

At a Meeting of the **FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE** held on Wednesday 2nd March 2011, at the Civic Offices, Wellington Road Community Centre, Rhyl commencing at 6.00pm.

PRESENT

Councillor D. A. J. Thomas (Chair)

Councillors J. B. Bellis, B. Blakeley, J. Butterfield, Mrs J. Butterfield, Mrs J. Chamberlain-Jones, Mrs L. M. Edwards, M. C. Espley, C. Davies, I. A. Gunning, Ms D. Hannam, Ms G. A. Jones, Miss M. A. Jones, Mrs P. M. Jones, D. W. Lee, Mrs M. McCarroll, Mrs W. M. Mullen-James, G. J. Pickering, W. N. Tasker, T. Thomas and G. Williams.

Mr G. J. Nickels	-	Town Clerk
Mr P. M. Thomas	-	Finance Officer
Miss H. J. Windus	-	Personal Assistant & Secretary

186. APOLOGIES

No apologies received.

187. DENBIGHSHIRE VOLUNTARY SERVICES COUNCIL (DVSC) – HEALTH, SOCIAL CARE AND WELL BEING STRATEGY MEETING

Further to Minute No.132 of the meeting held on 1st December 2010, the Chair invited Councillor Mrs W. M. Mullen-James to report on the meeting she had attended on the Town Council's behalf on 13th October 2010.

Councillor Mullen-James advised that she was unable to report since she had not yet received the paperwork she had requested from the DVSC.

RESOLVED that the item be deferred until Councillor Mullen-James was in a position to provide a report back.

188. WITHDRAWAL OF REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

The Town Clerk submitted his report (circulated with Agenda) recommending that the Council withdraws its representation from the organisations referred to within it.

The Town Clerk added that he had recently been informed that a meeting of the Brickfield Pond Management Advisory Group had been scheduled, and therefore advised that the Council considers retaining its representation.

In response to a question about the merits of the Council's representation on outside organisations, the Town Clerk advised that this was a matter to be considered by the Risk Assessment Sub-Committee, but that at the very least the objectives of outside organisations had to be in line with the Town Council's.

Another Member requested that the Town Clerk produces information on Councillors' attendance at these meetings.

RESOLVED that:

- a) *representation on the Coastal Access Project, Rhyl Youth Action Group and the Local Environmental Quality Scheme be withdrawn.*
- b) *Councillors' attendance figures for outside organisations' meetings be provided to a future meeting of the Risk Assessment Sub-Committee for consideration as part of that its' planned review of the Council's representatives on outside organisations.*

189. APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

The Town Clerk presented his amended report (circulated at meeting and replacing the report circulated with Agenda) recommending that the Council re-appoints representatives to the organisations referred to within it following the resignation of Mrs P. M. Butters from the Council.

RESOLVED that *Councillor Miss M. A. Jones be appointed representative and Councillor Ms G. A. Jones as substitute for the Benefit Advice Shop and that Councillor Mrs L. M. Edwards be appointed as the replacement representative on Rhyl City Strategy.*

190. APPOINTMENT OF "ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY GOVERNORS"

The Town Clerk submitted his report (circulated with Agenda) on appointing additional Community Governors to Ysgol Bryn Hedydd and Ysgol Emmanuel.

The Town Clerk reminded Members of the School Governors training session arranged for 8th March 2011 following which eight members indicated that they would attend.

RESOLVED that:

Councillor Mrs J. Butterfield be appointed as Governor for Ysgol Bryn Hedydd and Councillor T. Thomas for Ysgol Emmanuel.

[Under the Town Clerk's advice Councillor Mrs J. Butterfield declared a prejudicial interest in the above item due to her position as the previously appointed Governor for Ysgol Bryn Hedydd and vacated the Chamber, but was brought back in for voting after the Town Clerk referred to the Code of Conduct and amended his previous advice]

[Councillor I. A. Gunning declared a prejudicial interest in the above item due to his position on the Local Education Authority and vacated the Chamber taking no further part in discussions or voting thereon]

191. PROPOSED MEETING WITH NORTH WALES POLICE

The Town Clerk presented his report (circulated with Agenda) following receipt of an invitation for Members to attend a briefing on the emerging Police Engagement Plan at Rhyl Police Station on Tuesday 29th March 2011 at 6.00pm, and asked which Members would be able to attend.

RESOLVED that Councillors J. B. Bellis, J. Butterfield, Mrs J. Butterfield, Mrs J. Chamberlain-Jones, Ms D. Hannam, Miss M. A. Jones, Mrs P. M. Jones, D. W. Lee and Mrs M. McCarroll will attend the briefing.

192. COMMUNITY FLOOD WARDENS

The Chair reported receipt of correspondence from the Environment Agency (circulated with Agenda) asking for Town Councillors to consider volunteering as Flood Wardens for their Wards.

RESOLVED that Councillors J. B. Bellis, B. Blakeley, C. Davies, I. A. Gunning, Miss M. A. Jones and D. W. Lee would like to volunteer.

193. MEMBERS ITEM: PROTOCOL FOR ELECTION OF MAYOR

Councillor J. B. Bellis sought debate around establishing a Town Council protocol for the election of Mayor and Deputy Mayor, as determined at last year's Informal Meeting of Council.

The Town Clerk apologised for the matter not having been discussed at a Civic and Social Events Sub-Committee, as directed by Members.

Councillor Bellis suggested that from this point forward a Deputy Mayor should automatically be promoted to Mayor, subject to the Town and Community Council Election results of course, and that a fairer and more inclusive system for internally electing a Deputy Mayor be established perhaps based on length of service?

Another Member suggested deferring the election of the Deputy Mayor for the forthcoming 2011/12 Municipal Year to another meeting but prior to this year's Annual Meeting of Council.

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk be instructed to call a meeting of the Civic and Social Events Sub-Committee prior to the Annual Meeting of Council to enable a recommended protocol to be determined and submitted for approval to the Finance and General Purposes Committee. All Members of the Council would be invited to attend and/or submit representations.

194. CORRESPONDENCE: BODELWYDDAN DEVELOPMENT ACTION GROUP

Further to Minute No.177 of the meeting held on 2nd February 2011, the Chair reported receipt of correspondence (circulated with Agenda) from the above in relation to Denbighshire's Local Development Plan.

RESOLVED that correspondence be received.

[Councillors J. B. Bellis, Mrs J. Butterfield, Mrs J. Chamberlain-Jones, C. Davies, I. A. Gunning, Ms D. Hannam, D. W. Lee and D. A. J. Thomas declared a prejudicial interest in the above item due to their positions as Denbighshire County Councillors, all but one serving on that authority's Planning Committee and vacated the Chamber taking no further part in discussion or voting thereon]

Due to the declarations of interest made by the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Committee, the Mayor took the Chair for the remainder of the above item.

195. ADDITIONAL ITEM: STREET MARKET PLANNING ENQUIRY

The Town Clerk reported that he had contacted Denbighshire County Council's Planning Department as instructed by the Town Council's Planning Committee, who had confirmed that the newly introduced street markets would require planning permission, and therefore would be brought to the Town Council's Planning Committee for its consideration.

RESOLVED that the information be received.

196. 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.

197. ADDITIONAL ITEM: RESPONSE FROM OMBUDSMAN

The Town Clerk confidentially reported receipt of correspondence from the Ombudsman in relation to the Town Council's complaint against the alleged conduct of one of its Members, advising that he would not be investigating the possible breach.

The Town Clerk stated that he would copy the Ombudsman's letter to all Members.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

198. MAYOR'S GALA AWARDS EVENING

The Town Clerk confidentially reported that although some sponsors had been secured for this year's event, planned to be held on Tuesday 12th April, attracting the main sponsor and mayor's reception sponsor was proving difficult, and as a result there was a significant shortfall in funds (£1,650). The Clerk advised that every effort had been made to secure confirmed sponsorship but a critical date in the planning of the event had been reached and a decision was required at this meeting.

The Town Clerk suggested that Members either cancel the event or allocate the shortfall amount from another Council budget to enable the event to proceed.

Members generally expressed their support for the event which had been so well received by the community over the last two years and therefore it was

RESOLVED that to enable the event to proceed this year the £1,650 shortfall be allocated from the Council's Community Development Fund but put back when the Council determines its 2012/13 budget should the Town Clerk be unable to secure the remaining sponsorship.

199. RHYL AIR SHOW

The Finance Officer submitted his confidential report (circulated with Agenda) following receipt of correspondence from the Denbighshire County Council's Events Manager, Ms Sian Davies, requesting financial assistance towards this year's event.

Members generally expressed their support for the event but also questioned whether Ms Davies had approached local businesses and Town and Community Councils from surrounding areas for contributions as the event had regional appeal attracting thousands of people from a wide area.

RESOLVED that £5,000 be allocated for this year's event from the 2011/12 Grants budget.

200. APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE – BRUTON PARK RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

The Finance Officer presented his confidential report (circulated with Agenda) following receipt of the above and advised that the request could be met from the Council's Open Spaces budget 2011/12 rather than from this year's Grants budget. The Association had received grant aid for the same purpose last year from the Open Spaces budget.

Members noted that the estate clear-up carried out last year by the Bruton Park Residents' Association made a huge difference and commended their proactive approach in removing large amounts of household waste items.

RESOLVED that:

- a) *£1,000 contribution be made from the Council's Open Spaces budget 2011/12 towards the Residents Association's costs.*
- b) *the Town Clerk to write to Denbighshire County Council's Head of Environmental Services to request the introduction of communal waste bins on the Bruton Park estate.*

[Councillors B. Blakeley, Mrs J. Chamberlain-Jones, D. W. Lee, G. J. Pickering and W. N. Tasker declared a prejudicial interest in the above item due them regularly attending meetings of the Bruton Park Residents' Association and vacated the Chamber taking no further part in discussions or voting thereon]

At the conclusion of the above item and at Members' requests the Chair agreed to a five minute comfort break.

201. RHYL COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Further to Minute No.144 of the meeting held on 1st December 2010, the Town Clerk submitted his confidential report and the Community Association’s Progress Report (circulated with Agenda) for Members’ consideration.

Before discussion began, Councillor Mrs P. M. Jones reported that she had very recently resigned her position as a Trustee of the Rhyl Community Association and as the Town Council’s representative for the Cefndy Ward.

The Secretary and Treasurer of the Association referred to the Progress Report and stated that it was difficult to determine completion dates for much of the work due to being in the midst of a protracted review of employment contracts with two members of the Association’s staff. He asked for Members’ appreciation of the situation and for them to give the Association more time for these matters to be resolved.

Members put their questions to the members of the Association regarding the review of contracts, management style, roles of the Town Council’s representatives and of other members and Trustees of the Association along with its future sustainability.

[Arising from the debate the following Members left the Chamber prior to any vote being taken Councillors J. Butterfield, Mrs J. Chamberlain-Jones, Ms G. A. Jones, Mrs P. M. Jones, and Mrs M. McCarroll]

RESOLVED that the Rhyl Community Association be given three months to report back progress to the Finance and General Purposes Committee to be held on 1st June 2011.

202. CLOSURE OF MEETING

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

Chair:

Date: