

At a **MEETING of COUNCIL** held on Wednesday 16th July 2014 in the Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Wellington Road, Rhyl commencing at 6.00pm.

PRESENT

Councillor D. Simmons (Mayor)

Councillors 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, Mrs M. McCarroll, B. Mellor, B. F. Moylan, Mrs W. M. Mullen-James,
P. Prendergast, S. H. Ratcliffe, Miss S. L. Roberts, A. J. Rutherford, Miss R. Siddall
and Miss C. L. Williams.

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

33. OPENING OF MEETING

The Mayor's Chaplain, Rev. Stan Walker, commenced proceedings by leading all present in prayer.

34. APOLOGIES

Apologies for non-attendance were received on behalf of Councillors I. W. Armstrong (other commitment), J. May (work commitment) and W. N. Tasker (family bereavement).

35. MINUTES

The Minutes of the following Meetings of Council and Committees were submitted for approval as a correct record:

Annual Meeting - 18th June 2014 - Min.Nos. 19-32
of Council

Proposed by Councillor D. Simmons and seconded by Councillor A. R. James and **RESOLVED** as a correct record.

Planning - 18th June 2014 - Min.Nos. 4-6
Committee

Proposed by Councillor A. R. James and seconded by Councillor Mrs E. M. Chard and **RESOLVED** as a correct record.

Planning - 2nd July 2014 - Min.Nos. 7-9
Committee

Proposed by Councillor A. R. James and seconded by Councillor Mrs E. M. Chard and **RESOLVED** as a correct record.

To Confirm or otherwise:

Finance & General - 2nd July 2014 - Min.Nos. 17-29
Purposes Committee

Proposed by Councillor P. Prendergast and seconded by Councillor A. R. James and **RESOLVED** as a correct record and confirmed for action.

36. MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor referred to the list of engagements he and the Deputy Mayor had attended over the last month for Members' information, and in particular to the mini pageant performance at the Church of Latter Day Saints in Rhyl – “one of the nicest events I've been to”. The Mayor also referred to judging day for Wales in Bloom (left off the list in error) – “a great day, well organised and very well received”.

RESOLVED that the Mayor to write to all involved in Rhyl's entry into Wales in Bloom to congratulate and thank them.

37. QUARTERLY BUDGET MONITORING REPORT

The Mayor suggested that this item be moved to item no.7 on the agenda to allow the presenters to leave as soon as possible.

RESOLVED that the above item be moved to item no.7 on the agenda.

38. PRESENTATION: NORTH DENBIGHSHIRE COMMUNITIES FIRST

Further to Minute No.168 of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 2nd April 2014, the Mayor welcomed Ms Diane Hesketh and invited her to address Members.

Ms Hesketh reported that:

- There are 52 Clusters across the whole of Wales.
- The leading body is not Denbighshire County Council, but the Co-Operative Group.
- They were now working on a 12 year programme.
- The focus has shifted from 'community' to 'tackling poverty' and that this shift had led to some delays in the service delivery.
- They are working in the most deprived areas as indicated by the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD).
- The North Denbighshire Cluster now included South, South West, West and East Rhyl and Upper Denbigh.
- The three themes they were working to are 'Prosperous, Learning & Health', all having shared outcomes as instructed by the Welsh Government.
- The North Denbighshire Cluster consisted of a team of nine officers which included a dedicated Family Officer (working on a pilot project in Rhyl – a new mums group) and a Jobcentre Plus / Job Club Officer who was engaging with those the furthest away from employment.
- The team were also working with Public Health Wales, Citizens Advice, MIND Cymru and the West Rhyl Young People's Project.
- They are based in Marsh Road in Rhyl and work from the White Rose Centre one day a week, and spend a few days a week in Upper Denbigh and a little time at Rhyl's Community Development Agency.

- The new website would be launched at the end of July.

In response to Members' questions and comments, Ms Hesketh advised that:

- They were fully engaging with the Bruton Park area in Rhyl and had already built positive relationships having launched 'Street Games' there.
- They were funded until the end of March 2015, but a recent ministerial announcement suggested it would be extended until May 2016 (taking funding to the life of the current Government's term) with further hope of a continuation of funding until 2017.
- Funding was based on performance and spend.
- The North Denbighshire Cluster received £660,000 each year. The bulk of which went on staff costs, with £25,000 ring fenced for community involvement.
- The programme was managed by a local delivery body, with all activities fed into a delivery plan and ultimately an outcomes framework featuring 102 measures. Vaughan Gething AM (Deputy Minister for Tackling Poverty) is currently reviewing the programme.
- The programme would like to hear from Ward Councillors to help identify need in their areas, which they could help to draw down funding for in partnership with other groups' funding applications.
- The local Cluster would welcome Town Council representation on its delivery body.
- The 'Step Up' bus would continue to be used on a daily basis as it was a really useful tool.
- Other agencies like the Police still attend their meetings.
- They had been operating a discreet food bank for years, offering different things to Rhyl's two other food banks having liaised with them. They also offered budgeting skills for users. They were not in competition with the other two banks and therefore there was no duplication of services. If there was then Communities First would withdraw.
- They were confident that the level of staff costs was providing value for money.
- The 'Step Up' bus incorporated Citizens Advice and the Benefits Advice Shop which offered advice on the full range of assistance available.

Ms Hesketh said that she was happy to provide the Town Council with a breakdown of monies spent here in Rhyl and the impact of those projects and invited all Town Councillors to visit them in Marsh Road.

The Mayor thanked Ms Hesketh for her attendance.

39. PRESENTATION: RHYL PHYSICAL ACTIVITY PROGRAMME

At the Council's appointed Champions' request, the Mayor welcomed Ms Sian Bennett to the meeting and invited her to address Members.

Ms Bennett advised that:

- The programme was now focussing on doorstep activities / street games and was developing a new model which included training of volunteers.
- They had held four street games workshops with 40 attendees on each.
- They had issued 10 Talented Athlete Grants and one of the recipients, Tesni Evans was now competing in the Glasgow Commonwealth Games!
- Due to the success of the Rhyl Sportzone programme, it was now being replicated through the whole of the County.
- The programme represented good value for money.

- Town Councillors should come and watch a session to fully appreciate what's involved and the level and nature of the participation.

In response to Members' questions and comments, Ms Bennett advised that:

- She was unaware of the specific information Members had requested in relation to the history and inception of the programme and a clear breakdown of the costs involved (how much is spent on the individual elements, staffing, etc) and how many individual young people participate in the different activities, but that she would be happy to produce such a report and submit it to the Town Clerk.
- She would look into the possibility of brief, temporary road closures for the purpose of allowing children to play safely close to home.
- Sport Wales cut the funding for the 5x60 Officers.
- She would welcome Councillors' input in terms of what activities young people in their Wards would like take part in.

RESOLVED that on receipt of Ms Bennett's report the Town Clerk to e-mail it to all Councillors during the August recess to enable decisions to be made at the Finance and General Purposes Committee in September.

40. QUARTERLY BUDGET MONITORING REPORT

The Finance Officer submitted his report (circulated with agenda) showing an underspend of around £71,000 due to the starting salary of his post being significantly lower than the previous postholder's finishing, a small saving on civic expenditure, the withdrawal of the Town Centre Manager post to which the Town Council gave an annual contribution towards, and the withdrawal of the Town Council's grants scheme.

RESOLVED that the report be received.

41. REQUESTS TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

The Town Clerk reported receipt of an e-mail from Denbighshire County Council's Tourism, Marketing and Events Officer (circulated with agenda) asking to address the Town Council on "changing the perceptions of Rhyl".

Members pointed out that this presentation was scheduled for the joint MAG meeting the following evening, which did away with the need for it to be giving a second time here at Town Council.

RESOLVED that the request be declined due to duplication and that any decision required should be dealt with under delegation of executive powers during the August recess.

42. MEMBER'S ITEM: HOUSING CONDITIONS IN RHYL

Councillor A. J. Rutherford sought Members' support for inviting representatives from Denbighshire County Council's Housing Department to a future meeting of Council to provide a presentation on the problems being experienced by tenants in private rental accommodation in Rhyl, highlighted by a recent TV programme.

RESOLVED that the relevant officers be invited to September's meeting of Council.

43. MEMBER'S ITEM: GWYNT Y MOR WINDFARM COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND

Councillor B. Mellor advised of the forthcoming tender process to appoint an administrator for the fund and sought Members' support for the Finance Officer to look into whether the Town Council submit a bid and seek nomination to the awarding panel (report circulated with agenda).

The Finance Officer advised that the Town Council alone could not carry out the role and suggested that we speak to Llandudno, Colwyn Bay and Prestatyn Town Councils with a view to them joining with us?

The Finance Officer warned that by administering the fund the Town Council could well have to declare an interest in Rhyl applications should it also sit on the awarding panel?

RESOLVED that the Finance Officer to speak to Ms Sian Morgan Jones (author of the report) to ask if the Town Council could have representation on the awarding panel and the implications and if favourable to then speak to the Town Council's mentioned.

44. AUGUST RECESS – DELEGATION OF EXECUTIVE POWERS

The Mayor requested Members' approval of the arrangements for the delegation of Executive Powers to the Town Clerk, in consultation with the appropriate Chairs during the August Recess, as follows:

- Civic Matters - Mayor and / or Deputy Mayor
- Planning Matters - Chair and / or Vice-Chair of the Planning Committee
- All Other Business - Chair and / or Vice-Chair of the Finance and General Purposes Committee

RESOLVED that the arrangements be confirmed and the Town Clerk instructed to take the suggested action during the recess period.

45. INFORMATION ITEMS

There were no urgent matters arising.

46. QUESTION TIME

There were no members of the public present.

47. 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.

48. OFFICE ACCOMMODATION – PROGRESS REPORT

The Chair of the Risk Assessment Sub-Committee reported very little movement and suggested that a Special Meeting of Council be called during August recess should that change and urgent decisions need to be made.

49. CLOSURE OF MEETING

There being no further items of business the Mayor declared the meeting of Council closed.

Mayor:

Date: