

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

## **PRESENT**

Councillor B. Mellor (Mayor)

Councillors B. Blakeley, Mrs J. Butterfield JP MBE, Mrs J. Chamberlain-Jones, Mrs E. M. Chard, Ms J. Hughes, A. R. James, Mrs P. M. Jones, Ms J. McAlpine, J. May, B. F. Moylan, Mrs W. M. Mullen-James, P. Prendergast, S. H. Ratcliffe, A. J. Rutherford, W. N. Tasker, S. F. Walker and Miss C. L. Williams.

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

### **33. OPENING OF MEETING**

In the absence of the Mayor's Chaplain, Father Charles Ramsay, the Mayor asked Mr John Graham from Gideons International to commence with proceedings by leading all present in prayer.

Mr Graham obliged.

### **34. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for non-attendance were received on behalf of Councillors I. W. Armstrong (bereavement), Miss S. L. Roberts (work commitment), Miss R. Siddall (work commitment) and D. Simmons (family illness).

### **35. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 1972 SECTION 86 – ELECTION OF COMMUNITY COUNCILLOR FOR THE BODFOR WARD**

The Mayor referred to the results of the Election (circulated with agenda) and welcomed Councillor Ms J. McAlpine to her first meeting.

The Town Clerk asked Members to consider appointing a Mentor for Councillor McAlpine, as has been the practice for the last two Council appointments.

***RESOLVED*** that a Mentor was not appointed. Councillor McAlpine was advised to contact any Councillor for help and guidance.

### **36. PRESENTATION: GIDEONS INTERNATIONAL (CLWYD BRANCH) TO THE MAYOR**

The Mayor invited Mr Graham to address Council and to present him with a copy of the Scriptures, which were gratefully received.

### **37. MINUTES**

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

Meeting of Council - 17<sup>th</sup> June 2015 - Min.Nos. 21-32

Proposed by Councillor B. Mellor and seconded by Councillor B. Blakeley and **RESOLVED** as a correct record.

Planning - 17<sup>th</sup> June 2015 - Min.Nos. 5-7  
Committee

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

Planning - 1<sup>st</sup> July 2015 - Min.Nos. 8-10  
Committee

Proposed by Councillor Mrs E. M. Chard and seconded by Councillor B. F. Moylan and **RESOLVED** as a correct record.

**To Confirm or otherwise:**

Finance & General - 1<sup>st</sup> July 2015 - Min.Nos. 18-26  
Purposes Committee

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

**38. 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 the 'Glandslam' Madness concert at the Events Arena in Rhyl, which he said was fantastic, despite the poor coverage it received in the Daily Post.

In response to a Members comment, the Town Clerk advised that DCC had accepted that lessons had been learnt from a small number of people removing sections of property to enjoy the concert free of charge. DCC said that a 'restricted area' will be designated at the next concert to be held there.

**39. PRESENTATION: NORTH DENBIGHSHIRE COMMUNITIES FIRST**

The Mayor welcomed Mr Rhys Burton (Programme Manager), Ms Angela Watt (Prosperous Lead Officer) and Mr Gavin Roberts (Learning Lead Officer) and invited them to provide the Council with an update on the Communities First programme.

The officers advised that:

- the programmes emphasis had shifted since 2012 with Welsh Government (funding provider) directing that poverty and inequalities across all age ranges should be the new community based focus.
- The Co-operative is the lead delivery body.
- The areas remit was Rhyl and Upper Denbigh.
- The programme had three new themes – Health, Prosperous and Learning.

- They were based in the John Davies building in Rhyl and at the Hwb Dinbych with outreach via the Community Information Bus.
- They were working with community groups like Supporting a Flying Start in the Early Years (Pregnant Together and Weaning Pilot Project), Street Games, MIND, Encouraging Healthy Eating (Come and Cook), Mens Sheds, Thursday Together Club, Job Clubs, Food banks, etc.
- The 'Learning' element sought to reach those the furthest away from being qualified (First Steps, Debt and Benefit advice, Basic Skills, Family Learning Events, etc).
- A number of events were planned (Summer Spectacular, Film Festival, Rhyl the Musical, Wildlife Reserve and Roundhouse Project, Christmas Santa Run, etc)

In response to Members questions and comments the officers said that:

- They would follow up on the possible use of Hafan Deg to deliver the programme.
- They would contact DCCs Mr Phil Gilroy about rolling out the Clarence House pilot project to other GP surgeries in Rhyl.
- Welsh Government would be monitoring the programme along with other partners, and that this process was very much a two way conversation.
- A mapping exercise was underway with regard to access to benefits and claims as part of the Digital Inclusion scheme.
- 'Need' was initially determined from the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD) but they encouraged local community engagement to direct them as well.
- They communicate with the community via the Job Centre, social media, local radio, bulk texting and the Community Information Bus but also relied heavily on word of mouth.

**40. CONSULTATION: DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL – SECTION 116 OF THE HIGHWAYS ACT 1980 PROPOSED STOPPING UP OF THE HIGHWAY (1) SURROUNDING CRESCENT ROAD CAR PARK, RHYL (2) 3-9 ABBEY STREET, RHYL (3) 11-3 ABBEY STREET, RHYL.**

The Mayor referred to the above correspondence (circulated with agenda) seeking the Town Councils observations.

**RESOLVED** *that the correspondence be received.*

**41. APPOINTMENT OF ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY GOVERNOR – YSGOL LLEWELYN, RHYL.**

The Town Clerk advised of the Town Councils current Governor, Councillor B. Blakeleys resignation and asked Members to consider appointing a replacement.

The Town Clerk reminded Members that this role acted as liaison between the school and the community.

**RESOLVED** that Councillor Ms. J. McAlpine be appointed.

**42. RHYL WEST NEIGHBOURHOOD GROUPS**

The Town Clerk reported receipt of an e-mail from Inspector Devonport, North Wales Police (circulated with agenda) inviting the Town Council to consider appointing a representative to attend a group meeting on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2015.

**RESOLVED** that Councillor Mrs J. Butterfield JP MBE be appointed, but Councillor Ms J. McAlpine to attend the meeting as Councillor Butterfield is unavailable.

**43. MEMBERS ITEM: FREE PARKING IN RHYL TOWN CENTRE**

Councillor Ms J. McAlpine sought Members' support for looking into the possibility of introducing free parking in the town centre to help boost footfall for businesses, like has been achieved in Prestatyn.

A Member advised that the car park Prestatyn Town Council now own was offered to them by DCC very cheaply. This is not the case in Rhyl. Parking in Rhyl is at a premium. A short time ago cheaper parking was investigated by the Town Council, and the cheapest option was at the underground car park on the Promenade. This would cost the Town Council somewhere in the region of £11,000 a month! A cost that the Town Council could not afford.

The Member asked Councillors to please tread carefully on social media and to research matters fully before making promises.

Councillor McAlpine advised that she had unfortunately had to close her business after five years of trading in Rhyl town centre due to reduced footfall and high business rates, and that she had spoken with Ann Jones AM and DCCs Mr Mark Dixon about both issues and had received their support.

**44. AUGUST RECESS – DELEGATION OF EXECUTIVE POWERS**

The Mayor requested Members' approval of the arrangements for the delegation of Executive Powers to the Town Clerk, in consultation with the appropriate Chairs during the August Recess, as follows:

- |                    |   |  |
|--------------------|---|--|
| Civic Matters      | - | Mayor and / or Deputy Mayor  |
| Planning Matters   | - | Chair and / or Vice-Chair of the Planning Committee  |
| All Other Business | - | Chair and / or Vice-Chair of the Finance and General Purposes Committee & the Chair and / or Vice-Chair of the SOP Committee |

**RESOLVED** that the arrangements be confirmed and the Town Clerk instructed to take the suggested action during the recess period.

**45. INFORMATION ITEMS**

The Mayor reported that Members had not raised any urgent matters with him but congratulated Councillor Mrs J. Butterfield JP MBE on being nominated for a Daily Post Leaders 2015 award.

**46. QUESTION TIME**

Mr Lloyd asked the Town Council to make DCC an offer to provide free parking in the town centre?

The Town Clerk advised that the matter was not one purely of cost and that the impact on the White Rose Shopping Centre should be taken into consideration.

The Town Clerk reminded the meeting of what had happened in Holywell when following a long campaign for free parking the traders were now calling for the reintroduction of charges to alleviate commuters utilising the car parks to avoid parking charges in Chester.

**RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk to re-open a discussion with DCC with a view to looking at any reasonable propositions.

**47. 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.

**48. ADDITIONAL ITEM: DRIFT PARK PADDLING POOL**

The Town Clerk explained that although this item was not included on the agenda, he would like Members' views to enable a delegated decision to be made during the August recess, if necessary.

The Town Clerk referred to the £2.00 fee applied to the paddling pool and to Members' instruction that he should contact Denbighshire County Council to ask that a discount for Rhyl residents be considered.

A response had been received from DCC indicating that they would be willing to accommodate the Town Council if it would make up the shortfall and that a discounted entry fee could be offered to Rhyl residents with a DCC Leisure Card.

The Town Clerk reminded Members that an adult Leisure Card cost £13.50 and a child's card cost £8.50 (although free to the unemployed, the disabled or those in receipt of Income Support).

The Town Clerk advised that in effect, the more visitors the paddling pool received at a discounted rate, the more the Town Council would have to subsidise, and that in a warm, sunny summer season, this would be a significant amount of money.

As an alternative, the Town Clerk asked DCC how much it would cost for the Town Council to simply pay DCC to make the paddling pool free to all. An early indication is in the region of £28,000.

**RESOLVED** that:

- (i) *the Leisure Card offer be rejected as too costly for the Town Council.*
- (ii) *the Town Clerk to ask DCC to consider offering a 'family ticket' and two 'family days' during the summer sponsored by the Town Council.*

**49. CLOSURE OF MEETING**

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

Mayor: .....

Date: .....