

At a Meeting of the **FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE** held on Wednesday 3rd October 2012, at the Civic Offices, Wellington Road Community Centre, Rhyl commencing at 6.00pm.

PRESENT

Councillor Mrs M. McCarroll (Vice-Chair)

Councillors I. A. Armstrong, Mrs J. Butterfield MBE, Mrs E. M. Chard, Ms J. Hughes, A. R. James, Mrs P. M. Jones, B. Mellor, Mrs W. M. Mullen-James, P. Prendergast, S. H. Ratcliffe, Miss S. L. Roberts, A. J. Rutherford and Miss R. Siddall,

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

71. APOLOGIES

Apologies for non-attendance were received on behalf of Councillors B. Blakeley (other commitment), Mrs J. Chamberlain Jones (on holiday), D. Simmons (on holiday), W. N. Tasker (work commitment), Miss C. L. Williams (other commitment) and P. J. Williams (work commitment).

72. PHYSICAL ACTIVITY PROGRAMME

The Chair welcomed Mr Brett Jones and Ms Sian Bennett (Programme Managers) to the Council Chamber and invited them and one of the Town Council's Champions, Councillor A. R. James to address Members.

For the benefit of the relatively new Councillors, Mr Jones briefly explained that:

- the programme was established in its current form in 2008.
- the objective was to offer a wide range of physical activities across all age groups and abilities throughout Rhyl, to integrate with existing provision, encourage higher levels of participation and junior club membership and to plug the gaps in provision.
- the programme was funded entirely by the Town Council.

Mr Jones advised that the 2011/12 programme, which included activities during every school holiday had been a great success, with the following participant numbers:

Wheelchair Basketball – 200
Swimming – 954
Sportzone – 1,555
Rhyl's Talented Athlete Grants – 11
Rounders Festival – 110
Cricket Festival – 72

In addition a Club Audit Database had been created identifying 60 activity based local organisations in the town.

Mr Jones reported that the 2012/13 programme had been extended to include Zumba, Aqua Aerobics, Golf and Netball and that so far the programme had attracted 4,179 participants. Demand for an Over 50s element was currently being sought.

The Programme Managers and all involved were delighted to see some individuals benefiting from the programme being given the honour of carrying the Olympic Torch through Rhyl this summer.

Mr Jones referred to the School Ambassadors scheme introduced as part of the programme, which allocated Bronze, Silver and Gold Ambassador status to school children who were charged with encouraging children to take part in the various activities, and who also benefited from a confidence building perspective as well.

Councillor A. R. James, one of the Town Council's Champions, made reference to his full-day visit and participation in Sportzone at Rhyl Leisure Centre and spoke highly of the quality of the service provision and the enthusiasm of, and benefits to, the youngsters attending.

Mr. Jones indicated that due to the success of the Physical Activity Programme the County Council was seeking to replicate the initiative in other areas of Denbighshire

In response to Members' questions, Mr Jones and Ms Bennett said that:

- Denbighshire County Council did not provide funding for the programme. Funding came from the Town Council and via grants from Sport Wales on four year cycles.
- the programme provided some funding towards the activities on and around Marine Lake.

73. BUDGET MONITORING REPORT

The Finance Officer submitted his report (circulated with Agenda) for Members' information. The report set out the projected income and expenditure within the revenue account for the year ending 31st March 2013, with appropriate explanations for variances to the original budget and the effect on balances. The ongoing work of establishing longer term strategic objectives was noted and the management and use of the increased balances now reported would be dealt with as part of that exercise.

It was noted that the RPI changes would be made to the Contract Standing Order figures and that no changes were proposed to the Investment Strategy.

RESOLVED *that the report be received.*

74. MAYOR'S GALA AWARDS 2013

The Town Clerk submitted his report (circulated with Agenda) seeking Members' permission to begin the necessary arrangements for next year's event, primarily securing enough sponsorship to make the evening viable.

The Town Clerk warned of two areas of concern - the first being an expected reduction in the level of support offered by local businesses and organisations as a result of the ongoing financial climate, and the second being the steady fall off of ticket sales since the first Gala Awards in 2009. The overall success of the event was very much dependant on both of these funding streams.

Councillor Mellor, in his capacity as an employee of the 2013 event's main sponsor, Arriva Buses, offered to display A4 size posters on buses to help to promote the show.

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk to proceed with approaching local businesses and organisations to secure sponsorship and report back to the meeting in December, where a final decision as to whether the event can go ahead will be taken.

75. APPOINTMENT OF ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY GOVERNOR – YSGOL DEWI SANT

The Town Clerk presented his report (circulated with Agenda) following the resignation of the Town Council's appointed Additional Governor, and asked Member's to consider re-appointing to the position.

In relation to the item, Councillor Mrs J. Butterfield regrettfully announced her resignation from the role as a Governor at Bryn Hedydd Primary School, due to no longer being able to commit the time to the position.

RESOLVED that:

- i) Councillor Ms J. Hughes be appointed.*
- ii) the Town Clerk notes Councillor Butterfield's resignation and adds consideration to appoint a replacement to Bryn Hedydd School to the November meeting's Agenda.*

76. RISK ASSESSMENT SUB-COMMITTEE

The Town Clerk reported that the Sub-Committee's workload was extensive and although some key issues were progressing nicely, many other areas had not yet been dealt with, which was in part due to a number of meetings being in-quorate.

The Town Clerk added that the Sub-Committee consisted of five Members and that the Chair, Councillor P. J. Williams, had advised that due to a work commitment he would not be attending any Council meetings during October.

In an attempt to move the work forward, the Town Clerk suggested that Members consider appointing an additional three Councillors to the group.

A Member of the Sub-Committee wondered whether varying the start times of the meetings would make them more convenient for Members to attend.

RESOLVED that the item be deferred to the November Finance and General Purposes Committee.

77. HIGHWAY SAFETY CONCERNS

- (i) **The Dingle, B5119 Dyserth Road**
- (ii) **Trellewelyn Road Bollards**

Further to Minute No.170 of the meeting held on 7th March 2012 and No.14 of the meeting held on 6th June 2012 (minute extracts circulated with Agenda) the Town Clerk reported receipt of correspondence from the Head of Highways and Infrastructure for Conwy and Denbighshire in response to the representations made by the Town Council, and advising that the Town Council would be consulted as part of a planned public consultation on both matters before any action is taken.

RESOLVED that the correspondence be received.

78. INVITATION TO ATTEND “THE FUTURE OF STRUCTURAL FUNDING & HORIZON CONFERENCE”

The Town Clerk reported receipt of the above (circulated with Agenda) inviting the Town Council to appoint a delegate to the conference to be held on Friday 12th October, starting at 10.00am and finishing at 4.00pm at the Glyndwr Optic Technium in St. Asaph.

RESOLVED that Councillor Mrs M. McCarroll be nominated to attend.

79. REQUEST TO ADDRESS COUNCIL – RWE NPOWER RENEWABLES – GWYNT Y MOR OFFSHORE WIND FARM

The Chair reported receipt of the above (circulated with Agenda) asking for permission to give a presentation to the Town Council.

RESOLVED that the request be approved for sometime in the New Year.

80. OFFER OF ADVANCE CONSULTATION: DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL – WEST RHYL SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING GUIDANCE

The Town Clerk reported that Denbighshire County Council’s Planning Department had offered the Town Council a pre-consultation meeting in the Council Chamber at 6.00pm on 10th October.

A Member advised that Denbighshire County Councillors had already had two opportunities to receive the presentation, so those in attendance at the meeting on 10th October would largely be the Members of this Council who are not also County Councillors.

RESOLVED that:

- i) *the offer be accepted with six Members indicating that they would attend.*
- ii) *the Town Clerk to explain the low number of Councillors in attendance and also to offer two Councillors' apologies who will be away on holiday.*

81. CONSULTATION: DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL – LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN – CONSULTATION ON ADDITIONAL HOUSING ALLOCATIONS

The Town Clerk reported receipt of the above (the relevant pages circulated with Agenda and the full document in the Committee Room) for Members' consideration.

The Ward Members stated that they were in full agreement and that no Houses of Multiple Occupancy (HMOs) should be included.

A Member highlighted a possible error in relation to AHS 21 – Site at the corner of Sydenham Avenue and West Parade in that the size of the site would not accommodate 26 units as stated, and was more likely to fit 9 units.

RESOLVED that the suggested error be pointed out and that the document be approved.

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

82. CONSULTATION: DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL – CRESCENT ROAD MULTI USE GAMES AREA (MUGA)

The Town Clerk reported receipt of the above (circulated with Agenda) seeking the Town Council's views on the proposal to removed the MUGA in the light of continued complaints about damage to property in the vicinity.

The Ward Members advised that they were in full agreement with the proposal.

RESOLVED that:

- i) *the Town Council approves of its removal and requests the use of the perimeter railings be offered to Bryn Hedydd Primary School.*
- ii) *Denbighshire County Council be asked to consult with the Ward Members on the future plans for the site as residents wanted a passive green area.*

83. MEMBERS' ITEM: MR RAY WORSNOP

Councillors Mrs J. Butterfield MBE and P. Prendergast sought Members' support in extending an invitation to Mr Worsnop to come to a future meeting and provide a presentation on the Market Company and Community Greening project he was involved with.

RESOLVED that Mr Worsnop be invited to attend a meeting of Council in the New Year.

84. 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.

85. IT ISSUES

The Finance Officer presented his confidential report (circulated with Agenda) which advised of the latest progress with regard to various IT issues previously reported to the meeting held on 4th July 2012 (minute 25 refers). Use of the County Council network, upgrade of the telephone system, despatch of Town Council papers via email, change of the Council's accounting software and future management and maintenance of the Town council's web site would require a further report back in due course.

However action was now proposed with regard to the upgrade of the Council's IT network including software and peripherals. Having discussed the Council's requirements and obtained a priced specification from the Council's current IT maintenance contractor the Town Clerk was proposing action in accordance with the Council Contract Standing Orders (no. 5). The report included the reasons for taking this action and the Town Clerk's required file note was enclosed for information together with a table of costs totalling £7,013.

RESOLVED that the report be received and instructions given to the Council's IT maintenance contractor to carry out the work.

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

86. CLOSURE OF MEETING

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

Chair:

Date: