

At a Meeting of the **FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE** held on Wednesday 3rd March 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 P. M. Butters, Mrs J. Chamberlain-Jones, C. Davies, Mrs L. M. Edwards, M. C. Espley, I. A. Gunning, Ms G. A. Jones, Miss M. A. Jones, D. W. Lee, Mrs M. McCarroll, Mrs W. M. Mullen-James, G. J. Pickering and Miss N. R. E. Roose-Lloyd.

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

181. APOLOGIES

Apologies for non-attendance were received on behalf of Councillors Ms D. Hannam (family illness), Mrs P. M. Jones (no reason given) and G. Williams (other commitment).

182. DISPENSATION

Further to Minute No.150 of the meeting held on 3rd February 2010, the Town Clerk reported that he had received notification from the Monitoring Officer that a request for dispensation had been submitted by Councillor J. B. Bellis on behalf of himself and Councillors M. C. Espley, Mrs P. M. Jones and Mrs W. M. Mullen-James enabling them to speak and vote in respect of matter relating to the Rhyl Community Association either as Members or Trustees, and that dispensation had been granted. The notification further advised that the Standards Committee had also extended the dispensation to the Town Council's other appointed representatives (currently Councillors C. Davies, D. W. Lee, and Miss N. R. E. Roose-Lloyd) to the Association to both speak and vote on all matters relating to it.

The Town Clerk advised that the Members affected would need to declare their personal and prejudicial interests and state that they were relying upon the dispensation granted prior to debating and voting on relevant items.

A Member asked whether this now meant that similar applications could be made by Town Councillors serving on other outside bodies.

The Town Clerk stated that they could, by writing to the Monitoring Officer directly.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

183. APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE ON OUTSIDE BODIES – CONNECT 2 – FORYD HARBOUR STEERING GROUP

The Town Clerk reported receipt of correspondence from the above organisation (circulated with Agenda) inviting the Town Council to consider appointing a representative to the Steering Group to ensure community involvement in the work of the project. The Town Clerk added that the Group was to be renamed the Connect2 Steering Group to differentiate it from the already established Foryd Harbour Forum.

RESOLVED that Councillors Mrs J. Chamberlain-Jones and M. C. Espley be appointed.

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

184. TOWN COUNCIL GOVERNANCE

Further to Minute No.142 of the meeting held on 2nd December 2009, the Town Clerk submitted his report (circulated with Agenda).

The report, in two parts related to the two issues previously identified by Members for further consideration.

Part one of the report related to the importance of Financial Regulations being adhered to by Members and written in clearer, simpler language. The report particularly emphasised that Members were individually and collectively responsible for the finances of the Council and that Regulations if adhered to would protect, Councillors, the Council and the public purse from misappropriation.

In respect of Part One of the report it was ***RESOLVED*** that in consideration of the recent approval of the amended Financial Regulations by this Committee and the absence of any contrary observations during that debate, the report be received with no further action necessary but subject to Members being able to approach Town Council officers in the event of requiring clarification on any matters relating to the Regulations.

Part Two of the report related to the roles of the Council's Sub-Committees and Working Groups and the importance of Members attendance to ensure that allocated work was conducted.

The report identified the purpose of appointing Sub-Committees and Working Groups and concerns in respect of recent attendance at the meetings.

In response to a Members question the Town Clerk advised that where a Sub-Committee had delegated authority to act it could do so only in

respect of the items specified in its terms of reference approved by the parent committee.

RESOLVED that in respect of Sub-Committees and Working Groups in future should an appointed Member fail to attend two successive meetings of a Sub-Committee/Working Group then they will automatically cease to be a member of that Sub-Committee/Working Group and a report would be considered by the next meeting of the parent committee to consider whether to reconfirm the Member or to appoint an alternative.

185. INVITATION: GROVE PARK BOWLING AND SOCIAL CLUB

The Chair reported receipt of the above (circulated with Agenda) inviting Members to join them for the opening of the Green at 2.00pm on Saturday 27th March 2010.

RESOLVED that six Members would be in attendance.

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

186. CONSULTATION: DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL – (SPRUCE AVENUE AND ADJOINING ROADS RHYL) (20MPH SPEED RESTRICTION) ORDER 20

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

A Ward Member reported that residents were happy with the proposal.

In response to a Member's question the Town Clerk confirmed that no bus service operated on Spruce Avenue and its adjoining roads.

RESOLVED that the Order be approved.

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

[Councillors Mrs J. Butterfield and I. A. Gunning declared a prejudicial interest in the above item due to their positions as Governors on Brynhedydd School and vacated the Chamber, taking no further part in discussions or voting thereon]

187. CONSULTATION: WELSH ASSEMBLY GOVERNMENT – REVIEW OF COUNCILLORS' ALLOWANCES REGULATIONS

The Town Clerk reported receipt of the above (circulated with Agenda) for Members consideration.

RESOLVED that the document be received.

188. CONSULTATION: WELSH ASSEMBLY GOVERNMENT – EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY COMMITTEE INQUIRY INTO THE ACCESSIBILITY OF RAILWAY STATIONS IN WALES

The Town Clerk reported receipt of the above (circulated with Agenda) for Members consideration.

On a more general point, Members felt that although the recent refurbishment works had greatly improved the look and feel of Rhyl Station, the footbridge over the lines should be cleaned more often.

In terms of accessibility, Members reported that the lift was often 'out of order', and that people with restricted mobility needed help to operate the lift, which unfortunately wasn't always available.

Members commented that station employees did not work beyond 9pm, leaving passengers using the station after that time feeling vulnerable, particularly on the platforms and on the footbridge.

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk be instructed to include the above comments in his response to the Welsh Assembly Government and extend an invitation to a representative of Arriva Trains to attend a future meeting to discuss the condition of Rhyl Station.

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

189. MEMBERS ITEM: 'FINDING YOUR VOICE' ART EXHIBITION

Councillor Mrs P. M. Butters distributed invitations to Members to attend the above exhibition created by the women at the North Wales Women's Centre on Water Street in Rhyl between 11.00am and 3.00pm on Wednesday 24th March 2010.

Councillor Butters explained that she had been involved with the Centre for the last 10 years and that it was a very positive environment doing excellent work. Adding that in her opinion it was one of the best regeneration projects in Rhyl, and encouraged to go along to see for themselves.

RESOLVED that the information be received.

190. INFORMATION: RHYL COMMUNITY FORUM

The Chair reported receipt of an invitation (circulated with Agenda) for Members to attend a 'Your Community Your Views' event at the Oak Tree Centre in Rhyl, from 7.00pm until 9.00pm on Monday 29th March 2010. The purpose of the event being to enable local residents to express their views on the services provided by Denbighshire County Council, North Wales Police, North Wales Fire and Rescue, Denbighshire Voluntary Services Council and the Betsi Cadwaladr University Local Health Board.

RESOLVED that the invitation be received.

191. 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.

192. RHYL IN BLOOM

The Town Clerk presented his confidential report (circulated with Agenda) following requests made by the newly formed 'Rhyl in Bloom' Committee.

In relation to consideration of the request for the Town Council to appoint up to two representatives on the Rhyl in Bloom Committee a Member stated that there was a general reluctance to becoming involved again because of the difficulties experienced last year. However another Member added that their reluctance was entirely personal because their assistance had been refused last year. Yet another Member felt that the very short notice given for the Town Council to play a part last year was a key factor in the difficulties experienced.

RESOLVED that:

- a) *Councillor Ms G. A. Jones be nominated to the Rhyl in Bloom Committee to represent the Town Council.*
- b) *the action of the Town Clerk in issuing of a letter of support to the Rhyl in Bloom Committee be confirmed.*
- c) *the Town Council offers its assistance to take part in the judging of the various local level categories of the competition only but that organisation of the competition be the direct responsibility of the Rhyl in Bloom Committee.*

193. **DRAFT WELSH LANGUAGE SCHEME**

Further to Minute No.84 of the meeting held on 7th October 2009, the Chair referred to the Town Clerk's confidential report (circulated with Agenda) for Members' consideration.

RESOLVED that:

- a) *the Draft Welsh Language Scheme be approved.*
- b) *that the Council appoint a Welsh Language Scheme Sub-Committee in accordance with the terms of reference specified within the report and with the executive powers specified.*
- c) *Councillors Ms G. A. Jones, Miss M. A. Jones and Miss N. R. E. Roose-Lloyd be appointed to the Welsh Language Scheme Sub-Committee, along with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Finance and General Purposes Committee.*
- d) *appropriate attendance and / or advice be sought by the Sub-Committee from Menter Iaith or other appropriate body.*

194. **RHYL AIR SHOW**

The Finance Officer submitted his confidential report (circulated with Agenda) following a request by Denbighshire County Council for financial support to this year's event. The report identified the need to incur greater expenditure for this year's two day event since last year's event had proved to be so successful and the number of visitors had far exceeded expectations.

Members expressed their delight at the success of the 2009 event and gave their full support to the proposed 2010 two day event and -

RESOLVED that the whole of the £5,000 2010/11 Town Council's New Grants/Events Budget be given as a contribution to the event.

195. **TYNEWYDD COMMUNITY CENTRE**

Further to Minute No.150 of the meeting held on 3rd February 2010, the Town Clerk presented his confidential report which included; a previously issued joint report of the Town Clerk and Finance Officer; a report from the Rhyl Community Association Working Group; a Minute Extract; Notes from the last RCA Working Group meeting; and a Financial Forecast for the Centre for 2010/2011 submitted by the RCA Secretary (circulated with Agenda), for Members' consideration.

Whilst the report from the Rhyl Community Association Working Group had contained three options for consideration it was open to the

Committee to determine future action. After lengthy comment and debate, a Member proposed that no specific action of the type suggested by the Working Group be taken and that the Town Council should continue to provide the financial support to Tynewydd Community Centre as it has in previous years and requested a recorded vote.

Councillors in support of the proposal were:

J. B. Bellis, B. Blakeley, J. Butterfield, Mrs J. Butterfield, Mrs P. M. Butters, Mrs J. Chamberlain-Jones, C. Davies, Mrs L. M. Edwards, M. C. Espley, I. A. Gunning, Miss M. A. Jones, D. W. Lee, Mrs W. M. Mullen-James and Miss N. R. E. Roose-Lloyd.

Councillors who were against were:

G. J. Pickering.

Councillors who abstained were:

Ms G. A. Jones and Mrs M. McCarroll.

[Due to an error by the Town Clerk in requesting Members to indicate their vote the Chair of Committee was not requested to vote on this item]

RESOLVED that no specific action of the type recommended by the Working Group be approved and the current practice of supporting the Community Association be confirmed.

[The following Councillors declared their prejudicial interests in the business to be transacted but indicated that in accordance with the dispensation granted by the Standards Committee they would remain in the Chamber to debate and vote on the application – J. B. Bellis, C. Davies, M. C. Espley, D. W. Lee, Mrs W. M. Mullen-James and Miss N. R. E. Roose-Lloyd]

196. CLOSURE OF MEETING

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

Chair:

Date: