

At a **MEETING of COUNCIL** held on Wednesday 20th January 2016 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, B. F. Moylan, Mrs W. M. Mullen-James, P. Prendergast, Miss S. L. Roberts, A. J. Rutherford, Rev. S. F. Walker and Miss C. L. Williams.

Mr G. J. Nickels – Town Clerk
Miss H. J. Windus – Deputy Town Clerk

95. OPENING OF MEETING

The Mayor's Chaplain, Father Charles Ramsay, commenced proceedings by leading all present in prayer.

96. APOLOGIES

Apologies for non-attendance were received on behalf of Councillors I. Armstrong (indisposed), S. H. Ratcliffe (on holiday), Miss R. Siddall (indisposed), D. Simmons (other commitment) and W. N. Tasker (indisposed).

97. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 1972 SECTION 86 – DECLARATION OF VACANCY IN THE OFFICE OF COMMUNITY COUNCILLOR FOR THE PLASTIRION WARD

The Town Clerk referred to his report (circulated with agenda) following the resignation of a Member from the Town Council, and further advised that the vacancy would appear in this week's Rhyl Journal.

98. MINUTES

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

Meeting of Council - 16th December 2015 - Min.Nos. 82-94

Proposed by Councillor Miss S. L. Roberts and seconded by Councillor A. R. James and **RESOLVED** as a correct record.

Planning Committee - 16th December 2015 - Min.Nos. 39-41

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

Special Council - 6th January 2016 - Min.Nos. 95-97

Proposed by Councillor B. Mellor and seconded by Councillor A. R. James and **RESOLVED** as a correct record.

Planning - 6th January 2016 - Min.Nos. 42-44
Committee

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 - 6th January 2016 - Min.Nos. 64-72
Purposes Committee

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

99. MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor referred to the list of engagements he had attended over the last month, and in particular to the RNLI Boxing Day Dip here in Rhyl, which he described as a marvellous event.

100. PRESENTATION: NORTH WALES POLICE

Further to minute no.79 of the meeting of Council held on 18th November 2015, the Mayor welcomed Sgt. Steve Prince and PC Les Jones and invited them to provide Members with an overview of Neighbourhood policing.

Sgt. Prince advised of a significant level of antisocial behaviour in Rhyl, namely the consuming of alcohol in the street, and particularly outside the train station.

PC Jones reported that the Police were tackling the problem in partnership with Denbighshire County Council with Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs). This was a large piece of work which was hoped to be introduced in the town centre shortly.

PC Jones advised that 22 individuals are currently banned from the town centre all together due to repeated offences.

To give Councillors an idea of the local Police force's workload (which covers not only Rhyl, but Prestatyn, Abergele and the Glan Clwyd area), 50 incidents had been reported in the last 24 hours and of those only six were of a criminal nature, seven were antisocial and all remaining were not Police matters.

PC Jones reported that as Rhyl's night time economy centred around Water Street, they were inundated with reports and allegations of incidents on that street, some of a very serious nature. PC Jones was pleased to report that there was a 30% reduction in December 2015 thanks to the joint working of the Police, DCC and the Licensees.

The 'black market', drug offences and retail crime also kept Officers busy, although there too was a reduction in these areas in December 2015.

In response to Members' questions and comments, the Officers said that:

- currently there were eight full-time police officers covering Rhyl, Prestatyn Abergele and Glan Clwyd area.
- all drug and alcohol abusers were offered support by DCC. Unfortunately not all accept it.
- the six main 'street drinkers' had been served with criminal orders and they were confident that this would make a real difference looking ahead to the Spring and Summer months.

The Officers offered to come to the Town Council every quarter to keep Members informed.

The Mayor thanked the Officers for their time.

RESOLVED that Sgt. Prince and PC Jones be invited to attend Council meetings every three months.

101. 'CHANGING THE PERCEPTIONS OF RHYL'

As the Council's representative on the above, Councillor A. J. Rutherford, reported that he had attended the meeting on 8th January and had conveyed all of the Council's views, particularly on its desire for local press to report positive news stories happening in Rhyl as well as the negative.

The group would again be meeting with local Editors to press this specific point and would also be looking at identifying the resources for the purchase of special meshing (with images on) to be used to improve the look of demolition / development sites.

A number of roadshows were also discussed to be held on Saturdays to further promote their work.

Councillor Rutherford had been impressed with the group's achievements, and as authorised by Council, reported that he had agreed that the Town Council's £5,000 contribution be given.

Councillor Rutherford advised that the group were happy to provide the Town Council with a presentation if Members felt this would be useful?

RESOLVED that:

- the report be received.*
- 'Changing the Perceptions of Rhyl' to present to the February meeting of Council.*

102. INVESTMENT STRATEGY REPORT

The Town Clerk referred to his and the Finance Officer's joint report (circulated with agenda) seeking Members' approval of the Annual Investment Strategy for 2016/17.

RESOLVED that the report be approved.

103. APPOINTMENTS OF INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL AUDITORS

The Town Clerk referred to his and the Finance Officer's joint report (circulated with agenda) in respect of the appointment of the Council's Internal and External Auditors for 2016/17.

RESOLVED that the report and recommendations be approved.

104. MEMBER'S ITEM: RHYL LEISURE CENTRE

The Town Clerk reported that the Strategic and Operational Planning (SOP) Committee had asked that he bring the recent changes to a number of facilities offered by the Centre before Council for discussion.

Members advised that it was their understanding that certain classes and instructors had been relocated to the Nova Centre in Prestatyn, to the disappointment of the regular Rhyl users.

A Member referred to DCC's Mr Jamie Groves advising the Town Council that the newly refurbished Nova Centre would provide a different offer to Rhyl Leisure Centre, to increase choice rather than duplicate with the end result being that the two centres would ultimately compete with one another.

RESOLVED that DCC's Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Mohammed Mehmet, be invited to a Special meeting of Council to clarify the position.

105. INFORMATION ITEM: TOWN COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

The Town Clerk asked Members to please forward their ideas for the next newsletter to Councillor B. Mellor in time for the next Communications Working Group meeting on 9th February.

106. INFORMATION ITEM: DCC iPADS

The Town Clerk reported that e-mails sent from the Town Council to Town Councillors who are also Denbighshire County Councillors via their i-pads, had been identified as 'trash' and sent directly to their 'trash' folders, explaining why a number had failed to reach Councillors over the last few weeks.

The Town Clerk added that now this had been discovered, DCC hoped to put this right, but asked those Councillors to please contact DCC's IT department if this continued.

107. QUESTION TIME

Local businessman, Mr B. Lloyd, said that he wanted to see better communication between the Town Council and local businesses and asked what could be done in that regard?

Councillors advised Mr Lloyd that the Town Council was in the early stages of employing the services of an Events Officer, and that increasing footfall in the town centre was part of that role's remit. A business database was to be established to enable regular communication.

In addition, Councillors referred to the Town Council now being responsible for all floral displays in Rhyl, and that by continuing this provision and enhancing it where possible, it was hoped that this would add to people's shopping experience as well as keep the town centre looking as attractive as possible for its residents.

Mr Lloyd said that he was encouraged by what he had heard and that he looked forward to an improved relationship with the Town Council.

108. 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.*

109. RHYL BUSINESS GROUP – JOINT MEETING

The Town Clerk and Deputy Town Clerk reminded Members that the meeting would be held at the Wellington Community Centre at 7.30am on Friday 29th January.

They suggested that the meeting be broken down into seven topics to address all of the questions and issues raised by the Business Group and Councillors Butterfield, James, Prendergast, Roberts, Mellor, Mullen-James and Rutherford agreed to lead on the various topics.

110. RHYL EVENTS

On behalf of the Strategic and Operational Planning (SOP) Committee, the Town Clerk reported that the Committee had now met with Ms Wheatley of Gunsmoke Communications and had been suitably impressed.

Ms Wheatley had agreed to organise a trial event after which a decision would be taken on using the service of Gunsmoke Communications in the longer term.

The Town Clerk asked Members to give the Committee authority to oversee and manage Ms Wheatley's appointment for the initial event.

***RESOLVED** that the SOP Committee be authorised to oversee all aspects of the trial event management.*

111. CLOSURE OF MEETING

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

Mayor:

Date: