

At a rescheduled Meeting of the **FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE** held on Thursday 5th September 2013, at the Civic Offices, Wellington Road Community Centre, Rhyl commencing at 6.00pm.

PRESENT

Councillor P. Prendergast (Chair)

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

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

39. APOLOGIES

Apologies for non-attendance were received on behalf of Councillors I. W. Armstrong (family commitment), B. Mellor (on holiday) and Miss C. L. Williams (work commitment),

[The Chair advised that Item No.9 on the Agenda would now be considered after Item No.4 to allow the Finance Officer to leave the meeting as all following Items did not require his expertise]

40. AUGUST RECESS – REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY

Further to Minute No.32 of the meeting of Council held on 17th July 2013, the Town Clerk submitted his report on actions taking during August (circulated with Agenda).

RESOLVED *that the following actions be confirmed or taken:*

- i) Councillors Mrs J. Chamberlain-Jones and Mrs W. M. Mullen-James be appointed as the Town Councils representatives on the Betsi Cadwaladr University North Denbighshire Project Reference Group (BCUHB).*
- ii) The Mayor and the Town Clerk continue to attend future meetings of the Elwy Cluster group.*
- iii) The Mayor's interview on BBC Radio Five Live in response to negative coverage in the Sun newspaper be confirmed. Councillor Mrs J. Chamberlain-Jones was also congratulated on arranging a guided tour of the town for an ITV reporter by herself, Councillor Mrs. Butterfield, and the Town Clerk shortly after, again to redress the balance of the article in the Sun newspaper and a subsequent ITV news report.*

- iv) *The Launch of the Town Plan on Monday 2nd September be confirmed. The Town Clerk advised that the Mayor would be speaking live to Rhyl's Point FM tomorrow as a follow-up to his first interview based largely around the Town Plan.*
- v) *The Chair of the Finance and General Purposes Committee in consultation with the Town Clerk appointment of Councillor P. J. Williams as a Ward Member, from the names put forward to represent the Town Council on West Rhyl Housing Improvement Projects Green Space Tender Evaluation Panel, be confirmed.*
- vi) *The following comments on the 'Love Rhyl' presentation be submitted:*

Slide No.	Comments
4	<i>'Y' too close the 'R'.</i>
10	<i>Like black text on yellow background. Prefer the logo in the middle.</i>
16	<i>Really like the flyers and roll banners.</i>
17	<i>Don't like the bars of colour obstructing the theatre flyer in the middle. Prefer the design to the left.</i>
18	<i>Text too small at the bottom of the flyers. Prefer the design in the middle.</i>
20	<i>Prefer the design on the right.</i>
21	<i>Really like the billboard but would like the word 'Rhyl' to be a bit bigger and the image behind to a more recognisable Rhyl scene.</i>
27	<i>Like the brand. It's bright, modern and positive and sits well alongside Rhyl Going Forward.</i>

Councillor Mrs J. Butterfield said that she would find out the cost and lifespan of the initiative and report back to the Town Council.

- vii) *Commuted Sums to be considered in detail under Agenda Item No.22. Agreed.*
- viii) *As instructed the Town Clerk had purchased the leased illuminations. Confirmed.*

41. EXTERNAL AUDITORS OPINION ON COUNCIL'S ANNUAL RETURN 2012/13

The Finance Officer reported receipt of the Council's External Auditor's response to the submitted annual return (circulated with Agenda) giving the Town Council a clean bill of health and asked for Members' approval for him to sign the Return on the Councils behalf.

RESOLVED *that the Annual Return be approved and the Chair of the Committee be authorised to sign the Return on the Councils behalf.*

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

42. **CIPFA CONFERENCE**

Further to Minute No.201 of the meeting held on 1st May 2013, the Finance Officer presented his report and the presentations he had attended at the conference in July for Members information.

Members congratulated the Finance Officer on his networking whilst at the conference which would bring clear benefits to the Town Council over the coming months.

RESOLVED that the Finance Officer to report back on:

- i) *The possibility of using Denbighshire County Councils accounting and IT systems to the November meeting.*
- ii) *Potential investment opportunities with Lloyds Banking Group and the CCLA to the October meeting.*

43. **IT MAINTENANCE AND PHOTOCOPIER**

Further to Minute No.26 of the meeting held on 3rd July 2013, the Finance Officer presented his report (circulated with Agenda) advising that he had requested quotes for both and was in receipt of a number of responses, which he and the Town Clerk would suggest they be given authority to apply a value for money framework to determine the best option for both services.

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk and Finance Officer be authorised to determine the best options for both IT maintenance and the purchase or lease of a photocopier and to award the contracts and report to the October meeting.

[The Finance Officer left the meeting]

44. **RHYL TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT GROUP – REPORT OF REPRESENTATIVES**

Further to Minute No.37 of the meeting held on 3rd July 2013, Councillors A. R. James and A. J. Rutherford reported that the post was very much ‘up in the air’ since the recent resignation of the last postholder and that a meeting of all stakeholders was arranged for tomorrow. They advised against any speculation at this point and suggested that they report back to the Council armed with all of the information in the round before the Council takes any decision on its continued involvement.

RESOLVED that:

- i) *The Town Clerk to add the matter to the Agenda of the Special Meeting of Council scheduled for Tuesday 10th September, to enable Councillors A. R. James and A. J. Rutherford to report back on the outcome of the stakeholders meeting and hopefully present the Council with options.*

45. REQUEST TO ADDRESS COUNCIL – DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL – THE NEW RHYL HIGH SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT

The Chair reported that the above request had been made by Mr D. G. Evans to attend the September Council meeting to provide the Council with an update on the progress of the rebuild.

RESOLVED that the request be granted.

46. REQUEST TO ADDRESS COUNCIL – RWNPOWER

The Chair reported that the above request had been made by representatives of RWNPower to attend the October Council meeting to advise of developments in respect of the Gwynt Y Mor Windfarm.

RESOLVED that the request be granted.

47. REQUEST TO ADDRESS COUNCIL – MR NOEL MARTIN

The Town Clerk advised that Mr Martin, on behalf of D. L. Elite Gym and an initiative to be based at the Rhyl Little Theatre, had requested to address the November Council meeting.

RESOLVED that the request be granted.

48. CONSULTATION: DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL – ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY AMBITION STRATEGY

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

Members felt that the strategy was hugely important and fitted neatly into the Town Councils own Town Plan.

RESOLVED that Councillors Mrs J. Butterfield and A. R. James to pass their comments to the Town Clerk tomorrow to enable a response to be submitted by the closing date, which was 9th September.

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

49. CONSULTATION: DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL – PUBLIC REALM STRATEGY

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

RESOLVED that:

- i) *Councillor Mrs J. Butterfield to pass her comments to the Town Clerk to enable a response to be submitted by the closing date, which was 31st October.*
- ii) *The Town Clerk to write to the Public Realm Team in respect of their work following the recent Airshow.*

50. APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS – RHYL TOWN & AREA PLAN STEERING GROUP AND SUB-GROUPS

The Town Clerk submitted his report (circulated with Agenda) advising the application and process had numerous links to the Town Councils own Town Plan and was a good opportunity for the Town Council to progress its aims and objectives.

A Member advised that the outcome of Denbighshires bid would not be known until 9th September and that a Plan B would need to be ready if it was not successful. This is where the Town Council's Plan could come into play.

RESOLVED that the following appointments be made with the named Councillors requested to provide verbal progress reports to meetings of both Council and this Committee:

Rhyl Town & Area Plan Steering Group	Councillor A. J. Rutherford
Alignment between County and Town Council Plans Work Stream Sub Group	Councillor A. R. James Councillor S. H. Ratcliffe
Town Centre Strategy / Vibrant & Viable Places Application Work Stream Sub Group	Councillor S. H. Ratcliffe
Community Engagement Work Stream Sub Group	Councillor A. R. James Councillor S. H. Ratcliffe

51. 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.

52. NOTIFICATION OF SPECIAL COUNCIL TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY 10th SEPTEMBER 2013

The Town Clerk provided further notification of the above to begin at 6.00pm and asked Members to identify major schemes they would like to see in their Wards prior to Tuesdays meeting.

53. NOTIFICATION OF JOINT MEMBERS AREA GROUP / RHYL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING ON WEDNESDAY 25th SEPTEMBER 2013

The Town Clerk reported that the above special meeting had been called at Russell House in Rhyl to begin at 6.00pm.

54. MARSH TRACKS FEEDBACK REPORT

Further to Minute No.33 of the meeting held on 3rd July 2013, the Members involved in the Town Councils initiative introducing taster sessions at Marsh Tracks for local school children reported that unfortunately it enjoyed minimal success, for reasons that were not entirely clear.

All of the tickets were distributed to all of the schools, but the tickets had not made their way to the facility during the school holidays for whatever reason?

***RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk and the appointed Members to report back on the cost of the total cost of the initiative including staff hours and printing.*

55. INFORMATION ITEM: DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL – SCRUTINY COMMITTEE’S ANNUAL REPORT

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

***RESOLVED** that the document be received.*

56. INFORMATION ITEM: POST OFFICE – ST. MARGARET’S DRIVE

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

***RESOLVED** that the information be received.*

57. INFORMATION ITEM: LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR WALES – REVIEW OF ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE COUNTY OF DENBIGHSHIRE (PRESTATYN)

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

***RESOLVED** that the information be received.*

58. MEMBERS INFORMATION ITEMS

The Chair reported that Councillor Mrs E. M. Chard had distributed a flyer advertising a public meeting to save Rhyls Crown Post Office at the Town Hall on Friday 6th September at 6.00pm.

RESOLVED that the information be received.

59. 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.

60. COMMUTED SUMS

The Town Clerk presented his confidential report (circulated with Agenda) advising that £36,000 for capital development was available, with a substantial sum also available for revenue and that two Town Councillors had identified three different schemes, namely:

- i) Provision of an enclosed football pitch at Brynhedydd School.
- ii) Upgrade of playground equipment at Holland Park Drive playground.
- iii) Improvements to Bruton Park Pond / Woodland.

After both Councillors had spoken about their proposed schemes, Members decided it would be more beneficial to use the entire amount to support one of the suggested schemes to enable that project to be entirely completed to a high standard.

On being put to the vote, it was **RESOLVED** that the scheme to be put forward would be the enclosed football pitch at Brynhedydd School.

61. CLOSURE OF MEETING

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

Chair:

Date: