

**Minutes of a meeting of the Planning, Finance and General Purposes Committees held on Monday the 14<sup>th</sup> July 2014 at 6.30pm at the Town Hall, Denbigh.**

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

**Apologies:** Cllrs Colin L Hughes and Colin Hughes.

**Observing:** County Councillor Gwyneth Kensler and thirteen members of the public.

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

The chairman welcomed all to the meeting.

**57. Denbighshire Empty Homes Project.** The chairman welcomed Andrea Fisher, DCC's Housing and Area Renewal Officer and invited Ms Fisher to address the meeting. Ms Fisher opened by giving details of her post and role. DCC had a policy of supplying affordable housing by bringing empty properties back into use. Ms Fisher distributed a hand out and took members through the contents. Ms Fisher then responded to questions and observations from members on (1) the number of vacant properties in Denbigh at the moment, (2) availability list of properties, (3) Promoting the scheme, (4) empty flats above retail premises. Many members thanked Ms Fisher for the information provided.

The chairman thanked Ms Fisher for her attendance and presentation and thanked her and the team for the work being carried out.

**58. Declaration of Personal Interest.** The following declarations were received:

- (1) Cllr Raymond Bartley – planning agenda item 1(1) – proposed cycle track etc.
- (2) Cllr Rob Parkes – agenda item C1(3) – correspondence – Denbigh Show.
- (3) Cllr Geraint Williams – all matters relating to Denbighshire County Council.
- (4) Cllr Shereen Lunt – agenda item C1(3) – correspondence – Denbigh Show.

**A. Planning Committee:**

**59. (1) Planning permission applications.**

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

- (1) 91, Vale Street
- (2) The Cloisters Building, Howell's Preparatory School
- (3) Asia, Lenten Pool
- (4) Telephone Exchange, Post Office Lane

With regard to the planning application received in respect of Land between St David's Church, St David's Lane and Brookhouse Road it was noted that 16 items of correspondence of objections amounting to approximately 85 pages had been received. Thirteen objectors attended the meeting to observe this particular application. A number of issues were involved and it was agreed that the application be deferred until the full council meeting on the 28<sup>th</sup> July for a site visit for councillors only to take place. It was further agreed that the visit take place on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> July at 3pm.



With regard to the planning application in respect of Cae Gwyn, Mold Road some concerns were expressed regarding the entrance to the site from the Mold Road and it was agreed to defer the application until the full council meeting on the 28<sup>th</sup> July and to request observations from the Highways Department on this particular point.

- (2) Any other planning matters: (a) the eight planning consent certificates were noted.  
(b) DCC – Planning Training Session, Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2014 was noted – Cllr Margaret Bowe & Raymond Bartley attending.

**B. Finance Committee:**

**60. Accounts:** 1. The following accounts were approved for payment

(1) Marian Rees – translation service 23.6.14 (cheque no. 005415)	-	£102.00
(2) Sodexo – grounds maintenance Dr E P Garden (June) (cheque no. 005416)	-	£605.88
(3) Thomas Fattorini – past mayoress / consort pendants (Minute 23(4)(2) refers) (cheque no. 005417)	-	£1,063.92
(4) Paul Liversidge – footpath clearing (June) (cheque no. 005418)	-	£165.00
(5) Scottish Power – Dr E P Garden (cheque no. 005419)	-	£91.91
(6) Catalyst Systems – off site data storage (cheque no. 005420)	-	£4.86

Total payments: £2,033.57.

2. The financial report for the period: **1.4.14 – 30.6.14** was noted.
3. The balances profile as at **30.6.14** was noted
4. Any other financial matters: (1) Denbigh Banners – the town clerk referred to the e-mails received from Cllr Kensler. Cllr Kensler left the chamber whilst the matter was discussed. Comment was made that there was no provision in the current budget for the purchase of banners – the total cost involved being £2,010. It was **Resolved** (8 votes to 3) **to defer a decision until a later date**. It was further agreed that this be December / January when the budget for the next financial year would be discussed.
- (2) Mayor's Pendant – the town clerk reported that a piece of the pendant had been lost and referred to the quotation received from Thomas Fattorini for a new part to be hand made in 18c gold to match the three remaining parts of the pendant. It was **Resolved that the quotation be accepted**.
5. 2013/2014 Annual Return.  
At this point the meeting moved to full council under the chairmanship of the Mayor Cllr Rob Parkes.

The town clerk referred to the new procedure. The draft return had been returned to the town council from the External Auditor stating of their intention to issue an unqualified audit certificate and to draw attention to two matters which did not affect the audit opinion. The town clerk, in accordance with the regulations, had signed section 3 of the Return and following the council considering the two issues raised by the external auditor the council



chairman should then sign section 3. On this basis it was agreed that the two issues raised be referred to the audit and personnel sub-committee to discuss and report back to the council. The meeting then approved the annual return and the Mayor signed and dated section 3 of the return. The annual return then to be returned to the External Auditor.

At this point the meeting moved back to committee mode.

### C. General Purposes Committee:

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

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

- (1) The grant aid application received from Menter Iaith Sir Ddinbych was referred to the grant aid sub-committee.
- (2) Welsh Government White Paper on Reforming Local Government was referred to the documents scrutiny sub-committee for consideration and response.
- (3) SP Energy Works re North Wales Wind Farms Connection Project. It was **Resolved** (unanimously) **to respond that the town council was of the opinion that all cabling should be installed underground.**
- (4) The request from Denbigh Civic Society for free parking for the Saturday of the Open Doors Weekend – 20.9.14 was acceded to.

**62. Minutes of Meetings of the council's sub committees:** Denbigh Guidebook. Cllr Medwyn Williams reported that the sub-committee needed to meet before the end of the month. There was a need to complete the editing work by the end of August. Photographs were required. It was agreed that the editorial committee meet on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July at 5pm.

**63. Reports:** (1) WW1 Commemoration Group. The town clerk's written report was considered and accepted. The town clerk reminded the meeting of the Special Service at St Mary's Church on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> July. The memorial plaque had been erected. A press release had been prepared and released but not published by the Free Press or the Daily Post. The chairman thanked the Rector Revd Jonathan Smith and the town clerk for their work on the project.

(2) Fireworks Working Group. The town clerk's written report was considered and accepted.

(3) Former North Wales Hospital Project Board. Cllr Medwyn Williams' written report was considered and accepted. Cllr Williams elaborated on the report. The public enquiry had been completed and it was hoped that the findings would be available in September / October. The Compulsory Purchase Order had been served on the owners.

(4) Castle Link Project Steering Group. Cllr Medwyn Williams' written report was considered and accepted. Cllr Williams elaborated on the report and responded to a couple of queries. The chairman thanked Cllr Williams for both reports.

There were no further reports

**64 North Wales Walled Towns Friendship Circle – Honorary Membership.** The meeting considered the e-mail received from the link chairman. The chairman asked the town clerk to leave the chamber whilst the matter was discussed. It was **Resolved that the town clerk, Medwyn Jones, be nominated as an honorary member of the Circle.** It was agreed that the Mayor confirm this decision to the Circle Secretary.




**65. North and Mid Wales Association of Local Councils** – proposed constitution amendment. The town clerk referred to the letter received from the association secretary. The meeting was astounded that the association did not have a bilingual policy and for the constitution to be changed as proposed. Comment was made that the Welsh Language was being treated as second rate. It was **Resolved** (unanimously) **to object to the proposal**.

**66. Denbigh CCTV.** The town clerk referred to a further e-mail received from the North Wales Police. During the ensuing discussion comment was made as to the ownership of the cameras and equipment and who would pay for the maintenance. It was **Resolved** (unanimously) **to invite the three persons mentioned in the e-mail to present the project to the council**.

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

- (1) Seagulls causing problems and attacking people in the town.
- (2) The Dr Evan Pierce Garden gate not locked at night.
- (3) Cynefin Group to be invited to give a presentation on Hwb Dinbych.
- (4) Sad recent event regarding the whereabouts of Mr Arthur Jones whilst on holiday in Crete. Denbigh had responded well to the vigil held and the fund raising appeal. It was agreed that letters be sent to the two organisers of the appeal.
- (5) One of Eirianfa's biggest tenants leaving.
- (6) Recent fund raising for the Arthur Jones appeal held at the town hall had raised £2,500.
- (7) Cllrs Margaret Bowe & Mark Young had recently attended an excellent chairmanship training course.
- (8) Damage to the Lenten Pool roundabout was not being reported by those who caused the damage – this was actually a criminal offence (S.170 RTA 1988).
- (9) Street lights on Llewelyn's Estate not working.
- (10) A55 signage. It was agreed that this needed to be resurrected. Further agreed that the town councils of Rhuddlan, St Asaph and Ruthin be contacted for support.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.36pm.

Signed: .....(chairman)

Date: .....

