

At a **MEETING of COUNCIL** held on Wednesday 21st October 2015 in the Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Wellington Road, Rhyl commencing at 6.00pm.

PRESENT

Councillor B. Mellor (Mayor)

Councillors Mrs J. Butterfield JP MBE, Mrs E. M. Chard, Ms J. Hughes, A. R. James, Mrs P. M. Jones, Ms J. McAlpine, B. F. Moylan, Mrs W. M. Mullen-James, P. Prendergast, S. H. Ratcliffe, Miss S. L. Roberts, A. J. Rutherford, D. Simmons, S. F. Walker and Miss C. L. Williams.

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

62. OPENING OF MEETING

The Mayor's Chaplain, Father Charles Ramsay, commenced proceedings by leading all present in prayer.

63. APOLOGIES

Apologies for non-attendance were received on behalf of Councillors I. W. Armstrong (indisposed), B. Blakeley (family commitment), Mrs J. Chamberlain-Jones (on holiday), J. May (work commitment), Miss R. Siddall (School Governors meeting) and W. N. Tasker (family commitment).

64. MINUTES

The Minutes of the following Meetings of Council and Committees were submitted for approval as a correct record:

Meeting of Council - 16th September 2015 - Min.Nos. 50-61

Proposed by Councillor B. Mellor and seconded by Councillor Miss S. L. Roberts and **RESOLVED** as a correct record.

Planning Committee - 16th September 2015 - Min.Nos. 22-25

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

65. MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor referred to the list of engagements he and the Deputy Mayor had attended over the last month, and in particular to his visit to Ysgol Plas Cefndy for a Macmillan Nurses Coffee Morning and the 'Topping Out' ceremony at the new Rhyl High School build, which he had thoroughly enjoyed.

66. RHYL BUSINESS GROUP

The Town Clerk reported that he had received a Freedom of Information request from the Business Group back in September asking what the increase in the Town Council's Reserves was between April 2012 and March 2015 and how much had the Town Council contributed to 'regeneration' projects in Rhyl during the six years ending 31st March 2015?

The Town Clerk advised that he had duly responded providing the information requested, and had now received a further letter from the group asking himself and a Councillor to attend a future Business Group meeting.

RESOLVED that the invitation be accepted with the Mayor and Councillor Mrs J. Butterfield JP MBE to accompany the Town Clerk. Councillor Ms J. McAlpine to attend should Councillor Butterfield be unavailable.

67. QUESTION TIME

There were no questions asked by the member of the public present.

68. INFORMATION ITEMS

The Town Clerk advised that he had received an urgent request by 'Rhyl in Bloom' for the Town Council's permission to include the Town Crest on a sign to be erected amongst a display of daffodils to be planted on East Parade towards Splash Point, in recognition of the Town Council's support in helping to plant to bulbs.

RESOLVED that permission be granted.

[Councillors Mrs J. Butterfield JP MBE, A. R. James, Mrs W. M. Mullen-James, P. Prendergast, S. H. Ratcliffe and D. Simmons declared a prejudicial interest in the item due to being members of 'Rhyl in Bloom', but remained in the Chamber, taking part in the discussion and voting, relying on the dispensation granted by DCC's Standards Committee in March 2015]

69. 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.

70. OFFICE ACCOMODATION

The Mayor welcomed Ms Sara Green and Mr Howard Tolley from Just Solutions and invited them to provide a confidential update for Members.

At the conclusion of the presentation Members thanked Ms Green and Mr Tolley for an informative and comprehensive progress report.

71. ESTABLISHMENT

The Town Clerk advised that the Staffing Committee had successfully appointed a new part-time Finance Officer, Mr Andrew Williams, who would begin his employment on Tuesday 10th November.

The Chair of the Staffing Committee further advised of the Committee's recommendation to thank the Council's staff for their TOIL and support over the past nine months, whilst without a Finance Officer in post, by way of a flat rate net payment of £500. The Council to pay the relevant level of Income Tax and National Insurance that would be applied to each payment.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) *Mr Williams be invited to the December Council meeting to meet the wider Council membership.*
- (ii) *The Staffing Committee's recommendation be approved.*

[The Town Clerk and Deputy Town Clerk declared a prejudicial interest in the second part of the above item and vacated the Chamber to enable full debate by Members]

72. CLOSURE OF MEETING

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

Mayor:

Date: