

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

PRESENT

Councillor A. J. Rutherford (Chair)

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

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

39. APOLOGIES

Apologies were submitted from Councillors Ms J. Hughes (indisposed), J. May (indisposed), P. Prendergast (work commitment) and Miss R. Siddall (School Governor's meeting).

40. JULY – SEPTEMBER 2015 STATEMENT OF AUTHORISED PAYMENTS

The Chair referred to the above list of payments from the No.1 Account (circulated with agenda) and accompanying report for Members approval.

RESOLVED *that the payments be approved.*

41. PROPOSED EVENTS OFFICER

The Town Clerk advised that the Council's appointed representative, Councillor Mrs J. Butterfield JP MBE, and himself had met with the Clerk of Prestatyn Town Council, Mr Nigel Acott, and Prestatyn Town Councillor Ms Jan Szabo on 8th October at the Prestatyn offices, to progress the commissioning of a joint Events Officer.

Prestatyn Town Council currently employ the services of Ms Rachel Wheatley of Gunsmoke Communications on an event by event basis, and this arrangement was working well for them.

During the visit Councillor Butterfield and the Town Clerk met Ms Wheatley and had an informal discussion with her, the outcome of which was that Ms Wheatley came across as very capable and professional and she indicated that she would be interested in working with Rhyl Town Council as well.

Councillor Butterfield and the Town Clerk recommended inviting Ms Wheatley to a future Strategic and Operational Planning (SOP) Committee meeting to discuss the potential to employ her services for a trial period.

Councillor Butterfield suggested that Rhyl's requirements were somewhat different to Prestatyn's in that Prestatyn focused their events on its High Street whereas our events would be Rhyl wide.

Members were clear that Ms Wheatley's events should not impinge on or undermine the larger scale events organised by DCC's Ms Sian Davies.

RESOLVED that Ms Wheatley to be invited to a future SOP meeting for further talks.

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

42. CORRESPONDENCE: DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED STOPPING UP OF PART OF THE HIGHWAY AT ROADS SURROUNDING CRESCENT ROAD CAR PARK

The Chair reported receipt of the above (circulated with agenda) for Members' consideration.

RESOLVED that the correspondence be received.

43. CORRESPONDENCE: DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL – OFF STREET PARKING PLACES (AMENDMENT) ORDER 2015 NO.4

The Chair reported receipt of the above (circulated with agenda) for Members' consideration.

RESOLVED that the correspondence be received.

44. MEMBERS ITEM: GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE AT THE FORMER MORLEY ROAD CEMETERY

Councillor Mrs J. Butterfield JP MBE sought Members' support for the Town Council to create and maintain a remembrance space at the former Morley Road Cemetery, as a resident had commented that currently there was nowhere in Rhyl for the family and friends of cremated loved ones to visit and spend some quiet moments of reflection to remember them.

Councillor Butterfield added that she had identified a suitable funding stream to introduce a small garden with benches perhaps?

The Town Clerk advised that on making enquiries about such a provision with DCC, he had learned that they had installed a Memorial Wall within Rhyl Cemetery 12 months ago, where plaques could be bought and displayed at a cost of £60.

The Town Clerk had since visited the wall and referred Members to the enlarged photographs on the display board, which also showed two small flower beds at the base of the wall, that were currently empty. The Town Clerk advised that DCC's Ms Joy Henderson had confirmed that daffodil bulbs were planted there.

The Town Clerk asked whether Members would like to enhance the installation by taking responsibility for the flower beds as part of its Grounds Maintenance SLA with DCC?

RESOLVED that the two flower beds to be considered by the Council's Grounds Maintenance Sub-Committee before formal discussions with DCC's Cemeteries Department.

45. **MEMBERS' INFORMATION ITEMS**

The Town Clerk advised of the following:

(i) **Rhyl's Five Free Parking Days from DCC**

Confirmation of when DCC's 'Free after 3' parking initiative was due to begin had not yet been received, if it begins in time for the Christmas Lights Switch On on Thursday 26th November, then the Council will not need to use one of its free parking days.

The Town Clerk suggested that the Council uses all five days on the Saturdays leading up to Christmas Day, four if one is needed for the Switch On event.

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk's recommendation be approved.

(ii) **Christmas Lights Switch On**

6.00pm on Thursday 26th November in the High Street.

(iii) **Christmas Pops**

5.00pm on Sunday 6th December at St. Thomas' Church.

(iv) **Small Business Saturday – 5th December**

DCC were supporting the above national campaign to encourage shoppers to support their local small businesses and had provided the Town Council with posters.

The Town Clerk asked Members to let him know if they were able to deliver the posters to the businesses on the streets running off the High Street. DCC officers were covering the High Street.

(v) **Remembrance Sunday**

The Town Clerk asked the Members who had not yet confirmed their attendance to please do so by tomorrow to assist with the seating arrangements in Church.

(vi) **DCC Countryside Services Officer**

DCC officer Mr Garry Davies had asked to address Council on a number of forthcoming initiatives in Rhyl.

RESOLVED that Mr Davies' request to present to Council in November be approved.

- (vii) Request from 'Rhyl in Bloom'
'Rhyl in Bloom' are asking for the help of Town Councillors to plant 10,000, possibly 20,000 daffodil bulbs on East Parade towards Splash Point once they have received delivery of the bulbs.

RESOLVED that Members wanting to help should contact Councillor Mrs W. M. Mullen-James.

- (viii) Request from Rhyl Football Club

The Town Clerk advised that a Member had been approached by the Club enquiring about the possibility of funding from the Town Council towards a disabled toilet and space at the Ground.

The Town Clerk reminded Members that the Council no longer awarded grants, and advised that should other Members be approached, they should tell the Club about the Burbo Bank Extension's Community Benefit Fund, which might be able to help.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

46. PROPOSED MEETING WITH RHYL BUSINESS GROUP

Further to the meeting of Council held on 21st October 2015, where it was decided that the Mayor and Councillor Mrs J. Butterfield JP MBE should accompany the Town Clerk to a future Business Group meeting, as per the Business Group's request, the Town Clerk advised that this had now been re-thought in consultation with the Chair of Finance and General Purposes Committee.

It is felt that a joint meeting between the Town Council and the Business Group would be a better alternative as it would give the two organisations a chance to explore potential opportunities.

A letter had been sent to the Business Group to this effect.

RESOLVED that the action of the Members and the Town Clerk be approved.

47. 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.

48. CONSULTATION: STREET NAMING OF NEW DEVELOPMENTS

The Chair reported receipt of the above (circulated with agenda) consulting the Town Council on potential street names for new developments. Members considered a name suggested in respect of a local person but felt it would be inappropriate to endorse the suggestion for the reasons stated in the meeting.

RESOLVED that the names now suggested be confidentially forwarded to Denbighshire County Council for consideration.

49. OFFICE ACCOMODATION PROGRESS REPORT

The Town Clerk advised that there was nothing new to report.

50. CLOSURE OF MEETING

The Chair to close the meeting.

Chair:

Date: