

At a Meeting of the **FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE** held on Wednesday 6th November 2013, at the Civic Offices, Wellington Road Community Centre, Rhyl commencing at 6.00pm.

PRESENT

Councillor P. Prendergast (Chair)

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

Mr G. J. Nickels - Town Clerk
Miss H. J. Windus - Personal Assistant & Secretary

83. APOLOGIES

Apologies for non-attendance were received on behalf of Councillors Mrs M. McCarroll (family commitment), J. May (work commitment), W. N. Tasker (work commitment), Miss C. L. Williams (indisposed) and the Finance Officer, Mr R. A. Hughes (on holiday).

84. ITV'S 'RHYL'S FIGHT BACK' NEWS STORY

For the benefit of the Members who had not seen the recent news story, a Member requested that the Town Clerk played the short positive coverage, which had been filmed in response to the negative publicity Rhyl had received at the hands of the Sun on Sunday newspaper.

The Town Clerk duly played the news story, which Members agreed was a really positive reaction

85. CORRESPONDENCE: DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL – ANTI FOULING STRATEGY

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

In view of Members' comments the Town Clerk suggested that the play area might benefit from commuted sums monies.

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk to write to Denbighshire County Council to request that they re-visit their decision to close the Elwy play area and consider finding funding and / or a community initiative to refurbish the facility.

86. CONSULTATION: DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RE-ROUTING OF PART OF FOOTPATH NO.1 IN THE COMMUNITY OF RHYL

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

RESOLVED that the proposal be approved and the Town Clerk to request that the new path be resurfaced with tarmac to encourage better use for both pedestrians and cyclists.

87. DENBIGHSHIRE BIG PLAN II – WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES?

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

A Member advised that due to Local Authority re-organisations big changes were afoot which would impact on the Town Council.

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk to write to Denbighshire's Chief Executive or the Corporate Director for Economic and Community Ambition, to ask for Town Council representation to be invited to any re-organisation meeting taking place in November and December, as observers only.

88. NEW DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL MARKETING, TOURISM AND EVENTS OFFICER

The Chair reported receipt of correspondence from the new person in post, Ms Vicki Shenton-Morris (circulated with Agenda) asking for permission to introduce herself to the Town Council at one of its meetings.

A Member suggested that the other towns falling within Ms Shenton-Morris' remit might like to come along to the meeting so that we all hear the same information at the same time.

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk to:

- i) arrange for Ms Shenton-Morris to attend a future meeting, and
- ii) invite representatives from Prestatyn and Rhuddlan Town Councils and St. Asaph City Council to also attend the meeting.

89. INFORMATION ITEM: CHOICE OF ACCOUNTS PACKAGE

Further to Minute No.42 of the meeting held on 5th September 2013, the Chair referred to the Finance Officer's report (circulated with Agenda) for Members' confirmation.

RESOLVED that the report be received.

90. PRESENTATIONS FROM RHYL GOING FORWARD OFFICERS (IF REQUIRED)

Further to Minute No.29 of the meeting held on 3rd July 2013, the Town Clerk reported that there had been no request to report to the Town Council.

91. MEMBERS ITEM – TOWN CLEAN UP

Councillor Mrs J. Butterfield MBE sought Members' support for a town clean up lead by the Town Council, working with Rhyl in Bloom and the new Town Centre Manager, once appointed.

Members liked the idea and it was suggested that a handful of Councillors could take charge of the initiative which would take place over one week in the Spring of next year and called it the 'Big Spring Clean'.

RESOLVED that:

- i) *Councillors I. Armstrong, B. Blakeley, Mrs J. Butterfield MBE, Mrs J. Chamberlain-Jones, Mrs E. M. Chard, Mrs P. M. Jones, J. May (in his absence), B. Mellor, Miss S. L. Roberts, A. J. Rutherford and Miss R. Siddall volunteered to take the lead with the 'Big Spring Clean'.*
- ii) *the initiative be passed to the Strategic and Operational Planning Committee (SOP) for an allocation of money to be determined.*
- iii) *The first 'Big Spring Clean' meeting be held on Monday 2nd December at 6.00pm here in the Council Chamber.*

[Councillors A. R. James, Mrs W. M. Mullen-James, and P. Prendergast declared prejudicial interest in the above item due to their involvement with Rhyl in Bloom and vacated the Chamber taking no further part in discussions or voting thereon]

[Councillor S.H. Ratcliffe declared his interest as the appointed representation of the Town Council on Rhyl in Bloom but remained in the meeting relying on dispensation granted under the Code of Conduct]

[Due to the declaration made by the Chair, Councillor P. Prendergast, the Vice-Chair, Miss S. L. Roberts took the Chair for the remainder of the item]

92. MEMBERS ITEM – UPGRADING OF CIVIC REGALIA

On behalf of Councillor D. Simmons, the Town Clerk sought Members' support for the upgrading of the ribbons currently worn by the Mayor's Consort / Mayoress and the Deputy Mayor's Consort / Mayoress.

Members felt that now in these times of austerity was the wrong time to consider what would be a significant spend to upgrade the ribbons to chains and that the money would be much better spent on lifting the look of the town to encourage businesses to invest and bring shoppers back into Rhyl.

RESOLVED that the proposal is not supported.

[Councillor D. Simmons declared a prejudicial interest in the above item due to his position as Deputy Mayor and vacated the Chamber taking no further part in discussions or voting thereon]

93. **MEMBERS ITEM – REVIEW OF FUTURE SUPPORT OF NATIONAL EISTEDDFOD**

Councillor A. J. Rutherford sought Members' support for reviewing the amount of financial support the Town Council gives to future National Eisteddfods in Denbighshire.

There was a general consensus that Rhyl did not receive value for money in terms of the £10,000 it gave towards Rhyl events in the run up to and during this year's Eisteddfod in Denbigh. Members were unaware of any of the promised satellite events being held in Rhyl.

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk to report back on the Eisteddfod events (if any) held in Rhyl.

94. **MEMBERS' INFORMATION ITEMS**

There were no urgent matters arising.

95. **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.

96. **“FREE AFTER THREE” INITIATIVE**

The Town Clerk submitted his confidential report (circulated with Agenda) following a request received from Denbighshire County Council for towns to give £2,000 towards the 2014 scheme to enable it to continue.

RESOLVED that the Town Council supports the scheme 'in principle' subject to a further report on the intentions of the other Denbighshire towns.

97. **ILLUMINATIONS**

The Town Clerk presented his confidential report (circulated with Agenda) on the planned expenditure for the 2013/14 scheme and sought Members' direction as to future years expenditure.

Members agreed that the cost of a large artificial tree for the High Street was astronomical and could not be considered in comparison to the cost of a real tree each year.

RESOLVED that the report be received and the Town Clerk authorised to spend up to £500 on additional robust netting lights for this year's Christmas Tree in the High Street to enhance the display or in the event of netting lights not being available to enhance existing lights with additional.

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

98. MEMBERS' MEDIUM SIZED PROJECTS

The Town Clerk submitted his confidential report (circulated with Agenda) for Members' consideration.

RESOLVED that the SOP Committee are authorised to group projects where it sees fit and to apply for external grants to assist with the funding of the projects.

99. CLOSURE OF MEETING

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

Chair:

Date: