

At a **MEETING of COUNCIL** held on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2015 in the Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Wellington Road, Rhyl commencing at 6.00pm.

## **PRESENT**

Councillor D. Simmons (Mayor)

Councillors I. 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, 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, W. N. Tasker, S. F. Walker and Miss C. L. Williams.

Mr G. J. Nickels – Town Clerk  
Miss H. J. Windus – Personal Assistant & Secretary

### **130. OPENING OF MEETING**

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

### **131. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for non-attendance were received on behalf of Councillor J. May (work commitment).

### **132. MINUTES**

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

Meeting of Council - 18<sup>th</sup> March 2015 - Min.Nos. 119-129

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

Planning Committee - 18<sup>th</sup> March 2015 - Min.Nos. 53-55

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

Planning Committee - 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015 - Min.Nos. 56-58

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

**To Confirm or otherwise:**

Finance & General - 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015 - Min.Nos. 124-135  
Purposes Committee

Proposed by Councillor P. Prendergast and seconded by Councillor A. R. James and **RESOLVED** as a correct record and confirmed for action.

**133. 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.

**134. PROMENADE DEVELOPMENTS**

Further to minute no.126 of the meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2015, the Mayor welcomed Denbighshire County Council officers Mr Tom Booty and Mr Russell Vaughan and Mr Steve Parry and Mr Rob Mason from Neptune Developments, and invited them to make a confidential presentation to Members.

Mr Parry and Mr Mason outlined their plans for the promenade and stressed that they were keen to listen to what Rhyl wanted and needed rather than impose their thoughts on the town.

They said that first and foremost they wanted to appeal to Rhyl residents and that visitors would follow.

They made reference to the great assets Rhyl has – its beach, a great theatre and lovely new cinema which were all under exploited.

They felt that there should be more opportunity to see the sea from the front and make the most of great sea views for B&Bs, hotels, restaurants along the promenade. There should also be more of a cross over between the sea front and the shops to encourage people to move easily from one to the other and to make the Rhyl experience more pleasurable.

They wanted to market Rhyl along the lines of New Zealand – adventure, landscape, outdoors and went into more specific attractions that they were hoping to include in their project, things that they did not want to promise at this stage without the progression of further discussions with those companies, but they were confident that they could attract these investments. In short, they were looking to widen the appeal of Rhyl to catch a broader demographic.

In response to Members' comments and questions, Mr Parry and Mr Mason advised that:

- Their company would not make money until the scheme was up and running, so there is a strong motivation to select the right attractions and push things along as quickly as possible.
- Their regeneration work in New Brighton took 11 years, but that it took this long because of difficulties with planning permission and because New Brighton was a little more rundown and had less infrastructure to begin with.

- There was lots of investment opportunities out there in the 'leisure' field (although they were also keen to include a residential element in the town centre) and they were confident that they would bring it in for Rhyl.
- Where appropriate they would like Denbighshire County Council to remain as 'operators' of elements of certain attractions. Something that Denbighshire County Council were also keen to keep.

Members were excited by Neptune's approach and plans, which they sincerely hoped to see come to fruition.

On behalf of the Council, the Mayor thanked the Denbighshire officers and Mr Parry and Mr Mason for their time.

### **135. OPEN SESSION**

**RESOLVED** *that the meeting resume in open / non-confidential session.*

### **136. MAYOR'S REPORT**

The Mayor referred to the list of engagements he and the Deputy Mayor had had since the last meeting of Council for Members' information. The Mayor commented on the 'Hairspray' performance and the Deputy Mayor on the Mayor of Prestatyn's Charity Dinner, in particular.

### **137. CONSULTATION: WELSH GOVERNMENT 'REFORMING LOCAL GOVERNMENT: POWER TO LOCAL PEOPLE' WHITE PAPER**

Further to minute no.112 of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2015, the Town Clerk thanked the members of the Working Group for the time they gave to meet with him to determine the Council's response (digital copy of the full survey response e-mailed to Members prior to the meeting), and referred to four questions (Q9.3, Q9.6, Q9.7 & Q9.13) needing Council's consideration.

**RESOLVED** *that the survey be approved with the Council's representations in regard to questions 9.3, 9.6, 9.7 and 9.13 to be included.*

### **138. RISK ASSESSMENT 2014 / 2015 REVIEW AND 2015 / 2016 WORK PLAN**

The Chairman of the Risk Assessment Sub-Committee referred to report (circulated with agenda) and to the work undertaken and ongoing and the proposed work plan for 2015 / 2016 for Members' approval.

The Town Clerk advised that the workload continued to be heavy and asked that Members did not add to it at this time unless essential.

**RESOLVED** *that the report be received.*

**139. ADDITIONAL ITEM: RHYL GOING FORWARD**

The Town Clerk drew Members' attention to plans on display in the Chamber for the new Promenade and advised that the Council's Strategic and Operational Planning (SOP) Committee and the Rhyl Town and Area Plan Committee felt that an application to Denbighshire County Council's Horizon Fund could be made subject to certain conditions, i.e. for the inclusion of festoon lighting along the Promenade and for the introduction of sustainable planting with the Town Council assuming responsibility for the ongoing maintenance by way of its Grounds Maintenance Committee, but with agreement that all surplus monies raised from the two new car parks are passed to the Town Council to finance it.

**RESOLVED** *that recommendation of the SOP Committee be approved.*

**140. ADDITIONAL ITEM: BODFOR WARD VACANCY**

The Town Clerk confirmed the resignation of Christopher Ball, due to ill health and passed on his regret and thanks to all Members of the Council.

The Town Clerk advised that the Notice of the vacancy would be advertised in the next edition of the Rhyl, Prestatyn and Abergele Journal inviting 10 electors to request an election by 12.00pm on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2015.

The Town Clerk reminded Members that if 10 electors did not make the request, then the vacancy would be filled by way of Co-option.

**RESOLVED** *that the Town Clerk to write to Mr Ball to thank him for his time as a Town Councillor and to wish him well.*

**141. ADDITIONAL ITEM: INSURANCE REVIEW**

The Town Clerk reported that he had recently undertaken a review of the Town Council's insurance policies with its Broker and that arising from it, although he suspected it did not apply to current membership, respectfully asked if any Member was aged 80 or over, to identify themselves to him as this would impact on some of the Council's policies.

**142. ADDITIONAL ITEM: NEXT MEETING OF THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**

The Town Clerk reminded Members that the meeting scheduled to be held on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2015 had been moved to Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2015 to enable Members to take a full role in electioneering for the General Election taking place the following day on 7<sup>th</sup> May.

**143. ADDITIONAL ITEM: RHYL SILVER BAND**

The Town Clerk reported that the band had recently won the Third Section of the Welsh Regional Championship in Swansea, taking them through to the Final in Cheltenham in Autumn.

**RESOLVED** *that the Town Clerk to write to the Silver Band to congratulate them on their success.*

**144. QUESTION TIME**

There were no members of the public present.

**145. CLOSURE OF MEETING**

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

Mayor: .....

Date: .....