

At a Meeting of the **FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE** held on Wednesday 1st October 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, Mrs J. Butterfield JP MBE,
Mrs J. Chamberlain-Jones, Mrs E. M. Chard, A. R. James,
Mrs P. M. Jones, Mrs M. McCarroll, B. Mellor, B. F. Moylan, S. H. Ratcliffe,
Miss S. L. Roberts, A. J. Rutherford, Miss R. Siddall and D. Simmons.

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

48. APOLOGIES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Apologies were submitted from Councillors B. Blakeley (other commitment), J. May (work commitment), Mrs W. M. Mullen-James (indisposed) and W. N. Tasker (other commitment).

49. QUARTERLY BUDGET MONITORING 2014/15

The Finance Officer submitted his report (circulated with agenda).

RESOLVED *that the report be received.*

50. SEPTEMBER 2014 STATEMENT OF AUTHORISED PAYMENTS

The Finance Officer referred to the list of authorised payments on the Number 1 Account (circulated with agenda) for Members' approval and responded to Member's queries.

RESOLVED *that the payments be approved.*

51. PHYSICAL ACTIVITY PROGRAMME

Further to Minute No.49 of the meeting of Council held on 16th July 2014, the Chair referred to the Town Council's programme Champions' report (circulated at the meeting).

With regard to the pye chart within the report, Members were disappointed that so few children in the town's poorest wards were engaged with and felt that they should consider reducing participation costs by half (from £5 a session to £2.50?).

The Champions asked Members for guidance in terms of what they could take to the next meeting with the programme officers to plan for the future of the scheme.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) *the scheme to receive £20,000 this financial year and £20,000 for a future scheme.*
- (ii) *the Champions plus Councillors Mrs P. M. Jones, Mrs M. McCarroll and Miss S. L. Roberts to meet with the programme officers to look at reshaping the scheme for the benefit of the most deprived children.*

52. PROGRESS REPORTS

(i) Rhyl Town and Area Plan

Nothing to report.

(ii) Rhyl Going Forward Officers

Councillor A. J. Rutherford presented a previous report of his outlining the progress of the Rhyl Going Forward Delivery Groups.

Councillor Rutherford had attended the last delivery group meeting where options about the future of the various groups had been discussed. Councillor Rutherford was duly bringing those options to the Town Council for its determination.

Councillor Rutherford felt that the groups were surplus to requirements as in reality they had little influence on the direction of the Rhyl Going Forward programme and had become nothing more than talking shops. Especially in comparison to the Rhyl Town and Area Plan meetings, which had achieved so much more in a matter of just over 12 months.

RESOLVED that Councillor Rutherford to inform the next delivery group that the Town Council would like to see the delivery groups retired but the Rhyl Going Forward brand to remain.

Councillor Mrs J. Butterfield reported that she had recently attended a Housing Board meeting where an opportunity had presented itself to the Town Council to take ownership of the developing green space on Abbey Street from 2020 at a cost of £11,700 a year, when Denbighshire County Council's maintenance responsibilities would end.

Councillor Butterfield went on to suggest that the ground rent levy on 15 flats within 14-24 John Street could potentially provide the Town Council with the income necessary to pay for the maintenance of the green space.

There was support and reservations from Members, but all agreed on finding out more before making any kind of in principle agreement.

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk to investigate further with Denbighshire County Council's Mr Gerald Thomas and report back to a future meeting.

53. REQUEST TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

The Chair reported receipt of correspondence from Chief Inspector Jason Devonport (circulated with agenda) asking for the Town Council's permission to introduce the new Chief Inspector to Members.

RESOLVED *that the request be approved.*

54. MEMBERS ITEM

Councillor Miss S. L. Roberts advised that a resident had recently approached her after receiving a fairly insensitive letter from Denbighshire County Council asking him to remove all of the ornaments from a loved one's grave to enable what is essentially a lawn cemetery to be properly mowed and strimmed. The letter had caused the resident some upset.

Initially Councillor Roberts thought that the letter may have been one of many sent out as part of a mailshot, which was why she had asked for the matter to be brought to Members' attention in case other residents came to them and to enable them to inform them that it was a necessary part of maintaining the cemetery.

Councillor Roberts had however learnt that the letter was not part of a mailshot and was a specific request to her resident.

RESOLVED *that the Town Clerk to write to Denbighshire County Council asking that more compassion be shown to residents when addressing matters regarding loved ones' graves and memorials in the future.*

55. MEMBERS' INFORMATION ITEMS

The Finance Officer advised that since bringing the matter of an unreturned portion of a Town Council grant from D. L. Elite to Members' attention, the money had duly been returned.

The Finance Officer went on to explain that the confusion had been caused by a lack of communication between parties at the gymnasium and that the money had been spent in line with their grant application and could be verified and accounted for.

The Finance Officer said that because he was now satisfied that the terms and conditions of the grant had been adhered to, he had told D. L. Elite that the full amount would be re-released to them.

RESOLVED *that the actions of the Finance Officer be approved.*

56. 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.

57. PROPOSED TOWN COUNCIL NEWSLETTER / COMMUNICATIONS WORKING GROUP

Further to Minute No.24(ii) of the meeting held on 2nd July 2014, the Town Clerk submitted his report (circulated with agenda) which included a suggestion from the SOP Committee that any newsletter the Town Council produces should fall within the remit of a Communications Working Group, that the SOP Committee were recommending to be established to the Finance and General Purposes Committee to liaise with both the traditional press and to provide a presence on social media sites like Facebook and Twitter.

RESOLVED that a Communications Working Group be established comprising of Councillors Mrs E. M. Chard, B. Mellor, B. F. Moylan and S. H. Ratcliffe.

58. ILLUMINATIONS

The Town Clerk presented his confidential report (circulated with agenda) on the future provision of Christmas lighting in the town in the form of four different suggested schemes.

RESOLVED that 'Option 1 Bus Station' minus the proposed lighting along the Station access road is the preferred scheme.

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

59. CHANGING THE PERCEPTION OF RHYL

Further to the presentation received from Ms Vicki Shenton (DCC's Tourism, Marketing and Events Officer) and Ms Rebecca Maxwell (DCC's Corporate Director for Economic and Community Ambition) at the meeting of Council held on 17th September 2014 and their request for the Town Council to consider financial support to the project to the tune of £5,000 each year for the next three years with a review after year two.

A range of views were expressed both for and against and after being put to the vote it was ***RESOLVED*** that the Town Council to commit £5,000 to the project on condition that it can review its position after year one and have the ability to opt out of any further funding if it deems that the project has not made any significant in roads.

60. OFFICE ACCOMMODATION – PROGRESS REPORT

The Chair and Town Clerk advised on current developments

RESOLVED that the report be received.

61. CLOSURE OF MEETING

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

Chair:

Date: