

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

Present: Councillors Raymond Bartley (chairman), Margaret Bowe, Rob Parkes, Gaynor Morgan Rees, Medwyn Williams, Colin Hughes, Colin L Hughes, Roy Tickle, Mark Young, Gaynor Wood, Catherine Jones, Philip Stevens and Medwyn Jones (Town Clerk).

Apologies: Cllr Brian Davies

Observing: County Councillor Gwyneth Kensler

The chairman welcomed all to the last meeting of 2015. The chairman went on to state that this meeting would be Marian Rees' last meeting as interpreter and wished her all the best for the future.

136. Urgent Matters: There were none

137. Declaration of Personal Interest: No declarations were received:

138. The Minutes of the Council meeting held on the 23rd November 2015, following amendments as follows: (1) Minute 126 by adding "on their visit to the Denbigh Men's Shed" and (2) Minute 128(1) amending the word "Myddleton!" to read "Myddelton", **were received and approved.**

139. Matters arising: There were no matters arising.

140. Mayor's Report: The Mayor written report was received and noted. The Mayor stated that the report was until the end of the year. One outstanding recent event had been the Plas Brondyffryn Carol Service which he had attended with Cllrs Gaynor Wood and Roy Tickle - the Service was amazing. The Mayor went on to state that due to escalating costs and declining support that he would not be holding a Charity Ball. However a Charity Concert would be held at the Town Hall on Saturday 30th January 2016 with Cor Godre'r Aran.

141. Letters, E-mails and Notices: 1. It was agreed that nine items of correspondence be noted.

2. It was further agreed that the following be noted and actioned accordingly:

- (1) The e-mail from RainbowBiz Ltd was referred to the environment and finance committee as a grant aid application.
- (2) Welsh Government - Wales Remembers 1914-1918 partnership day 28.1.15 at Aberystwyth – Cllr Gaynor Morgan Rees attending. Travelling expenses to be paid by the council. Members of the WW1 commemoration group also to be invited to attend with Cllr Morgan Rees.
- (3) Ann Jones AM re parking charges in Denbigh. Comment was made that there were reduced charges in Ruthin. It was thought that Ruthin Town Council subsidised the parking – this needed clarification. Comment was made that DCC were due to review car parking charges. It was agreed to defer this matter until the review had taken place.
- (4) E-mail from Cllr Mark Young re the Vale Street car park. Cllr Young elaborated by stating that four visitors to the town had been booked by the traffic wardens for not parking properly within the parking bays. It was clear that the bays are not properly marked - DCC needed to be pro-business – this left a bad taste – common sense should prevail. Cllr Bartley reported that discussions on this issue had taken place in a MAGS meeting earlier on in the day and Highways had been asked to investigate. It was

suggested and agreed that a letter be sent to DCC requesting that enforcement in the car park be relaxed until the improvements had been carried out. Cllr Colin Hughes suggested that the letter be sent to the Leader of the Council – this was agreed upon.

(5) Welsh Government Engagement event on the Draft Local Government (Wales) Bill – Llandudno 4.2.16. Cllrs Roy Tickle, Raymond Bartley, Colin Hughes and Gaynor Wood attending.

142. Planning: There were no planning matters.

143. Council Committee Minutes. (1) The minutes of the Environment and Finance Committee held on the 14th December 2015 were noted.

(2) The minutes of the Planning Committee held on the 15th December 2015 were noted.

144. Minutes / Reports of council sub committees. There were none.

145. Reports: (1) WW1 Commemoration Group. The town clerk's written report was considered and accepted.

2. Town Hall Management. The town clerk referred to the minutes of a recent meeting received, which were noted. The meeting then went on to discuss the annual report received. Cllr Medwyn Williams confirmed that the arrangements worked well and **proposed that the arrangements continued and that the council continued its contribution of £37,000 in the 2016 /2017 financial year. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Gaynor Morgan Rees.** Cllr Gaynor Wood declared an interest and did not vote. Cllrs Colin Hughes and Raymond Bartley as county councillors also declared an interest and did not vote. **The Proposal was carried unanimously.** Cllr Medwyn Williams referred to the proposed security door and that it was something to look forward to. Cllr Bartley commented that a number of improvements had taken place following the town council's financial contributions.

There were no other reports.

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

1. Cllr Colin Hughes reported that (1) Some work to be carried out on the former North Wales Hospital boundary walls but questions over funding as property still in private ownership. (2) Checked that the flood culverts were working. (3) Safety audit for Lenten Pool needs to be pursued.

2. Cllr Raymond Bartley reported (1) Hedges around the former North Wales Hospital need attention. (2) Lower Park toilets to be opened in January 2016. (3) Flood defences in the Brookhouse appear to be working. (4) Planning brief consultation for the Brookhouse sites coming to an end – comments being collated – meeting with residents at the beginning of January 2016 – before the planning committee in February. Everyone to have a copy of the agenda and findings. (5) Graig Road to be resurfaced from Plas Clough Farm to the Colomendy Industrial Estate.

3. Cllr Gwyneth Kensler at the request of the chairman reported (1) Resurfacing plan for the New Year. (2) Open Spaces audit to take place to ascertain if Denbigh had enough. (3) Former Police Station sold. (4) Phil Ebbrell to meet with Tom Smith regarding plans for Gwasg Gee. (5) Complaints re rubbish around the former Church Institute building. (6) Water Street to be resurfaced in 2016. (7) Lenten Pool roundabout progressing slowly.

All three county councillors then responded to questions on (1) North Wales Hospital boundary walls and the site owned by two offshore companies. (2) DCC given permission to

compulsory purchase the North Wales Hospital site and when this takes place the site would be passed on to the North Wales Hospital Preservation Trust who would then market and develop the site. (3) Future of the Denbigh recycling site – no decision made as yet. Officers were aware of the opinions of councillors who are opposed to closing the site. It was important that the facility remained albeit not as present. Denbighshire Chief Executive had confirmed no further cuts.

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

(1)	Ernest Martin – lock and open Dr E P Garden (Cheque no. 005780)	-	£60.00
(2)	DCC – 3 rd Town Hall contribution (Cheque no. 005781)	-	£9,250.00
(3)	Viking Direct – office sundries (Cheque no. 005782)	-	£51.25
(4)	Marian LI Rees - translation service 23.11.15 (Cheque no. 005783)	-	£102.00

Total payments: £9,463.25.

2. Other financial matters: (1) Payment of accounts between 22nd December 2015 and the 18th January 2016. It was agreed that the town clerk be given permission to pay any accounts received during this period and that a report be prepared for the meeting on the 18th January. (2) The receipt of £3,065.78 VAT refund from HMRC was noted.

148. Appointment of a member on to the Town Hall Management Committee. The town clerk reported that Cllr Rob Parkes had withdrawn from the committee. Cllr Philip Stevens volunteered and was appointed. Cllr Brian Davies to remain as the reserve.

149. Council Vacancy – Upper Ward. The town clerk reported that a request had been received by DCC for an election. The notice of election had been published with a closing date for nominations on the 8th January 2016. The election had been called for 4th February 2016. The town clerk referred to the e-mail received from the Electoral Services Officer setting out the requirements and the projected costs to the town council and referred in particular to paragraph four of the e-mail regarding poll cards and whether the town council wished polling cards to be issued in the event of a contested election. The projected costs for a contested election were £2,887.79 and the projected costs for an uncontested election being £154.58. It was agreed unanimously that polling cards be issued.

150. Council Vacancy – Lower Ward. The town clerk reported that no request had been received by DCC to fill the vacancy through an election. The council would now need to fill the vacancy through co-option. The town clerk had discussed the matter with the Electoral Services Officer. The situation was complicated in view of the overlap with an election taking part in the Upper Ward. The advice received was that possibly the council should delay publishing the public notice advertising the vacancy until after the closing date for nominations for the Upper Ward on the 8th January 2016. Should that election be uncontested the notice could be issued after the 8th. Should the election be contested the advice offered was that the vacancy notice be published after the poll on the 4th February 2016. Cllr Colin Hughes stated that the advice received from the electoral officer should be followed to the letter. It was vital that the town council should not get involved with prospective candidates. It was unanimously agreed that the advice received be accepted and adhered to.

- 151. Restructuring / Modernisation of the town council.** The trial period over a further three months was reviewed. The chairman invited comments from the members. A number of members commented that they were happy with the current structure. It was **Resolved** (unanimously) **to adopt and continue with the current structure.** The town clerk reported that the administrative problems had been overcome. Cllr Medwyn Williams commented that possibly the modernisation working group should review within the 12 months other matters contained within the original report – this was also accepted.
- 152. Dates of Meeting for the remainder of the current Municipal Year.** Following on from the decision made at Minute 151 above it was agreed that the Environment and Finance Committee continued to meet on the third Monday in the month at 7pm with the Planning Committee continuing to meet on the third Tuesday in the month at 6.30pm and the full council on the 4th Monday of the month at 7pm. The town clerk to prepare the calendar for the remainder of the current municipal year. In view of the above it was agreed to bring forward the date of the special council meeting to discuss the council budget from the 18th January 2016 to the 11th January 2016.
- 153. Denbigh Heritage Lectures.** The town clerk referred to the programme. The chairing of each lecture was agreed upon.
- 154. Draft Local Government (Wales) Bill.** The town clerk referred to the information circulated. The draft bill extended to 110 pages with the draft explanatory memoranda extending to 167 pages. The closing date for responses being 15th February 2016. The town clerk also stated that his colleague at Llandudno had prepared a draft summary which had been circulated to member clerks within the Clwyd branch of SLCC. It was agreed that the document be referred to the document scrutiny group and that the town clerk circulate the draft summary he had received to all members.

The chairman wished everyone a Happy Christmas and Prosperous New Year

There being no further business the chairman closed the meeting at 7.40pm

Signed:.....(chairman)

Date:.....