

At a Meeting of the **FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE** held on Wednesday 1st June 2011, 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, Mrs J. Chamberlain-Jones, I. A. Gunning, Ms D. Hannam, Ms G. A. Jones, Miss M. A. Jones, D. W. Lee, Mrs M. McCarroll, Mrs W. M. Mullen-James, A. J. Rutherford, W. N. Tasker and T. Thomas.

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

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for non-attendance were received on behalf of Councillors J. Butterfield (family commitment), Mrs J. Butterfield (indisposed), Mrs L. M. Edwards (work commitment), Mrs P. M. Jones (family commitment), G. J. Pickering (on holiday) and G. Williams (indisposed) and by the Finance Officer, Mr P. M. Thomas (on holiday).

On behalf of the Town Council, the Chair welcomed Councillor Rutherford to his first working meeting and thanked the Mayor for a very enjoyable Inaugural Evening, before informing Members of a change in the fire evacuation procedure in light of the doors at the main entrance to the building being temporarily out of use.

2. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 1972 SECTION 86 – DECLARATION OF VACANCY IN THE OFFICE OF COMMUNITY COUNCILLOR FOR THE TYNEWYDD WARD

The Town Clerk regretfully reported receipt of a letter of resignation from Mr C. Davies and read it aloud to the meeting.

In accordance with the provisions of the above Act, the Town Clerk advised that following the resignation it was necessary to formally declare a vacancy in the office of Councillor. The Town Clerk further advised that a public notice would be published in a local paper advising of the vacancy and inviting ten electors to request that an election be held.

RESOLVED that:

- a) *the information be noted and a vacancy in the office of Councillor be formally declared.*
- b) *a letter be sent to Mr Davies conveying the Council's sincere regret at his decision to resign and to thank him for his work in the community during his time as a Town Councillor.*

3. RESIDENTIAL SPACE STANDARDS

Further to Minute No.173 of the meeting held on 2nd February 2011 (Minute Extract circulated with Agenda), the Chair reported receipt of responses from Clwyd Alyn Housing Association and Denbighshire County Council (circulated with Agenda).

The Town Clerk advised that a Councillor not present at tonight's meeting had asked him to comment, in reference to Clwyd Alyn Housing Association's response, on their behalf, that the Town Council should be included in the housing association's annual Planned Improvement Programme consultation.

In response to a Member's question, the Chair informed the meeting that the exemptions to the Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS) mentioned in the letter from the housing association, applied to the developments that have already been permitted and added that the standard did not run to providers of social housing.

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk will write to all social housing providers in Rhyl asking what standard of housing provision they are currently working to and how that standard is monitored and maintained, particularly in Bodfor and Foryd Wards of the town.

4. PRESENTATION OF PETITION TO DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Further to Minute No.110 of the meeting of Council held on 16th March 2011 (minute extract circulated with Agenda) the Chair reported receipt of an e-mail from Denbighshire County Council (circulated with Agenda).

RESOLVED that the correspondence be received.

5. ONE VOICE WALES

Further to Minute No.218 of the meeting held on 6th April 2011 (minute extract circulated with Agenda) the Town Clerk suggested deferring the item as Councillor Mrs J. Butterfield was to provide a background report on the roles and remits of both One Voice Wales and the North Wales Association of Town and Larger Community Councils for the benefit of the newer Town Councillors, but was absent from tonight's meeting.

RESOLVED that the item be deferred to a future meeting.

6. COASTAL RESORTS EAST MARKETING AREA PARTNERSHIP

Further to Minute No.233 of the meeting held on 4th May 2011 (minute extract circulated with Agenda) the Town Clerk referred to the copies of Councillor T. Thomas' report distributed around the table and invited Members to ask any questions they may have arising from his report.

Members thanked Councillor Thomas for a good report.

RESOLVED that the report be received.

7. COASTAL HAWKS PROJECT

Further to Minute No.234 of the meeting held on 4th May 2011 (minute extract circulated with Agenda) the Town Clerk reported that he had not received a progress report from the project and asked Members to determine the next course of action.

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk to make a final request to the project to produce a written progress report for consideration at the next Finance and General Purposes Committee to be held on 6th July 2011.

[Councillor D. W. Lee declared a prejudicial interest due to his business involvement with another pest control company and vacated the Chamber, taking no part in discussions or voting thereon]

8. RHYL MAY DAY ASSOCIATION

The Chair reported receipt of correspondence from the above (circulated with Agenda) informing Members that this year's Carnival will be held on Sunday 31st July and inviting them along to help with the judging of the various categories on the day.

Councillors B. Blakeley, Mrs J. Chamberlain-Jones, Ms G. A. Jones, Miss M. A. Jones, G. J. Pickering and A. J. Rutherford stated their intention to attend in addition to the Mayor.

The Mayor advised that as requested in the letter, Miss Rhyl would be accompanying her to a number of engagements during her year in office.

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk informs the May Day Association of the number of Councillors to expect for the Carnival.

9. HIGHWAYS CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2011/12

Further to Minute No.176 of the meeting held on 2nd February 2011, the Chair reported receipt of correspondence from Denbighshire County Council including the Highways and Infrastructure Maintenance Section's Capital Works Programme for 2011/2012 (circulated with Agenda).

Some Councillors spoke of their disappointment that the roads they had suggested were not featured in the programme, but acknowledged that the County Council had to prioritise as they saw fit under the current financial constraints.

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk to write to Denbighshire County Council to:

- a) convey its disappointment with Marsh Road only receiving an upgrade of the existing pedestrian crossing, when the road surface was in such a poor condition, particularly with the opening of the excellent new Marsh Tracks facility off Marsh Road, which might let it down somewhat?
- b) ask when the work on Warren Road and a section of the 'H' Bridge would begin?

- c) *to express the Town Council's congratulations on the work carried out on Tynwydd Road and Ffordd Anwyl.*

10. CONSULTATION: DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL – RHYL STRATEGIC REGENERATION FRAMEWORK

[The Chair declared a prejudicial interest in the item due to his position as a Denbighshire County Council Cabinet Member, and vacated the Chamber taking no further part in discussions or voting thereon]

In the absence of the Vice-Chair of the Committee, Councillor Mrs J. Butterfield, the Mayor took the Chair for the remainder of the item.

The Mayor reported receipt of an e-mail, report and executive summary from Denbighshire County Council (circulated with Agenda) relating to the above draft document (full document in Committee Room), and advised that the deadline for a response was 15th June 2011.

The Town Clerk suggested that at present this was arguably the most important document for Rhyl and in view of the short timescale, and asked Members to consider nominating a small delegation to meet with the Rhyl Going Forward Programme Manager as soon as possible to put any questions and comments to him directly.

Members commented that although the document was a good piece of work and outlined a positive and exciting way forward for Rhyl, they sincerely hoped that it was not going to be yet another strategy to fall by the wayside with little to show for it.

RESOLVED that Councillors Mrs J. Butterfield, Mrs J. Chamberlain-Jones, I. A. Gunning, Miss M. A. Jones, Mrs M. McCarroll, Mrs W. M. Mullen-James, A. J. Rutherford and T. Thomas be nominated as the delegation to meet with Mr Booty at his earliest convenience.

11. ADDITIONAL ITEM: REQUEST FOR VARIOUS INFORMATION FROM MEMBERS

The Town Clerk asked for Members to hand in their completed Representatives on Outside Organisations questionnaires, Code of Conduct declarations of interests and for their questions to be submitted to Mr Graham Thomas in advance of his presentation to Council on 15th June 2011 in relation to the Community Payback Scheme proposal.

The Town Clerk advised that with regard to Members' request for one-on-one training, he would leave a form for Members to complete in the Committee Room.

12. 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.

13. APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE – DENBIGHSHIRE CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU

The Chair referred to the Finance Officer's confidential report (circulated with Agenda) following an application made by the Denbighshire Citizens Advice Bureau.

RESOLVED that the application be declined in fairness to all of the organisations who applied during the Town Council's annual Grant Aid Scheme this year.

14. BRITISH HEART FOUNDATION – PROPOSED HEART TOWN

Further to Minute No.60 of the meeting of Council held on 20th October 2010, the Town Clerk submitted his confidential report (circulated with Agenda).

RESOLVED that the Town Council supports the initiative and appoints Councillors Miss M. Jones and Mrs. W. Mullen-James to represent the Council at meetings, respectfully asks the British Heart Foundation to approach the Rhyl Community Association to book a room for future meetings, rather than permit the use of the Council Chamber at no charge, taking potential business from the Association.

15. RHYL COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Further to Minute No.201 of the meeting held on 2nd March 2011 (minute extract circulated with Agenda), the Chair referred to the Association's confidential progress report (circulated with Agenda).

Councillor Bellis reminded the meeting that this item was of a confidential nature and that all discussions about to take place should be treated that way. Members agreed. Councillor Bellis went on to advise that he would be speaking in his capacity as a Town Councillor and not as the Secretary and Treasurer of the Association.

A Member referred to one of the alleged reasons for the previous Centres Manager's resignation, as previously reported by the Association's Secretary and Treasurer, as being a direct result of actions taken by the Town Council, and asked exactly what these actions were? The Member also asked if the Town Clerk could remind Members of all of the outstanding issues between the Council and the Association.

The Town Clerk advised that he could provide copies of the relevant Minutes to the Member.

RESOLVED that:

- a) *the Association's report be received.*
- b) *the Town Clerk to provide the copies of Minutes requested to the Member.*
- c) *the Town Clerk to write to all Members providing a summary of all of the outstanding issues between the Council and the Association for further discussion at the next Finance and General Purposes Committee to be held on 6th July 2011.*
- d) *The Town Clerk to write to the Rhyl Community Association providing a summary of all of the outstanding issues between the Council and the Association*

[Councillors J. B. Bellis, D. W. Lee and T. Thomas declared a prejudicial interest in the item due to their positions as members of the Association and used their dispensation to remain in the Chamber, take part in the debate and vote thereon]

16. CLOSURE OF MEETING

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

Chair:

Date: