

At a **SPECIAL MEETING of COUNCIL** held on Wednesday 22nd October 2014 in the Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Wellington Road, Rhyl commencing at 6.00pm.

PRESENT

Councillor D. Simmons (Mayor)

Councillors I. W. Armstrong, C. S. Ball, B. Blakeley, Mrs J. Butterfield JP MBE, Mrs E. M. Chard, Ms J. Hughes, A. R. James, Mrs P. M. Jones, B. Mellor, B. F. Moylan, Mrs W. M. Mullen-James, P. Prendergast, 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

79. APOLOGIES

Apologies for non-attendance were received on behalf of Councillors Mrs J. Chamberlain-Jones (on holiday), J. May (work commitment) and W. N. Tasker (other commitment).

80. 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.

81. OFFICE ACCOMMODATION

The Town Clerk presented his confidential report (circulated with agenda) and the Risk Assessment Sub-Committee's recommendations and briefly outlined the three options available to the Town Council, namely:

- Remain at Wellington Centre and further attempt to negotiate a fairer rent
- Or to relocate to one of two alternative premises.

The Finance Officer advised on the likely availability of grants to progress the second option however emphasising that the success of grant applications could not be guaranteed. The Officer further advised on availability of loans from the Public Works Board should the grant applications not be successful.

As Vice Chair of the Risk Assessment Sub-Committee Councillor Miss S. L. Roberts, took Members through a presentation she had prepared on the Sub-Committee's behalf summarising the two potential moves and the Sub-Committee's considered recommendations.

In respect of consideration of a further potential option the Chair of Risk Assessment Sub-Committee advised that the building had not been considered as Council had not instructed them to do so.

Members all agreed that the decision to relocate the Town Council offices was a significant one which did not come without some risk, but that after the years of inaction it was now time to make a decision one way or the other. It was also unfair and unprofessional to keep third parties waiting and that the longer the wait the fewer options the Town Council would have.

A proposal to accept the recommendations of the Sub-Committee was put forward and seconded.

An amendment to the proposal was made and seconded to investigate the alternative building as another option in the first instance before accepting the Sub-Committee's recommendations.

On being put to the vote the amendment was lost and the proposal was carried.

Members thanked the Risk Assessment Sub-Committee, and the two lead negotiators in particular, for their hard work and commitment to this difficult issue over the last nine months.

RESOLVED *that the recommendations of the Sub-Committee be approved.*

[Prior to the votes being taken Councillor Ratcliffe left the meeting due to another engagement]

82. CLOSURE OF MEETING

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

Mayor:

Date: