

Minutes of a Special Meeting of Denbigh Town Council held on Monday 17th November 2014 at 6.pm at the Town Hall Denbigh.

Present: Cllrs Rob Parkes (Chairman), Raymond Bartley, Margaret Bowe (arrived 6.13pm), Gaynor Morgan Rees, Medwyn Williams, Geraint Williams, Colin Hughes, Colin L Hughes, Mark Young, Shereen Devine, Roy Tickle, Gaynor Wood, Catherine Jones, Philip Stevens & Medwyn Jones (Town Clerk).

Apologies: Cllr Brian Davies; Cllr Margaret Bowe (late)

Observing: County Councillor Gwyneth Kensler

The chairman welcomed all to the meeting

136. Declaration of Personal Interest: The following declarations were received:

- (1) Cllr Colin Hughes – Town Hall
- (2) Cllr Geraint Williams – Town Hall
- (3) Cllr Raymond Bartley – Town Hall
- (4) Cllr Gaynor Wood –Town Hall – personal and prejudicial and left the chamber
- (5) Cllr Roy Tickle – Town Hall – personal and prejudicial and left the chamber

(6) **137. To discuss proposals for the future management of Denbigh Town Hall.**

The chairman welcomed Jamie Groves, Head of Communication, Marketing and Leisure and Sion Goldsmith, Lead Officer Assets and Communities, Communication, Marketing and Leisure and invited Mr Groves to address the meeting: Mr Groves reminded the meeting of the history of the matter. The town council currently contributed £20,000 to assist with running of the town hall. DCC needed to make cuts to its budget. The balance of the subsidy for the town hall was £17,000 which DCC paid. The running costs exceeded income by £17k. The proposal to the town council was to seek this balance from the town council. Should the £17,000 not be found, there would be a reduction of the facilities available.

Mr Groves confirmed that the pressure on the town council was understood.

The town hall had performed better and more income had been generated. Most DCC facilities in Denbigh were self-sufficient. Failure to secure the £17,000 would lead to closure of the building on some days and a refusal to take on some events. The booking fees could not be raised – the fees were already competitive. Would the town council continue with the £20,000 contribution and whether it would contribute a further £17,000 or some other contribution. Additional income could not be guaranteed. Mr Groves wished to avoid a reduction on service as it was a valued community facility. Other buildings in the town were being developed and could impact on the town hall.

Mr Groves and Mr Goldsmith then responded to questions and comments from members on:

- (1) The total cost of running the building.
- (2) The possibility of an annual threat to the building.
- (3) The town council's contribution assisted to attract further funding for work to be carried out on the building.
- (4) £17k would ensure that the building operated fully.
- (5) The current agreement was an annual agreement and reviewed annually.
- (6) Flexibility on the £17k.



- (7) Leisure Services cuts and efficiencies.
- (8) Sustainability of Denbigh's facilities.
- (9) The £17k was the bottom line, the remaining DCC subsidy.
- (10) Arm length trusts – effectiveness or otherwise.
- (11) Implications of full asset transfer of the building to the town council and external funding.
- (12) Time scales for asset transfer.
- (13) £17k would ensure that the building operated as at present and services maintained.
- (14) Rental from Studios 1 and 2.
- (15) £17k equated to half a full time post and possible cut in hours.
- (16) Feasibility of an asset transfer.
- (17) Feasibility of an asset transfer to a community group.
- (18) Availability of funding following an asset transfer.
- (19) Position of town council employees who were also town councillors.
- (20) Annual cost increases due to pay rises, inflation etc.

Mr Groves requested that any decisions by the town council be provided before Christmas or shortly afterwards.

The chairman thanked both for their attendance and presentation.

Mr Groves and Mr Goldsmith then left the chamber and the meeting went on to discuss the matter at length. A great deal of observations and comments were made and the town clerk responded to questions asked on possible cuts to the council's budget.

The meeting passed two resolutions:

- (1) That the town clerk provided the council with a list of potential savings.
- (2) That the town council agree in principle to provide extra funding and to discuss over the next few meetings how the council could achieve this.

Both resolutions were passed unanimously.

It was also agreed that council's representation on the management working group should be changed and that the mayor Cllr Rob Parkes be appointed in place of Cllr Roy Tickle.

138. Payment of Accounts:

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| (1) | PWL B – 2 nd loan instalment payment re former Denbigh Courthouse
(Cheque no. 005487)
(Cllr Medwyn Williamns declared an interest) | - | £7,959.20 |
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There being no further business the chairman closed the meeting at 7.29pm.

Signed:  (Chairman)

Date: 

