

At a **MEETING of COUNCIL** held on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2018 in the Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Wellington Road, Rhyl commencing at 6.00pm.

**PRESENT**

Councillor Mrs W. M. Mullen-James (Mayor)

Councillors B. Blakeley, Mrs. J. Butterfield JP MBE, Mrs J. Chamberlain-Jones, Mrs E. M. Chard, Ms J. Hughes, A. R. James, A.S. Johnson, B. Jones, K. R. Jones, Mrs P. M. Jones, Ms J. L. McAlpine, B. Mellor, P. Prendergast, Ms V. Roberts, A. J. Rutherford, T. Thomas, R. Turner, and Miss C. L. Williams.

Mr G. J. Nickels – Town Clerk

**53. OPENING OF MEETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

**54. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for non-attendance were received on behalf of Councillors Mrs D. L. King, Miss S. Roberts, and Miss H. J. Windus - Deputy Town Clerk (Annual Leave)

**55. VACANCY IN THE OFFICE OF COMMUNITY COUNCILLOR (BRYNHEDYDD WARD)**

Further to minute no.34 of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2018, the Town Clerk advised that Mr. Reeve Turner had been successful in the recent election and had signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

**56. PRESENTATION: GIDEONS INTERNATIONAL TO THE MAYOR**

The Mayor welcomed Mr John Graham to the meeting.

Mr Graham gave a brief address before presenting the Mayor with copies of the Scriptures, which were gratefully received

**57. MINUTES**

The minutes of the following meetings of Council and committees were submitted for approval as a correct record:

Meeting of Council - 18<sup>th</sup> July 2018 - Min.Nos.38 - 52

Proposed by Councillor Mrs W. M. Mullen-James and seconded by Councillor K.R. Jones and **RESOLVED** as a correct record.

In respect of Minute No. 45 relating to a proposal to introduce wi-fi on High Street it was agreed that this would be further reviewed later on the Agenda under information items.

Planning Committee - 18<sup>th</sup> July 2018 - Min.Nos.13.- 15.

Proposed by Councillor Mrs W. M. Mullen-James and seconded by Councillor Ms J. McAlpine and **RESOLVED** as a correct record.

Planning Committee - 5<sup>th</sup> September 2018 - Min.Nos.16-19

Proposed by Councillor Mrs W. M. Mullen-James and seconded by Councillor Ms J. McAlpine and **RESOLVED** as a correct record.

To Confirm or otherwise:

Finance & General Purposes Committee - 5<sup>th</sup> September 2018 - Min.Nos.32-48

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

## 58. **MAYOR'S REPORT**

The Mayor advised as to the various events she and her Deputy had attended during the past month.

**RESOLVED** that the report be received

## 59. **PRESENTATION: PLEYDELLSMITHYMAN LIMITED: UPDATE ON RHYL TOWNCENTRE MASTERPLAN**

The Mayor welcomed Mr. Mike Horrocks of Denbighshire County Council and Ms Sarah Wheale of Pleydellsmithyman Limited to the meeting and to receive a presentation on the progress of the Rhyl Towncentre Masterplan commissioned by Denbighshire County Council.

Mr. Horrocks introduced the presentation and advised the meeting that:

- The engagement campaign had now been operating for 7 months and had generated large amounts of information from local organisations, groups and individuals
- The data was now being evaluated but had identified a need for smaller lower cost retail units
- From the data a draft vision would be prepared for further consultation in the new year
- The employment of a new Rhyl Town Centre Enforcement Officer

Ms. Wheale advised Council that:

- The process was now at a stage where people wanted to see something tangible,
- That the new developments on the promenade had highlighted the deficiencies of the town centre
- Comments received that high rates and rents were pricing local people out of the town centre
- Need to give people a reason to choose Rhyl over competing town centres and that feedback suggested that retail remained the heart of the town with ideally a balanced mix of local independents and national chains

- That Rhyl benefited from its seaside location which gave a potential advantage over other retail centres
- That the target was to attract people to travel from one and half hours distance away to visit
- No decision had been taken as to how the Queen's Market site would be developed
- That the town had been provisionally divided into identifiable quarters:
  - High Street Quarter: to be a mix of retail and leisure with a balance of national chains and independents to create a unique Town Centre that people would wish to visit. That meetings were being held with the owners of the White Rose Centre to discuss their future plans and improve the link between the Centre and the High Street.
  - Queens Market site: seeking to identify a good quality, visually appealing development which would provide a mix of food & drink, leisure, retail, offices, residential; and civic spaces
  - Queens Quarter to provide a link between the seafront developments and the town centre incorporating brand name and independent food and drink establishments together with a safe night time economy.
  - The Town Heart in the vicinity of the Town Hall to be a shared community space
  - The Enterprise Quarter focused on Bodfor and Kinmel Street areas to create a hub for low cost shared/flexible space for entrepreneurs, to bring vacant buildings back into use.
  - The Indie Quarter based on lower High Street with the County Council taking the lead by purchasing and regenerating key sites and creating smaller units with lower business rates and developing a package of support to attract independent retailers.
- The improvement of the visual heritage of the Town Centre through the Rhyl Conservation area currently under consultation.
- The need for people to be engaged
- The important role of events and activities in encouraging people into the High Street
- The role of public spaces in promoting a vibrant town centre and the need for these to be attractive, well maintained and clutter free
- Improving the movement infrastructure and that the County Council had invested in a traffic model to evaluate options for traffic
- Increasing the number of people living in the Town Centre by assisting the private sector to create unique homes and by acquiring under used buildings for conversion
- The recruitment of a Town Centre dedicated enforcement officer
- That engagement with the draft masterplan would commence in January 2019.

In response to Members questions/comments the Officers responded:

- That Members should have been informed earlier of the appointment of a dedicated Town Centre Enforcement Officer
- Agreed that high business rates needed to be addressed
- That they would raise the issue of toilets at the White Rose Centre during their meeting with the Centre Owners
- Noted the condition of the Relax Coffee House and would consider the possibility of it being acquired
- Would take on board the lack of family parking spaces in the Town Centre

- Acknowledged the view that the police needed to be more active in enforcement
- Noted that public realm needed to be better monitored
- Noted the concerns relating to the provision of quality accommodation
- That they would be prepared to provide an update in February 2019

At the conclusion of the presentation the Mayor thanked the guest speakers for their presentation.

#### 60. CORRESPONDENCE: PETITION - SPLASH POINT ESTATE

The Town Clerk reported receipt of a petition from a number of residents of the Brynhedydd Ward seeking support for a restriction zone for residents and the introduction of a 20mph maximum speed limit for the Splash Point estate and sought permission to formally forward the document to the Denbighshire County Council as the responsible authority.

**RESOLVED** that the petition be forwarded to the County Council as the appropriate authority.

#### 61. AUTHORISATION OF PAYMENTS/ADDITIONS TO APPROVED SUPPLIERS LIST

Further to minute no.143 of the meeting of council held on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2017 and in accordance with the council's adopted financial regulations, the Town Clerk submitted schedule B (a list of non-regular payments to be released over the coming month) and details of a number of suppliers recommended to be deleted from the approved suppliers list.

**RESOLVED** that

(a) the following were approved for payment and signed by two councillors.

Supplier	Details of Supply	Voucher Number	Date	Amount £
Denbighshire CC	Office Accommodation Recharge 1 April 2018 to 31 December 2018	574	06/09/18	11,469.00
Conrad Office & Art	Stationery Order	575	11/09/18	212.11
Denbighshire CC	Costs of By Election Derwen Ward	582	11/09/18	4,385.14
Denbighshire CC	Contribution to Events 2018/19 (Air Show, Arena and Christmas)	583	11/09/18	19,000.00
<b>Total Schedule B</b>				<b>£35,066.25</b>

(b) the following previously used suppliers be deleted from the Approved Suppliers list:

- Christian Sprakes
- DVSC
- Fool's Paradise
- Institute for Crazy Dancing
- Ryan Hall

- School Wear Wales
- Steve Ashcroft

**62. EXTERNAL AUDITORS OPINION ON COUNCIL'S ANNUAL RETURN 2017/18**

The Town Clerk advised that the External Auditors opinion was due to be considered at this evening's meeting so as to enable the Council to satisfy its legal requirement to publish the report prior to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2018.

However we have not received the External Audit and enquiries with the BDO have revealed that our Audit has been referred by them to the Welsh Audit Office for a decision on how the Town Council contribution to the SC2 Centre should be recorded within the Council's Accounts.

In the absence of the Audit being completed we will need to publish a formal notice which is currently being prepared and will be provided by BDO over the next couple of weeks.

When the Auditors opinion is received it will be brought to the next appropriate meeting of Council

**RESOLVED** *that the report be noted.*

**63. INFORMATION ITEMS: WI-FI ON RHYL HIGH STREET AREA**

Further to Minute No. 57 above, the Town Clerk advised that the exercise to identify preferred sites for free Wi-Fi undertaken at the July Council had not identified suitable locations.

Councillor K.R. Jones advised on the need to identify particular locations in the High Street area rather than seeking blanket coverage over Rhyl and it was

**RESOLVED** *that Councillor K.R. Jones be authorised to submit the suggestions now made particularly identifying the Railway Station entrance and Morley Road Car Park areas and the need for any new service provided not to block existing providers.*

**64. QUESTION TIME**

No questions were asked

**65. 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.*

**66. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT 2015**

Further to minute no.47 of the meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2018, the Town Clerk submitted a draft Rhyl Town Council Well-being of Future Generations Annual Report for amendment/approval

**RESOLVED** that the document be received and published as the Town Council Annual report subject to the minor amendments now made.

**67. CLOSURE OF MEETING**

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

Mayor: .....

Date: .....