

At a **MEETING of COUNCIL** held on Wednesday 19th February 2014 in the Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Wellington Road, Rhyl commencing at 6.00pm.

PRESENT

Councillor A. J. Rutherford (Mayor)

Councillors B. Blakeley, Mrs J. Butterfield MBE,
Mrs J. Chamberlain-Jones, Mrs E. M. Chard, Ms J. Hughes, A. R. James,
Mrs P. M. Jones, Mrs M. McCarroll, B. Mellor, B. F. Moylan, Mrs W. M. Mullen-James,
S. H. Ratcliffe, D. Simmons and Miss C. L. Williams.

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

117. OPENING OF MEETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor regretfully informed the meeting of the recent passing of Councillor Mrs E. M. Chard's mother-in-law, Mr Vernon Thomas from the Rhyl Branch of the RAF Association and past Councillor Mrs Lynette Edwards' father. The meeting observed a minute's silence to remember them.

The Mayor's Chaplain, Rev. Stan Walker, then led all present in prayers.

118. APOLOGIES

Apologies for non-attendance were received on behalf of Councillors I. W. Armstrong (family commitment), J. May (work commitment), Miss S. L. Roberts (indisposed), Miss R. Siddall (other commitment), P. Prendergast (indisposed) and W. N. Tasker (indisposed).

119. MINUTES

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

Council - 15th January 2014 - Min.Nos. 100-116

With regard to Minute No.106 (Rhyl Floods) a Member asked what the balance of the Flood Relief Fund was. The Finance Officer advised that it was in the region of £16,600.

Proposed by Councillor A. J. Rutherford and seconded by Councillor B. Blakeley and **RESOLVED** as a correct record.

Planning - 15th January 2014 - Min.Nos. 44-47
Committee

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

Planning - 5th February 2014 - Min.Nos. 48-52
Committee

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

To Confirm or otherwise:

Finance & General - 5th February 2014 - Min.Nos. 124-146
Purposes Committee

Proposed by Councillor A. R. James and seconded by Councillor B. Blakeley and **RESOLVED** as a correct record and confirmed for action.

120. 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 the ongoing flood related engagements and media interviews.

In response to a Member's question, the Finance Officer advised that almost all of the properties within the main zone of the flooding had applied and received £100. Other applications for the £100 from nearby properties were being processed and added to the main zone database.

The Finance Officer added that the deadline for the first round of monies had been extended to last Saturday's Flood Drop-In Session at the Community Fire Station on Coast Road.

121. PRESENTATION: DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL – ANTI-FOULING STRATEGY

Further to Minute No.70 (minute extract circulated with Agenda) of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 2nd October 2014, the Mayor welcomed Mr Tim Wynne-Evans, Denbighshire County Council's Senior Community Safety Enforcement Officer to the meeting and invited him to address Council.

Mr Wynne-Evans circulated a report he had prepared advising that:

- Community Safety Enforcement is heavily committed in the enforcement, prevention and reduction of Environmental Crime.
- As Rhyl in particular suffered from this type of crime the initiative began with great determination in October 2012.
- Kingdom Security began operating in Denbighshire on 15th October 2012 under his management.
- There are six dedicated, operational enforcement officers based in Rhyl as the largest and most populated town in the county.
- After a productive 14 months a fixed 12 month contract was signed continuing and modifying the enforcement activities.
- Fixed Penalty Notices were given for Littering, Fouling of Land, Dog Fouling of Land and Dog Control Orders, Fly Posting and Graffiti and Smoke Free offences.
- DCC pay Kingdom Security £45 for every justified Litter Fixed Penalty Notice issued. If the Notice is paid within 14 days the £75 penalty is discounted to £50.

- Kingdom Security receives the full £75 from a justified Dog Fouling Notice with no provision for an early payment discount, £45 per each justified Notice for Graffiti or Fly Posting, £30 for every Notice given for smoking in a Smoke Free area. Cautions are routinely issued for failure to display 'no smoking' signs in premises or in vehicles as the £200 Notice is considered excessive but is adhered to where offences are persistent. £45 of each of these notices goes to Kingdom Security.
- All Kingdom Security enforcement officers have received training in the relevant legislation, evidence gathering and presentation and have a good understanding of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984.
- Officers patrolling the town centre will routinely display full uniform and patrols undertaken outside of the town centre may be in plain clothes to increase the chances of detecting offences.
- Dog fouling patrols happen every day as a priority and officers are deployed six days a week from 7am until 7pm operating a two shift system. Patrols will increase to seven days a week during the summer months when offences increase.
- Every officer wears a body camera during interaction with suspected offenders. A Fixed Penalty Notice cannot be issued without this footage.
- If officers suspect that they have been given false personal details they will call on the Police for assistance. The relationship between Kingdom Security personnel and the Police is particularly good.
- 36 complaints have been made concerning the issuing of Fixed Penalty Notices. None have been upheld.
- More recently PCSOs are joining forces with Kingdom Security officers to carry out joint fouling patrols to maximise the visual presence of enforcement.
- 37 Notices have been issued since October 2012 for dog fouling. All have been paid and not contested.
- Since 2010 the number of Notices issued for dog fouling has decreased as a direct result of enforcement action.
- Dog fouling patrols are intelligence based with 'hot spots' targeted on a daily basis.
- 3,823 Notices for littering have been issued.
- 69 Notices have been issued for smoking in a smoke free area.
- Kingdom Security officers engage with the public and schools and businesses as part of their daily routine to get the educational message across.

In response to Members' questions, Mr Wynne-Evans said that:

- More litter/dog bins had been ordered and that anybody can ring the Public Realm department, who will come out and clear away any mess including dog mess.
- The number of Notices issued for dog fouling are relatively low compared to littering because irresponsible dog owners commit the offence largely under the cover of darkness and in a covert manner, whereas littering occurs everywhere at any time of the day.
- There were plenty of large friendly signs in the town centre warning people that enforcement officers are in the area and that the High Street in particular was clean as a result of their presence.
- Brickfield Pond, Splash Point and Marine Lake were some of the dog fouling hot spot areas being targeted.
- DCC employees had been issued with Penalty Notices and would continue to be if they were caught littering, etc.
- In his opinion the visibility of Kingdom Security officers was irrelevant where littering and dog fouling in the town centre was concerned.

- He had heard lots of speculation about enforcement officers lurking and following people waiting for them to litter, but that he felt this was a perception rather than fact.
- He would look at CCTV footage of enforcement officers around the town centre to ensure that they were acting appropriately and fairly.

The Mayor thanked Mr Wynne-Evans for his attendance.

122. 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.

123. RHYL SUNCENTRE / CLWYD LEISURE LIMITED

The Mayor welcomed Denbighshire County Council's Mr Jamie Groves and Ms Rebecca Maxwell to the meeting and invited them to provide a confidential update on the position with Clwyd Leisure Limited.

Ms Maxwell reported that:

- Clwyd Leisure still exists but has ceased trading to safeguard paying its debt.
- The majority of staff have been dismissed with compensation packages being dealt with.
- They were in the process of winding up the company, which they had done so voluntarily.
- They were selling their assets to pay their debts, fees, etc.
- The company were in insolvent liquidation as their debts were in excess of the value of their assets and that an insolvency practitioner (IP) had been appointed, who acts on behalf of the creditors not Clwyd Leisure.
- The handing over of the facilities to DCC would begin on 28th February and shouldn't take more than two weeks.
- That the majority of debts would be paid very quickly, with the whole winding up process estimated to be completed in 12 to 18 months.

Mr Groves advised that:

- He had been asked to put together a matrix of options for DCC's Cabinet on 25th March.
- As yet the condition of the Sun Centre and the Nova Centre was unclear as DCC had not yet received the keys to the facilities. Once they did, he invited all Town Councillors to visit both sites to see for themselves. They had some idea of the condition of the Bowling Centre and that personnel there were being kept abreast of things and were being really patient and understanding.
- The Pavilion Theatre would not be affected and that DCC were currently spending money on the theatre.

In response to Members' questions, the officers stated that:

- The MAG meeting scheduled for 13th March could be a joint meeting for County and Town Councillors to keep everybody in the loop and would be of a confidential nature.

- The IP would put an advert in the local press inviting people to apply to get any monies they had paid to Clwyd Leisure for future services back. It was unlikely that they would receive 100% of it, but they should get something back.

The Mayor thanked the officers for their candid presentation.

[With Members' agreement the Mayor declared a 10 minute comfort break]

124. OPEN SESSION

RESOLVED that the meeting resume in open / non-confidential session.

125. RHYL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

Due to time restrictions, this item was deferred to a future meeting of Council.

126. 'MAKE RHYL CLEAN IN 2014'

Further to Minute No.139(ii) of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 5th February 2014 the Town Clerk reported that only Mr Brian Evans from DCC, Councillor Miss S. L. Roberts and himself had attended the meeting at the Town Hall on Monday 10th February and that in any event the Town Hall was closed.

The Town Clerk advised that they used the time to tour the Town Centre but had not noted any evidence of litter within the area.

127. PRESENTATIONS FROM RHYL GOING FORWARD OFFICERS (IF REQUIRED)

Further to Minute No.29 of the meeting held on 3rd July 2013, the Town Clerk reported that there had been no request to report to the Town Council.

128. MEMBERS INFORMATION ITEMS

There were no urgent matters arising.

129. QUESTION TIME

No members of the public were present.

130. 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.

131. STRATEGIC AND OPERATIONAL PLANNING (SOP) COMMITTEE

Members of the Committee reported their frustration at not being able to confidently proceed with the substantial work load due to poor attendance by Members, with the same few making all of the recommendations.

There was an acknowledgement of Members' busy diaries and a request made for those Members on the Committee finding it hard to attend regularly, to re-consider their membership to give other Members the opportunity to serve on it.

The Town Clerk felt it would not be practical to put the amount of work involved onto Finance and General Purposes Committee agendas, and that the only other alternative was to hold two F&GP Committees a month.

RESOLVED that the status quo be maintained and the matter reviewed in six months time.

132. STRATEGIC AND OPERATIONAL PLANNING (SOP) COMMITTEE – PROPOSAL REGARDING FUTURE OPERATION OF TOWN COUNCIL GRANT SCHEME

The Mayor referred to the Committee's confidential report (circulated with agenda) recommending a number of minor changes to further improve the scheme.

RESOLVED that the annual grants scheme be retired and the SOP Committee charged with looking at alternative ways the money could be spent within the town.

133. CLOSURE OF MEETING

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

Mayor:

Date: