

At a meeting of the **FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE** held on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2015, at the Civic Offices, Wellington Road Community Centre, Rhyl commencing at 6.00pm.

**PRESENT**

Councillor P. Prendergast (Chair)

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

G. J. Nickels – Town Clerk

**98. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were submitted from Councillors I. Armstrong (family illness), J. May (work commitment), B. Mellor (on holiday), Mrs W. M. Mullen-James (indisposed) and Miss R. Siddall (personal engagement) and from Miss H. J. Windus (on leave).

**99. DECEMBER 2014 / JANUARY 2015 STATEMENT OF AUTHORISED PAYMENTS**

The Town Clerk presented his report for the period of December 2014 – January 2015 of authorised payments (copy circulated with Agenda).

<b>Voucher Number</b>	<b>Creditor</b>	<b>Amount Total (£)</b>	<b>Description</b>
129	Denbighshire County Council	209.82	Room Hire and Refreshments for Remembrance Sunday
130	HSBC	11.54	Bank Charges to 16/11/14
131	HSBC	17.00	CHAPS charge for Treasury Investment 18/11/14
132	Blachere Illumination UK Ltd	5,211.60	Hire of motifs, carriage and fasteners
133	Society of Local Council Clerks	339.00	Membership Fees for Town Clerk
134	Rhyl Town Council Employees	7,735.49	December 2014 Salary Payments
135	HMRC	3,275.41	December 2014 Payroll Deductions
136	Flintshire County Council	3,799.57	December 2014 Pension Fund Contributions
137	British Telecom	167.40	Broadband Connection 01 Nov 14 – 31 Jan 15
138	Denbighshire County Council	13.50	Rental of Remembrance Gardens 14/15
139	Denbighshire County Council	1.00	Rental of Bus Shelter on Ffordd Derwen
140	CIPFA	151.00	Finance Officer Membership Fee 14/15
141	Sioned Graham-Cameron	556.99	Translation Fees to 17/11/2014
142	HSBC	32.00	Credit card annual fee
143	British Telecom	105.38	Rental charges
144	Denbighshire County Council	66.74	Servicing of lift at Wellington Community Centre

145	Denbighshire County Council	907.62	Repair to Christmas lighting
146	British Telecom	682.81	Call, rental, one-off charges
147	British Telecom	58.32	Rental charges
148	NWN Media Ltd	126.61	1 week Christmas promo feature (1 of 2)
149	NWN Media Ltd	343.79	3 week Christmas promo feature (2 of 2)
150	Conrad Office & Art	230.40	Mayor's Christmas cards
151	Rhyl Town Council employees	7,559.32	January 2015 salary payments
152	HMRC	3,159.40	January 2015 payroll deductions
153	Flintshire County Council	3,757.47	January 2015 pension fund contributions
154	HSBC	12.01	Bank charges
155	Benefits Advice Shop	1,442.00	6 <sup>th</sup> quarterly grant award for Trainee Welfare Rights Advisor (Jan to Mar 2015)
156	North & Mid Wales Association of Local Councils	90.00	Lunch booking for 6 Town Council delegates

**RESOLVED** that the report be received.

#### **100. GROUNDS MAINTENANCE – ESTABLISHMENT OF SUB-COMMITTEE**

Further to Minute No.113 of the meeting of Council held on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2015, the Town Clerk submitted his written report relating to the establishment of a Sub-Committee to oversee arrangements for the Town Council supporting the provision of floral displays within Rhyl over the 2015/16 financial year.

The Town Clerk further advised that a meeting had been scheduled for the following day to discuss with representatives of the County Council specific beds to be maintained, and asked for any Member available from the appointed Sub-Committee to attend.

The Town Clerk also reported on a meeting he had had with Mr Brian Evans relating specifically to planting at the Botanical Gardens. Mr Evans had advised that he was scheduled to meet with representatives of the Botanical Gardens Group on Friday and would be advising them that the Town Council were looking to fund the provision of bedding plants and asking them to appoint a representative to meet with a Town Council representative to discuss any potential joint working at the garden and potentially beyond.

**RESOLVED** that:

- (i) a Sub-Committee be appointed comprising of the following Members with delegated power to oversee the expenditure of the approved budget:

*Councillors B. Blakeley, Mrs J. Butterfield MBE, Mrs J. Chamberlain Jones, A. R. James, Mrs P. M. Jones, B. F. Moylan, Mrs W. M. Mullen-James, A. J. Rutherford and D. Simmons, together with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Finance and General Purposes Committee.*

- (ii) *the Town Clerk be instructed to make an application for dispensation to the Standards Committee for Town Councillors who have private membership or have been appointed as Town Council representatives to the Rhyl in Bloom Committee to be eligible to debate and vote on matters relating to the Grounds Maintenance budget.*

*Members effected being Councillors Mrs J. Butterfield MBE, A. R. James, Mrs W. M. Mullen-James, P. Prendergast, S. H. Ratcliffe and D. Simmons.*

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

## **101. CCTV DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

The Town Clerk submitted a copy of an invitation received from Denbighshire County Council (circulated with agenda) for the Town Council to appoint a representative to a Board being established to examine how the CCTV system will be delivered in future years.

**RESOLVED** *that Councillor S. H. Ratcliffe be appointed.*

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

## **102. MEMBERS' ITEMS**

- (i) Councillor Mrs J. Butterfield addressed the meeting seeking support for the appointment of Town Council Champions to identify potential projects which the Town Council could become involved.

Councillor Butterfield advised that the County Council had allocated £800,000 towards the Town and Area Plans for which Rhyl could bid and it was necessary to identify schemes which could be submitted.

**RESOLVED** *that the opportunity be referred to the Strategic and Operational Planning Committee for further consideration.*

- (ii) Councillor A. J. Rutherford referred to the recently published Welsh Government White Paper “*Reforming Local Government: Power to Local People*” which was currently out to consultation and requested that a Rhyl Town Council response be agreed at the next Finance and General Purposes Committee.

**RESOLVED** *accordingly.*

## **103. PROGRESS REPORTS**

To receive progress reports on:

- (i) Rhyl Town and Area Plan

No report

(ii) Rhyl Going Forward Officers

Councillor Mrs J. Butterfield submitted copies of plans (2) of an area in the vicinity of John Street/Crescent Road junction and advised that an underspend on the Rhyl Going Forward Programme meant that the area would benefit from refurbishment.

Councillor Butterfield expressed concerns at the progress of the development of Premier Inn site and land at the junction of John Street/West Parade.

***RESOLVED*** that the Town Clerk be instructed to write to Denbighshire County Council and the Welsh Government seeking clarification of the start dates for development and confirmation that the John Street site would be developed for tourism / leisure and not housing / retail.

**104. MEMBERS' INFORMATION ITEMS**

The Town Clerk sought authority for an informal meeting of Council to be held on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2015 immediately following the scheduled meeting of the Planning Committee.

***RESOLVED*** that the Informal Meeting be held on 18<sup>th</sup> March.

The Town Clerk advised that he had been informed that an officer of the County Council was seeking to arrange an urgent joint Members Area Group (MAG) meeting and sought authority to cancel the scheduled meeting of Council on the 18<sup>th</sup> February 2015 to accommodate the meeting, if required.

***RESOLVED*** that authority be given to cancel the meeting.

The Town Clerk advised Members that the date for the General Election had been confirmed as Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2015, and sought instructions as to whether the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes scheduled for 6<sup>th</sup> May should continue, be cancelled or re-scheduled.

***RESOLVED*** that the meeting of Finance and General Purposes Committee scheduled for 6<sup>th</sup> May 2015 be rearranged for 29<sup>th</sup> April 2015.

**105. 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.

**106. OFFICE ACCOMMODATION – PROGRESS REPORT**

No report submitted.

**107. ESTABLISHMENT**

Further to Minute No.115 of the meeting of Council held on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2015, the Town Clerk provided a confidential progress report.

**RESOLVED** that the position be noted and the Staffing Committee be instructed to examine the current Town Council establishment and make recommendations.

**108. CLOSURE OF MEETING**

The Chair to close the meeting.