)

Councillors I. W. Armstrong, 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. F. Moylan, P. Prendergast, S. H. Ratcliffe, Miss S. L. Roberts, A. J. Rutherford, Miss R. Siddall and D. Simmons.

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

146. APOLOGIES

Apologies for non-attendance were received on behalf of Councillors B. Mellor (indisposed), Mrs W. M. Mullen-James (indisposed), W. N. Tasker (work commitment) and Miss C. L. Williams (indisposed).

147. INFORMAL MEETING OF COUNCIL

The Town Clerk asked Members to determine a date for the meeting to consider the official appointments for the 2013/14 Municipal Year.

RESOLVED that the informal meeting to take place after the scheduled Planning Committee on 20th March.

148. CONSULTATION: DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL – ANTI-FOULING STRATEGY

The Chair reported receipt of the above document (circulated with Agenda) for Members' comments by 15th March 2013.

Members reported numerous accounts of the newly introduced Wardens being perhaps a little over zealous in issuing fixed penalty fines, when maybe a verbal warning for the more minor offences would have been a more reasonable approach.

Members acknowledged that it was a difficult call for the Wardens but that it was imperative that the right balance was achieved to effectively address littering whilst not deterring shoppers from coming into the town centre.

RESOLVED that Members defer their official response until hearing what officers of Denbighshire County Council had to say at a forthcoming meeting of the Members Area Group.

149. POLICY DECISION: INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL FOR WALES – POLICY FOR THE PAYMENT OF ALLOWANCES TO MEMBERS OF RHYL TOWN COUNCIL

The Town Clerk reported receipt of the above document (circulated with Agenda) and submitted his report (also circulated with Agenda) relating to regulations issued by the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales requiring determination of a Town Council policy in respect of the payment of allowances to Members.

RESOLVED that with regard to:

- i) *Regulation 36 (a) – the Council does not approve payment of this allowance.*
- ii) *Regulation 36 (b) – the Council approves payment of this allowance*
- iii) *Regulation 36 (c) – the Council approves payment of this allowance*
- iv) *Regulation 36 (d) – the Council does not approve payment of this allowance.*
- v) *Regulation 36 (e) – the Council approves payment of this allowance*
- vi) *Regulation 36 (f) – the Council approves payment of this allowance by way of separate allowances to the Mayor and Deputy Mayor on the basis of the overall Mayoral Allowance being split 75% to the Mayor and 25% to the Deputy Mayor and further that the payments continue to be paid in three installments throughout the year*
- vii) *The requirements of Regulations 37 – 40, 43 – 45 and 47 be noted*
- viii) *In respect Regulation 41 and 42 – that the Council require that payment of allowances to Members continue to be made in accordance with Financial Regulation 18(a)*

and the Town Council's policy for the payment of allowances to Members be written in accordance with the above decisions.

[With reference to (vi) above, Councillor A. J. Rutherford declared a personal interest due to his position as Deputy Mayor and vacated the Chamber taking no further part in discussion or voting thereon]

150. MEMBERS ITEM: ROADSIDE CAR SALES

Councillor Mrs J. Chamberlain-Jones sought Members' views on the selling of cars by the roadside and if necessary to make representations to Denbighshire County Council to address the problem.

Members confirmed that private car sales were common place in their wards but that there was nothing the Police or Denbighshire County Council could do about them if they were taxed and parked legally.

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk to write to Denbighshire County Council's Head of Planning, Regeneration and Regulatory Service (copy to the Leader) to ask what if anything can be done about excessive roadside car sales.

151. MEMBERS ITEM: ZIP WIRE ATTRACTION AT MARINE LAKE

The Town Clerk advised that due to Councillor Mrs W. M. Mullen-James' absence, the item be deferred.

RESOLVED that the item be deferred.

152. ADDITIONAL ITEM: 'CITY OF OTTAWA'

The Town Clerk advised that the author of the book, Ms Judith Samuels, had kindly given a copy to the Town Council.

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk to write to Ms Samuels to thank her.

153. ADDITIONAL ITEM: FINANCE OFFICER

The Chair referred to the meeting being the Finance Officer's last.

The Town Clerk said that the resignation of Phil from the Office would be a big loss to the staff and the Council and he would be greatly missed.

Members spoke of the professionalism Phil had brought to the Town Council and thanked him for his excellent service over the last 12 years.

Phil thanked the Council and staff and wished them all well for the future.

154. 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.

155. EISTEDDFOD DENBIGH 2013

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

RESOLVED that:

- i) A contribution of £10,000 be confirmed subject to it being spent in Rhyl with a focus on engaging with young people.
- ii) Councillors Mrs E. M. Chard, Miss S. L. Roberts and Miss R. Siddall be nominated to sit on the Eisteddfod's local fundraising and organising committee.
- iii) The Mayor be authorised to make the announcement from the stage at tomorrow evening's Rhyl Schools and Guests Concert at the Pavilion Theatre.

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

[At a Member's request the Chair agreed to a five minute comfort break]

[Councillor Mrs J. Chamberlain-Jones left the meeting at this point]

156. DRAFT TOWN COUNCIL PLAN 2012-2017

The Town Clerk presented his confidential report (circulated with Agenda) to consider, amend and approve the included draft of the Town Council's Plan, prepared by the SMART group. Once approved to instruct the SMART group to proceed with the evaluation of existing budget headings against the newly established aims and objectives.

RESOLVED that:

- i) *the slight amendments be made to the Plan and the Plan be approved.*
- ii) *the SMART group to proceed with aligning the Council's budget headings accordingly with delegated authority to approve urgent payments if required (any Member can attend the SMART meetings to input into the process).*
- iii) *officers to advise organisations requesting grant forms that the scheme is postponed pending the outcome of the SMART process underway and that we will inform them in due course.*

157. RISK ASSESSMENT SUB-COMMITTEE – TYNEWYDD COMMUNITY CENTRE

Further to Minute No.144 of the meeting held on 2nd January 2013, the Town Clerk advised that he had met with members of the Rhyl Community Association and had put the Town Council's offer to them. The Association had advised that they needed to put the matter before their full membership at its next meeting scheduled for 11th February and would advise him of their decision shortly after.

RESOLVED that the item be deferred to the Finance and General Purposes Committee to be held on 6th March.

158. ESTABLISHMENT

Further to Minute No.65 of the meeting of Council held on 19th December 2012 the Town Clerk reported that he had received 10 applications for the Finance Officer post and that the Staffing Committee would be shortlisting for interview on Friday 8th February.

The Staffing Committee requested authority to proceed with the interviews and to appointing to the position.

RESOLVED that the Staffing Committee to conduct the interviews and request that the candidates then give a short presentation to full Council before putting the appointment to the vote.

159. CLOSURE OF MEETING

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

Chair:

Date: