

At a Meeting of the **FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE** held on Wednesday 5th March 2014, at the Civic Offices, Wellington Road Community Centre, Rhyl commencing at 6.00pm.

PRESENT

Councillor P. Prendergast (Chair)

Councillors I. W. Armstrong, Mrs J. Butterfield MBE,
Mrs J. Chamberlain-Jones, Mrs E. M. Chard, Ms J. Hughes, A. R. James,
Mrs P. M. Jones, J. May, B. Mellor, B. Moylan, S. H. Ratcliffe, Miss S. L. Roberts,
A. J. Rutherford, Miss R. Siddall, W. N. Tasker.

Mr R. A. Hughes – Finance Officer
Miss H. J. Windus - Personal Assistant & Secretary

147. APOLOGIES

Apologies for non-attendance were received on behalf of Councillors B. Blakeley (family illness), Mrs M. McCarroll (on holiday), Mrs W. M. Mullen-James (indisposed), Miss C. L. Williams (indisposed) and the Town Clerk, Mr G. J. Nickels (indisposed).

148. RHYL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

The Chair reported receipt of correspondence from Denbighshire County Council with regard to the future of the Community Development Agency (circulated with agenda).

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk to write to the Head of Adult and Business Services to convey the Town Council's hope that cheaper alternative accommodation could be found and its disappointment at the possible closure of the Agency which provided essential assistance to many organisations in Rhyl.

149. PENSIONS ADJUSTMENT REPORT

The Finance Officer presented his report (circulated with agenda) advising of a 2% reduction in contributions to the scheme making a saving of £2,649.06.

RESOLVED that the report be approved.

150. I.T. REPORT

The Finance Officer submitted his report (circulated with agenda) in relation to the Council's IT network, telephony, wireless hotspots and tablet computing and on the progress he had made gathering further information.

RESOLVED that the Finance Officer to obtain a quote from BJS Solutions (the Council's IT provider) and report back to the next available committee once prices are received.

151. PRINCE2@ FOR THE PUBLIC SECTOR

The Finance Officer referred to the SOP Committee's report (circulated with agenda) recommending that one Councillor and one Officer receive project management training in readiness for progressing the Council's identified medium sized projects.

RESOLVED that:

- i) *Both proposals put forward by the Committee be rejected on the grounds of cost.*
- ii) *The Finance Officer to obtain alternative more basic training packages to be offered to all Town Councillors.*

152. UPDATE FROM RHYL FLOOD RELIEF TRUSTEES

Councillor A. J. Rutherford, as Chair of the group reported that the first round of payments had now closed and that 132 applications had been received.

There would be a pub crawl in Rhyl this coming weekend and all pubs taking part would have a collection bucket for the fund.

On the whole the fund had been successfully distributed and well received.

153. PRESENTATIONS FROM RHYL GOING FORWARD OFFICERS (IF REQUIRED)

Further to Minute No.29 of the meeting held on 3rd July 2013, the Chair welcomed DCC's Mrs Carol Evans and Ms Nicola Caie and Ms Sue Manley from Placemarque to the meeting and invited them to address Members on the Rhyl Signage and Wayfinding Strategy and the West Rhyl Green Space – Concept Designs.

Rhyl Signage and Wayfinding Strategy

Ms Manley advised that:

- the new signage in Rhyl town centre would reinforce the new Love Rhyl brand.
- the signage would be tailored to Rhyl and was not a one size fits all, off the shelf product.
- Signage would be split into three different levels. Level 1 being areas of primary importance, e.g. Town Centre, Bus Station, Seafront, etc. Level 2 would be Promenade, Pavilion Theatre, Harbour, Town Hall, Marsh Tracks, etc. Level 3 would be Hospital, Toilets, Parking, Lifeboat Station, etc, and all designed to draw people into the centre.
- as few words as possible would be used as universally recognised symbols were simple, clear and more effective for directing people from A to B.
- natural stone monoliths and simple finger posts would be used in the town and around the town centre in keeping with the local environment and what already exists.

- updated signage was also planned for the key entry points into Rhyl (Foryd Bridge, Sainsburys, Coast Road from Prestatyn, etc) and from the A55.

In response to Members' questions, Ms Manley and Ms Caie said that:

- they would provide good signage for both the lifeboat station and Marsh Tracks.
- The monoliths would stand about 2.5m in height and although they were not vandalproof they were easy to clean.

West Rhyl Green Space – Concept Designs

Mrs Evans reported that:

- there had been two community consultations on the designs as this was predominantly their space and not visitors'.
- The area would be a fairly simple open green space with soft and hard landscaping, timber seating, lighting, litter bins and CCTV and that the planting would include beech hedge, trees, bulbs, ornamental shrubs and herbaceous plants along with wildflowers. All easy to maintain to keep costs to a minimum.
- the Love Rhyl brand would be incorporated.
- the space was for the local community to come and just 'be' and to provide an area for informal events (not DCC organised) and activities.
- Gronant and Aquarium Streets would be one way.

In response to Members' questions, Mrs Evans stated that:

- parking was available 'on street' and that there was no designated spaces for the area.
- the decision to allow dogs into the space was a decision for the Board to make and that by-laws would be adhered to if they were.
- the space will have a big launch day inviting local people along to take ownership of it. This approach would be continued during the first five years when it would be maintained by DCC.
- she was pleased to hear from a Ward Member that residents were very positive about the plans.

On Members' behalf the Chair thanked Ms Manley, Ms Caie and Mrs Evans for their presentations on two keenly awaited quality schemes.

154. INFORMATION ITEM: REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON PUBLIC SERVICE GOVERNANCE AND DELIVERY (THE WILLIAMS REPORT)

The Chair referred to the Town Clerk's report (circulated with agenda) advising Members of the recommendations contained within the above report as they relate to Community Councils.

Members thanked the Town Clerk for his clear and comprehensive report.

RESOLVED *that the report be received.*

155. MEMBERS' INFORMATION ITEMS

There were no urgent matters arising.

156. 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.*

157. OFFICE ACCOMMODATION – PROGRESS REPORT

Further to Minute No.142 of the meeting held on 5th February 2014, the Finance Officer referred to the Risk Assessment Sub-Committee's report.

RESOLVED *that:*

- i) the Finance Officer to report back on the outcome of his enquiries with Denbighshire County Council's Property Services with respect to recommendation 9.1.*
- ii) Recommendation 9.2 in the report be approved.*
- iii) Recommendation 9.3 in the report be put on hold.*

158. CLOSURE OF MEETING

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

Chair:

Date: