

At a Meeting of the **FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE** held on Wednesday 2nd February 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 L. M. Edwards, M. C. Espley, I. A. Gunning, Miss M. A. Jones, D. W. Lee, Mrs M. McCarroll, G. J. Pickering, W. N. Tasker and T. Thomas.

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

162. APOLOGIES

Apologies for non-attendance were received on behalf of Councillors Mrs J. Chamberlain-Jones (on holiday), Ms G. A. Jones (indisposed), C. Davies (work commitment), Ms D. Hannam (indisposed), Mrs W. M. Mullen-James (indisposed) and G. Williams (family commitment).

163. MEMBERS' ILL-HEALTH

The Chair welcomed Councillor B. Blakeley back to the Council Chamber after his significant period of absence due to ill-health.

Councillor Blakeley duly thanked his fellow Members for their support and best wishes during a difficult time.

A Member added that Councillor Ms G. A. Jones had undergone a small operation today and was unfortunately suffering from some discomfort.

RESOLVED *that a card be sent to Councillor Jones wishing her a speedy recovery.*

164. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Town Clerk presented his report (circulated with Agenda) and sought Members' approval of the recommendations made by the Risk Assessment Sub-Committee to include a reminder on the need for Councillors to declare declarations on all future agendas.

RESOLVED *that the report be received and all recommendations approved.*

165. CIVIC AND SOCIAL EVENTS SUB-COMMITTEE: TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Town Clerk submitted his report (circulated with Agenda) and sought Members' approval of the recommendations made by the Civic and Social Events Sub-Committee.

RESOLVED that the report be received and all recommendations approved.

166. DATE OF INFORMAL MEETING OF COUNCIL

The Town Clerk requested that Members determine the date of this year's Informal Meeting of Council and suggested it be held immediately following the Planning Committee to be held on 2nd March 2011.

RESOLVED that the Informal Meeting of Council be held immediately after the Planning Committee on 2nd March 2011.

167. RHYL ELECTED MEMBERS GROUP

The Town Clerk presented his report (circulated with Agenda) including the dates of this year's meetings.

RESOLVED that the report be received.

168. FINAL ACCOUNTS 2009/2010 CONCLUSION OF AUDIT

The Finance Officer submitted his report (circulated with Agenda) following receipt of the Council's External Auditor's report).

RESOLVED that the report be received.

169. DENBIGHSHIRE VOLUNTARY SERVICES COUNCIL – HEALTH, SOCIAL CARE AND WELL BEING STRATEGY MEETING

Further to Minute No.132 of the meeting held on 1st December 2010, the Town Clerk suggested that the item be deferred due to the absence of Councillor Mrs W. M. Mullen-James at tonight's meeting.

RESOLVED that the item be deferred until Councillor Mullen-James' return to good health.

170. INVITATION FROM LEADER AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE, DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

The Chair reported receipt of correspondence (circulated with Agenda) from the above inviting the Town Clerk and the Mayor to a meeting to explain the implications of the budgetary constraints on the County Council's service delivery.

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk and the Mayor attend the meeting at County Hall in Ruthin on Tuesday 15th February 2011.

171. RHYL MAPPING DAY

The Chair reported receipt of an invitation from Denbighshire County Council's Corporate Director for Business Transformation and Regeneration (circulated with Agenda) for the Town Clerk and four Councillors to attend the above events at the

Pavilion Theatre in Rhyl on Monday 21st February (starting at 9.30am) and Tuesday 15th March 2011 (starting at 2.00pm).

RESOLVED that:

- a) *Councillors M. C. Espley, Miss M. A. Jones, Mrs M. McCarroll and T. Thomas accompany the Town Clerk to the meetings.*
- b) *the Town Clerk advises all Town Council only Members not present at tonight's meeting about the opportunity to attend the meetings.*

172. CONSULTATION: DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL – LOCAL FLOODING SURVEY

Further to his letter to all Members sent out on 19th January 2011 (copy circulated with Agenda), the Town Clerk collected Members' completed questionnaires for forwarding to Denbighshire County Council.

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk submits the questionnaires on Members' behalf.

173. CONSULTATION: DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL – DRAFT RESIDENTIAL SPACE STANDARDS SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING GUIDANCE

The Chair reported receipt of the above document (circulated with Agenda) for Members consideration.

In response to Members' questions the Town Clerk advised that the all new planning applications would have to adhere to the guidance.

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk writes to:

- a) *all Housing Associations operating in Rhyl to check that the new guidelines relating to minimum quality of housing are being adhered to in respect of pre-existing properties.*
- b) *the Welsh Assembly Government to ask how the guidelines fit into their objectives to bring housing up to standard by 2012.*
- c) *that the County Council be advised that the Town Council supports the draft document*

174. CONSULTATION: DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL – ROADS FRONTING RAIL AND BUS STATIONS RHYL – VARIOUS PROPOSED TRAFFIC ORDERS

The Chair reported receipt of the above document (circulated with Agenda) for Members consideration.

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk requests consideration of additional car parking spaces for people collecting passengers.

175. CONSULTATION: DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL – ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION – DESIGNATED PUBLIC DRINKING PLACES

The Chair reported receipt of the above document (circulated with Agenda) for Members consideration.

The Town Clerk suggested that the enclosed questionnaire be completed collectively at the meeting allowing him to respond immediately to the document.

RESOLVED that the Council's response to the three questions asked are 1. Strongly Agree, 2. Serious Impact and 3. Agree.

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

176. CONSULTATION: DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL – HIGHWAYS CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAMME 2011/12

The Chair reported receipt of the above document (circulated with Agenda) for Members consideration.

RESOLVED that Members' submit their suggestions to the Town Clerk at the conclusion of the meeting.

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

177. CONSULTATION: DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL – DRAFT COMMUNITY LINGUISTIC IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF THE DENBIGHSHIRE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN PROPOSED KEY STRATEGIC SITE AT BODELWYDDAN

The Chair reported receipt of the above document (circulated with Agenda) for Members consideration.

RESOLVED that the document be received.

178. DRAFT BUDGET 2011/12

The Town Clerk and Finance Officer submitted for Members' consideration, their joint report (copy of Draft Budget and accompanying statements circulated with Agenda), providing budget monitoring information for the current financial year and seeking to determine the Council's Budget, Management and Operational Plan and precept for the financial year 2011/2012 and indicating:

- (i) that the Council was required to approve a balanced revenue budget;
- (ii) that the figures presented would necessitate levying a precept of £401,000 (equivalent to a 2.5% average increase per week in Council Tax per

- household for Town Council services) or otherwise the Committee could determine a lower figure provided that they also identified corresponding savings from the revenue budget;
- (iii) that additionally, other limited reserves within the Community Development Fund were available to support the Council's prioritised projects, details of which were set out within Appendix A and B of the report;

Following introductory remarks and points of explanation the Finance Officer responded to several detailed questions put by Members. Discussion followed on how the Council's expenditure might be reduced in 2011/12 in order to meet estimated and significant election costs in 2012. Two separate proposals were considered but were lost when put to the vote. Following further discussion it was:

RESOLVED that:

- a) *the probable figures for 2010/11 and the Budget figures for 2011/12 be approved as set out in Appendix D.*
- b) *the existing expenditure commitments and indicative allocations for the Community Development Programme be noted as set out in Appendix A and B but subject to the sum of £7,000 being set aside from the identified balance for the specific purpose of meeting election costs in 2012.*
- c) *the appointment of the Internal Auditor for work related to the financial year 2011/12 be approved.*
- d) *the Balances Policy Statement be approved as stated "Following approval of the Budget and Precept for the financial year 2011/12 the projected level of revenue balances as at 31st March 2012 will be circa £140,000 and considered in aggregate with the Council's other expenditure commitments and proposals from its Community Development Fund are deemed appropriate for an authority of this size".*
- e) *the Town Council's Investment Strategy as set out in Appendix F of the report be approved.*
- f) *authority for the Town Clerk to act with regard to the Budget and Community Development Programme to spend such sums as approved without further reference back, be confirmed.*
- g) *the Council levies a precept of £401,000 (Four Hundred and One Thousand Pounds) upon Denbighshire County Council for the financial year commencing on 1st April 2011, Denbighshire County Council to be advised accordingly.*

At the conclusion of the item Members and the Town Clerk congratulated and thanked the Finance Officer on the excellent draft budget document which had stimulated very thorough and healthy debate in the Chamber.

179. CONFERENCE: SOCIETY OF LOCAL COUNCIL CLERKS CLWYD AND GWYNEDD JOINT BRANCH CONFERENCE

The Town Clerk presented his report (circulated with Agenda) asking Members to consider appointing delegates to attend the above conference at Venue Cymru in Llandudno on Friday 18th March 2011 (starting at 10.00am).

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk attends the meeting.

180. MEMBERS ITEM: SOUTH WEST RHYL COMMUNITIES FIRST

Councillor Mrs M. McCarroll sought Members' support in inviting representatives of the above group to give a presentation on its current projects throughout Rhyl, and the Step-Up Bus project in particular.

The Town Clerk suggested that Members might prefer to visit the offices and see the bus for themselves?

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk contacts South West Rhyl Communities First accordingly.

181. MEMBERS ITEM: RHYL YACHT CLUB

Councillor Mrs J. Butterfield sought Members' support for a letter of support to be sent to the above group to assist with an application for grant funding.

RESOLVED that the request be approved.

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

[Councillor D. W. Lee declared a prejudicial interested in the above item due to him being a member of the Yacht Club and vacated the Chamber taking no further part in discussion or voting thereon]

182. 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.

183. IMAGE OF FORYD HARBOUR

The Town Clerk submitted his confidential report (circulated with Agenda) following an invitation received for the Council to purchase an image of the harbour.

RESOLVED that no further action be taken.

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

184. DISABILITY DISCRIMINATION ACT ISSUES AT CIVIC OFFICES

The Town Clerk presented his confidential report (circulated with Agenda) for Members' consideration and emphasised that the report concentrated on the Wellington Community Centre only at this stage and on the areas of joint responsibility for the Town Council and the Rhyl Community Association.

RESOLVED that:

- a) *the request for the Town Council to pay half of the total cost (£5,000) be approved.*
- b) *the additional request for the Town Council to meet the remaining £800 shortfall be approved.*
- c) *the contributions be met from the pre-identified allocation within the Community Development Fund.*

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

[Councillors J. B. Bellis, M. C. Espley, D. W. Lee and T. Thomas declared an interest in the above item due to their positions as Members of the Rhyl Community Association but used the dispensation granted to them to remain in the Chamber and take part in discussion and voting thereon]

185. CLOSURE OF MEETING

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

Chair:

Date: