

At a meeting of the **FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE** held on Wednesday 1st July 2015, at the Civic Offices, Wellington Road Community Centre, Rhyl commencing at 6.00pm.

PRESENT

Councillor P. Prendergast (Chair)

Councillors I. W. Armstrong, B. Blakeley, Mrs J. Butterfield JP MBE, Mrs E. M. Chard, Ms J. Hughes, B. Mellor, B. F. Moylan, S. H. Ratcliffe, Miss S. L. Roberts, A. J. Rutherford, D. Simmons, W. N. Tasker and Miss C. L. Williams.

Mr G. J. Nickels – Town Clerk
Miss H. J. Windus – Personal Assistant & Secretary

18. APOLOGIES

Apologies were submitted from Councillors A. R. James (other commitment), Mrs P. M. Jones (indisposed), J. May (work commitment), Mrs W. M. Mullen-James (on holiday), Miss R. Siddall (work commitment) and Rev. S. F. Walker (indisposed).

19. JUNE 2015 STATEMENT OF AUTHORISED PAYMENTS

The Town Clerk presented his report for the period of May-June 2015 and the list of authorised payments (copy circulated with Agenda).

Voucher No.	Creditor	Amount Total (£)	Description
039	NWN Media Ltd	172.80	Advert for Bodfor Ward vacancy
040	Sage & Co	30.00	Monthly payment for payroll services
041	Mr Phil Thomas	492.50	Fee for financial services in April
042	Rhyl Town Council Employees	5535.40	June 2015 salary payments
043	T2 Green Catering Ltd	949.50	Mayor Making Evening
044	T2 Green Catering Ltd	1380.00	Mayors Charity Dinner
045	John Stephen Florists	140.00	Flowers x 4 for AGM
046	Denbighshire County Council	75.60	Room hire at Pavilion Theatre for VE Day Tea Dance
047	HSBC	12.07	April – May bank charges
048	Petty Cash	200.00	Petty cash cheque

RESOLVED that the report be received.

20. PROPOSED EVENTS OFFICER

The Town Clerk submitted his report (circulated to Members via e-mail on 29th June) for Members' consideration following a recommendation made by the Councils Strategic and Operational Planning (SOP) Committee in 2014.

The Town Clerk advised that £30,000 had then been allocated to the post (£20,000 for the postholders salary and on costs and £10,000 towards events).

The Committee had been impressed with the work undertaken by a similar post at Prestatyn Town Council.

The Town Clerk reported that the Prestatyn postholder had resigned her post and that as a result the Prestatyn Town Clerk had contacted him to discuss the possibility of re-employing an Events Officer as a joint venture, with both Town Councils employing the individual on a part-time basis, splitting the post 50/50.

On reporting this to the SOP Committee, Members determined that Councillor Mrs J. Butterfield and himself should meet with the Prestatyn Clerk to explore the matter.

The detail of the meeting is presented in the report along with the three options the meeting was now putting before the Councils wider membership, as follows:

Option 1

A joint appointment be made as mentioned above, with the officer expected to provide an event a month in each town.

The post to be managed by a joint committee of Rhyl and Prestatyn Councillors with the emphasis being on overseeing rather than micro managing.

The wider membership of both Councils would interact with the postholder via the members of the joint committee and ideally by completing an event proposal form.

All Councillors would need to provide practical support on event days.

The aim would be to 'seed fund' new events the postholder would initiate but that by year three these events would become self-sufficient in terms of control and finance.

The post would initially be offered as a three year fixed term contract which would be reviewed in year three.

Option 2

The Councils to approach local colleges offering suitable 'event management' courses to seek out whether there would be potential for joint working.

The college students would provide the events using the budget provided.

Option 3

To commission a commercial organisation to provide the events.

This is an avenue the Prestatyn Clerk is currently investigating and can report back on.

After discussions on the merits of all three options, it was **RESOLVED** that:

- (i) *Members would like to further explore Option 1 with future events being for the benefit of both residents and visitors on a 50/50 split.*
- (ii) *Councillor Mrs Butterfield and the Town Clerk to continue to liaise with Prestatyn Town Council.*

21. PROPOSED NEW ILLUMINATIONS ON RHYL PROMENADE

The Town Clerk reported that over the last 12 months a number of discussions had been held at the SOP Committee, the Members Area Groups and the Rhyl Town and Area Plan meetings about decorative lighting along the Promenade.

The SOP Committee had recently instructed that the Town Clerk explored this possibility with DCC and the Town Councils current illumination provider, Blachere Illuminations.

Blachere had provided images of braid lighting that they were suggesting could be wrapped around the lighting columns to give an effective display.

The Town Clerk circulated the images and further advised that the cost to wrap two braids around each lighting column along the Promenade was in the region of £30,000.

Members of the SOP Committee added that it was their recollection that the original idea of simple strings of lights running from column to column, similar to Llandudnos Promenade, was also to be further explored as the preferred type of display.

RESOLVED *that representatives from DCCs Street Lighting and Blachere Illuminations would be attending a future SOP Committee. The Town Clerk to report back to the outcome of that meeting.*

22. RHYL RUGBY CLUB – PROPOSED TYNEWYDD ROAD DEVELOPMENT

The Chair reported that further to the clubs presentation to last meeting of Council, a request had been made for the Town Council to consider issuing a letter of support for their proposed relocation to Rhyl.

RESOLVED *that the Town Clerk to write a letter of support.*

23. MEMBERS' INFORMATION ITEMS

(i) Rhyls future CCTV provision

Councillor S. H. Ratcliffe reported that he and Councillor B. Mellor had today attended a further meeting and had managed to reduce the Town Councils possible contribution towards an alternative scheme from £17,000 to £15,000.

Councillor Ratcliffe explained that the new scheme would feature all current cameras that would record footage 24 hours seven days a week.

The monitoring of the cameras would be the responsibility of one postholder and that members of the public might be asked to volunteer to assist with the monitoring in time.

If the Town Council decided it would like to contribute to the cost of the scheme it would form part of a consortium established to oversee it.

A legal document was now being prepared to pull all of the various stands together and that this would be reported to the Town Council once completed.

Members were pleased with Councillor Ratcliffes report and thanked him and Councillor Mellor for successfully negotiating the new model they had requested.

24. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

It is recommended, pursuant to Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, that the Press and Public be excluded from the Meeting during consideration of the following items of business, on the grounds of confidentiality.

25. OFFICE ACCOMODATION PROGRESS REPORT

The Chair reported that a stage one application for the full cost of the project, to the 'Use it or Lose it' European funding stream had been submitted by Just Solutions with the help of DCCs Mr Mark Dixon, and had been successfully put forward to the second stage of the process, with the outcome expected in Autumn.

A Member advised that at a recent meeting with DCC, an officer had suggested that the Town Council re-considers the Town Hall as its future home, under a revised rental option.

RESOLVED that the Risk Assessment Sub-Committee to speak to DCC to follow up the recent offer of availability at the Town Hall.

26. CLOSURE OF MEETING

The Chair to close the meeting.

Chair:

Date: