

At a **MEETING of COUNCIL** held on Wednesday 20th September 2017 in the Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Wellington Road, Rhyl commencing at 6.00pm.

PRESENT

Councillor A. R. James (Mayor)

Councillors B. Blakeley, Mrs J. Chamberlain-Jones, Mrs E. M. Chard, S. Harris, A. S. Johnson, B. Jones, Mrs D. L. King, Ms J. L. McAlpine, B. Mellor, P. Prendergast, Ms V. Roberts and T. Thomas

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

43. APOLOGIES

Apologies for non-attendance were received on behalf of Councillors J. Ball, Mrs J. Butterfield JP MBE, Ms. J. Hughes, K. R. Jones, Mrs P. M. Jones, Mrs W. M. Mullen-James, A. J. Rutherford, Miss C. L. Williams and the Mayor's Chaplain, Rev. Andy Grimwood.

44. PRESENTATION: GIDEONS INTERNATIONAL

The Mayor welcomed Mr John Graham to the meeting.

Mr Graham gave a brief address before presenting the Mayor with copies of the Scriptures, which were gratefully received.

45. PRESENTATION: NORTH WALES POLICE

The Mayor welcomed Chief Constable Mark Polin, Inspector Alwyn Williams and Detective Inspector John Russell to the meeting and invited them to address the Council.

Mr Polin thanked the Council for inviting him before remarking that Rhyl was full of good people and that the town continued to be the vibrant and bustling place we all knew. He went on to report that:

- There was no connection between the incidents listed in the Town Clerk's letter to him dating from March to June of this year and including the fatal domestic incident earlier this month.
- A small number of these were related to organised crime, which was being robustly targeted.
- Over 20 people had been arrested as a result, with 18 of those charged. An example of the high prosecution rate here in Rhyl and across the whole of North Wales (e.g. the 'Home Bargains' murder led to prison terms of 78 years in total for the perpetrators.)
- Cross border criminality was a national problem and one that was affecting North Wales being so close to two of the top four areas for organised crime in the UK – Liverpool and Manchester, the others being Birmingham and London.
- All tactics available to the North Wales Police in tackling local drug supply were being deployed.

- Three warrants a week were being issued in Rhyl and the surrounding areas.
- The scale of knife crime had increased nationally and that regionally discreet 'stop and search' was in operation along with regular knife amnesties, but many incidents were domestic in nature and therefore very difficult to prevent.
- The whole community needed to work together and that there was a number of inspirational projects running in Rhyl, one of which, 'Ty Golau' this week came out top in the North Wales Police Problem Orientated Partnerships (POP) Awards for its work tackling homelessness, begging and anti-social behaviour.
- The reduced CCTV provision made police work more difficult.
- Rhyl was not a 'crime town' and was not in crisis.

Mr Williams advised that:

- Local intelligence was crucial and urged councillors to continue to share information with the police.
- The Local Policing Plan focus was on violent crime.
- With drugs valued at £20,000 and £12,000 cash removed from the streets, the police were continuing to make the area a difficult place for criminals to operate in.
- Monies from Partnerships and Communities Together (PACT) and from the office of the High Sheriff had been very useful.
- There was a focus on street drinking.
- PCSOs attending community events were proving to be successful.

Mr Russell reported that another three areas of focus were:

- 'County Lines'. A practice whereby violent and exploitative gangs supplying class A drugs operating in larger urban areas, branch out into smaller nearby county towns essentially offering a telephone order and delivery service.
- 'Cuckooing'. Where criminals target the homes of vulnerable people to use to sell drugs from.
- Modern day slavery – involving human trafficking and a range of exploitation and forced labour.

with a number of operations ongoing in the area with an excellent success rate.

In response to councillors' questions and comments, the officers advised that:

- They were surprised to hear they were "failing miserably" when a recent survey had shown that 94% of North Wales residents felt safe in their own homes and with North Wales perceived as having one of the lowest levels of crime.
- Despite continued Government cuts the number of PCSOs had not been reduced as North Wales Police had minimised their impact to the frontline.
- Police Officer numbers were stable.
- All councillors have their ward PCSO's contact numbers.
- Councillors should ring '999' if they can't get through to '101' during busy periods.
- They would dearly love to produce more officers but this was not possible after a prolonged period of austerity cuts.
- The majority of police work nowadays was dealing with vulnerable people young and older and people with mental health problems. Less than 20% of officer time was spent on criminality.

- They agreed that communicating initiatives and success stories to the public was a good idea and would help to allay any concerns and tackle the local perception of crime levels.
- They were open to any ideas councillors might have to assist them in engaging with the local community as public meetings have in the past been very poorly attended and therefore are no longer organised.
- They were pleased to hear councillors praising the PCSOs covering their wards and reporting that they had good working relationships with them. This level of service should be consistent throughout.
- Certain types of criminality had decreased, and others had increased, but that these had increased nationally, so were not a local problem.
- Currently there were five PCSO vacancies across the district in the process of being filled. These had been caused by the postholders becoming police officers.
- Recruitment in the region had doubled as North Wales Police had reprioritised its budget.
- Mr Polin was currently looking into the possibility of increasing the powers PCSOs have.

At the conclusion of the presentation the Mayor thanked the police officers for their attendance and announced a five minute recess.

RESOLVED that:

- i) *The Town Clerk to e-mail all councillors to collate their views on the availability of PCSOs in their ward, and to determine two Members to accompany Mr Polin on his planned patrol in Rhyl during the night shift on 30th September 2017..*
- ii) *The Town Clerk to arrange a visit for councillors to Rhyl Police Station to give them the opportunity to see the work going on there.*
- iii) *The prepared statement distributed at the meeting was approved for use by councillors.*

46. MINUTES

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

Council - 19th July 2017 - Min. Nos. 25 - 42

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

Planning Committee - 19th July 2017 - Min. Nos. 10 –12

Proposed by Councillor Ms J. L. McAlpine and seconded by Councillor A.S. Johnson and **RESOLVED** as a correct record.

Planning Committee - 6th September 2017 - Min. Nos. 13 - 18

Proposed by Councillor Ms J. L. McAlpine and seconded by Councillor A.S. Johnson and **RESOLVED** as a correct record

To Confirm or otherwise:

Finance & General - 6th September 2017- Min. Nos. 44 - 61
Purposes Committee

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

47. MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor referred to the various events he had attended during the past month and in particular to the 'Wild Rhyl' event which he felt had been particularly successful.

Councillor T. Thomas advised that he had requested that the County Council examine the potential for a visitor centre at the Brickfield Pond site.

RESOLVED that the report be received.

48. AUTHORISATION OF PAYMENTS / ADDITIONS TO APPROVED SUPPLIERS LIST

Further to minute no.143 of the meeting of Council held on 15th March 2017 and in accordance with the Council's adopted financial regulations, the Town Clerk submitted schedule B (a list of non-regular payments to be released over the coming month).

The report also identified an addition to the approved supplier list.

RESOLVED that the following be approved for payment and signed by two Members.

(a) *Schedule B Payments for Approval (14th June 2017 – 12th July 2017)*

Supplier	Details of Supply	Voucher Number	Date	Amount £
Glasdon UK Ltd	7 seats and plaques for Remembrance Gardens	342	15/08/17	4,322.13
Royal British Legion	2 x Type G Poppy Wreathes	343	07/09/17	100.00
Cllr A James	Mayor Allowance Payment 2 of 3	305	01/09/17	997.50
Cllr P Prendergast	Deputy Mayor Allowance Payment 2 of 3	306	01/09/17	332.50
Gwasg Helygain	Flyers and Posters for Wild Rhyl Event	344	08/09/17	229.20
Fantazia Imports Limited	Fireworks for 2017	345	12/09/17	6,240.00
Total Schedule B				£12,221.33

(b) *the following addition to the approved supplier list be approved:*

- Glasdon UK Ltd

49. CONSULTATION: DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL – CALL FOR POTENTIAL GYPSY AND TRAVELLER SITES

Members considered the above consultation documents circulated with the agenda but could not identify any suitable sites within the Rhyl area.

RESOLVED that the County Council be advised that no suitable sites were available and that should any sizeable site be identified through the consultation process, it should first be evaluated as a potential site for a cemetery.

50. EXTERNAL AUDITORS OPINION ON THE COUNCIL'S ANNUAL RETURN 2016/17

The Town Clerk reported receipt of the above (circulated with agenda), a clean bill of health with one minor advisory matter identified relating to the certification of documents submitted and advised that this was being considered by officers.

RESOLVED that report be received and noted.

51. QUESTION TIME

No questions were asked.

52. 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.

53. 2018/19 SMALL EVENTS PROGRAMME

The Town Clerk advised of funding streams available to the Town Council for events, should it decide to continue to offer its programme of events by commissioning the services of Gunsmoke Communications for a further 12 months.

Councillors reported that they were very happy with the free events organised so far by Gunsmoke Communications, which were proving popular with residents and visitors, and were positively raising the Town Council's profile.

RESOLVED that:

- i) Council approves the commissioning of the services of Gunsmoke Communications for a further 12 months, with no change to the budget.
- ii) The Town Clerk to ask Gunsmoke Communications to contact Councillor B. Blakeley with a view to considering the suitability of two green spaces in the Tynewydd ward for future events, for further consideration by the Strategic and Operational Planning (SOP) Committee.

54. STANDING ITEM: POLICE CLOSURE ORDERS

Further to minute no.79 of the meeting held on 3rd February 2016, the Town Clerk advised that no applications had been received from North Wales Police.

55. CLOSURE OF MEETING

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

Mayor:

Date: