

At a meeting of the **FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE** held on Wednesday 5th July 2017 at the Civic Offices, Wellington Road Community Centre, Rhyl commencing at 6.00pm.

PRESENT

Councillor B. Mellor (Vice-Chair)

Councillors J. Ball, Mrs J. Butterfield JP MBE, Mrs J. Chamberlain-Jones, Mrs E. M. Chard, S. Harris, Ms J. Hughes, A. R. James, A. S. Johnson, B. Jones, K. R. Jones, Mrs P. M. Jones, Mrs D. L. King, Ms J. McAlpine, Mrs W. M. Mullen-James, P. Prendergast, Ms V. Roberts and T. Thomas.

Mr G. J. Nickels – Town Clerk
Miss H. J. Windus – Deputy Town Clerk

28. APOLOGIES & ANNOUNCEMENT

Apologies were submitted from Councillors B. Blakeley (indisposed), A. J. Rutherford (work commitment) and Miss C. L. Williams (indisposed).

29. USE OF MOBILITY SCOOTERS

Further to minute no.13 of the meeting held on 14th June 2017, the Town Clerk presented his report (circulated with agenda) outlining the various types of scooters and the Highway Code's recommendations for each.

The Town Clerk advised that the enforcement of the recommendations was the responsibility of the police.

RESOLVED that councillors raise their concerns about improper use and both user and pedestrian safety with the police when they attend the meeting of Council on 19th July 2017.

30. 'LOVE RHYL' PROGRESS REPORT

The Town Clerk reported receipt of 'press cuttings' from the Changing Perceptions consultants Weber Shandwick for members' information, which was projected on to the Council Chamber screen.

RESOLVED that the cuttings were received.

31. MEMBER TRAINING

The Town Clerk advised that Council officers would be putting together an informal induction session for new councillors over the summer focusing on protocols, explaining terminology and how each committee and sub-committee feeds into the overall workings of the Council, etc.

RESOLVED that the information was received.

32. MEMBERS ITEM: TYNEWYDD ROAD / RHYL COAST ROAD JUNCTION

Councillor S. Harris sought members' support in raising the lack of a filter light on the traffic lights at the above busy junction with Denbighshire County Council, which had led to two accidents that he was aware of.

A member advised that he had spoken to Denbighshire County Council's Mr Peter Lea about introducing a filter light there, but that he had advised that due to certain technicalities relating to that particular set up, a filter light was not possible although he was happy to review it again.

The Town Clerk reported that the County Council would only be aware of accidents if emergency services had attended.

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk to request a site visit with the ward councillors and the appropriate County Council officer to look at a possible resolution.

33. MEMBERS ITEM: ILLEGAL PARKING

Councillor Mrs W. M. Mullen-James sought members' support for representations to be made on the continued problems caused by private vehicles being parked partially and fully on pavements causing an obstruction for pedestrians, particularly those with disabilities and for people with children in pushchairs.

Members advised of the same problem in their wards which did not appear to be being addressed by the police.

RESOLVED that this problem be reported to the police officers attending the next meeting of Council.

34. MEMBERS ITEM: TESTING OF SMOKE ALARMS IN RENTED ACCOMMODATION

Councillor J. Ball sought members' support for inviting the Local Fire Safety Officer to present to a future meeting of Council to report on the testing of smoke alarms in rented properties in Rhyl following the Grenfell Tower tragedy in London.

A member advised that the regular testing of smoke alarms was something required by the new legislation for all registered landlords to adhere to and that there was a substantial fine for those not registered with Denbighshire County Council.

The member suggested that councillors inform the County Council of landlords in their wards who they suspect to be unregistered.

Councillor Ball suggested that the Citizens Advice Bureau might also be able to assist with providing the names of known unregistered landlords.

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk:

- (i) to ask Denbighshire County Council for a ward by ward breakdown of registered landlords in Rhyl.

(ii) *to contact the Citizens Advice Bureau in Rhyl to ask for their assistance.*

35. MEMBERS ITEM: TRAFFIC OUTSIDE YSGOL CHRISTCHURCH

Councillor J. Ball sought members' support for asking for a speed camera to be considered outside Ysgol Christchurch on Ernest Street after he had met with the headteacher and discussed the parking problems at drop off and pick up times, reducing visibility for drivers.

Members felt that the speed of drivers during these times was highly unlikely to a problem as the area was already a 20mph zone with a number of speed bumps there making driving over 20mph almost impossible.

Inconsiderate parking was the main problem which could only be enforced by the police and understandably it was not a priority for them.

RESOLVED *that the matter be raised with the police at the next meeting of Council.*

36. MEMBERS ITEM: TOWN COUNCIL CORPORATE CARD

Councillor Mrs W. M. Mullen-James sought members' support for the purchase of official blank Town Council cards suitable for all occasions with perhaps one or two different designs.

RESOLVED *that the purchase of official Town Council cards (printed in Rhyl) was approved.*

37. MEMBERS INFORMATION ITEM: CRIME LEVELS IN RHYL

Councillor Mrs J. Butterfield JP MBE reported that she had received a number of phone calls recently from concerned residents following the recent spate of serious incidents in the town, who were feeling anxious and a little unsafe.

A member recalled that he had attended a police liaison meeting at the rugby club in Rhyl in November last year, at which he had invited the Crime Commissioner for North Wales, also in attendance, to attend a future meeting of the Council to no avail.

Another member advised that she was never able to get through to anybody on the '101' telephone number to report more minor concerns and was reluctant to ring '999'. The member went on to say that a PCSO had recently telephoned her under the impression that speeding and the Arrive Alive vehicle was the responsibility of Denbighshire County Council?

A member reported that although Rhyl taxi drivers had received training by Denbighshire County Council since being named the local "eyes and ears" of the community, they felt very frustrated that very little action was taken by the police when they reported things to them.

RESOLVED *that these issues be raised with the police at the next meeting of Council and the Town Clerk to pursue an invitation to the Chief Constable and or the North Wales Police Crime Commissioner to attend a future meeting in respect of the number of serious crimes.*

38. MEMBERS INFORMATION ITEM: RHYL RUGBY CLUB

Councillor K. R. Jones referred to the great news received by the club recently that its bid for £490,000 towards relocating from The Waen back into Rhyl, had been successful meaning that the £1.5m project would now go ahead.

On behalf of the club, Councillor Jones had been asked to convey its thanks to the Town Council for all of its support over the years.

RESOLVED *that the information was received.*

39. 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.*

40. CONFIDENTIAL MEMBERS ITEM: PERMANENT RECOGNITION OF A PAST NOTABLE RHYL RESIDENT

Councillor A. S. Johnson sought members' support for some kind of permanent memorial for an individual of high standing who had recently passed away.

Members felt that the individual had already received the highest honour the Town Council could bestow and were concerned with the precedence this could set, which wouldn't be practical.

RESOLVED *that the request was received and no action be taken.*

41. CONFIDENTIAL MEMBERS ITEM: RECENT AWARD TO ANN JONES AM

Councillor A. S. Johnson sought members' support for the Town Council to acknowledge a significant award received by the Vale of Clwyd Assembly Member and Rhyl resident, Mrs Ann Jones.

The Shannon Advocacy Medal was given to Ann Jones at the NFPA Conference Centre and Expo in Boston in the USA this year in recognition of her fire safety work resulting in a law being passed here in Wales in 2011 that all new homes would be fitted with automatic sprinklers.

RESOLVED *that the Town Clerk to write to Ann Jones AM to congratulate her on the award.*

42. STANDING ITEM: POLICE CLOSURE ORDERS

Further to minute no.79 of the meeting held on 3rd February 2016, the Town Clerk advised that no applications had been received from North Wales Police.

43. CLOSURE OF MEETING

There being no further business the Vice-Chair closed the meeting.

Vice-Chair:

Date: