

At a meeting of the **FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE** held on Wednesday 6th January 2016 at the Civic Offices, Wellington Road Community Centre, Rhyl commencing at 6.00pm.

PRESENT

Councillor P. Prendergast (Chair)

Councillors Mrs. J. Butterfield JP 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, S. H. Ratcliffe, A. J. Rutherford, W. N. Tasker, Rev. S. Walker and Miss C. L. Williams.

Mr G. J. Nickels – Town Clerk

64. APOLOGIES

Apologies were submitted from Councillors I. Armstrong (indisposed), B. Blakeley (indisposed), J. May (work commitment), Ms J. McAlpine (indisposed), Miss S. Roberts (indisposed), Miss R. Siddall (work commitment), D. Simmons (other commitment) and Deputy Town Clerk Miss H. J. Windus (indisposed).

65. FORMER TOWN COUNCILLOR CHRISTOPHER BALL & MR HENRY (HARRY) RATCLIFFE

The Chairman advised of the deaths of the former Councillor Mr Chris Ball and also Mr Henry Ratcliffe, (Father of Councillor S. H. Ratcliffe) over the Christmas period and the meeting observed a period of silence as a mark of respect.

The Town Clerk advised that cards of condolence had been sent on behalf of the Council and gave details of Mr Ball's funeral.

66. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 1972 SECTION 86 – RESIGNATION OF COUNCILLOR

The Town Clerk reported receipt of correspondence from Councillor J. May advising of his resignation from the Council due to his work commitments and that a vacancy in the office of Councillor would be declared at the next normal Council Meeting.

RESOLVED *that the resignation be received with regret and the Town Clerk to write to Mr May expressing the Council's appreciation for his service to the Rhyl community.*

67. DISPOSAL OF ILLUMINATION

The Town Clerk reported receipt of a request from the mother of a former winner of the "Rhyl in Lights" competition asking whether it would be possible for the family to have the now defunct illumination.

The Town Clerk further advised that the illumination was now beyond economical repair but was still stored at the Bodelwyddan Depot.

RESOLVED that the request be granted subject to a suitable letter of disclosure being signed by the family.

68. 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.

69. CORRESPONDENCE: NORTH WALES POLICE

The Town Clerk advised on confidential information provided by PC Les Jones in respect of policing in Rhyl for Members information only.

Members noted that they would in due course be meeting with the Police and were concerned that if the information related to individuals within Rhyl then it would be more appropriate to receive the full information at that time.

RESOLVED that the information not be received at this time but that the Town Clerk prepares a redacted version for the next meeting.

70. ANNUAL BUDGET

On the Strategic and Operational Planning (SOP) Committee's behalf, the Town Clerk put its recommendations to the meeting, taking into account the likely 2015/16 expenditure outturn, the envisaged 2016/17 expenditure and their recommendations in respect additional areas of expenditure for 2016/17 and three options for the 2016/17 precept to be levied.

The Clerk and the Chairs of the SOP and Finance and General Purposes Committees responded to Members' questions in relation to the proposals and in particular drew Members attention to the increase in the property tax base for Rhyl from 9,152 in 2015/16 to 9,215 in 2016/17.

Members were then requested to confirm or otherwise the recommendations of the SOP Committee for subsequent recommendation to Council.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) the request by the Coastal Events Officer in respect of Rhyl Air Show be approved and the Town Council to become the events main sponsor subject to the conditions identified by the SOP Committee and the budget be increased from £4,500 to £7,500.
- (ii) the request by the Coastal Events Officer in respect of the Arena Events budget be approved and the Budget be increased from £4,500 to £5,000.
- (iii) the request by the Coastal Events Officer in respect of the Christmas Events budget be approved and increased from the current £3,600 to £4,000.
- (iv) in consideration of the above decisions the level of anticipated expenditure for 2016/17 as laid out in "Appendix A" to the report be approved.

- (v) *the Finance and General Purposes Committee recommends Option 3 to Council in that it approves and levies a precept of £493,200 (Four Hundred and Ninety Three Thousand, Two Hundred Pounds) upon Denbighshire County Council for the financial year commencing on 1st April 2016.*

[In approving Option 3 Members noted that this would generate an additional £1,854 for the Council while reducing the precept for a Band D property from £53.69 to £53.52, a decrease of 0.31%.]

- (vi) *the following additional areas of expenditure recommended by the SOP Committee be approved for 2016/17 with any expenditure incurred being drawn from the Commissioned Services Budget:*

- *the Town Clerk to speak with the Events Officer in respect of securing additional events in Rhyl subject to negotiations over a percentage of increased car parking revenue being retained for future events. Any costs arising to be transferred from the Commissioned Services Budget.*
- *that any underspend on initiatives during 2016/17 to be transferred to the Commissioned Services Budget for reallocation.*
- *the Town Clerk to source the provision of suitable "Supported by Rhyl Town Council" banners for display during events. (The Chair of SOP Committee to make enquiries of Rhyl based printers).*

- (vii) *the Town Clerk to speak to the Rhyl Journal Editor to publicise the areas of expenditure to be incurred and the reduction in the precept being levied on Band D properties.*

At the conclusion of the above item the Chairman on behalf of the wider membership expressed appreciation to the SOP Committee for their work on preparing the draft budget.

71. OFFICE ACCOMODATION PROGRESS REPORT

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

72. CLOSURE OF MEETING

The Chair to close the meeting.

Chair:

Date: