

Minutes of a meeting of Denbigh Town Council held on Monday 21st September 2015 at 6.30pm at the Town Hall, Denbigh.

Present: Councillors Raymond Bartley (chairman), Margaret Bowe, Rob Parkes (arrived 6.57pm), Gaynor Morgan Rees, Medwyn Williams, Geraint Williams (arrived 6.53pm), Colin Hughes (arrived 7.02pm), Colin L Hughes, Brian Davies (arrived 6.46pm), Roy Tickle, Mark Young (arrived 6.38pm), Gaynor Wood, Catherine Jones and Medwyn Jones (Town Clerk).

Apologies: Cllrs Philip Stevens & Shereen Devine; Colin Hughes (late).

The chairman welcomed all to the meeting.

74. Presentation by Denbigh Community First Responders. The chairman welcomed Dyfrig Roberts and John McGuire and invited both to address the meeting. Both were members of the Denbigh First Responders team. The team was looking at installing Public Access Defibrillators in the town. Two were already located – one at Ysgol Twm o'r Nant and one at the Denbigh Leisure Centre. The First Responders were available to support and provide assistance. John McGuire worked for the Welsh Ambulance Service. Ten thousand incidents a year in the UK from heart attacks. Every minute of delay increased the chances of a heart attack by 10%. The average ambulance response time in the area was eight and a half minutes. A 999 call should be made first. John McGuire showed the meeting a defibrillator and how it worked. The machine was simple to use and gave instructions as it was used. Seven defibrillators would be needed to cover the whole of the town and information on how the area would be covered was provided. The cost of the equipment was £1,000 to purchase plus £700 for a secure cabinet – an electricity supply would also be required.

Both then responded to observations and questions from the members on: (1) how the public were made aware of the equipment being available, (2) vandalism, (3) 999 calls, (4) location of the one proposed for the Co-op, (5) availability of the defibrillators at hospitals.

The chairman thanked both for their attendance and presentation and for the work that they carried out in the area.

75. Presentation by DCC Planning re Brookhouse sites draft development brief. The chairman welcomed Bryn Bowker, Planning Support Officer with DCC and invited Mr Bowker to address the meeting. Mr Bowker explained the background to the development brief and referred to the relevant document. Concerns had been received regarding the impact on the highway and access to and from the site and both sites coming forward together. Considerations needed to be given to (1) corridors for wildlife such as hedgehogs, bats, (2) flooding, (3) St Marcella's Church a grade one listed building and the design of houses to compliment the building, (4) sewerage. This was an opportunity to address all these issues. The closing date for the consultation was the 30th October 2015. At this point the chairman declared a personal interest. The chairman went on to state that this matter was very contentious. Cllr Medwyn Williams declared an interest as a county council highways officer.

Mr Bowker then responded to observations and questions from the members on (1) consultations, (2) access location, (3) number of houses proposed (approximately 101 & 73), (4) no interest shown in the two sites at the moment, (5) parking at Brookhouse Chapel and St Marcella's for weddings and funerals, (6) better communication needed from DCC, (7) affordable housing, (8) former North Wales Hospital site as a windfall site, (9) surface water running off a sloping site and flooding, (10) sewerage capacity, (11) differences between the UDP and LDP on the development of this area.

Mr Bowker went on to suggest that he attend a council meeting in November to update members following the end of the consultation period. This was agreed upon.

The chairman thanked Mr Bowker for his attendance and sharing information with the council.

- 76. Urgent Matters:** There were none
- 77. Declaration of Personal Interest:** The following declarations were received:
- (1) Cllr Raymond Bartley - personal - all matters relating to Denbighshire County Council.
 - (2) Cllr Geraint Williams – personal - all matters relating to Denbighshire County Council.
 - (3) Cllr Colin Hughes – personal - all matters relating to Denbighshire County Council.
 - (4) Cllr Margaret Bowe - agenda item 19 - Denbigh Infirmary – personal.
- 78. The Minutes of the Council meeting held on the 27th July 2015 were received and approved.**
- 79. Matters arising:** There were none
- 80. Mayor’s Report:** The Mayor written report was received and noted. The Mayor thanked the Deputy Mayor for attending functions where there was a double booking. One extra to be added to the list, namely attendance at a 65th wedding anniversary of a Denbigh couple on the 19th September.
- 81. Letters, E-mails and Notices:** 1. It was agreed that four items of correspondence be noted.
2. It was further agreed that the following be noted and actioned accordingly:
- (1) Welsh Government, Education and Public Services Group – Shared Purpose: Shared Future – Draft Statutory Guidance for the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. The town clerk reported that this was a complex piece of legislation and would affect town and community councils with income and or expenditure of £200,000 per annum. It was agreed that the town clerk attend the consultation event at Llandudno on the 4th November 2015. The document to be referred to the document scrutiny sub-committee.
- 82. Planning:** 1 Planning applications. Following discussion, it was agreed that no objection be raised in respect of the following application received for planning permission:
- Land adjoining Fron Deg, Ruthin Road - deletion of conditions number 7,8 &9 of outline planning permission code no. 01/2014/0072 relating to code for sustainable homes.
2. Other planning matters: DCC Consultation – site development briefs – Denbigh, Dyserth & Meliden. The meeting only discussed the brief relevant to the proposed Denbigh sites at Brookhouse. Following a proposal by Cllr Colin Hughes seconded by Cllr Mark Young it was **Resolved** (unanimously) **that the town council object to the proposed development, continuing the theme of the original response to object on the grounds of (1) safety, (2) flooding, (3) historical setting, (4) the need and sustainability taking into account that the proposals for the former North Wales Hospital site would be sufficient for the needs of the town, (5) pressure on the town’s public services by this expansion.**
- It was mentioned that the legal right to develop had already been made and that possibly a plan B would be required by the town council as an alternative should the matter proceed.
- 83. Council Committee Minutes.** (1) The minutes of the Planning Committee held on the 14th September 2015 were noted.
- (2) The minutes of the Environment and Finance Committee held on the 14th September 2015 were noted.

- 84. Minutes / Reports of council sub committees:** August Emergency Meeting. The minutes of the meeting held on the 25th August 2015 were received and approved.
- 85. Reports:** (1) Town Hall Management. Cllr Medwyn Williams as group chairman reported on a recent meeting. The group had undertaken a tour of the building to ascertain what future work would be required. DCC had undertaken a number of changes and one in the pipeline was the new security door at the bottom of the main staircase. The relationship between the county and the group appeared to be working well. The financial situation was good.
- (2) Twining. The minutes of a recent meeting, received by the council were noted.
- (3) NWWTFC. Cllr Colin Hughes as the link secretary reported on a recent meeting. The meeting had the usual agenda. Concerns expressed at the lack of attendance by Beaumaris. Car rally 4th October starting from Denbigh at 9am, calling at Conwy and finishing at Caernarfon – an optional loop through Beaumaris would be available. Approximately 100 entries to date. DCC was allowing the use of Caledfryn car park free of Charge. The annual Golf tournament was hosted and won by Denbigh with the trophy returning home. The annual Bowls tournament on the 20th September at Beaumaris. The AGM at Conwy on the 19th November and the Annual Dinner at Times Restaurant Conwy on the 23rd January 2016.
- (4) Denbigh Open Doors 19th & 20th September. Cllr Medwyn Williams reported that a small organising group had successfully organised the weekend. The numbers attending were encouraging.
- (5) Denbigh Fire Station 150th Anniversary 20th September. Cllr Medwyn Williams reported that hundreds had attended the event. The Fire Authority had been very pleased with the event. It was encouraging to see many former Denbigh firefighters present. It was agreed that a letter of thank be sent to the Chief Fire Officer and the Chairman of the Fire Authority for the event and for their work in the community.
- (6) Denbigh Carnival and Denbigh Midsummer Festival. Cllr Roy Tickle reported on the annual meetings of both groups. The officers for both had been re-elected en bloc.
- (7) Frongoch School Governors. Cllr Gaynor wood reported that the new head teacher Dylan Thomas was settling in and the school progressing well.
- (8) Hwb Dinbych. Cllr Colin Hughes reported on a meeting held earlier that evening. The Hwb had been in existence for 12 months and the achievements during that period had been fantastic. The partnerships involved were really strong. Cllr Hughes was proud to be associated with the project.
- (9) Wireless in Wales. Cllr Colin L Hughes reported on a well-attended and successful evening held on the 18th September when a talk was given by Mrs Wendy Grey Lloyd on “Life on the Home Front during WW2”.
- (10) The Deputy Mayor Cllr Margaret Bowe reported that she had enjoyed covering for the Mayor where double bookings had occurred.

There were no other reports.

86. Reports by County Councillors on Matters Appertaining only to Denbigh:

Cllr Raymond Bartley reported (1) Denbigh High School Tachyn team had recently become world champions – the only UK team to win outright – putting Denbigh on the map. Agreed that a letter be sent to Denbigh High School. (2) Work started on the new electricity sub-station at Station Yard – things were beginning to move. (3) Requested a letter be sent to DCC requesting the town toilets to be open on Boxing Day. (4) Andy Howard appointed the new head at the Myddleton College. (5) Former North Wales Hospital public enquiries – first decision due anytime. (6) Former Police Station on Vale Street – five enquiries received regarding purchase – to be done by sealed bids. (7) Extra care housing a strong possibility on the Middle Lane site. (8) Parking on pavements – if yellow lines present and cars are parked on the pavement fixed penalty notices can be issued.

Cllr Geraint Williams reported (1) Welsh Government £1m funding obtained to provide insulation upgrades to 108 houses in Upper Denbigh. (2) Glas Meadows wall – negotiations ongoing. (3) The boundary hedge at Trefeirian needed attention. (4) Concerns re boundary walls of the former North Wales Hospital – dressed stone stolen – similar concerns on Ystrad Road – responsibility of land owners. (5) Extension to the fitness suite at the Leisure Centre in the process of being built.

Cllr Colin Hughes reported that he was in the process of acting for a number of people in Upper Denbigh.

87. Accounts 1. The following accounts were approved for payment:

(1)	A E Dowell (Uproar Fireworks) – balance due re fireworks display (Cheque no. 005706)	-	£3,200.00
(2)	Paul Liversidge – footpath clearing (August) (Cheque no. 005707)	-	£165.00
(3)	Pen y Bryn Joinery – erect games equipment container on playground at Llys Gwydr (Cheque no. 005708)	-	£120.00
(4)	Town Clerk – travelling expenses (Conwy) (Cheque no. 005709)	-	£23.73
(5)	Zen Internet – AFSL provision (October) (Cheque no. 005710)	-	£18.37
(6)	Cllr Col L Hughes – travelling expense – Conwy x 3 (Cheque no. 005711)	-	£82.50

Total payments: £3,609.60

88. DCC – Sports storage container and equipment. The town clerk reported that he had contracted Pen y Bryn Joinery to pick up the container and install on the playground at Llys Gwydr. The work had been completed. The question of who should hold the keys was discussed – DCC had provided a list of possible key holders. It was agreed to offer the key to the Snuggles Day Nursery with the other key being retained by the council. It was also agreed that a notice be put up giving a telephone number in the case of emergencies.

89. Restructuring / Modernisation of the town council. The trial period over three months was reviewed. The town clerk reported that there were still some administrative teething problems to be sorted. The town clerk invited comments from the members. The town clerk went on to state that an extension to the trial period was needed and suggested a further three months trial up to the end of the year with a further review in January 2016 – this was accepted. It was also suggested and approved that the Environment and Finance Committee meet on the Third Monday at 7pm with the Planning Committee meeting on the

third Tuesday at 6.30pm apart from December when the meetings will be on the second Monday and Tuesday. The full council to continue to meet on the fourth Monday with the December meeting being on the third Monday. The town clerk to prepare a list of dates for circulation.

90. **Denbigh Heritage Lectures.** The town clerk reported that following a response from the public he was looking at the possibility of arranging another series early in 2016. Provisional enquiries had revealed the possibility of seven / eight lectures involving 5 / 6 lecturers. The town clerk went on to state that he would only arrange the lectures on the basis of full support from town councillors. The town clerk acknowledged that he received support from a few loyal members. Following a short discussion it was **Resolved** (12 for with one abstention) **that another series be arranged in 2016 and councillors gave a commitment to attend as many lectures as possible.**
91. **Recommendations of the Remuneration Panel for Wales.** The town clerk referred to the parts of the report that related to town and community councils and requested the meeting to consider each of the six determinations contained within the report. Each determination was considered and voted upon as follows, namely **to accept the following recommendations:**
- (1) **Determination (42) – (12 for with one abstention) that community and town councils are authorised to make a payment to each of their members of a maximum amount of £100 per year for costs incurred in respect of telephone usage, information technology, consumables etc.**
 - (2) **Determination (43) - (unanimous) that community and town councils are authorised to make payments to each of their members in respect of travel costs outside of the area of the council – such payments to be the actual costs of travel by public transport or the HMRC mileage allowances.**
 - (3) **Determination (44) - (unanimous) that community and town councils are authorised to reimburse subsistence expenses to their members for attending approved duties outside the area of their council per the maximum rates set out.**
 - (4) **Determination (47) – (unanimous) that community and town councils are authorised to provide a civic allowance to the mayor / chairman and deputy mayor / chairman of the council of an amount that they deem appropriate to undertake the functions of that office.**

And not to accept recommendations:

- (1) **Determination (45) - (unanimous) that community and town councils are authorised to pay an attendance allowance to each of their members for attending approved duties outside the area of the council per the rates set out**
- (2) **Determination (46) – (unanimous) that community and town councils are authorised to Pay a financial loss allowance to each of their members for duties outside of the area of the council per the rates set out.**

92. **Lenten Pool Denbigh.** The town clerk referred to the exchange of e-mails with DCC. It was agreed to defer the matter as the information promised had not been received.

93. **Denbigh Infirmary.** The town clerk reported that this agenda item was requested by the August Emergency meeting. The chairman issued a word of caution – the matter arose out of an article published in the media regarding an alleged incident at the Infirmary – there was an ongoing enquiry by the Health Board. Cllr Mark Young commented that he had personal experience of first class treatment at the Infirmary. It was unanimously agreed to leave the matter on the table.

- 94. EWT Symposium 30.9.15 – 3.10.15.** The town clerk reminded the members that he would be attending and would report back. Late information received from EWT stated that only one nomination had been received for President that of the present incumbent Joseph Spiteri. Nominations for the post of second Vice President and the post of Treasurer had not been received. The town clerk commented that it was sad that none had been received - this would need to be resolved at the AGM.
- 95. North and Mid Wales Association of Local Councils.** The town clerk referred to the documentation received from the secretary. This was the association's response to Welsh Government Public Services Office. It was agreed to refer the document to the document scrutiny sub-committee and for the response to be handed to the town clerk and the chairman.

The chairman, before closing the meeting wished Cllr Brian Davies a happy retirement from his employment

There being no further business the chairman closed the meeting at 8.39pm

Signed:.....(chairman)

Date:.....