

At a **MEETING of COUNCIL** held on Wednesday 16th January 2019 in the Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Wellington Road, Rhyl commencing at 6.00pm.

PRESENT

Councillor Mrs E. M. Chard (Deputy Mayor)

Councillors Mrs J. Chamberlain-Jones, Ms J. Hughes, A. R. James, A. S. Johnson, K. R. Jones, Mrs D. L. King, B. Mellor, P. Prendergast, Ms V. Roberts, T. Thomas and R. J. Turner

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

116. OPENING OF MEETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor's Chaplain, Archdeacon of St. Asaph, the Rev. Andy Grimwood, commenced proceedings by leading all present in prayer.

117. APOLOGIES

Apologies for non-attendance were received on behalf of Councillors J. Ball, B. Blakeley, Mrs J. Butterfield JP MBE, B. Jones, Mrs P. M. Jones, Ms J. L. McAlpine, Mrs W. M. Mullen-James, Miss S. L. Roberts, A. J. Rutherford and Miss C. L. Williams.

118. MINUTES

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

Meeting of Council - 19th December 2018 - Min.Nos.100-115

Proposed by Councillor Mrs E. M. Chard and seconded by Councillor Mrs D. L. King and **RESOLVED** as a correct record.

Planning Committee - 19th December 2018 - Min.Nos.41-44

Proposed by Councillor A. S. Johnson and seconded by Councillor K. R. Jones and **RESOLVED** as a correct record.

119. PRESENTATION: DENBIGHSHIRE CAR PARKING SERVICES

Further to minute no.109 of the meeting held on 19th December 2018, the Deputy Mayor welcomed Mr Mike Jones and invited him to address members on proposals relating to the future of parking services throughout the county.

In response to a number of members having approached him prior to the meeting, Mr Jones suggested he began with the problems being experienced at the Morfa Hall car park.

The Deputy Mayor agreed to this matter being discussed first.

Mr Jones advised that the car was transferred into the ownership of the Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA) eight years ago, with only the disabled parking remaining with Denbighshire County Council.

On 1st December 2018 the WCVA transferred the main car park beyond the disabled parking spaces to a company called Smart Parking and since then a high number of people have received fines and despite appealing on what sounds like very reasonable grounds, the fines are being upheld.

Mr Jones assured members that he had been in regular contact with Smart Parking to put the case forward for leniency given the newly introduced ticket machine system, and the confusion caused by this and by Denbighshire County Council admittedly not making the parking distinction clear enough, which was added to by the 'Free after 3' initiative running throughout December. Lobbying of the company had now been escalated to Mr Emlyn Jones, Head of Planning and Public Protection.

Members felt that the fines and the rejection of people's appeals by Smart Parking was very harsh in the case of so many having paid the correct parking fee and not over stayed at the car park, only not entering their full registration number or not at all not being used to the new ticket machine.

Members asked Mr Jones if the county council were considering reimbursing people in these circumstances who had appealed and had been unsuccessful?

A member also suggested that if the county council knew that Smart Parking were taking over the car park on 1st December, it should perhaps have informed the town council so that councillors could have shared it with their residents and been in a better position to deal with their complaints.

Mr Jones said the county council were opened minded about considering reimbursing people it felt had been treated unfairly and accepted that they should have told the town council about the change of ownership and the new ticket machine.

Mr Jones said that complaints should be sent to him and that his department would look into a process by which they would be considered.

Members agreed to this approach.

[Councillor Ms V. Roberts declared a prejudicial interest having received a fine and in the process of appealing against it and did not take part in the vote to agree the suggested action]

Mr Jones went on to advise that:

- the Children's Village / Underground car park would be renamed. Possibly Central Car Park and would benefit from new lighting, signage, CCTV and ticket machines in time for the opening of SC2. An attractive introductory offer would also be introduced to promote use of the car park.
- there would be 10 parking spaces offering free use for one hour stays for abled bodied customers and two hour stays for disabled badge holders at the Morley Road and West Kinmel Street car parks.

- tariff boards would be replaced with freshly branded boards featuring the name of the car park (currently omitted), starting in Rhyl and Prestatyn.
- all pay and display ticket machines would be replaced with intelligent versions enabling usage statistics to be retrieved over the next three to four years.
- the car park on the site of the old Post Office would open in early June. 34 spaces including two electric charging points.
- a flexible 'smart' payment app would also be offered to customers.

In response to members' questions and comments, Mr Jones said that:

- the 'smart' payment app would be outsourced.
- the previous ticket machine maintenance postholder had been off for 10 months before leaving the authority and the post would be filled shortly to address the technical issues some machines had been having.
- 'family' car parking spaces had not been included at the old Post Office site as they were difficult to enforce, unlike disabled parking bays, but worth considering as an advisory measure.
- a period of free parking in the mornings as offered at the Queen Street car park, was not under consideration for the old Post Office site car park, but he would take the point back.
- the newly improved 'Central Car Park' would be a long-stay offer and that use by annual permit holders was a good point that he would take back.
- he would consider promoting the permit scheme better on Denbighshire County Council's website.
- interpretation signs would be introduced at the cinema car park to direct people to the beach and other points of interest.
- enabling the new ticket machines to give change was something else he would take back.

Mr Jones offered to put together a few free parking subsidy packages for the town council if members felt this was something they would like to explore for the future?

Members said they had looked into it over recent years but as Rhyl's car parks were bigger than the likes of Prestatyn and Denbigh's the prices quoted by Denbighshire County Council were far too high, especially now the town council had committed to a £2m contribution to SC2 meaning that its budgets were already stripped back.

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk to ask Denbighshire County Council to consider reimbursing people who had paid and not over stayed at the Morfa Hall car park and to suggest that individuals give Smart Parking their permission for them to share the details of their cases with the county council in line with the new General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

120. MAYOR'S REPORT

The Deputy Mayor referred to the events the Mayor had attended during the past month.

RESOLVED that the report was received.

121. PAYMENTS AND RECEIPTS REPORT (SCHEDULE A) – DECEMBER 2018

The Town Clerk presented his report (circulated with agenda) detailing the schedule of payments made.

Voucher No.	Supplier name	Amount £	Description of Goods & Services
647	Flintshire County Council	4,214.51	Pension Contributions & Deficit Funding Decemberr 2018
648	HMRC	2,649.55	Pay Deductions December 2018
649	RTC Staff	6,885.53	Staff Salaries January 2019
650	BT	384.43	Rental Charges
585	Shire Leasing	337.33	Telephone Leasing
651	BT	92.57	Calls/Rental Charges
654	HSBC	6.30	Bank Charges December
652	Gunsmoke Communications	1,440.00	Events Management Fees December 2018
475	Denbighshire CC	707.00	NNDR for Wellington Road - Payment 10 of 10
476	Benefits Advice Shop	916.66	Part-Time Appeals Officer - Payment 10 of 12
	Total payments	£17,633.88	

RESOLVED that the report was approved.

122. 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) and details of a number of suppliers recommended to be deleted from the approved suppliers list.

RESOLVED that the following were approved for payment and signed by two councillors.

Supplier	Details of Supply	Voucher Number	Date	Amount £
Denbighshire County Council	Hire of Town Hall for Christmas Film Show	645	11/12/18	125.00
Denbighshire County Council	Remembrance Gardens Grounds Maintenance Recharge	646	13/12/18	6,041.18
Denbighshire County Council	Recharges for Wellington Centre	653	02/01/19	3,823.00

Rhyl Silver Band	Donation for Remembrance Sunday	658	03/12/18	50.00
Total Schedule B				£10,039.18

123. APPOINTMENT OF INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL AUDITORS FOR 2018/19

The Town Clerk presented his and the Finance Officer's joint report (circulated with agenda) confirming that the town council's internal auditor would JDH Business Services (appointed by the council) and its external auditor would be BDO LLP (appointed by the Wales Audit Office).

RESOLVED that the appointments were approved and no declarations of interest made.

124. INTERNAL AUDIT INTERIM REPORT 2018/19

The Town Clerk referred to the above report (circulated with agenda) and suggested that it be considered by the council's Risk Assessment Sub-Committee.

RESOLVED that the report was referred to the Risk Assessment Sub-Committee.

125. CORRESPONDENCE: POPPY APPEAL ORGANISER, RHYL

The Town Clerk advised that the organiser, Mr Richard Kendrick, had asked that the letter (circulated with agenda) be passed to all councillors for their information and consideration.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) Mr Kendrick's plan to introduce composite poppies as an alternative to the paper poppies displayed on lampposts in the town last year was noted.
- (ii) the town council would not be organising any extra projects to mark the 75th anniversary of the D-Day Landings this year, beyond the Remembrance Sunday services.

126. PRESENTATION: RECORD OF YEAR IN OFFICE

The Deputy Mayor presented Councillor A. R. James with a record of his mayoral year 2017/18.

Councillor James thanked the Deputy Mayor and the Civic and Admin Support Officer for producing the weighty file.

127. INFORMATION ITEM: WELSH GOVERNMENT – REVIEW OF COMMUNITY AND TOWN COUNCIL SECTOR IN WALES

The Town Clerk referred to the above document (circulated with agenda) for members' information.

RESOLVED that the document was received.

128. INFORMATION ITEM: RHYL LOCAL REFERENCE GROUP

The Town Clerk reminded members that the next meeting of the above would be held at 5.30pm on Wednesday 31st January at Russell House.

RESOLVED *that the date was noted.*

129. INFORMATION ITEM: KFEST

The Town Clerk advised of a three day music festival, KFest, being held at the Events Arena starting on Friday 2nd August.

RESOLVED *that the information was noted.*

130. INFORMATION ITEM: THE TOWN PLAN

The Town Clerk reported that the Strategic and Operational Planning (SOP) Committee had now reached a position whereby councillors’ ambitions and project ideas were needed to inform the next Town Plan document.

The Town Clerk advised that he would be circulating a simple form to every councillor inviting them contribute their ambitions for the town council, which would be submitted to the SOP Committee for consideration before being brought back to Council for its formal approval and prioritisation.

RESOLVED *that the information was received.*

131. INFORMATION ITEM: REQUEST TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

The Town Clerk reported receipt of an e-mail from Mr Brian Allen, RNLI Community Safety Officer, requesting permission to address a future meeting of Council to inform of a ‘Respect the Water’ campaign.

RESOLVED *that the request was approved.*

132. INFORMATION ITEM: INVITATION FROM G2G COMMUNITIES

Councillor K. R. Jones advised of an open invitation to all councillors to visit the project’s 3D Printing Centre from 3.30pm until 6.30pm on Thursday 17th January.

RESOLVED *that the invitation was received.*

133. QUESTION TIME

No questions were asked.

134. CLOSURE OF MEETING

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

Mayor:

Date: