

At a Meeting of the **FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE** held on Wednesday 7th July 2010, at the Civic Offices, Wellington Road Community Centre, Rhyl commencing at 6.00pm.

PRESENT

Councillor D. A. J. Thomas (Chair)

Councillors J. B. Bellis, B. Blakeley, J. Butterfield, Mrs J. Butterfield, Mrs J. Chamberlain-Jones, Mrs L. M. Edwards, M. C. Espley, I. A. Gunning, Ms D. Hannam, Miss M. A. Jones, Mrs M. McCarroll, Mrs W. M. Mullen-James and G. J. Pickering.

Mr G. J. Nickels	-	Town Clerk
Mr P. M. Thomas	-	Finance Officer
Miss H. J. Windus	-	Personal Assistant & Secretary

24. APOLOGIES

Apologies for non-attendance were received on behalf of Councillors Mrs P. M. Butters (on holiday), C. Davies (indisposed), Ms G. A. Jones (indisposed), Mrs P. M. Jones (indisposed), D. W. Lee (work commitment), W. N. Tasker (indisposed) and G. Williams (indisposed).

25. LANCE CORPORAL MICHAEL TAYLOR, 40 COMMANDO ROYAL MARINES

The Chair reported the sad loss of Rhyl resident Lance Corporal Michael Taylor whilst serving in Afghanistan on 22nd June and that the Mayor had sent a letter offering the Town Council's condolences.

A Member read out a letter he had received from Mr Taylor's partner and children expressing their wish to have Mr Taylor's name added to the town's Cenotaph and for the Welsh flag to be flown on the day of his funeral.

The Town Clerk advised that Lance Corporal Taylor's funeral would be held at St. Thomas' Church in Rhyl at 2.30pm on Friday 16th July and that the presence of the Mayor has been approved by the family.

The meeting stood in silence as a mark of respect to Mr Taylor and his family.

RESOLVED that the information be received.

26. MR PETER JONES, CENTRES MANAGER, RHYL COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

The Chair reported the sad, sudden passing of Mr Peter Jones on 19th June and that a donation had been made at Mr Jones' funeral to the Rhyl Silver Band and the RNLI on behalf of the Town Council.

The meeting stood in silence as a mark of respect to Mr Jones and his family.

RESOLVED that the information be received.

27. WELSH LANGUAGE SCHEME SUB-COMMITTEE

The Chair advised that Councillor Miss N. R. E. Roose-Lloyd had resigned from the above Sub-Committee and asked Members to consider appointing a replacement.

RESOLVED that no appointment be made and the item be deferred to July Council.

28. FORYD HARBOUR FORUM

The Chair reported receipt of correspondence from the Chair of the Forum, Councillor I. Armstrong, (circulated with Agenda) requesting a letter of support from the Town Council for the proposed plans for the harbour.

RESOLVED that the request be approved.

[Councillor Mrs J. Butterfield declared a prejudicial interest in the above item due to her position as Denbighshire County Council's representative on the Forum and vacated the Chamber, taking no further part in discussion or voting thereon]

[Councillor Mrs J. Chamberlain-Jones declared a prejudicial interest in the above item due to her position as the Town Council's representative on the Forum, and remained in the Chamber but did not taking part in discussion or voting thereon]

29. DISPENSATION: CLWYD COAST CREDIT UNION

Further to Minute No.67 of the meeting held on 2nd September 2009, the Town Clerk submitted his report (circulated with Agenda) following the Town Council's request to raise the general level of dispensation to enable Members with personal accounts to take part in debate concerning the Credit Union.

The Town Clerk stated that the Monitoring Officer sought the Town Council's guidance on by how much the current level of £500 should be raised to, before submitting the request to the Standards Committee.

RESOLVED that the Town Council would like the amount raised to £3,000.

[Councillors Mrs M. McCarroll and G. J. Pickering declared a prejudicial interest in the above item due to being account holders with the Credit Union, in accordance with the current dispensation, and vacated the Chamber taking no further part in discussion or voting thereon]

30. CONSULTATION: PUBLIC SERVICES OMBUDSMAN – PROPOSAL FOR A COMMON COMPLAINTS SYSTEM FOR PUBLIC SERVICE PROVIDERS IN WALES

The Chair reported receipt of the above document (circulated with Agenda).

RESOLVED that the document be received with a view to the Town Council addressing any issues arising at a later date.

31. CONSULTATION: DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL – DENBIGHSHIRE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2006-2021 – ALTERNATIVE SITES REGISTER

Further to Minute No.25 of the meeting held on 16th June 2010, the Town Clerk reported receipt of the amended consultation document (circulated with Agenda).

Map No.	SITE REF NO	Location	Comment
257	ASR-45A-RS1	Land at Llys Brenig, Rhyl	OBJECT: No development of any kind. Retain open space.
258	ASR-45A-RS2	Land at Rhydwen Farm Mews, Rhyl	OBJECT: Retain green barrier. – The Town Council would wish to see the retention of the Green Barrier in this area. The Council was also concerned that the town's service infrastructure would be unable to accommodate any development in this area.
259	ASR-45A-RS3	Land south & rear of Clwyd Retail Park, Rhyl	Map appears to be inaccurate showing an area to the East of Clwyd Retail Park- However in respect of land to East of Clwyd Retail Park and to the South and rear the Council OBJECT: Home to much wildlife. Not the infrastructure to support the proposals. Retain green space..
260	ASR-45A-RS4	Land at Morfa Cwybr, Rhuddlan	OBJECT: Home to much wildlife. Not the infrastructure to support the proposals. Retain green space.
261	ASR-45A-R1	Land between Bro Deg & Dyserth Rd, Rhyl	OBJECT: Object to the deletion.
262	ASR-45A-R2	Green Barrier between Rhyl & Rhuddlan	OBJECT to removal of Green Barrier.
263	ASR-45A-AM1	Land rear of doctor's surgery, Llys Brenig, Rhyl	OBJECT: No development. Retain green space.
264	ASR-45A-AM2	Land at Ffordd Derwen, Rhyl	OBJECT. Retain as 'employment' land.

265	ASR-45A-AM3	Land south & rear of Clwyd Retail Park, Rhuddlan	OBJECT: to deletion of Green Barrier.
266	ASR-45A-N2	Part of land at Cefndy Rd, Rhyl	OBJECT: Retain as 'employment' land.
267	ASR-45A-N3	Land at Parc Cefndy, Rhyl	AGREE: Include for 'employment'.
268	ASR-45A-N4	Land at Ffordd Elan/Llys Brenig, Rhyl	OBJECT. Retain whole of green space.
Various	Various	Other proposals relating to the removal of Green Barrier between Rhyl and Rhuddlan	OBJECT Generally to any proposal which seeks to encroach into the existing Green Barrier between Rhyl and Rhuddlan. The Town Council does not believe that the existing infrastructure can accommodate any new development within this area. Any encroachment would result in the distinctiveness of the two communities (Rhyl and Rhuddlan) being eroded. The Green Barrier supports wildlife which would be lost by any future development.

RESOLVED that the above comments and the Council's dissatisfaction with the quality of the consultation documents which were confusing and in places inaccurate which might lead to consultees not being aware of proposals which are likely to affect them. be submitted.

[Following advice from the Monitoring Officer Councillors J. B. Bellis, B. Blakeley, Mrs J. Butterfield, Mrs J. Chamberlain-Jones, I. A. Gunning, Ms D. Hannam, and D. Thomas advised that they would be making decisions on the above item on the basis of the information now before them as they would be required in their capacity as County Councillors to reconsider the item at a future meeting of the County Council where further information would be available and which might alter their final decision.]

[Councillors B. Blakeley and I.A.Gunning declared prejudicial interests in map nos: 257, 263 and 268 and vacated the chamber taking no part in the consideration or voting on those maps]

32. CONSULTATION: WELSH ASSEMBLY GOVERNMENT – PROCEDURES FOR MAKING, CONFIRMING AND ENFORCING BYELAWS

The Town Clerk reported receipt of the above document (circulated with Agenda), which he believed simplified the whole procedure and therefore recommended the Town Council to welcome it.

RESOLVED that the document be received.

33. CORRESPONDENCE: DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL - ALLOTMENTS

The Town Clerk reported receipt of the above from the Senior Estates Officer relating to the provision of allotments (circulated with Agenda).

RESOLVED that the correspondence be received.

34. CORRESPONDENCE: ANN JONES AM – PROPOSED CLOSURE OF DENBIGH MAGISTRATES AND RHYL COUNTY COURTS

The Town Clerk reported receipt of the above from Ann Jones AM (circulated with Agenda) and added that he had since learned that there were 13 full-time members of staff at risk and that both courts were currently operating at capacity.

Members stated that the staff at the Rhyl Courts had a wealth of experience and provided an excellent service at what can be a very stressful and emotional time for people.

A Member believed that the staff learned of the proposed closures in the Daily Post newspaper, which if true, was an appalling way to be treated.

Members felt that sure that a huge backlog of cases at the Prestatyn Courts would result if the proposed closure went ahead, which would undoubtedly place increased strain on the staff there.

In conclusion, Members felt very strongly that Rhyl should not lose its County Court, particularly as the largest town in Denbighshire.

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk be instructed to write to the Ministry of Justice to convey the Town Council's strong opposition to the closures.

35. MEMBERS ITEM: TOURISM

Councillor G. J. Pickering sought Members' support to request follow-up information promised at the last presentation to the Town Council by Denbighshire County Council's Marketing and Tourism Manager, due to the importance of tourism to Rhyl.

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk be instructed to write to Denbighshire County Council seeking feedback.

36. INFORMATION: TOWN CENTRE SUMMIT

Further to Minute No.234 of the meeting held on 5th May 2010, the Chair submitted the joint report of the Town Clerk and Councillor Mrs W. M. Mullen-James (circulated with Agenda), following their attendance at the event held on 20th May 2010.

It was the Town Clerk and Councillor Mullen-James' view that the Summit was useful but with little in the way of tangible outcomes, and that many questions asked on the day could not be addressed due to lack of time. However a follow up meeting had been promised later in the year.

A Member commented on the adverse impact of Business Rates upon local businesses and enquired about the possibility of special relief being obtained. The Town Clerk advised that the granting of such relief was within the power of Denbighshire County Council but that the Town Council had previously sought

general relief by writing to the Welsh Assembly Government but that this had been unsuccessful.

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk be instructed to contact Denbighshire County Council to ask when the next meeting Town Centre Summit is to be held.

FURTHER RESOLVED that Standing Orders be suspended to enable the Town Clerk to act as a matter of urgency.

37. ADDITIONAL ITEM: GOOD NEWS FOR TWO MEMBERS

The Town Clerk was pleased to announce that Councillor Mrs L. M. Edwards had recently become a Grandmother to a healthy baby boy, and that Councillor Miss N. R. E. Roose-Lloyd had gained a 2-1 degree from Liverpool University.

Members offered their congratulations to the Members.

RESOLVED that the information be received.

38. AMENDMENT TO AGENDA

Before excluding the Press and Public a Member requested that Item No.18 (Rhyl Community Association) be brought forward to open session and that this be put to a recorded vote.

The Town Clerk explained that the item was on the confidential part of the Agenda because the agreements had been reached at a number of confidential meetings of the Town Council's Working Group, and advised that it should remain as a confidential item to protect both parties should issues of a legal nature arise in the future as a result of the new agreements made.

A recorded vote was held and the outcome was as follows:

Councillors in support of the proposal were:

J. B. Bellis, J. Butterfield, Mrs J. Butterfield, M. C. Espley, I. A. Gunning, Mrs W. M. Mullen-James and G. J. Pickering.

Councillors against were:

Mrs L. M. Edwards, Ms D. Hannam, Miss M. A. Jones, Mrs M. McCarroll and D. A. J. Thomas.

Councillors who abstained were:

B. Blakeley and Mrs J. Chamberlain-Jones.

RESOLVED that the proposal to discuss the item in open session be carried.

[Councillors J. B. Bellis, M. C. Espley and Mrs W. M. Mullen-James declared a prejudicial interest in the above and the following item due to their positions

as Members of the Association, but used the dispensation granted by the Standards Committee to remain in the Chamber and take part in discussion and voting thereon]

39. RHYL COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Further to Minute No.5 of the meeting held on 2nd June 2010, the Town Clerk presented his report (circulated with Agenda) and reiterated the importance of maintaining a distinct separation between the Town Council and the Community Association to create an atmosphere of objectivity throughout. In this respect the Town Clerk emphasised that any formal communication with the Association should be by way of his office and that Members benefiting from the Dispensation granted by the Standards Committee should not disclose information determined under closed session of the Council.

The Town Clerk stated that responsibility for all future discussions and issues with the Community Association now lay with the Finance and General Purposes Committee since the disbandment of the Town Council's RCA Working Group. Decisions now needed to be made in respect of future working between the Town Council and the Community Association with regard to the lease of the Civic Offices, cleaning and caretaking arrangements at the Civic Offices, Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) implications for the Civic Offices and Tynewydd Community Centre, and the management of the Tynewydd Community Centre. A position statement with regard to each of these issues, including confirmation of the next action to be taken, was set out within the report for information. The Town Clerk was seeking the committee's decision with regard to the next action to be taken with regard to a Disability Discrimination Act survey at Tynewydd Community Centre and monitoring of the Association's future plans.

A Member advised that the Association was awaiting the response to applications for grant funding in respect of the DDA works to the Wellington Centre and that the decisions were overdue.

RESOLVED that:

- a) *the position statements with identified next actions be noted*
- b) *the Town Council requests quarterly written reports from the Association.*
- c) *the Town Council requests that the Association undertakes a DDA survey of the Tynewydd Community Centre, as recommended by the Council's Risk Assessment Sub-Committee, and that the Town Council agrees to meet the cost of the survey as landlord of the Centre.*

[At Members' request, the Chair agreed to a five-minute comfort break]

40. 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.

41. NAMING OF NEW FOOTBRIDGE NEAR RHYL COLLEGE

Further to Minute No.17 of the meeting held on 16th June 2010, the Chair confidentially reported that Denbighshire County Council were still awaiting further information on matters relating to ownership and consent of the footbridge and advised that naming suggestions be deferred until receipt of such information.

Another Member suggested deciding on an appropriate name for the footbridge now in readiness for when the ownership matter has been resolved.

Upon being put to the vote, the proposal to defer the naming of the footbridge was carried.

RESOLVED that the item be deferred until receipt of further information from Denbighshire County Council.

42. NOTICEBOARDS

The Town Clerk submitted his and Councillor G. J. Pickering's joint confidential report (circulated with Agenda) on the proposal to introduce more community noticeboards into the town.

The report identified that four wards in the town were without noticeboards – Cefndy, Derwen, Plastirion and Trellewelyn and that although the Town Council did not have a budget to meet the cost of the noticeboards, the Town Clerk was confident that grant funding could be obtained. The Town Clerk further advised that the Denbighshire Neighbourhood Watch were also currently seeking to provide notice boards and it was appropriate to work with that organisation to achieve delivery.

The report also identified that any wording to be used on the notice boards would need to be referred to the Welsh Language Scheme Sub-Committee for consideration

RESOLVED that:

- a) *the provision of noticeboards in the four named Wards be approved subject to receipt of appropriate grant funding.*
- b) *the Cefndy, Derwen, Plastirion and Trellewelyn Ward Members would identify the most appropriate locations for the noticeboards and approach land owners before the Town Clerk made applications to grant funding bodies.*
- c) *the Council work with the Denbighshire Neighbourhood Watch where appropriate*

43. DONATION OF LAND

The Town Clerk presented his confidential report (circulated with Agenda) following a recent offer to donate a piece of land to the Town Council and action to date to ascertain appropriate uses of the land from the local planning authority.

Members stated that the land was quite unkempt and in need of improvement.

RESOLVED that following advice from the Local Planning Authority the Trellewyn Ward Members consult with local residents with regard to the future use of the site and report back.

FURTHER RESOLVED that Standing Orders be suspended to enable the Town Clerk to act as a matter of urgency.

44. COASTAL HAWKS PROJECT

Further to Minute No.155 of the meeting held on 3rd February 2010, the Chair submitted the first confidential quarterly progress report from the project (circulated with Agenda).

[Councillors Mrs L. M. Edwards and M. C. Espley declared a prejudicial interest in the above item due to their positions as Directors of the Project and vacated the Chamber, taking no further part in discussions or voting thereon]

After brief debate, and in agreement with the Chair, Councillors Edwards and Espley were invited back into the Chamber to answer Members' questions about the work of the project.

In response to Members' questions, Councillor Espley advised that since writing the report he had received confirmation from Denbighshire County Council that they would provide funding for the project to continue in Rhyl's Town Centre until the end of September 2010, but that unfortunately no offer had been made for any further funding beyond that time.

Councillor Espley stated that other counties had expressed interest in the project and although the project wanted to remain working out of the Morfa Hall offices in Rhyl and maintaining a presence in Rhyl, to keep the project viable ultimately it might have to go to the areas willing to fund it.

Members were impressed by the report and were in strong support of the project remaining here in Rhyl and wish it every success.

[Councillors Edwards and Espley vacated the Chamber again to enable Members to make a decision on the report]

RESOLVED that:

- a) *the Town Clerk be instructed to write to Denbighshire County Council expressing the Town Council's disappointment at its lack of future*

commitment to the project from environmental, employment and tourism perspectives.

- b) *the Town Council requests a further report from the project in October 2010 and that it should include a section with regard to its future.*

45. ILLUMINATIONS

Further to Minute No.150 of the meeting held on 21st April 2010, the Town Clerk submitted his confidential report (circulated prior to the meeting) which included the advice of the Council's appointed advisor and recommendations in relation to repairs required to the Town Councils existing illuminations, two suggested three year lease options and confirmation that the repairs/options would be undertaken in-accordance with the County Council financial regulations.

Members were agreed that a good quality provision of illuminations at Christmas time was important for the town, but acknowledged that in the current financial climate a common sense approach was needed, and that to keep costs to a minimum the focus should be on the town's High Street and the area behind the Town Hall.

RESOLVED *that:*

- a) *the Town Clerk's recommendations under section 3.0 of the report be approved.*
- b) *Option One is the preferred choice but to keep costs down and within budget the scheme should only comprise of two of the suggested designs, those being the large across street TGL43E-L & TL100 combination and the smaller post/wall mounted PN132-L designs to go in the High Street area and behind the Town Hall, as many as the budget allows.*
- c) *the Town Clerk to examine the possibility of installing lights in the trees to the rear of the Town Hall as a possible alternative to a Christmas Tree.*
- d) *the Town Council believes that the reduced scheme decided upon will provide a satisfactory level of display that meets its objectives "to promote community goodwill and to generate support for the town's business community" and will provide "value for money".*

FURTHER RESOLVED *that Standing Orders be suspended to enable the Town Clerk to act as a matter of urgency.*

46. CLOSURE OF MEETING

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed.

Chair:

Date: