

At a **MEETING of COUNCIL** held on Wednesday 18th March 2015 in the Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Wellington Road, Rhyl commencing at 6.00pm.

PRESENT

Councillor D. Simmons (Mayor)

Councillors I. Armstrong, C. S. Ball, Mrs J. Butterfield MBE,
Mrs J. Chamberlain-Jones, Mrs E. M. Chard, Ms J. Hughes, Mrs P. M. Jones, 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, W. N. Tasker
and Miss C. L. Williams.

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

119. OPENING OF MEETING

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

120. APOLOGIES

Apologies for non-attendance were received on behalf of Councillors A. R. James (on holiday) and J. May (work commitment).

121. MINUTES

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

Meeting of Council - 21st January 2015 - Min.Nos. 107-118

Proposed by Councillor D. Simmons and seconded by Councillor Mrs E. M. Chard and **RESOLVED** as a correct record.

Planning - 21st January 2015 - Min.Nos. 47-49
Committee

Proposed by Councillor Mrs E. M. Chard and seconded by Councillor P. Prendergast and **RESOLVED** as a correct record.

Planning - 4th March 2015 - Min.Nos. 50-52
Committee

Proposed by Councillor Mrs E. M. Chard and seconded by Councillor P. Prendergast and **RESOLVED** as a correct record.

To Confirm or otherwise:

Finance & General - 4th February 2015 - Min.Nos. 98-108
Purposes Committee

Proposed by Councillor P. Prendergast and seconded by Councillor Mrs E. M. Chard and **RESOLVED** as a correct record and confirmed for action.

Finance & General - 4th March 2015 - Min.Nos. 109-123
Purposes Committee

Proposed by Councillor P. Prendergast and seconded by Councillor Mrs E. M. Chard and **RESOLVED** as a correct record and confirmed for action.

122. MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor referred to the list of engagements he and the Deputy Mayor had since the last meeting of Council for Members' information, and reported that Holocaust Memorial Day at the Town Hall, whilst harrowing, was an important event and dignified event.

The Deputy Mayor reported that he had gone along to Shirley Smith's Black Belt Academy at Fforddlas Community Centre to congratulate them on recently receiving an amazing 16 awards, and really enjoyed meeting them.

123. APPROACH FROM RHYL COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

The Town Clerk reported that the Chair of the Rhyl Community Partnership had contacted him following a notice appearing on the door of the Rhyl Community Agency advising of the closure of the service on 31st March 2015.

The Town Clerk referred to his report (circulated with agenda) for Members' consideration.

Members were concerned with the withdrawal of the service which was vital to so many community groups not just here in Rhyl but from all over Denbighshire.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) *the Town Clerk to write to DCC's Mr Phil Gilroy to convey the Town Council's disappointment at the closure and for details of any impact assessment undertaken to justify it, particularly in an area of quite significant deprivation.*
- (ii) *a Councillor who is also a County Councillor to request that the matter be subject of debate at the appropriate Scrutiny Committee as soon as possible.*

124. CONSULTATION: RHYL CROWN POST OFFICE, 2 WATER STREET, RHYL.

The Chair reported receipt of the above (circulated with agenda) advising of the proposal to relocate the Post Office to 32-34 High Street as part of a retail shop, for Members' consideration.

Although Members objected to the closure of the main Post Office at its original location, and had made all of the representations they possibly could to retain it

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk to write to the Post Office to ask what the impact will be on the remaining staff members' long-term contracts of employment.

125. CONSULTATION: CODE OF CONDUCT TRAINING

The Chair reported receipt of the above (circulated with agenda) from DCC's Monitoring Officer for Members' consideration.

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk to contact the Monitoring Officer to advise him that the Town Council's preference is for one session in the north of the County and one in the south and for the sessions to take place in the evening.

126. ADDITIONAL ITEM: JOINT MEMBERS AREA GROUP (MAG) MEETING

The Town Clerk advised that he had received a request for a meeting to be held with both Rhyl County and Town Councillors and developers Neptune, and for a suitable date to be offered.

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk is authorised to invite representatives of Neptune to a special meeting of Council.

127. ADDITIONAL ITEM: RHYL MARKET

The Town Clerk reported that unfortunately DCC had written to the market traders notifying them of the closure of the market from 11th April 2015 and stating that the decision had been taken by Rhyl Town Council.

The Town Clerk added that the Town Council is not the decision making body for the market and although it had expressed a number of views on the market in its response, it did not have the authority to take the decision to close it. Furthermore, the letter failed to inform traders of the suggested alternative sites discussed to enable the market to continue.

Members advised that at no point during any of the Member Area Group (MAG) meetings had the decision to close the market indefinitely been taken.

Members were angry that such short notice had been given to traders when DCC had had since last August to identify alternative sites for the market once the refurbishment works to the High Street began.

A Member added that frustrations had set in almost immediately after the market was introduced without the benefit of planning advice / permission, which shortly after DCC decided that it needed and indeed received. In August 2014 the Rhyl Town and Area Plan took the decision to make improvements to the High Street which would make a market impossible to work around and the search for an alternative location and market operator began.

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk to:

- (i) write to DCC's Chief Executive (copying in the Leader, Mr David Davies, Mr Graham Boase, Mr Gary Williams and Mr Mark Dixon) to convey the views expressed by Members and ask that a second letter be issued to the market traders to put the record straight and to apologise to both them and the Town Council.*
- (ii) issue a press release on the Town Council's behalf if DCC failed to issue the follow-up letter to market traders.*

128. QUESTION TIME

There were no members of the public present.

129. CLOSURE OF MEETING

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

Mayor:

Date: