

At a **MEETING of COUNCIL** held on Wednesday 20th April 2011 in the Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Wellington Road, Rhyl commencing at 6.00pm.

PRESENT

Councillor Mrs M. McCarroll (Mayor)

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

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

115. OPENING OF MEETING

In the absence of the Mayor's Chaplain, Father Charles Ramsay, the Mayor commenced proceedings by leading all present in the Lord's Prayer.

116. APOLOGIES

Apologies for non-attendance were received on behalf of Councillors M. C. Espley (work commitment), Mrs P. M. Jones (no reason given), D. W. Lee (work commitment), W. N. Tasker (indisposed) and G. Williams (indisposed).

117. MINUTES

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

Council - 16th March 2011 - Min.Nos. 104-114

Proposed by Councillor B. Blakeley and seconded by Councillor Mrs J. Butterfield and **RESOLVED** as a correct record.

Planning - 16th March 2011 - Min.Nos. 72-75
Committee

Proposed by Councillor Mrs W. M. Mullen-James and seconded by Councillor Ms G. A. Jones and **RESOLVED** as a correct record.

Planning - 6th April 2011 - Min.Nos. 76-79
Committee

Proposed by Councillor Mrs W. M. Mullen-James and seconded by Councillor Ms G. A. Jones and **RESOLVED** as a correct record.

To Confirm or otherwise:

Special Finance & General- 30th March 2011 - Min.Nos. 203-206
Purposes Committee

Proposed by Councillor D. A. J. Thomas and seconded by Councillor Miss M. A. Jones and ***RESOLVED*** as a correct record and confirmed for action.

Finance & General - 6th April 2011 - Min.Nos. 207-230
Purposes Committee

Proposed by Councillor D. A. J. Thomas and seconded by Councillor B. Blakeley and ***RESOLVED*** as a correct record and confirmed for action.

With regard to Minute No.227 (Referral of Draft Minute No.201 by Council) a Member stated that some Members remained unhappy with this Minute going out into the public domain and asked for the Minute to be deferred once again to the next meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee for further consideration. This motion was seconded and the Member requested a recorded vote.

The Town Clerk advised that although this particular Minute would go into the public domain (if the outcome of the vote was against the motion) the Item as a whole would remain confidential.

The Mayor suggested that the meeting be moved into confidential session to allow for full debate, which was seconded and approved. Members of the public and the Denbighshire County Council officers present were duly asked to leave the Council Chamber until the matter had been concluded.

After discussion, a recorded vote was held and the outcome was as follows:

Councillors in favour of the motion to defer the Minute back to the next Finance and General Purposes Committee were:

J. B. Bellis, C. Davies, I. A. Gunning, Ms D. Hannam and T. Thomas.

Councillors against were:

B. Blakeley, J. Butterfield, Mrs J. Butterfield, Mrs J. Chamberlain-Jones, Mrs L. M. Edwards, Ms G. A. Jones, Miss M. A. Jones, Mrs M. McCarroll, Mrs W. M. Mullen-James, G. J. Pickering and D. A. J. Thomas.

RESOLVED that the motion was not carried and the Minute remains in the public domain.

118. MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor referred to the list of engagements she and the Deputy Mayor had attended since the last meeting of Council (circulated with Agenda) for Members information, particularly to the schools' visits to the Chamber and Mayor's Parlour, the presentation by the Normandy Veterans, the Gala Awards Evening and Ysgol Y Foryd's very own royal wedding in Towyn!

RESOLVED that the report be received.

119. QUESTION TIME

No questions were asked by the members of the public present.

120. 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.

121. PRESENTATION: DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL - STRATEGIC REGENERATION FRAMEWORK AND DELIVERY STRUCTURE

The Mayor welcomed Mr Graham Boase (Head of Planning, Regeneration and Regulatory Services) and Mr Tom Booty (Rhyl Going Forward Programme Manager) to the meeting and invited them to address Members on the Strategic Regeneration Framework and Delivery Structure for Rhyl.

Mr Booty began by stating that the framework and delivery structure was not at this stage set in stone and was very much in draft, established to hopefully to bring together and co-ordinate the numerous strategies taking place for the benefit of Rhyl.

Mr Booty went on to report that:

- a period of consultation would begin at the end of April 2011 following by a final document by the end of May 2011.
- the work would be delivered under three themes – Economy, Place and Community.
- within the West Rhyl Regeneration Area there would be a drive to demolish Houses of Multiple Occupancy (HMOs) and replace them with high quality new developments whilst preserving historic assets; create new green space; buy and clear the worst properties for redevelopment to be anchored by new leisure uses; prioritise the registration of HMOs and develop a robust process for monitoring compliance followed up by enforcement action for non-compliance; better co-ordination of action against anti-social behaviour; improve cleanliness.
- they would aim to re-establish the Town Centre as a prime retail location attracting “high street” stores, quality independent shops and a vibrant market.
- a key project would be to improve Rhyl’s High Street by localised repair of the pedestrian area, deep cleaning and sealing and the installation of new seating and planters.
- other Town Centre environmental projects would include improving street cleanliness, consider a more robust enforcement to improve the appearance of buildings and improved signage.

- they would aim to better understand the impact of neighbouring retail centres and development on Rhyl, how to develop a viable, good quality market and produce a clear vision for the town centre that is both inspirational and deliverable.
- in terms of the Coastal Strip, they would work to build on Rhyl's reputation as a family resort, develop a new cycle bridge at Foryd Harbour and develop the harbour itself as a new attraction for Rhyl; refurbishment of the Apollo Cinema; encourage new restaurant operators to units in the Children's Village and consider options for the future of the Sky Tower, the Sun Centre and the Pavilion Theatre.
- they would aim to increase local employment by providing individuals with the skills they need to access the jobs employers need to fill.

In response to Members' questions Mr Booty and Mr Boase advised that:

- the green space, remodelling of existing homes and new builds could take two or three years as Denbighshire County Council does not own all of them and issuing Compulsory Purchase Orders (CPOs) takes time. At the moment there is little developer interest and with the interest they couldn't pursue a CPO.
- as a town Rhyl is suffering along with others across the UK, with many in a worse position. Business rates are set by Central Government and only collected by Denbighshire County Council. Another impact on the high streets in general was the increase in popularity of Internet shopping
- the Grange Hotel should be demolished in two weeks.
- they were hoping for a snowball effect in terms of inward investment in the town.
- there would need to be a degree of flexibility in attracting developers in relation to the design of new builds and they would emphasise the importance of respecting Conservation Areas, but could not dictate to them.
- they were looking into the introduction of beach huts on the East Parade end of the Promenade, but that this would not happen this summer.

[Councillor I. A. Gunning left the meeting at 7.40pm]

- Mr Booty in particular, would be championing trees in Rhyl. Mr Boase added that Denbighshire's Planning Committee would be learning from their mistakes in allowing many trees to be removed in Rhyl and would be tightening up in future.

[Councillor C. Davies left the meeting at 7.50pm]

- they agreed that Denbighshire should be enforcing more on housing associations in terms of quality accommodation and green space, which was something they were working on.

- Edward Henry Street was in a Conservation Area so Denbighshire could not demolish properties there, but they were talking to the relevant housing association.
- acknowledged that street cleanliness needed to be improved in Rhyl.
- the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD) was driving them wholly, not just from an anti-poverty perspective.

[Councillors J. B. Bellis and Ms D. Hannam left the meeting at 8.00pm]

- Mr Boase would look at the new licensing laws and how they impacted on housing associations.
- they understood Members' desire to see things happen and although they couldn't promise it would be quick or easy, things would improve.
- the Promenade area was a focus as resources were limited and therefore prevented other areas of the town being included.
- they accepted that events were important to Rhyl, which was one of the issues to have come out of the Mapping Day sessions, and feeds into this programme of work, so there was no conflict.

[Councillor Mrs J. Chamberlain-Jones left the meeting at 8.15pm]

- they were discussing a start date for work on the Ocean Plaza site.
- Denbighshire's Chief Executive Officer's staff restructure was aimed at improving communication and "joined up thinking" in these very challenging financial times.

At the conclusion of their presentation the Mayor thanked Mr Boase and Mr Booty for their time.

122. CLOSURE OF MEETING

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

Mayor:

Date: