

At a meeting of the **FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE** held on Wednesday 1st April 2015, 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, A. R. James,
Mrs P. M. Jones, B. Mellor, B. F. Moylan, Mrs W. M. Mullen-James,
S. H. Ratcliffe, D. Simmons, W. N. Tasker and Miss C. L. Williams.

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

124. APOLOGIES

Apologies were submitted from Councillors C. S. Ball (indisposed), Ms J. Hughes (indisposed), J. May (on holiday), Miss S. L. Roberts, A. J. Rutherford (on holiday) and S. F. Walker (work commitment).

125. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 1972 SECTION 86 – ELECTION OF COMMUNITY COUNCILLOR FOR THE CEFNDY WARD

The Town Clerk referred to the results of the election held on 19th March (circulated with agenda) and confirmed that Stanley Frederick Walker had signed all of the necessary documents and was now a Town Councillor.

The Town Clerk added that unfortunately Councillor Walker had had to submit his apologies to tonight's meeting due to having to stand in for Rev. Grimwood at short notice.

126. MARCH 2015 STATEMENT OF AUTHORISED PAYMENTS

The Town Clerk presented his report for the period of February - March 2015 and the list of authorised payments (copy circulated with Agenda).

Voucher No.	Creditor	Amount Total (£)	Description
172	J. W. Hughes & Co.	360.00	Legal advice provided to ex-employee
175	British Telecom	105.38	Rental charges to 31 st May 2015
176	British Telecom	102.60	Internet services to 30 th April 2015
177	Mr P. M. Thomas	1,197.50	Fee for financial services
178	Denbighshire County Council	4,290.00	Contract work for illuminations (infrastructure & fitting of timelocks)
179	Denbighshire County Council	11,397.60	Contract work for illuminations (installation, removal, 'switch on' support, storage, testing & inventory)
180	Denbighshire County Council	13,500.00	Events contributions (Air Show, Christmas & Arena)
181	HSBC	11.48	Bank charges from January to February 2015
182	Rhyl Town Council Employees	5,681.69	February 2015 salary payments

RESOLVED that the report be received.

127. RISK ASSESSMENT 2014 / 2015 REVIEW AND 2015 / 2016 WORK PLAN

The Town Clerk suggested that this item be deferred to the next meeting of Council as no progress had been made.

RESOLVED that the item be deferred to the April Council meeting.

128. RHYL IN BLOOM – REQUEST FOR DISPENSATION

Further to minute no.114 of the meeting held on 4th March 2015 the Town Clerk reported that the Town Council's application to DCC's Standards Committee for dispensation had been successful, and would run for 12 months from 6th March 2015, at which point the Council should apply for an extension for the following 12 months and so on.

The Town Clerk advised Members to continue to declare an interest when the matter was about to be discussed, but to also state they were relying on the special dispensation to enable them to remain in the Chamber and take full part in discussions and voting.

RESOLVED that the information be received.

129. RHYL MARKET

Further to minute no.127 of the meeting of Council held on 18th March 2015, the Town Clerk referred the letter he had duly sent to DCC and advised that as yet he had only received an acknowledgement of it.

The Town Clerk reported that market traders had sent a petition to DCC (circulated with agenda).

Members expressed their disappointment and frustration with the Town Council being blamed for the closing of the market permanently, when they had clearly stated at a number of Members Area Group (MAG) meetings that the market should continue at another location like the underground car park, but preferably the Events Arena.

A Member advised that DCC had admitted a misunderstanding at the last MAG.

Another Member confirmed that the Leader of DCC had now written to all Councillors about the market and that she had responded pointing out yet another lack of communication by DCC officers and reminded him that they had had six months to identify an alternative location for the market once the High Street improvements were underway.

The Town Clerk advised that under the Charter agreement between DCC and all of the county's Town and Community Councils, DCC had a specific number of days to respond to his letter.

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk to write to the Rhyl Journal to enable the Town Council to issue a factual record of the intentions and decisions taken on the future of the market.

130. PROGRESS REPORTS

To receive progress reports on:

(i) Rhyl Town and Area Plan

Nothing to report.

(ii) Rhyl Going Forward Officers

A Member advised that DCC were reviewing the project's worth now that the plans had been finalised and that the outcome would be reported to the next meeting, when a decision would be taken.

RESOLVED that the information be received.

131. MEMBERS' INFORMATION ITEMS

(i) Mayor's Gala Awards

The Town Clerk reported that Members could now buy their tickets from the Town Council, which were £7 each and could only be paid for by cheques made payable to 'Denbighshire County Council' as there was no cash handling facility for members of staff.

(ii) Opportunity for Securing Play Equipment

The Town Clerk reported receipt of an offer from DCC to install a lockable metal storage container filled with play and sports equipment in Rhyl and asked Members to consider the merits of the equipment in their individual Wards.

Members suggested the Bruton Park estate, the Botanical Gardens and St. Mary's Catholic Church.

On being put to the vote it was **RESOLVED** that *St. Mary's Church be approached to ask if they would like the equipment as an addition to their 'street play' initiative and be willing to take responsibility for it.*

(iii) Mayor's Charity Dinner

The Town Clerk stated that he was aware that Members were keen to hold this event again on Friday 8th May at Rhyl Golf Club, and that staff would of course offer what help they could to the organisation of it, but asked Members to appreciate that with the Finance Officer post remaining vacant staff were already running at full capacity and would struggle to find the time.

The Town Clerk asked for authority to increase the Administrative Officer post's hours to half a day per week or more as an interim measure before a permanent outcome had been decided upon.

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk is authorised to increase the officer's hours as requested.

132. 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.

133. OFFICE ACCOMMODATION – PROGRESS REPORT

On behalf of the Risk Assessment Sub-Committee, the Town Clerk reported that they had met with representatives from Just Solutions that afternoon who had given their professional advice on the Town Council's relocation project and the grant funding opportunities available to the Town Council.

The Town Clerk added that the Sub-Committee had been very impressed with Just Solutions and were recommending that the Council goes ahead with commissioning them to undertake the work and underwrite the cost of their services up to the value of £7,000, which would ultimately be recoverable as it would be included within the grant bids.

RESOLVED that the recommendation be approved.

134. ESTABLISHMENT

Further to minute no.115 of the meeting of Council held on 21st January 2015, the Town Clerk advised that the matter had been dealt under agenda item no.131(iii) above.

135. CLOSURE OF MEETING

The Chair to close the meeting.

Chair:

Date: