

At a meeting of the **FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE** held on Wednesday 2nd December 2015, at the Civic Offices, Wellington Road Community Centre, Rhyl commencing at 6.00pm.

PRESENT

Councillor A. J. Rutherford (Chair)

Councillors Mrs J. Chamberlain-Jones, Mrs E. M. Chard, Ms J. Hughes, A. R. James, Ms J. McAlpine, B. Mellor, B. F. Moylan, Mrs W. M. Mullen-James, Miss S. L. Roberts, Miss R. Siddall, Rev. S. Walker and W. N. Tasker.

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

51. APOLOGIES

Apologies were submitted from Councillors I. Armstrong (indisposed), B. Blakeley (indisposed), Mrs J. Butterfield JP MBE (indisposed), Mrs P. M. Jones (indisposed), J. May (indisposed), P. Prendergast (other commitment), S. H. Ratcliffe (indisposed), D. Simmons (other commitment) and Miss C. L. Williams (indisposed).

52. OCTOBER–NOVEMBER 2015 STATEMENT OF AUTHORISED PAYMENTS

The Chair referred to the above list of payments from the No.1 Account (circulated with agenda) and accompanying report for Members approval.

RESOLVED that the payments be approved.

53. CORRESPONDENCE: PRESTATYN RUNNING CLUB

The Chair reported receipt of correspondence from the above advising that the annual Sun Centre and then Taste Academy 5k event will no longer be staged in Rhyl, and thanking the Town Council of its financial support over the years (circulated with agenda).

RESOLVED that the correspondence be received.

54. INFORMATION ITEM: “WELL BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS (WALES) ACT 2015”

The Town Clerk referred to his report (circulated with agenda) and advised of the following implications for the Town Council:

That the Act has now been introduced and placed a number of new obligations primarily on Unitary Authorities but also on Town Councils to improve wellbeing in Wales.

That the Welsh Government in introducing the Act had identified a number of goals detailed in the report which it wished to see achieved to deliver Welsh wellbeing.

That the Act required the formation of a Public Service Board in each County area.

That each Board would be responsible for preparing and publishing an assessment of the state of economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of its area.

Prior to publishing the Board must consult Town and Community Councils in its area on the report

From the assessment the Board would then prepare a Local Well Being Plan setting out how it intends to achieve the Welsh Government Goals.

That all Town and Community Councils with a turnover of £200,000 or more would then have a duty to take all reasonable steps to meet the objectives contained in the Local Wellbeing Plan and must produce an annual report on progress made.

At this stage the report was for Members' information only.

RESOLVED *that the report be received.*

55. CONSULTATION: DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED OAKVILLE, EASTVILLE AND DENMORE AVENUES' WEIGHT RESTRICTION ORDER

The Chair reported receipt of the above (circulated with agenda) in respect of a proposed 7.5 tonne weight restriction order.

RESOLVED *that the proposal be received.*

56. CHANGING PERCEPTIONS OF RHYL

The Town Clerk reported receipt of a progress report (circulated with agenda) and asked Members to determine the level of future support to the initiative in Year 2.

Weber Shandwick have been appointed as consultants with the brief to raise the perception of Rhyl. They do this by way of promoting key messages about Rhyl through national media, the key messages being around Retail and Neighbourhoods, Education and Research, Tourism, Sport & Leisure and Business.

The cost of the appointment was shared between Welsh Government, Denbighshire County Council, Pennaf Housing, North Wales Housing and the Town Council. Our contribution being £5,000 per year for three years subject to reviews after years one and two.

The purpose of this report is to undertake that review.

The Changing Perceptions group is overseen by a Committee comprising of representatives of each of the funders. The Town Council is represented by Councillor A. J. Rutherford who has provided the attached notes of the last meeting.

Weber Shandwick have so far:

- secured 13 pieces of coverage including the BBC, the Sunday Telegraph and Property Week, and claim that this coverage will have reached 63.7 million people. The equivalent advertising cost to achieve this would have been in the region of £101,894.
- profiled four Rhyl businesses in local, regional and national press. Marina Quay has been profiled in Property Week.
- held a workshop in June at Rhyl Golf Club to develop the key messages. Beyond the workshop they have also met with key stakeholders.
- developed links with key journalists from the BBC, the Independent, the Financial Times, the Guardian and the Times.
- drawn the press in via interesting news stories of case studies of local businesses over 2015.

Should their work continue through 2016 they will be directed by the Committee who are likely to pursue raising the level of publicity for Rhyl to national level, positioning Rhyl as one of the UK's leading seaside towns.

The other four partners are due to confirm their support for progression of the initiative in January.

Members suggested that the company be directed towards tackling the Daily Post and the Rhyl Journal in terms of negativity towards Rhyl and the Daily Post in particular constantly and unfairly pitting Rhyl against Prestatyn when the two towns were entirely different in size and demographics.

RESOLVED that Councillor Rutherford to feed all comments made back to the Committee and be given the authority to approve the Town Council's 2016/17 contribution if and when he is satisfied that the Town Council is getting value for money.

57. **MEMBERS' INFORMATION ITEMS**

The Town Clerk advised of the following:

(i) **Christmas Panto Tickets**

That the Pavilion Theatre had kindly invited all Town Councillors and a guest to attend the opening night of this year's pantomime, and asked Councillors to contact Tracey Jones to confirm their availability as soon as possible.

(ii) **Christmas Pops**

That the organiser, Ms Sian Davies, had asked him to remind Councillors that if they couldn't use their tickets to return them to her as soon as possible to allow her to redistribute them. Also that the event was not suitable for children under the age of four and that if Councillors were

aware of attendees who were wheelchair users to please inform her before the event so she could organise proper access for them.

(iii) Neptune Developments Public Consultation

That there would be a consultation in the White Rose Centre on Monday 7th and Tuesday 8th December and that Town Councillors were invited to attend.

Members were disappointed that no evening or weekend provision had been made for people who work during the week.

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk to convey the above to the consultancy company.

(iv) Macmillan & St. Kentigern's 2016 Calendars

The Mayor, Councillor B. Mellor, advised that he had a number of calendars available for Members to buy if they wished at a cost of £9.95 each.

58. PROPOSED MEETING WITH RHYL BUSINESS GROUP

Further to minute no.46 of the meeting held on 4th November 2015, the Town Clerk reported that the Business Group would be meeting on 7th December, at which a number of dates would be determined and offered to the Town Council for the New Year.

The breakfast meeting would be held at the Wellington Community Centre with refreshments provided.

RESOLVED that the information be received.

59. 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.

60. CONSULTATION: STREET NAMING OF NEW DEVELOPMENTS

Further to the meeting of Council held on 18th November 2015, the Town Clerk reported receipt of correspondence from Denbighshire County Council (circulated with agenda) confirming the Town Council's suggested names and seeking support from the Town Council in contacting the families.

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk to contact the families of the individuals that the streets will be named after.

61. OFFICE ACCOMODATION PROGRESS REPORT

The Town Clerk advised that there was nothing new to report.

62. REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The Town Clerk reported receipt of a request from a local voluntary organisation (circulated with agenda).

RESOLVED *that the Town Clerk to make representations on the organisation's behalf to the relevant third party.*

[Councillor Ms J. Hughes declared a prejudicial interest in the above item due to being an active member of the voluntary organisation and vacated the Chamber taking no further part in the discussion or voting thereon]

63. CLOSURE OF MEETING

The Chair to close the meeting.

Chair:

Date: