

At a Meeting of the **FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE** held on Wednesday 12th November 2014, at the Civic Offices, Wellington Road Community Centre, Rhyl commencing at 6.00pm.

PRESENT

Councillor P. Prendergast (Chair)

Councillors I. W. Armstrong, C. S. Ball, B. Blakeley, Mrs J. Butterfield JP 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, A. J. Rutherford and D. Simmons.

G. J. Nickels – Town Clerk
R. A. Hughes – Finance Officer
H. J. Windus – Personal Assistant & Secretary

62. APOLOGIES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Apologies were submitted from Councillors Mrs M. McCarroll (indisposed), Miss S. L. Roberts (work commitment), Miss R. Siddall (other commitment), W. N. Tasker (other commitment) and Miss C. L. Williams (indisposed).

The Chair reported the sad passing of Mr Kevin Paterson, Founder of The Kids Fun Club in Rhyl. The meeting stood and observed a minute's silence.

RESOLVED that a card of condolence be sent to Mr Paterson's family.

63. OCTOBER 2014 STATEMENT OF AUTHORISED PAYMENTS

The Finance Officer submitted the list of payments on the Number 1 Account (circulated with agenda).

RESOLVED that the report be received.

64. CONSULTATION: DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL "CUTTING OUR CLOTH"

The Town Clerk referred to the above document and to his report (circulated with agenda) for Members' consideration and advised that the reductions already approved by Denbighshire County Council (Appendix A) would be going ahead and suggested that Members concentrate on influencing the areas where savings were yet to be determined (Appendix B).

Members were very unhappy with all of the cuts being made and were keen to know the actual impact they would have (with regard to Appendix A) and would potentially have (with regard to Appendix B) on the everyday lives of Rhyl residents.

On considering the information before them Members suggested that approaches be made to other adjacent Town Councils (like Prestatyn and Rhuddlan) to discuss the possibility of working in partnership to take on some of the elements of service provision at risk, thus sharing resources, expertise and financial responsibility.

Members felt the proposed percentage based cuts across the whole of Denbighshire were particularly unfair as service provision was not equally distributed throughout and so would hit small departments and teams much harder, e.g. the proposed 10% cut to Countryside Services would result in the loss of one of just three members of staff here in Rhyl.

The Town Clerk asked that Members e-mail their additional comments to him by Monday 17th November.

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk to write to:

(i) Denbighshire County Council to ask for more detail on the following proposed cuts:

- Communication, Marketing & Leisure - "Reduce funding to Rhyl and Llangollen Tourist Information Centres by £20,000"
- Highways & Environment – "Reduce grounds maintenance budget by £134,000", "Closing some or all public toilets resulting in a saving of up to £60,000" & "Reducing the budget for Countryside Service by £65,000".
- Planning & Public Protection – "CCTV by £200,000"
- Children's Services – "Parental contributions for services to children with disabilities by £50,000"

(ii) the Welsh Minister for Communities and Tackling Poverty, Ms Lesley Griffiths, to arrange a meeting with the Town Council either here in Rhyl or in Cardiff, whichever can be arranged the sooner.

65. **DENBIGHSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM**

The Town Clerk reported receipt of an e-mail from the above group (circulated with agenda) inviting the Town Council to appoint a representative to the Forum.

RESOLVED that any Member interested in the role should complete the enclosed application form and submit it directly to the Forum.

66. **RHYL CHRISTCHURCH SCHOOLS EDUCATION FUND**

The Town Clerk presented his report (circulated with agenda) asking Members to consider appointing a representative to the Fund.

RESOLVED that Councillor Mrs E. M. Chard be appointed.

67. **YSGOL EMMANUEL – APPOINTMENT OF REPLACEMENT ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY GOVERNOR**

Following the resignation of the Town Council's current Community Governor, Councillor P. Prendergast, due to work commitments, the Town Clerk submitted his report (circulated with agenda) inviting Members to consider appointing a replacement.

RESOLVED that Councillor C. S. Ball be appointed.

68. FREE PARKING DAYS

The Town Clerk presented his report (circulated with agenda) asking Members to confirm the dates of the town's four remaining free parking days kindly granted by Denbighshire County Council.

RESOLVED that the four Saturdays leading up to Christmas (29th November and 6th, 13th and 20th December) are approved and that Councillors Chard, James, Mullen-James, Prendergast, Ratcliffe and Rutherford to fix and remove signage to the ticket machines in the car parks as necessary.

69. PROGRESS REPORTS

(i) Rhyl Town and Area Plan

To be provided under agenda item no.15 (Potential Contribution to Town Centre Improvements).

(ii) Rhyl Going Forward Officers

Nothing to report.

70. MEMBERS ITEMS

Ward Councillors Mellor and Simmons advised that the MUGA (Multi Use Games Area) at Ysgol Bryn Hedydd was being held up due to the need for an Acoustic Report (Soundproofing) to be carried out on the site.

Councillors Mellor and Simmons asked the Committee to consider providing match funding for the report up to £1,500 to enable the project to progress.

RESOLVED that match funding of up to £1,500 be approved.

71. CORRESPONDENCE: ALED ROBERTS AM – SPEED LIMITS ON TRUNK ROADS

The Chair reported receipt of the above (circulated with agenda) for Members' consideration.

RESOLVED that the correspondence be received.

72. INFORMATION ITEM: INVITATION FROM MS. LYNDIA WAGGETT

The Chair reported receipt of the above (circulated with agenda) informing the Committee of the publication of her book 'North Wales and its Secrets' and inviting Town Councillors to a book signing at Rhyl Library on the morning of Saturday 15th November 2014.

RESOLVED that the information be received.

73. INFORMATION ITEM: ECONOMIC AMBITION STRATEGY

The Chair reported receipt of the above leaflet Denbighshire County Council (circulated with agenda).

RESOLVED that the leaflet be received.

74. MEMBERS' INFORMATION ITEMS

No matters had arisen.

75. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

It is recommended, pursuant to Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, that the Press and Public be excluded from the Meeting during consideration of the following items of business, on the grounds of confidentiality.

76. POTENTIAL CONTRIBUTION TO TOWN CENTRE IMPROVEMENTS

The Town Clerk advised that unfortunately Denbighshire County Council's original scheme centring around the High Street had had to be reduced due to a number of technical restrictions discovered latterly. As yet the Town Council had not received the revised scheme details, although he understood that they were in the pipeline and would be arriving any day.

The Town Clerk asked whether Members would like to consider making a financial contribution to the revised scheme if they felt that the lesser scheme did not have the overall impact they had initially hoped for?

The Finance Officer advised that due to the Town Council's underspend in this year's budget, there was money available.

RESOLVED that the report be received.

77. MAYOR'S GALA AWARDS EVENING

The Town Clerk suggested deferring the item to the next meeting of Council due to the confidential report not being circulated before tonight's meeting not therefore giving Members proper time to absorb and consider it.

RESOLVED that the item be deferred to the next meeting of Council.

78. OFFICE ACCOMMODATION – PROGRESS REPORT

On behalf of the Risk Assessment Sub-Committee, Councillor Simmons provided a progress report to date and action taken to secure the proposed preferred option.

The Finance Officer reported upon his investigations into potential grant awarders to which the Town Council could apply.

The Town Clerk circulated copies of a draft letter to the Rhyl Community Association (RCA) informing them of the Town Council's intentions and seeking clarification of the Town Council's negotiators position.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) *the reports be received.*
- (ii) *The Council's negotiators position be as now identified.*

79. CLOSURE OF MEETING

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

Chair:

Date: