

At a **MEETING of COUNCIL** held on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2019 in the Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Wellington Road, Rhyl commencing at 6.00pm.

## PRESENT

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

Councillors J. Ball, B. Blakeley, Mrs J. Butterfield JP MBE, Mrs E. M. Chard, 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, B. Mellor, P. Prendergast, Miss S. L. Roberts, Ms V. Roberts, A. J. Rutherford, T. Thomas and R. J. Turner.

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

### **135. OPENING OF MEETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor's Chaplain, Archdeacon of St. Asaph, the Rev. Andy Grimwood, commenced proceedings by leading all present in prayer.

### **136. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for non-attendance were received on behalf of Councillor Mrs J. Chamberlain-Jones.

### **137. MINUTES**

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

Meeting of Council - 16<sup>th</sup> January 2019 - Min.Nos.116-134

Proposed by Councillor Mrs E. M. Chard and seconded by Councillor A. S. Johnson and **RESOLVED** as a correct record.

Planning Committee - 16<sup>th</sup> January 2019 - Min.Nos.45-48

Proposed by Councillor Ms J. McAlpine and seconded by Councillor A. S. Johnson and **RESOLVED** as a correct record.

Planning Committee - 6<sup>th</sup> February 2019 - Min.Nos.49-51

Proposed by Councillor Ms J. McAlpine and seconded by Councillor Mrs D. L. King and **RESOLVED** as a correct record.

To Confirm or otherwise:

Finance & General Purposes Committee - 6<sup>th</sup> February 2019 - Min.Nos.91-103

Proposed by Councillor B. Mellor and seconded by Councillor Mrs E. M. Chard and **RESOLVED** as a correct record and confirmed for action subject to the above attendance amendment.

### **138. MAYOR'S REPORT**

The Mayor referred to the events she and the Deputy Mayor had attended during the past month and in particular to the Ahmadiyya Muslim Women's Association's 10<sup>th</sup> Annual National Peace Symposium in London, the Vale of Clwyd MIND Creative Therapies Exhibition at Rhyl High School and to the Rhyl Lifeboat Crew's Annual Dinner at 1891 in Rhyl.

**RESOLVED** *that the report was received.*

### **139. PRESENTATION: PLEYDELLSMITHYMAN LIMITED & DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL – UPDATE ON THE RHYL TOWN CENTRE MASTERPLAN**

The Mayor welcomed Sarah Wheale-Smith (Associate from PleydellSmithyman Ltd), Helen Buckle and Anna Couch (Urban Designers from Planit-IE), Steve Parry (ION Developments) and Mike Horrocks (Programme Manager, Economic & Business Development), Angela Loftus (Planning Policy Manager), Jo Sutton (Public Engagement Officer), David Mathews (Evaluation & Estates Manager) and Mike Jones (Traffic, Parking & Road Safety Manager) from Denbighshire County Council, to the meeting and invited them to address members.

Ms Buckle and Ms Couch explained that they had consulted with the public on the vision for the town centre and that the headlines had been that there was a feeling that the beach had been forgotten about; that retail was in decline and that there was a palpable divide between the east and west of Rhyl which needed to be addressed.

The beach was Rhyl's biggest asset and that the historic street pattern was intact but in need of a clear link up / routes to the main buildings and attractions.

The Town Hall might be the new epicentre featuring a square at the rear and that a general decluttering in that area and the high street with the introduction of greening and residential units above the retail spaces was under consideration.

Planit-IE had completed similar schemes in Preston in Lancashire and Poynton in Cheshire.

A vision document and illustration was expected to be ready by the end of March.

Mr Horrocks introduced his colleagues and explained how each of the departments within Denbighshire County Council would be working together and alongside Planit-IE and ION Developments.

The following responses were given to members' queries and comments:

- That the high street would be redesigned over a long-term, budgeting bit by bit to complete works in phases and would include a planned review of traffic flow to re-shape the high street anyway.
- High streets up and down the UK were all looking for a new identity for the future and this scheme would improve the quality of the environment and experience.
- That introducing two-way traffic on Brighton Road had been considered but unfortunately didn't work.
- That attractive parts of buildings would be retained to offer unique businesses interesting / quirky spaces.

- That nothing will be done in isolation.
- Convincing local people first (instilling a sense of civic pride in their town centre) was key to attracting people from further afield.
- The purchasing of more and more buildings on the high street was an obvious positive, as was engaging more with local Police and other agencies.
- The Rhyl Business Improvement District (BID) investment was a real plus.
- If funding pressure was brought on the Welsh Government by DCC and the town council using the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD) statistics, with regard to re-invigorating Welsh high streets, Rhyl could be the 'poster boy'.
- That traffic modelling had been done to find the best fit in terms of reducing wasted journey time via improved routes and including emissions created by congestion and stand still traffic.
- A quantifiable report on the traffic modelling was expected any day and could be shared with the town council?
- That encouraging people to visit Rhyl was hindered by expensive rail fares, which was something else worth broaching.
- It was felt that the clocktower should form part of the new heart of the town. Maybe in the Town Hall Square? It had been moved before and could again.
- Spurs off the cycle path were being considered.
- Improved signage to the town's car parks was underway.

The Mayor thanked the representatives for their attendance and on the town council's behalf, wished them well on what would be a very positive collection of works.

**[Councillor B. Jones left the meeting at this point]**

#### **140. PAYMENTS AND RECEIPTS REPORT (SCHEDULE A) – FEBRUARY 2019**

The Town Clerk presented his report (circulated with agenda) detailing the schedule of payments made.

Voucher No.	Supplier name	Amount £	Description of Goods & Services
685	Denbighshire CC	988.00	Contribution to Wild Rhyl Event September 2018
686	Delwedd Ltd	685.08	Website Hosting & Maintenance 2018/19
687	Gunsmoke Communications	27.25	Welsh Flags for St David's Day Event
688	Denbighshire CC	12,540.00	Illuminations Contract 2018/19
689	Mayor's Charity Ball Account (St Asaph)	54.00	2 x tickets to St Asaph Mayor's Charity Ball
690	Cllr Win-Mullen James	10.00	Reimbursement for 2 tickets for Vale of Clwyd Mind event 17 Feb 2019
	<b>Total payments</b>	<b>£14,304.33</b>	

**RESOLVED** that the report was approved.

**141. CORRESPONDENCE: RHYL BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT (BID)**

The Mayor referred to correspondence received (circulated with agenda) providing members with an update on the BID process.

***RESOLVED*** that the correspondence was received.

**142. DATE OF INFORMAL MEETING OF COUNCIL**

The Mayor suggested that the meeting be held immediately following the meeting of Council to be held on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2019.

***RESOLVED*** that the Informal Meeting of Council to be held on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2019 after the meeting of Council.

**143. INFORMATION ITEM: VISIT TO ANTIGUA**

Councillor Mrs D. L. King explained that on her next visit to Antigua she would be meeting with Antigua's Prime Minister, and sought members' support for her to take a token/gift for him from the town council.

***RESOLVED*** that Councillor King to take a town crest to present to the Prime Minister.

**144. INFORMATION ITEM: 'PLASTIC FREE RHYL'**

Councillor K. R. Jones provided a brief update on the initiative's progress, advising that they were continuing to work towards the full accreditation status, and had signed up to the refill scheme and would be encouraging local eateries to agree to filling up people's water bottles free of charge.

***RESOLVED*** that the report was received.

**145. QUESTION TIME**

No questions were asked.

**146. 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.

**147. INFORMATION: CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES**

The Mayor referred to the following minutes (circulated with agenda) submitted for members' information.

SOP Committee	-	12 <sup>th</sup> November 2018	-	Min.Nos.35-43
SOP Committee	-	10 <sup>th</sup> December 2018	-	Min.Nos.44-50

With regard to minute no.54 (Review of the Town Council's Town Plan) of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> January, the Town Clerk and the Chair and Vice-Chair of the SOP Committee urged members to return their slips of paper detailing their own personal ambitions for the town, for the committee to consider.

**RESOLVED** *that the minutes were received.*

**148. CLOSURE OF MEETING**

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

Mayor: .....

Date: .....