

At a Meeting of the **FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE** held on Wednesday 5th June 2013, at the Civic Offices, Wellington Road Community Centre, Rhyl commencing at 6.00pm.

PRESENT

Councillor P. Prendergast (Chair)

Councillors I. A. Armstrong, 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, Mrs M. McCarroll, B. Mellor, B. F. Moylan, S. H. Ratcliffe, Miss S. L. Roberts, A. J. Rutherford, Miss R. Siddall and Miss C. L. Williams.

Mr G. J. Nickels - Town Clerk
Mr R. A. Hughes - Finance Officer
Miss H. J. Windus - Personal Assistant & Secretary

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for non-attendance were received on behalf of Councillors Mrs W. M. Mullen-James (DCC commitment), D. Simmons (on holiday) and W. N. Tasker (work commitment).

2. PRESENTATION: RHYL PHYSICAL ACTIVITY PROGRAMME

Further to Minute No.93 of the meeting of Council held on 20th March 2013, the Chair welcomed Mr Jamie Groves (Head of Service) and Ms Rhian Roberts (Active Lifestyle Manager) from Denbighshire County Council and invited them to address Members on the allocation of expenditure on the programme (reports circulated with Agenda).

Ms Roberts gave a brief history of the Town Council's programme since its inception in 2005 and updated Members on how the programme had developed since then and made reference to the Rhyl Talented Athlete scheme which had proved such a success that Denbighshire County Council had now taken the scheme countywide.

Ms Roberts referred to her report which provided a breakdown of how the Town Council's contribution was spent.

In response to Members' questions, Mr Groves advised that the programme was tailored for the needs of Rhyl and as such does not always meet the requirements/objectives of the large funding bodies, but confirmed that Sport Wales contributed to staff wages.

Mr Groves added that the Sportzone scheme was particularly successful, with 60-70 young people using unlimited resources at Rhyl Leisure Centre for just £3.00 per day, all day, thanks to the Town Council's subsidy.

The Town Clerk advised that the Council would decide on the future level of contribution to be made to the programme under confidential session later on the Agenda and that he would advise Mr Groves and Ms Roberts accordingly.

3. **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.

4. **PROMENADE DEVELOPMENTS**

The Chair invited Mr Groves and Ms Sarah Green (Project Manager) to provide Members with a confidential update on the proposals for the Promenade as part of Coastal Denbighshire.

Mr Groves reported that back in January Denbighshire County Council's Cabinet had given 'in principle' support to progress a range of projects along the Rhyl Coastal Front to compliment the numerous regeneration and redevelopment initiatives already underway in Rhyl and facilities in other towns.

Mr Groves and Ms Green provided an overview of the different proposals and options available, along with costings and expected income and stated that they were confident that the preferred option after a full consultation process was affordable and deliverable.

After putting their questions and comments to the officers, Members thanked Mr Groves and Ms Green for their time and agreed that the proposals were exciting and that they looked forward to their fruition in 2016.

[Councillor Mrs J. Butterfield MBE left the Chamber at this point to attend another commitment and did not return for the remainder of the meeting]

5. **OPEN SESSION**

RESOLVED that the meeting resume in open session

6. **FINAL ACCOUNTS 2012/13 – INTERNAL AUDIT**

The Finance Officer presented his report (circulated as a follow-on report on 4th June) along with the Internal Auditor's and referred to two minor issues he had raised relating to staff costs and Fidelity Cover for the Town Council's maximum projected cash balances and confirmed that he had dealt with both. The Finance Officer also sought Members' approval for the Council's Supplementary Assurances, its Annual Governance Statement and its Annual Return (included in the report).

In recognition of the late submission of his report the Finance Officer invited Members to contact him within the next two weeks with any questions they may have, should they need a little more time to read through his report, and suggested that a Special Meeting of Council could be called to address any matters arising if necessary.

RESOLVED that the Internal Auditor's report, the Council's Supplementary Assurances, Annual Governance Statement and Annual Return are approved.

7. RHYL GOING FORWARD STRATEGY

The Chair invited Councillor A. J. Rutherford, as one of the Town Council's representatives on the strategy's Programme Board, to provide Members with a verbal progress report.

Councillor Rutherford referred to numerous projects currently underway (Ocean Plaza, Aquatic Centre & Sky Tower, Honey Club, Edward Henry Street West & East, Queen's Market, etc), giving a brief update on each, and shared his concerns on the lack of consultation with Rhyl residents either directly from them or via their Elected Members and on the apparent decision to leave the Town Centre to the Town Centre Management Group, who do not have the mandate to tackle the challenges there.

RESOLVED that Councillor Rutherford to give the Chair of the Members Area Group, Councillor Barry Mellor, a copy of his report and for the matter to be added to a future Members Area Group meeting's agenda for further debate.

8. CORRESPONDENCE: BATHING WATER QUALITY

Further to Minute No.181 of the meeting held on 3rd April 2013, the Chair reported receipt of correspondence from Chris Ruane MP (circulated with Agenda).

RESOLVED that the correspondence be received.

9. INCLUSION OF INFORMATION ITEMS

Further to Minute No.194 of the meeting held on 1st May 2013, the Town Clerk submitted his report (circulated with Agenda).

RESOLVED that:

- (i) a standing item be added to all future Finance and General Purposes Committee agendas to enable the Chair of the Members Area Group to confidentially report to the Town Council.
- (ii) with prior agreement with the Chair / Mayor, Members be permitted to add urgent 'Information Items' to future Finance and General Purposes Committees and Council meetings on the understanding that the items will be an opportunity to share important information and will not require any decision making.

FURTHER RESOLVED that Standing Orders be suspended to enable the Town Clerk to act as a matter of urgency

10. INFORMATION ITEM: INSURANCE ENGAGEMENT REPORT

The Finance Officer presented his report (circulated with Agenda) confirming that, as instructed, he had engaged Avivia on a three year, fixed price agreement.

RESOLVED that the information be received.

11. INFORMATION ITEM: G2G PRESS RELEASE

The Chair reported receipt of the above (circulated with Agenda) and the Town Clerk confirmed that G2G Communities CIC would be presenting to Council on 19th June.

RESOLVED that the information be received.

12. 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.

13. PRESS COVERAGE

Further to Minute No.195 of the meeting held on 1st May 2013, the Town Clerk submitted his confidential report (circulated with Agenda) and advised that the Editor of the Coastal Times for the North Wales News Media had contacted him in response to the comments made by Councillors at that meeting and offering to meet with a small delegation of Town Councillors to discuss matters further.

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk to arrange a meeting with Mr Martin and Councillors B. Blakeley, Mrs M. McCarroll and A. J. Rutherford.

14. RHYL PHYSICAL ACTIVITY PROGRAMME

Further to Item No.2 above, the Town Clerk submitted his confidential report (circulated with Agenda) and asked Members to consider the programme's budget for 2013/14 having received a presentation from Mr Groves and Ms Roberts.

RESOLVED that the item be deferred to the Council meeting to be held on 19th June, when Councillor A. R. James (having spoken to Ms Roberts) will advise Members on the reason for the £5,000 surplus amount referred to in her report.

15. PROPOSED RHYL AND PRESTATYN TOWN CRIER

The Chair reported receipt of an e-mail (copy circulated with Agenda) from an individual offering to become a Town Crier for both towns, subject to certain conditions.

RESOLVED that the e-mail be forwarded to the Town Centre Manager, Mr Malcolm Hall, to explore whether a Town Crier would be of benefit to him to promote events.

16. TOWN CENTRE MANAGER SUPPORT

Further to Minute No.178 of the meeting held on 3rd April 2013, the Town Clerk presented his confidential report (circulated with Agenda) and advising that the Town Council's agreed contribution to the post was still required by Rhyl City Strategy and had been budgeted for.

RESOLVED that the report be received and the previously agreed level of contribution be confirmed.

17. PRESENTATION OF GIFT

The Town Clerk verbally reported that Canon John Glover, Chaplain to numerous Rhyl Mayors and friend of the Town Councils, would be retiring at the end of this month, and asked Members if they would like to consider a suitable gift for him.

The Mayor's Secretary advised that she had spoken to Canon Glover recently and that he and Mrs Glover were currently looking for a mantel clock and that a donation towards it would be gratefully received.

The Town Clerk said that Canon Glover's last service would be at 10.30am on Sunday 23rd June, if Members would like to attend.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) *Members would like to make personal contributions which they would give to the Mayor's Secretary by Wednesday 12th June.*
- (ii) *the Mayor would give the Town Council's collection to Canon Glover after the service on 23rd June and would pass on the Town Council's most sincere thanks for his service to the town over the last 16 years.*

18. ANNUAL VISIT OF CHERNOBYL CHILDREN LIFELINE CHARITY

The Town Clerk submitted his confidential report (circulated with Agenda) advising that the children would be visiting Rhyl for their annual trip on Friday 21st June and asked Members to once again consider meeting the cost of the children's lunch at a cost of between £200 - £300.

RESOLVED that the request be approved.

19. CLOSURE OF MEETING

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

Chair:

Date: