

Minutes of a meeting of the Planning, Finance and General Purposes Committees held on Monday the 8th September 2014 at 7pm at the Town Hall, Denbigh.

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

Apologies: Cllr Shereen Lunt,

Observing: County Councillor Gwyneth Kensler.

Cllr Raymond Bartley chaired the Finance and General Purposes Committees with Cllr Margaret Bowe chairing the Planning Committee.

The chairman welcomed all to the first meeting following the summer recess.

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

- (1) Cllr Raymond Bartley – all matters relating to Denbighshire County Council.
- (2) Cllr Colin L Hughes – agenda item C1(3) – correspondence – Victim Support
- (3) Cllr Rob Parkes – agenda item A1(10) – planning – Land off 43 Love Lane, Denbigh.
- (4) Cllr Geraint Williams – all matters relating to Denbighshire County Council.
- (5) Cllr Margaret Bowe – agenda item A1(10) – planning – Land off 43 Love Lane, Denbigh.

A. Planning Committee:

78. (1) Planning permission applications.

Following discussion, it was agreed that no objection be raised in respect of the following applications for planning permission:

- (1) Telephone Exchange, Post Office Lane
- (2) Pen y Cae, Bodeiliog Road
- (3) 23, Dalar Wen
- (4) Pavement outside Denbigh Library
- (5) Co-op, 26, High Street – 2 applications
- (6) Lidl, 89, Vale Street
- (7) Land off Green Lane
- (8) 15, Chapel Street – 2 applications
- (9) Land off 43, Love Lane

With regard to the planning application in respect of Cae Gwyn, Mold Road, serious concerns were expressed regarding access to and from the site from the Mold Road in view of the increased business the site would generate. The meeting was informed that the county planning committee has referred the application back to the applicant to consider further. In view of this it was agreed that the application be left on the table.

- (2) Any other planning matters: (a) the four planning consent certificates were noted.
(b) E-mail from Glyn Evans, Sustrans Cymru regarding the proposed new cycle route. The e-mail requested the council to reconsider its decision made on the 28th July. The meeting was reminded of the council's standing order no. 15 which stated that a decision of the council shall not be reversed within six months. The matter was discussed at length and a number of strongly worded comments made and there was some conflict between some members. A proposal was put forward that Mr Evans be invited to meet with the council and that the council revisit the planning



application. A recorded vote was called for. Cllrs Geraint Williams, Colin Hughes, Gaynor Morgan Rees and Medwyn Williams voted in favour of the proposal. Cllrs Rob Parkes, Margaret Bowe, Colin L Hughes, Gaynor Wood, Mark Young, Brian Davies and Roy Tickle voted against the proposal. Cllr Raymond Bartley abstained. The proposal was lost.

(c) The letter from DCC planning on which complaints for alleged breaches of planning control are dealt with was noted.

B. Finance Committee:

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

(1)	Zen Internet – ADSL provision (September) (cheque no. 005448)	-	£18.37
(2)	ADT – CCTV maintenance contract Sept 2014 – Sept 2015 (cheque no. 005449)	-	£1,476.79
(3)	Sodexo – grounds maintenance Dr E P Garden (August) (cheque no. 005450)	-	£605.88
(4)	Catalyst Systems – Toner for community archive printer (cheque no. 005451)	-	£100.80

Total payments: £2,201.84

2. The financial reports for the periods: **1.4.14 – 31.7.14** and **1.4.14 – 31.8.14** were noted.

3. Any other financial matters: (1) The list of payments made by the town clerk / finance officer during the period 29th July to 8th September 2014 as per minute 80(2) was noted and approved.

(2) 2013/2014 Annual Return: The town clerk reported that the annual return had been returned by

the external auditor with a report stating that no matters had come to the attention of the external auditor giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements had not been met. This report concluded the 2013/2014 financial year. The chairman asked that the thanks of the council to the town clerk for all his hard work be recorded.

(3) The receipt of £28.10 cash (being the closing balance) handed over by Henry Williams on behalf of the now defunct Denbigh Indoor Bowls Group was noted.

(4) The quotation received from DCC Street Lighting re the contract for the 2014 Christmas lighting was considered. The quotation in the sum of £9,750 plus VAT was accepted.

(5) The revised quotation received for a new set of Christmas lights etc. for the Myddleton Park roundabout Christmas tree was considered. The quotation in the sum of £2,191.38 plus VAT was accepted.

(6) The letter from Wales Audit Office stating that the sum of £30 would be paid to each town and community council in Wales was noted and accepted.

(7) The town clerk confirmed that copies of the annual accounts for the 2013/2014 financial year had been distributed to each member for information.

C. General Purposes Committee:

80. Letters, E-mails and Notices: 1. It was agreed that two items of correspondence received be noted.

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



- (1) E-mail from Community Safety Inspector North Wales Police re protection of War Memorials. It was agreed that the council become involved in the scheme.
- (2) The letters received from (a) Victim Support and (b) Shelter Cymru be referred to the grant aid subcommittee.
- (3) E-mail from Jessica Griffiths seeking employment to stage events in Denbigh. Comment was made that Ms Griffiths had done a fantastic job in promoting and putting on events in Prestatyn. Unfortunately the town council did not have the necessary funding to employ Ms Griffiths. It was agreed to acknowledge the e-mail and inform Ms Griffiths that the council did not have funding to employ her.
- (4) Menter Iaith Sir Ddinbych AGM – 23.9.14 at Corwen. Cllr Mark Young attending.
- (5) E-mail from Steve Tomlinson seeking work as a painter and decorator. It was agreed to note the e-mail and inform Mr Tomlinson that the town council was not undertaking any such work.
- (6) E-mail from Nia Williams seeking free parking on Saturday 4th October for the Denbigh Plum Festival - the request was granted.

81. Minutes of Meetings of the council's sub committees: There were none.

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

(2) A55 (Vale of Clwyd) signage meeting. The town clerk's reported on a recent meeting called by Ann Jones AM. Representatives from DCC, Denbigh, Ruthin and St Asaph Town Council, Chris Ruane MP and TPNW attended the meeting in the council chamber. The previous application / bid had proved unsuccessful. A new criteria was now in place. It was understood that the Minister was supportive. The meeting agreed that Peter Lea (DCC) should write to the Welsh Government to ascertain whether the original bid, if re submitted, and in light of the new criteria, would fail and also that Ann Jones AM to write to Visit Wales for clarification and input and to meet with the A55 group. A further meeting was to be arranged.

(3) European Walled Town Symposium. The town clerk's written report was considered and accepted.

There were no further reports

83. Dr Evan Pierce Memorial Garden. The town clerk referred the meeting to the e-mails received from Cae Glas confirming that they were no longer able to lock and open the gate. Cllr Colin Hughes was thanked for stepping in to lock and open the gate and litter pick. Cllr Hughes stated that there were many problems involved and elaborated on this. Cllr Hughes was of the opinion that the hours of locking and opening should be reviewed. Cllr Hughes went on to suggest that the council contact Mr Ernie Martin to see whether Mr Martin would be interested in locking and opening the gate and litter pick and if interested to seek what level of recompense was required – this was agreed upon. The town clerk then reported that he had received a complaint from the public regarding litter at the garden. A quotation had been received from DCC for the provision and installation of a waste bin at the garden in the sum of £575 which also went on to state that it would be added to the round to be emptied. The quotation was (unanimously) accepted. The location of the bin was discussed and finally agreed that it be located on the left hand side of the lawn as facing from Vale Street. It was further agreed that a letter be written to with a request that the company sponsor the bin as most of the litter in the garden emanated from purchases made at that store.

84 Devolved Services. The town clerk reported that he had met with two officers from DCC and that the town council was being put on notice that more detailed information as to the packages of devolved services to be discussed with town and community councils extra would be forthcoming following a cabinet decision next month. The town clerk also referred to the letter received from the leader of DCC which had been circulated. The town clerk went on to state that hopefully

discussions with DCC on devolved services could be completed before the budget meeting in January. Any additional devolved services undertaken by the council would probably mean an increase in the precept or a cut back on current expenditure. Every extra pound on the precept would only raise approximately an extra £3,300 in income. The question of double taxation would also need to be considered. Denbigh currently had the second or third highest precept within the county. The matter was discussed and a number of observations made. Comment was made that possibly the town council should consult the public in due course. It was agreed that all that could be done for the moment was to keep a watching brief.

85. Heritage Lectures 2015. The town clerk reminded the meeting that he had stated earlier on in the year that he was not prepared, due to the lack of support from the councillors, to arrange another series of heritage lectures. However, a great deal of pressure was being put by the public for another series. A frank discussion on the matter ensued. It was **Resolved** (11 for and one abstention) **that a series of heritage lectures be arranged during 2015.**

At this stage in the proceedings the meeting moved to full council under the chairmanship of the Mayor Cllr Rob Parkes.

86. Council Vacancies: (1) Upper Ward – The town clerk reported that four applications had been received for the vacant seat to be filled by co-option. The CV of each applicant had been marked confidential and circulated to each member of the council. No discussion took place. A secret ballot then ensued and Catherine Elaine Jones was elected for co-option on to the town council.

(2) Lower Ward – The town clerk reported that following publication of the casual vacancy that DCC had not received a request to fill the vacancy through an election. The procedure was that the town council would now need to fill the vacancy through co-option. It was agreed that the town clerk publish the necessary notices for co-option.

Following completion of Minute 86 above the meeting moved back to committee mode under the chairmanship of Cllr Raymond Bartley

87. Matters of Interest: 1. Members raised the following matters and it was agreed that the appropriate action be taken where necessary:

- (1) Complaint received regarding the footpath between Abbey Court and Ysgol y Parc. A sign on the footpath stated “no cycling”. DCC to be contacted to ascertain if the order was still in existence and if so whether it should be amended or a new sign erected.
- (2) The walls on Ystrad Road were in a terrible state of repair and the wall around the former North Wales Hospital was showing signs of deterioration. The attitude towards these walls was showing indifference / apathy
- (3) Complaint of antisocial behaviour in Cysgod y Graig.
- (4) The recent attack, mentioned on social network, on a gentleman by a group of young people near Howell’s School. It was agreed that the new Police Inspector be invited to meet with the council.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.40pm.

Signed: .....(chairman)

Date:.....

