

At a **MEETING of COUNCIL** held on Wednesday 17th June 2015 in the Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Wellington Road, Rhyl commencing at 6.00pm.

PRESENT

Councillor B. Mellor (Mayor)

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

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

21. APOLOGIES

Apologies for non-attendance were received on behalf of Councillors Ms J. Hughes (work commitment) and Miss C. L. Williams (indisposed).

22. MINUTES

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

Annual Meeting - 20th May 2015 - Min.Nos. 1-20
of Council

Proposed by Councillor B. Mellor and seconded by Councillor Miss S. L. Roberts and **RESOLVED** as a correct record.

Planning - 3rd June 2015 - Min.Nos. 1-4
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 - 3rd June 2015 - Min.Nos. 1-17
Purposes Committee

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

23. MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor referred to the list of engagements he and the Deputy Mayor had attended since the Annual Meeting of Council, for Members' information. The Mayor commented on the good day and evening he had had in aid of the charity 'Scottys Little Soldiers'. The Deputy Mayor said she had enjoyed the Record of Achievement evening at Rhyl High School.

24. PRESENTATION: RHYL RUGBY CLUB

Further to minute no.143(i) of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 29th April 2015, the Mayor welcomed Mr Richard Greenwood and Mr Iwan Prys-Jones from Rhyl Rugby Club to the meeting and invited them to address Members on the Clubs proposals for land off Tynewydd Road in Rhyl.

Mr Greenwood introduced himself to Members as a long standing rugby man, having coached England in the 1980s, being Will Greenwoods Dad and now the Assistant Coach to the Rhyl Under 11s.

Mr Greenwood advised that Rhyl Rugby Club was established in 1928 and had been based in the Waen since the 1970s, which although was a very nice location was socially exclusive due to its general inaccessibility, and that in order for the club to prosper it was time for it to relocate to Rhyl.

Mr Greenwood added that:

- The club had strong community connections, with 17 groups using its Social Club on Vale Road in Rhyl.
- The 7-14 age group was just beginning to drift in numbers, which they were hopeful they could address once moving to the Tynewydd Road site.
- DCC had offered the club a 125 year lease for the site.
- They were now talking with an architect and were about to submit an application to the Welsh Governments Community Fund, which did not even mention rugby and was more of a desire to build a community asset with a rugby club attached to it and would be open for all sports clubs to use.
- The Rhyl Raptors were already keen to use the proposed non field bases facilities, as were CAIS (whose remit now also included ex-military personnel) and Communities First.
- They were not looking to the Town Council for any funding and thanked the Council for its significant financial backing over the years.
- All Councillors were warmly invited to the Social Clubs Grand Opening of its new function room on the evening of Friday 10th July.
- They were in need of over £500,000 all in all via a grant or grants, and that this process would take around a year.
- They believed they could double their membership instantly once they relocate to Rhyl.
- They would be offering a whole raft of activities that would respond to what the adjacent communities wanted.
- They wanted the Town Councils support in the form of a letter which they could use to strengthen their planning application and inform the build.

Mr Iwan Prys-Jones explained that he was the Chairman of the clubs Junior Section after also having a long history with rugby since both of his sons had played since they were aged seven. That they used to train every week at Rhyl High Schools facilities, which were no longer available due to the schools new build, which was a strong factor in the dwindling numbers of young people at the club.

Mr Prys-Jones advised that:

- Rhyl was a very popular destination for visiting teams and that the club had recently played host to 400 people from Southport.
- They wanted to make Rhyl Rugby Club the powerful force it was just a few years ago and return it to one of top four Welsh clubs.
- The club was solvent and that the Waen premises was old and in need of investment.

In response to Members questions and comments Mr Greenwood and Mr Prys-Jones said that:

- The preliminary sketches showed that the new site could accommodate all that the Club wanted and already offered from both a rugby and community stance via their present two locations, and they wanted to continue to 'do' both from the one first class site on Tynewydd Road.
- They would take on board for consideration Members suggestions regarding additional facilities which may be provided at the location.
- They already have an agreement with the new High School to compliment the activities it offered rather than cause conflict and duplication.
- The sharp turn into the field passed the highway criteria but they wanted to improve it nevertheless.

The Mayor thanked Mr Greenwood and Mr Prys-Jones for their presentation which Members felt could only enhance the numerous regeneration projects currently underway in Rhyl.

The Town Clerk advised Members that a request from the club for a letter of support would be brought back to Council for its formal consideration.

25. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2014/15 (PRE AUDIT)

The Town Clerk presented the draft document (circulated with agenda) for Members' approval subject to the External Auditors response.

RESOLVED that the document be approved and appropriate Members be authorised to sign when appropriate.

26. CONSULTATION: DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER – MAES GWILYM NATURE RESERVE, RHYL.

The Town Clerk reported receipt of the above document (circulated with agenda) for Members' consideration.

Members welcomed the proposed Order.

RESOLVED *that the document be received.*

27. INFORMATION ITEMS

The Mayor reported that Members had not raised any urgent matters with him.

28. PROGRESS REPORTS

(i) Rhyl Town and Area Plan

Nothing to report.

(ii) Rhyl Going Forward Officers

Nothing to report.

29. QUESTION TIME

There were no questions asked by the members of the public present.

30. 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.*

31. STAFFING COMMITTEE

The Chair handed over to the Chair of the Staffing Committee, who asked for the Town Clerk and PA & Secretary to leave the Chamber to enable full debate on the Committees' proposals for the Councils future staffing provision.

That done, the Chair advised Members of the proposals the Committee had been working on and sought their support to now progress matters.

RESOLVED *that:*

- (i) *the Committee is authorised to proceed with finalising the new job description for the new part-time Finance Officer post and to advertise the vacancy.*
- (ii) *further discussions surrounding the proposed changes to the remaining three posts to be had by the Committee, with a view to progressing matters as quickly as possible.*

32. CLOSURE OF MEETING

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

Mayor:

Date: