

At a Meeting of the **FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE** held on Wednesday 7th January 2015, at the Civic Offices, Wellington Road Community Centre, Rhyl commencing at 6.00pm.

PRESENT

Councillor P. Prendergast (Chair)

Councillors I. Armstrong, C. S. Ball, B. Blakeley, 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. F. Moylan, S. H. Ratcliffe, Miss S. L. Roberts, A. J. Rutherford, Miss R. Siddall, D. Simmons and W. N. Tasker.

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

93. APOLOGIES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Apologies were submitted from Councillors Mrs W. M. Mullen-James (indisposed) and Miss C. L. Williams (family commitment) and from the Finance Officer, Mr. R. A. Hughes (on leave).

The Chair referred to the sad passing of Councillor Mrs Margaret McCarroll on Sunday 4th January. The meeting stood for a period of silence as a mark of respect to Councillor McCarroll and her family.

The Chair reported that a card of condolence had been sent to the family and that Councillor McCarroll's funeral would be held at St. Mary's Church in Rhyl on Monday 19th January at 2.00pm and would be followed by a cremation service at Colwyn Bay Crematorium at 3.30pm.

94. 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.

95. ANNUAL BUDGET

On the SOP Committee's behalf, the Town Clerk put its recommendations to the meeting, taking into account the likelihood that the Town Council might wish to assume some responsibility for the future provision of non-statutory services, namely grounds maintenance, public toilets and CCTV in Rhyl, as a result of the recently announced planned cuts in these areas by Denbighshire County Council.

The SOP Committee recommended an expenditure budget of £491,346 for 2015/16, which represented an increase in the precept of £76,206 (an 18.36%) on the existing precept of £415,140, and a 16.41% increase on a Band D property from £46.12 to £53.69 per year or 75.7p a month over 10 months.

The purpose of the increase being to enable the Town Council to be in a position to provide certain services (now identified) if withdrawn by the County Council.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) *The Town Clerk to circulate the list of affected green spaces as provided by Mr Steve Parker to all Members.*
- (ii) *The Town Clerk to convey Members' views to Mr Steve Parker at his next planned meeting with him and ask him to prepare a report around how the Council would like to proceed with future grounds maintenance.*
- (iii) *recommendations of the SOP Committee be approved for recommendation to Council subject to further information being provided prior to a final decision being taken on the 2015/16 budget.*

96. ADDITIONAL ITEM: NORTH & MID WALES ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

The Town Clerk advised that the next meeting of the above was to be held at 10.30am on Friday 23rd January 2015 at Buckley Council Offices and that in light of a presentation being given by Welshpool Town Council on how services they are responsible for are delivered, felt additional Members might like to join the appointed representatives.

RESOLVED that the appointed substitute representative Councillor A. R. James attends along with Councillor Mrs P. M. Jones and the appointed official representatives.

97. CLOSURE OF MEETING

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

Chair:

Date: