

**FULL COUNCIL**

Minutes of Full Council held in Council Chamber, Municipal Offices, Prestatyn on Wednesday 29th July 2009 at 6.15pm – 8.05pm.

**PRESENT**

Councillors: G. Frobisher (Mayor), M. Eckersley, M. German, I. German, A. Pennington, G. Jones, A. Sampson, L. Muraca, J. Morris, J. Davies, P. Curtis, S. Frobisher, P. Newell, G.Percival.

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Mr N. Acott – Town Clerk/Financial Officer, Mrs L. Hewitt – Committee Support Assistant, Mr T. Brown – Internal Auditor.

**APOLOGIES**

Councillors: A. Horobin, G. Green, J. Thompson-Hill.  
Reverend John Harvey – Mayor's Chaplain.

**61 PRAYERS**

The Mayor read a prayer compiled by his Chaplain seeking help to promote the common good.

**62 MAYORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

a) Letters of thanks – correspondence received from Ysgol Babanod Bodnant Infants School PTA, Prestatyn Carnival Association, and Chancellor DH Rees.

b) Mayoral Events - Mayor announced that he was proposing to hold the following events:-

Civic Sunday on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2009, St Melyds Church (2.00pm);

MacMillan Coffee morning 25<sup>th</sup> September 2009, Presbyterian Church, Nant Hall Road.

Christmas Light Switch On Ceremony – Provisional date Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2009.

Mayor's Charity Ball – Spring 2010.

c) Mayoral Diary of Events – copy circulated at meeting

**63 ANN JONES AM (PM173c)**

The Mayor welcomed Ann Jones AM and invited her to address Council on current Welsh Assembly Government affairs relating to communities.

Ann Jones AM referred to new legislative competence orders (LCO) being given to Welsh Assembly Government that will enable Assembly to pass primary legislation in Wales. The Assembly were seeking to use this delegated power to reengage with the public within all

communities. It was expected that Town/Community Councils would benefit from such changes as the government focus would shift to local communities and powers of well being.

A contentious issue at present involved the proposed introduction of a carrier bag tax and its affects. Many small local businesses had objected because of the additional burdens placed upon them and Ann Jones AM was sympathetic to this position. It was generally felt that further consideration should be given by Welsh Assembly Government to the proposals.

The Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) was also preparing budgets and it was clear that public sector including local government settlements would be very tight for next couple of years. There was an additional factor in that some future capital grants had been released early to help boost economy. However, the WAG decision to remove proposed M4 relief road would release some capital funds for other projects.

The Mayor then invited questions from Councillors and Ann Jones AM responded accordingly:-

Environment and Public Realm – Prestatyn seems to be poor relation in terms of environment within Denbighshire. Ann Jones AM explained Welsh Assembly Government gives revenue money to County Councils who then determine local spending priority. The revenue funds given to Denbighshire County Council have increased each year over a number of years.

Shops – closing due to high business rates and in Scotland they have been scrapped. Ann Jones AM explained there are three business rate relief schemes in operation and over 210 shops in Vale of Clwyd have benefited. Prestatyn recently added to Coastal Strategy Regeneration Area and will qualify for additional regeneration funds. Longer term support for new businesses also being considered.

Planning Applications – new developments often come with S. 106 planning agreements and these are funds given by developer to Council to compensate e.g loss of open space. There are plans by WAG to assist developers provide additional social housing as waiting lists are horrendous. Ann Jones AM has reservations about funding private housing developers and hopes that public sector support can continue to be directed at regeneration and provision of jobs.

Closure of Hotpoint/Indesit, Bodelwyddan – factory closing and rumour of factory moving to Poland with European government funding assistance. Ann Jones AM aware of rumours but no evidence to support and continues to investigate situation.

Environment Agency – license applications submitted by housing developer for emergency foul water discharge to Aberkinsey Drain, Rhyl. Ann Jones AM has already received several letters of objection and individuals/organisations need to respond via consultation process.

Education System – relationships between County and AM appears strained. Ann Jones AM has been frustrated and outspoken for ten years on education as Denbighshire County Council has experienced difficulty in improving service. Welsh Assembly Government has intervened and established Education Recovery Board and recent Estyn reports have shown some improvements but further work required.

Housing/Education/Flooding/Global Warming/Hospices/Crime and Environment – all areas of public concern and politicians of all parties need to reassess priorities. Ann Jones AM confirmed WAG had agreed of need to reengage with communities.

Hospice – Ann Jones AM confirmed Welsh Assembly Government has awarded £4.1 million to hospices throughout Wales.

**RESOLVED** Thanks to Ann Jones AM for attending tonight's meeting.

## **64**     **MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** That Minutes of Annual General Meeting held 13<sup>th</sup> May 2009 be accepted.

Pursuant to Minute No 9 Committee Membership 2009/10 – record to show Cllr James Davies as Conservative.

Pursuant to Minute 11 – Representatives on Outside Bodies 2009/2010.

Offa's Dyke Association – Cllr A. Sampson confirmed as representative.

You'll Never Walk Alone Volunteers Walk Leaders Group – Cllr A. Sampson confirmed as representative.

Pursuant to Minute 16 – Staff. Cllr I. German requested that her vote against receiving letter of resignation be recorded.

## **65**     **MINUTES OF OTHER COMMITTEES**

**RESOLVED** That Minutes of other Committees be accepted as follows :-

Town Planning Committee – 13<sup>th</sup> May 2009.

General Purposes Committee – 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2009.

Pursuant to Minute 20(c) Public Session – Councillor's Questions – A Member enquired if named Councillors had responded to individual questions, and if not felt that there was an obligation on Council to reply. The Town Clerk/Financial Officer reported that due to large volume and nature of questions, many of which related to Denbighshire County Council and/or joint Council activity, he was in liaison with Denbighshire County Clerk and County Freedom of Information Officer about this matter. Many other questions raised by the same individual over many months were not in the portfolio of questions to Councillors and had already been answered by Town Clerk/Financial Officer.

Pursuant to Minute 23 Provision of Allotments – It was reported that Denbighshire Local Development Plan had included reference on need to identify suitable allotment land. The Town Clerk/Financial Officer confirmed that Denbighshire County Council had a waiting list of persons seeking allotments, and had also been requested to enforce license conditions relating to maintenance of Caradoc Road, Prestatyn allotments. He would also be meeting a representative of Mostyn Estates Ltd later this month to discuss land opportunities in Meliden.

**RESOLVED** That Cllr G Jones raise possibility of utilising land alongside Prestatyn Community Hospital with Chatsworth House League of Friends and North Wales Local Health Board (property owners).

Pursuant to Minute 24(e) Wales In Bloom/Public Realm Services – The Mayor confirmed that Wales in Bloom judges had visited Meliden following entry into competition by local group.

**RESOLVED** That further letter be sent to Mr Schwarz, Community Safety Manager Denbighshire County Council enquiring about progress on Tidy Town's Initiative.

Pursuant to Minute 25(b) Meliden Gala – It was reported that school hire fee consisted of £300 for hire and £100 caretaker fees.

Town Planning Committee – 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2009.

Town Development Committee – 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2009.

Pursuant to Minute 35 Ffordd Pant y Celyn Mugga – Cllr S. Frobisher reported that teenage shelter funded by Town Council had recently been installed and had been well received by youngsters.

Town Planning Committee – 8<sup>th</sup> July 2009.

Pursuant to Minute 41 – 43/2009/0377 Erection of TV platform, Prestatyn Football Club Cllr J. Davies reported that Denbighshire County Council had approved plans.

Finance and Management Committee – 8<sup>th</sup> July 2009.

Pursuant to Minute 52(c) Cllr M. Eckersley reported that whilst pleased weed spraying had been reintroduced several Members felt there was need for some hand weeding and collection. It was reported that some types of weedkiller in use required time to reach root systems before removal.

Pursuant to Minute 54 – Public Benches – Town Clerk/Financial Officer reported that invoice for two replacement benches would be held pending negotiations with contractor for return of the original benches.

Pursuant to Minute 57 – Staffing – It was confirmed Finance and Management Committee would be held next Wednesday evening with all Councillors and Staff invited to attend.

Pursuant to Minute 59 – Central Beach Artwork – Cllr M. German referred to correspondence received from injured party. **RESOLVED** That Public and Press be excluded in accordance with Local Government Act 1972 Schedule 12 Parts 2 and 5 during this item.

## **66     CENTRAL BEACH ARTWORK PM 59**

The Town Clerk/Financial Officer confirmed to Council that he had received copy letter from injured party via Denbighshire County Council together with copy of their response. Council was reminded of actions taken to barrier site pending further investigations and of suggestions being made by designers.

Reference was made to a meeting of County Officers and Town Clerk/Financial Officer last week to establish a proposed course of action for further consideration by Prestatyn Art Group and respective Councils.

Cllr M. German then read the letter he had received from injured party providing details of circumstances surrounding accident. Council then discussed incident, artwork funding, liabilities, risk assessments, maintenance and ownership. It was unclear if Cllr German had been sent correspondence in a private capacity.

**RESOLVED** That further update on situation be provided at next Finance and Management Committee.

## **67     ACCOUNTS FOR AUDIT 2008/9**

Details of Accounts for Audit had been circulated with agenda. Council was reminded that figures used had been compiled from earlier financial statements accepted by Council and laid out in style required by audit regime.

Mr T. Brown, Internal Auditor confirmed that he had inspected accounts and had completed report as required by external audit and details had been circulated with agenda. There were

no outstanding issues although the recent risk assessment highlighted lack of progress in dealing with absence cover for Town Clerk/Financial Officer, and repairs to office accommodation.

Members then completed the Annual Governance Statement and Supplementary Assurance and Information Requests.

### RESOLVED

- 1) That Town Clerk/Financial Officer, Financial Administrative Officer and Internal Auditor be thanked for their work in compiling accounts.
- 2) That Annual Return 2008/9 be accepted as follows :

### SECTION 1

No.			
1 – 14	Accept		

### SECTION 2

No.			
1 – 9	Yes	4. Public notice period in operation at time of consideration	

### Intermediate Audit Supplementary Assurance and Information Requests:-

### STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

No.			
1 -4	Yes		

### Future Plans

No.			
5	Yes		

### Internal Controls

No.			
6 -8	Yes		

### Compliance with laws, regulations and codes of practise

No.			
9	Yes		

<b>No.</b>			
10	No revision to standing orders or financial regulation		

<b>No.</b>			
11 - 13	Yes		

### Electors Rights

<b>No.</b>			
14	Yes		

### Assessment of Risks

<b>No.</b>			
15 – 17	Yes		

### Internal Audit

<b>No.</b>			
18 – 20	Yes		
21	No	Internal Auditor is not requested to undertake tasks that may compromise his/her independence	

### Auditor Reports

<b>No.</b>			
22 – 23	Yes		

### Events After the Year End

<b>No.</b>			
24	No	Ongoing accident investigation	

<b>No.</b>			
25 - 26	Yes		

No.			
27	No	No other borrowing of money	

**68     PRESTATYN HIGH SCHOOL**

Letter received from Head of Welsh, Prestatyn High School seeking permission to reproduce town crest and logo on educational certificates.

**RESOLVED** That Prestatyn High School be permitted to reproduce Town Council Crest and Logo.

Chairman \_\_\_\_\_

**FULL COUNCIL**

Minutes of Full Council held in Council Chamber, Municipal Offices, Prestatyn on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2009 at 6.15pm – 7.25pm.

**PRESENT**

Councillors: M. Eckersley (Deputy Mayor), M. German, I. German, A. Pennington, J. Morris, A. Sampson, L. Muraca, J. Davies, G. Percival, J. Thompson-Hill.

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Mr N. Acott – Town Clerk/Financial Officer, Mrs L. Hewitt – Committee Support Assistant, Mr T. Brown – Internal Auditor, Reverend J. Harvey (Mayor's Chaplain).

**APOLOGIES**

Councillors: G. Frobisher, G. Jones, P. Curtis, S. Frobisher, P. Newell.

**112 PRAYERS**

Prayers were offered by Rev. J. Harvey seeking wisdom for all those in authority to promote the common good.

**113 MAYORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

- a) Prestatyn Flower Show – letter received thanking Council for its support.
- b) Mayoral Diary of Events – copy circulated at meeting.
- c) Festive Light Switch On – finalised date for ceremony to be held outside Ty Nant Offices, Nant Hall Road, Prestatyn, on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2009 at 3.45pm.

**114 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** That Minutes of meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> July 2009 be accepted.

Pursuant to Minute 65/52c Weedkiller – For information it was reported that Denbighshire County Council favoured system weedkillers (acts on growing weeds only) rather than a residual weedkiller.

**115 MINUTES OF OTHER COMMITTEES**

**RESOLVED** That Minutes of other Committees be accepted as follows :

Town Planning Committee – 29<sup>th</sup> July 2009

General Purposes Committee 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2009.

Pursuant to Minute 72 Chris Ruane MP – Staff were congratulated on detailed recording of this item.



Pursuant to Minute 71(d) Ffrith Festival Gardens – Cllr M. Eckersley updated Council on work being undertaken by new tenant including removal and replacement of water pump, lakeside repairs and removal of temporary caravans. He also reported that Halloween evening and French Market event were being arranged by company, and also that he had recently attended meeting of Ffrith Association. **RESOLVED** That letter be sent to new tenants inviting them to meet with Town Council.

Pursuant to Minute 77 Local Recycling Civic Amenity Site – Further reference was made to proposed relocation of civic amenity site from Prestatyn to Rhyl and concerns expressed about future service provision for people without transport. There was also a possibility of increased fly tipping and increased carbon production as local people would need to increase number of journeys. Denbighshire County Council had confirmed they would notify Town Council of proposed timescales for changed services once this had been determined by them. **RESOLVED** That Senior Waste Management Officer, Denbighshire County Council be invited to address future meeting.

Town Planning Committee – 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2009.

Finance and Management Committee – 16<sup>th</sup> September 2009.

Town Development Committee – 16<sup>th</sup> September 2009.

Pursuant to Minute 98 Public Realm Working Group – Discussion took place upon proposed membership, health and safety implications, and terms of reference for this group. The Town Clerk/Financial Officer confirmed that these items would be addressed once it was known if Denbighshire County Council desired to participate in establishment of such a body. Denbighshire County Councillor, M. Eckersley reported upon a proposed site meeting he had arranged with County Officials next week to review condition and access to coastal promenade at Central Beach, Prestatyn.

Pursuant to Minute 109(c) Prestatyn Artwork, Central beach – Cllr M. German referred to earlier health and safety reports and stated that he felt the proposed remedial measures were insufficient to meet requirements. He also referred to Prestatyn Business Growth Partnership meeting that had considered this item attended by fellow Councillors whom he considered may have been influenced by their involvement with this body.

Council discussed the comments made by Councillor German and response of Prestatyn Business Growth Partnership representatives who advised the body had only been updated upon current situation and had made no decisions in this matter, and had no influence upon them. Members were also reminded of previous site meeting, that had been open to all Councillors, circulation of risk assessments, proposed remedial measures to address points raised by Denbighshire County Health and Safety Officer and potential financial/legal liabilities. A recorded vote was requested. **RESOLVED** That Motion for item to be referred back be declared **LOST**.

FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN
Cllrs M. German, I. German	Cllrs G. Percival, J. Davies A. Sampson, L. Muraca, A. Pennington, M. Eckersley J. Thompson-Hill	Cllr J. Morris
(2)	(7)	(1)

Town Planning Committee – 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2009.  
(Cllr J. Thompson-Hill apologies to be recorded)

**116 NORTH EAST WALES VETERANS GROUP**

A letter had been received from Ms S. Keating, Secretary (copy circulated with agenda) inviting Council to appoint representative to the Group.

**RESOLVED** That Cllr M. Eckersley be appointed Council's representative 2009/10.

**117 WELSH LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION**

Notification had been received of Local Government Pay Settlement of one percent for 2009/10.

**RESOLVED** That Council accepts notification.

Financial Implications : Costs contained within financial estimates 2009/10.

Legal Implications : National Joint Councils Terms and Conditions of Service.

**118 CHRISTMAS WORK ARRANGEMENTS**

Council considered working arrangements over the festive period and Chairman's recommendation of office closure based upon previous arrangements.

**RESOLVED** That Christmas working arrangements be as follows :

Thurs 24.12.09	Fri 25.12.09	Mon 28.12.09	Tues 29.12.09	Wed 30.12.09	Thurs 31.12.09	Fri 01.01.10	Mon 04.01.10
Normal Working Hours	Christmas Day		Office Closed			New Year's Day	Normal Working Hours
	<b>BH</b>	<b>BH</b>	<b>Special Leave</b>			<b>BH</b>	

**119 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS**

**RESOLVED** That Public and Press be excluded in accordance with Local Government Act 1972 Schedule 12A Parts 8/9 during following item : North West Community Association/Jubilee Community Centre.

(Reference was made to good practise of public removing personal belongings from Council Chamber during such sessions)

**120 NORTH WEST COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION/JUBILEE CENTRE, SEABANK DRIVE, PRESTATYN PM 88**

The Town Clerk/Financial Officer reported upon three quotations received for heating repairs/work at the Community Centre. Members were reminded by Council representatives of urgent need to undertake this work prior to winter months, difficulties encountered due to complexity of present heating system, and slightly higher costs than originally forecast. There would be significant revenue cost savings to the Association by upgrading the whole heating system.

Council was informed the Association had submitted two grant applications for external funding but it would be some time before these applications are determined. Cllr Pennington was

thanked for his efforts in providing background information and assisting with access arrangements etc.

**RESOLVED**

1) That quotation for Superwarmth in sum of £7,750 be accepted.

2) That Council underwrites full cost of works pending determination of Associations external grant applications.

Financial Implications : To be contained within financial estimates for Community Centres and Property Maintenance Fund.

Legal Implications : Property owned by Town Council and leased to North West Community Association.

(Cllr M. German declared interest and retired from Council Chamber during this item.

Cllr A. Pennington declared interest and remained in Council Chamber but took no part in voting on this item)

Chairman \_\_\_\_\_

**FULL COUNCIL**

Minutes of Full Council held in Council Chamber, Municipal Offices, Prestatyn on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2009 at 6.15pm – 7.50pm.

**PRESENT**

Councillors: G. Frobisher (Mayor), M. Eckersley, M. German, I. German, A. Pennington, J. Morris, A. Sampson, L. Muraca, J. Davies, J. Thompson-Hill, A. Horobin, S. Frobisher, G. Jones, P. Duffy.

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Mr N. Acott – Town Clerk/Financial Officer, Mrs L. Hewitt – Committee Support Assistant, Mr T. Brown – Internal Auditor, Reverend J. Harvey (Mayor's Chaplain), Dr M. Mehmet –Chief Executive Officer, Denbighshire County Council (part)

**APOLOGIES**

Councillors: G. Green, P. Curtis, P. Newell, G. Percival.

**142 PRAYERS**

Prayers were offered by Rev J. Harvey seeking integrity and responsible actions for all those in public office who work for the common good.

**143 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS**

Council approved a change in agenda programme to allow consideration of this item earlier in proceedings.

**RESOLVED** That Public and Press be excluded in accordance with Local Government Act 1972 Schedule 12A Parts 1 and 2 during the following item Receptionist/Customer Service.

**144 RECEPTIONIST/CUSTOMER SERVICE SUPPORT PM 93**

Cllr J. Morris, Chairman of Finance and Management Committee outlined concerns raised by current postholder about her job description and work. He reported that Mrs Janice Taylor was a full time employee and performed a wide range of activities beyond her original post.

The Town Clerk/Financial Officer concurred with Chairman's comments and referred to discussions with Janice earlier this year about her position. He explained that her expanded role included community health work, holiday activities programme, Choices etc. and also since April 2009 cover for day to day Mayoral duties for which honorarium payment had been made.

Following a number of changes in workload and activity following cessation of Inequalities in Health programme and establishment of new activities e.g. community health work, the post and its associated work patterns had recently settled.

In response to Members question Council was informed that any change in job description and payscale would not affect holiday entitlement.

**RESOLVED**

- 1) That post of Receptionist/Customer Service Support Officer be redesignated Customer Service/Administrations Officer.
- 2) That revised job description with payscale SCP 4 -19 be accepted and Mrs J. Taylor be appointed SCP 15 with immediate effect.

Financial Implications : As reported and contained within budget provisions 2009/10.

Legal Implications: Local government Act 1972 S.112 National Joint Terms and Conditions of Service.

**145 MAYORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

The Mayor welcomed public and guests back to the meeting.

- a) Letters of thanks – correspondences received for Council's financial donations from Denbighshire Citizens Advice Bureau, Nant Hall Road Children's Holiday Club, Eisteddfod Urdd Gobaith Cymru, Benefits Advice Shop, Bodnant Residents Association.
- b) Mayoral Diary of Events – copy circulated at meeting.

**146 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** That Minutes of Full Council held 14<sup>th</sup> October 2009 be accepted.

Pursuant to Minute 120 North West Community Association/Jubilee Centre – Cllr M. German referred to misleading press articles claiming that Cllrs A. Pennington and M. Eckersley had been responsible for obtaining successful external grant monies for the Association. Miss Thelma Davies, NWCA Secretary had applied for grant aid on behalf of Association. Both Councillors had been alarmed at press article that was later retracted and concurred that Miss Davies and Association deserved full credit for identifying and seeking grant aid.

**147 MINUTES OF OTHER COMMITTEES**

**RESOLVED** That Minutes of other Committees be accepted as follows :

Town Planning Committee – 14th October 2009.  
(Cllr A. Horobin apologies to be recorded)

Pursuant to Minute 124 Bishopswood Road, Prestatyn – It was reported that Denbighshire County Council Enforcement Officers had visited site and trees felled had been included within original planning permission. Discussion ensued over location of felled trees. **RESOLVED** That Denbighshire County Council, Enforcement Officers be requested to contact Cllr J. Morris to further discuss this matter.

General Purposes Committee – 11th November 2009.

Pursuant to Minute 126, Community Health Initiatives Social Forum – Cllr J. Morris enquired if Council would support the establishment of such a forum for relatively little cost. Reference was made to a service already operating in Rhyl, and also continued lack of response from Head of Adult Services, Denbighshire County Council. **RESOLVED** That this item be considered at next General Purposes Committee.

Pursuant to Minute 128 Review of County Electoral Arrangements – The Town Clerk/Financial Officer confirmed acknowledgement of Council's opinion had been received from Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales. The consultation period finishes 28th December 2009.

Town Development Committee – 11th November 2009.

Pursuant to Minute 130 Prestatyn Business Growth Partnership – Cllr M. German referred to recent press article congratulating Denbighshire County Council for Public Realm Services but also referring to article in same paper about poor performance of Economic Development Unit. The latter County department was considered an expensive unit with poor returns although several Members highlighted discrepancies in spending patterns between England and Wales.

Pursuant to Minute 135 Prestatyn Art Project – In response to Members query the Town Clerk/Financial Officer confirmed the cost of remedial works was £5,120 consisting primarily of external funding. Whilst Council facilitated the project it could not spend external grant money on non approved project activity or other services.

Town Planning Committee – 11th November 2009.

Pursuant to Minute 137(c) Housing Quota – It was confirmed that Town Council still held a moratorium on new building due to inadequate town infrastructure. Denbighshire County Council was the Principal Planning Authority and decision making body for planning applications.

Community Endeavour Awards – 7th December 2009.

#### **148 NOTIFICATION OF COMPLETION OF AUDIT 2008/9**

The Town Clerk/Financial Officer reported that he had received formal notification of a 'clean' audit report. He referred to a difficult operational year and supplementary requests for additional information relating to staff costs, externally funded projects and increased payments.

Cllr J. Morris offered his thanks to Staff and Internal Auditor for producing accounts for audit. Mr Tom Brown, Internal Auditor stated that he was very impressed with running of council offices and Staff who consistently produced accounts of the highest standard, clearly taking pride in their work. Members concurred with these complimentary remarks.

Mr Brown was welcomed back to Council Chambers following his road traffic accident

**RESOLVED** That a letter be sent to Mr N Acott - Town Clerk/Financial Officer; Mrs Jane Seaman - Financial Assistant and Administrations Officer; and Mr T Brown, Internal Auditor recording Council's appreciation for their excellent work in administering Council finances.

#### **149 TOP CENTRAL CAR PARK**

Council was invited to consider renewal of the annual car park and rental agreement from 1st January 2010. Members were reminded of the costs associated with rental agreement, maintenance arrangements and award of Secured car Park status.

**RESOLVED** That Council renew its twelve month car park rental agreement.

Financial Implications : Rental £2,000pa contained within budget provision.

Legal Implications : Property owned by Parochial Church Council. Road Traffic Act 1984.

**COMFORT BREAK 7.00pm – 7.10pm****150 DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL –DR M. MEHMET, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

The Mayor welcomed Dr Mehmet , CEO, Denbighshire County Council and invited him to address Council on the changing organisational structures and challenges facing County.

**MM** Apologies for being late. What we are trying to achieve, we have already made progress. A year ago we had critical inspection reports. We have moved forward and recent ESTYN report was positive. Denbighshire County Council schools are now where they should have been a few years ago. Currently 13<sup>th</sup> at KS4, we were 20<sup>th</sup>.

A strong Senior Management Team is being put together of four replacing nine. A stronger team and moving from a reactive authority to proactive. Now we have a clear agenda to place Denbighshire County Council as a top performing authority by 2012. I want Social Services, Public Realm and Education to keep improving. I want to engage with community dealing with high level priorities.

Challenge of demographics. An elderly population and some will need much support – this is rising. A lot of young people with serious disabilities are surviving now and need a lot of care and attention.

Education – The Physical Education facilities at Prestatyn High School are the worst I've ever seen. Back of school very poor. Need to support regeneration. All these things need attention at a time of financial restraints. Budget shortfall £13 - £20 million shortfall in next 3-4 years. We need to deliver on our priorities while reducing expenses. How shall we do this? We need to protect high level priorities, children, old people, public realm. I'll look at assets. Why do we have to own assets? £500 million worth. Can we dispose and improve efficiency?

Reviewing primary schools in Prestatyn as too many places. We need to take out inefficiency. We are looking at Human Resources, Build, ICT, Legal, Finance. Average man on the street doesn't care about these support areas. Do we need them? I want 10-30% saving on our support services and I am looking at alternative models of business e.g. joining with other authorities with similar culture and heritage. Looking at different ways of providing services. I need to talk to people like yourselves to engage with these problems.

**IG** PHS – PE appalling and has been for years. An all weather pitch was lost. The school has got bigger and bigger.

**MM** Excellent Head with popular 6<sup>th</sup> form. Could work more with college. I have no answer to the problem but we need to do something – but so little capital available.

**PD** Did you go to the Meadows? There are facilities there which could be utilised more.

**MM** These weren't shown to me.

**SF** Logistically they can't get there in the time available.

**PD** They should run there and run back as warming up and down exercise.

**PD** Is Bodnant being amalgamated?

- MM** A good possibility. There are too many places in non Welsh primary schools. We can't have waste. One possibility is to merge two schools.
- PD** Do you think there are too many staff at Denbighshire County Council?
- MM** Yes – with reduced funding we have to reduce staff. I've started at the top. We are reducing by £2.2-£2.5 million through redundancies.  
If you can tell me where there's too many staff – let me know.
- AH** Makes sense to amalgamate two Bodnants but how will you allow for parental choice?  
Single stream entry does not give enough places.
- MM** Internal consultation on proposals on table to merge schools and cap it at one form entry. We have too many primary places.
- AH** Because too many schools!
- MM** Do you have any good suggestions to solve this problem?
- MG** I know we have to be victims of budget cuts starting with Redundancies, Heating, Disposal, Fuel, Stock Control. Sometime ago I suggested DCC undertake a complete stock take of Denbighshire County Council assets – even pencils. I wonder how serious Denbighshire County Council are on meeting this challenge. What about hospitality allowances? An extravagance that needs to be stopped.
- MM** I agree with your sentiments. We need to scrutinise everything. But I don't want us to become a mean employer where people are cold. We need good training. We are looking at private sector use for training/courses. Reduced spending can also affect private businesses.
- JD** Staffing is an issue. It is a major part of the budget. Figures go up year after year. There's a lot of scope for re-organisation. Managers do protect their teams. Some departments don't seem to have much to do. I agree with articles about economic development unit being very expensive for what they've achieved.
- MM** 75-80% of budget goes on schools, social services and public realm. Staff deliver our services so can't cut back too much. Can I ask questions now? You have a One Stop Shop and so do we? Can they be merged?
- IG** I don't think they perform same function.
- MG** I think it could work on a day to day basis.
- PD** I'm concerned about lack of industry and lack of jobs for local youth
- MM** Regeneration and Tourism includes employment. Young people not attracted to stay in Denbighshire. As an organisation average age of Denbighshire County Council employees is mid 40s. We have bright school leavers but they don't stay.
- JD** We employ sub-contractors at Prestatyn Town Council when we feel Denbighshire County Council don't perform well enough or require extra local service. We should combine services.
- MM** If these ideas make economic sense I'm interested. But how do we do this? I'm outcomes driven. Perhaps Nigel and I can come up with some ideas to consider?



**PD** I've seen no progress over last few years in growth of jobs but I think this is the biggest hurdle Denbighshire face. I'm approached about twice a week for jobs from youngsters. How are we getting on with Tesco?

**MM** Don't know.

**PD** Will you ring them then and tell me what's going on?

**JD** Very close to agreement between Tesco, Stadium and County. New highway layout and plans to be submitted in the New Year.

**PD** We are getting it in the neck. Not you!

**MM** We are trying to progress this and doing everything Council can do in this situation.

**ME** Have you any control over social funding that goes to Rhyl?

**MM** It's a growing pressure on Rhyl and overspilling to other towns. Not possible to control this but we do try to steer individuals to other agencies for support to minimise impact upon Denbighshire County Council.

**GF** I'd like to thank you for coming this evening.

**RESOLVED** That Dr M Mehmet be thanked for his attendance.

Chairman.....

**FULL COUNCIL**

Minutes of Full Council held in Council Chamber, Municipal Offices, Prestatyn on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2010 at 6.15pm – 7.55pm.

**PRESENT**

Councillors: G. Frobisher (Mayor), M. Eckersley, M. German, I. German, A. Pennington, G. Jones, A. Sampson, L. Muraca, J. Morris, J. Davies, P. Curtis, S. Frobisher, P. Newell, G. Percival, P. Duffy, J. Thompson-Hill.

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Mr N. Acott – Town Clerk/Financial Officer, Mrs L. Hewitt – Committee Support Assistant, Mr T. Brown – Internal Auditor, Rev J. Harvey – Mayor's Chaplain, Mr D. Hall – Coastal Defence, Denbighshire County Council.

**APOLOGIES**

Councillors: A. Horobin, G. Green.

**173 PRAYERS**

Reverend J. Harvey offered prayers seeking integrity of word, speech and action for those in public service.

**174 MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS**

Mayoral Diary of Events – The Mayor reported he had attended Prestatyn High School Awards Evening and also Celebration of 100 years of Guiding at Scala.

**175 COUNCIL SILENCE – MR ANDREW MORSE**

Council stood in silence in remembrance of Mr Andrew Morse, Prestatyn Weatherman who recently passed away. Andrew had diligently recorded Prestatyn weather for many years and was instrumental in safeguarding the future of Prestatyn weatherstation.

**RESOLVED**

- 1) That letter of condolence be forwarded to family.
- 2) That Town Clerk/Financial Officer make enquiries about future recordings currently being undertaken by Deputy Observer.

**176 SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLANS (SMPL) NORTH WEST ENGLAND AND NORTH WALES CONSULTATION PM 152**

The Mayor welcomed Mr David Hall, Coastal Defence, Denbighshire County Council and invited him to address Council. Mr Hall explained the consultation document was a non-statutory plan and follows SMP1 published in 1999. The new SMP 2 covers the coastline from Great Orme, Llandudno to Solway Firth. It also relates to a 100 year timespan and makes recommendations for 0-20 years, 20-50 years and 50-100 years sea defence.

The Prestatyn coastline falls within Sub Cell 11a (Great Orme to Southport Pier) and forecasts show small incremental rise in sea level for 0-20 years with increasingly rapid increases thereafter totalling 14.5 metres in 2114. It was accepted that accurate long term forecasting is extremely difficult due to many variables. Such variable factors affecting sea-level forecasts included wind, spring tides, storminess, atmospheric pressure, tectonic plates and topography of seabed.

Coastal defence works included hard (e.g. concrete, stone) and soft (e.g dune systems) methods of construction and replenishment. Most new coastal defence work was being designed for fifty year period with scope to extend to one hundred years.

Denbighshire County are producing a coastal strategy that included three schemes at Foryd Harbour (Rhyl), Splash Point (Rhyl), and Barkby Beach, (Prestatyn). The works at Foryd Harbour had recently been allocated a sum of ten million pounds primarily from Welsh Assembly Government.

New build developments such as Tower Gardens, Prestatyn have flood defences built into design.

The Prestatyn coastline combines both hard and soft coastal defences and the SMP 2 plans to hold existing lines along hard section Rhyl – Barkby Beach and managed realignment for soft section from Barkby Beach to Point of Ayr, Talacre.

Mr Hall then answered Members' questions about a similar but separate consultation exercise and explained Flood Risk of Dee Estuary project was being undertaken by Environment Agency Wales. He highlighted problems of sand accumulations along Prestatyn promenade and adjoining highways explaining this was an unavoidable product of nature's own beach replenishment programme.

Mr Hall stated that Denbighshire County Council was responsible for minor coastal defence maintenance works and it had annual budget allocation of £50,000. Council felt the budget was insufficient to provide a proper level of maintenance work and resulted in neglected appearance especially along promenade.

#### **RESOLVED**

- 1) That Mr D. Hall be thanked for his presentation.
- 2) That Denbighshire County Council be requested to review its coastal defence maintenance budget and impact of such work upon public perception and tourism economy.

#### **177 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** That Minutes of Full Council held 16th December 2009 be accepted.

Pursuant to Minute No 150 Tesco - Members enquired if there was any update regarding proposed Tesco Store. The Town Clerk/Financial Officer informed Council that a Joint County/Town Councillors briefing session was being considered for 18th March 2010.

**178 MINUTES OF OTHER COMMITTEES**

**RESOLVED** That Minutes of other Committees be accepted as follows:

Town Planning Committee 16th December 2009.

Finance and Management Committee – 20th January 2010.

Pursuant to Minute 156 Artwork – Cllr M. German referred to information board recently installed by Denbighshire County Council at top of High Street, Prestatyn and potential danger of protruding ironwork. Denbighshire County Council had confirmed they would be attending to this matter.

Pursuant to Minute No 158 Risk Assessment – Town Clerk/Financial Officer Unforeseen Absence – In response to Members' question the Town Clerk/Financial Officer confirmed this item was raised at the North Wales Association of Town Councils and several Councils had similar concerns. He also reported upon recent decision of Society of Local Council Clerks to establish Clerks' Locum register.

Pursuant to Minute 161 Work Life Balance – Council requested to be kept informed of situation and any further developments.

Pursuant to Minute 167 Social Forum – Council referred to recent changes to Chronic Care funding and new services being introduced by Welsh Assembly Government.

Town Planning Committee 20th January 2010.

(Cllrs G. Jones and M. Eckersley left meeting to attend Police Consultation Event)

**179 COUNCIL TAX PRECEPT 2010/11 PM 154**

Council considered the unanimous recommendation from Finance and Management Committee held on 20th January 2010 for no change in Council Tax 2010/11. Reference was made to Denbighshire County Council's budget setting process and need for early determination of Town Council's precept by Full Council.

Cllr M. German referred to recent Notice of Motion submitted by himself and Cllr P. Newell that had unfortunately been received too late for tonight's meeting. The motion requested Council to consider providing ten thousand pounds per annum for palliative care services.

Following short discussion it was felt such a significant departure from recommended financial estimates would require detailed consideration at a future date and Mayor indicated he would return to this item later in tonight's proceedings.

**RESOLVED**

- 1) That Council accepts recommended Financial Estimates for 2010/11.
- 2) That Council accepts recommended Council Tax Precept of £348,300 (Band D equivalent of £46.84 – no change).

**180 INTERNAL AUDIT SERVICE 2010/11**

Council considered a letter from Mr T. Brown offering his professional services for 2010/11. Members referred to the good work undertaken by Internal Auditor and diligence shown in reviewing Council's financial operations.

**RESOLVED** That Mr T. Brown be appointed Council's Internal Auditor 2010/11.

Financial Implications : No change in service charge and contained within budget provisions 2010/11.

Legal Implications : Governance and Accountability for Local Councils 2008 Account and Audit Regulations.

(Mr T. Brown left meeting for this item).

**181 PLANNING POLICY PM 134/08, 196/08**

Details of Council's moratorium on new residential building had been circulated with agenda. Council was reminded the policy had been introduced following extensive flooding in town and apparent lack of drainage infrastructure to cope with any new developments. Since 2008 extensive drainage works had been undertaken by statutory bodies throughout the town.

Reference was made to Denbighshire County Council Local Development Plan (2006-2021) currently being prepared and instructions from Welsh Assembly Government to make provision for new residential property. The proposed Bodelwyddan development of 1,700 properties had recently been rejected in a local residents' poll.

Council was reminded that Denbighshire County Council was the statutory planning authority and that Town Council was a formal consultee invited to provide observations on all town planning applications.

**RESOLVED**

- 1) That Council's moratorium policy on refusing all new residential development be rescinded.
- 2) That each County Planning Consultation be considered on its merits and due consideration given to flood risk and drainage infrastructure support.
- 3) That Mr Paul Mead, Development Control Officer, Denbighshire County Council be invited to attend future meeting.

**182 OPEN LAND BY SIDE OF ALDI, GRONANT ROAD, PRESTATYN**

Details of proposals for community project involving refurbishment of County owned garden site had been circulated with agenda. Council was informed maintenance of this site had recently reverted back to County Council following completion of agreement with Aldi Stores Ltd.

Denbighshire County Council had secured fifteen thousand pounds towards community project and Aldi Stores Ltd had offered numerous 'in kind' contributions e.g. mulch, compost, bulbs. Cllr P Duffy, County Ward Member welcomed proposals as he and other Members had been seeking improvement to this gateway site for many years. Several volunteering community groups including Prestatyn and District Environmental Association and Pop In Centre had offered their support. It was hoped that the new open design would reduce littering and ease future maintenance. Denbighshire County Council were seeking tenders for heavy landscaping works.

**RESOLVED** That Council supports proposed refurbishment of gardens and contribute maximum of five thousand pounds to project.

Financial Implications : Joint Partnership Project – Tidy Towns 10k, DCC/Others 5k, PTC – up to maximum 5k.

Legal/Other Implications : Denbighshire County Council own site and will be responsible for overseeing community project and future maintenance etc. Local Government Act 1972. Public Health Act 1875, Open Spaces Act 1906.

### **183 SCALA CINEMA AND ARTS CENTRE – COUNCIL REPRESENTATION**

Notification had been received that Cllr J. Thompson-Hill had resigned from Scala Board of Trustees due to personal time constraints. He outlined to Council the time commitment involved for this position and the variety of tasks undertaken.

#### **RESOLVED**

- 1) That Cllr J. Thompson-Hill be thanked for his past services.
- 2) That Cllr A. Sampson be appointed as Council's nominated representative.

### **184 PALLIATIVE CARE**

Cllr M. German expanded upon his earlier request for Council to support palliative care services as demand for hospice care services was increasing rapidly. Several Councillors requested more information about current service provision, Government funding for hospices, and role of Town Council in supporting charitable organisations.

**RESOLVED** That this item be agendered for discussion at next Finance and Management Committee.

Mayor \_\_\_\_\_

**FULL COUNCIL**

Minutes of Full Council held in Council Chamber, Municipal Offices, Prestatyn on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2010 at 6.15pm – 7.25pm.

**PRESENT**

Councillors: G. Frobisher (Mayor), M. Eckersley, M. German, I. German, G. Jones, A. Sampson, L. Muraca, J. Morris, J. Davies, S. Frobisher, P. Newell, J. Thompson-Hill, G. Green

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Mr N. Acott – Town Clerk/Financial Officer, Mrs L. Hewitt – Committee Support Assistant, Rev J. Harvey – Mayor's Chaplain.

**APOLOGIES**

Councillors: A. Horobin, A. Pennington, P. Curtis, G. Percival.  
Mr T. Brown – Internal Auditor.

**217 PRAYERS**

Reverend J. Harvey offered prayers for wisdom in exercising authority and promotion of the common good.

**218 MAYORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

- a) Letters of thanks – Council had received thanks for recent financial donations for swimming lessons from Bodnant Junior School and Ysgol y Lllys.
- b) Town Events – The Mayor reminded Council of forthcoming events including Prestatyn and Clwydian Range Walking Festival 14<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> May, Rhyl and Prestatyn Mayors Bowling Challenge Cup 14<sup>th</sup> May, and Classic Car Show 31<sup>st</sup> May 2010.
- c) Prestatyn Classic Car Show PM 192.

A letter had been received from organisers indicating that due to large number of entries this year they were seeking permission to utilize the free car park by Guide Headquarters in the event of overspill. Some spaces would be reserved for disabled parking as in previous years.

**RESOLVED** That permission be granted subject to public liability insurance and organisers be invited to include future requests as part of their annual submission to Council.

**219 NORTH WALES POLICE**

The Town Clerk/Financial Officer reported that unfortunately Sgt Cust was not available to attend this evening although arrangements were being made for his attendance at a future meeting.

**220 NORTH WALES COAST, STRATEGIC REGENERATION AREA (NWC-SRA) PM 200**

The Mayor welcomed Mr Paul Smith, Community Cohesion Lead NWC-SRA and invited him to address Council. Mr Smith explained that he was seconded to the Welsh Assembly Government post last year from his former employment as Regeneration Officer, Denbighshire County Council to develop community cohesion element of the programme area.

NWC-SRA consisted of seven areas stretching from Prestatyn to Rhos on Sea although main focus of regeneration activity involved Rhyl and Colwyn Bay. To qualify for support a number of measured indices of deprivation were used such as housing quality, employment, education, health and well being. An action plan 2016 had subsequently been prepared and this identified six themes or drivers of regeneration : space for living; health and well being; education and skills; community cohesion; environment and transport; sustainable employment.

Last year a total of 12.5 million pounds was spent on regeneration projects such as redevelopment of Rhyl railway station and acquisition of houses in multiple occupation primarily in Rhyl and Colwyn Bay. Some NWC-SRA monies were used to match fund other projects such as coastal defence and European convergence funds for physical regeneration. A community fund of thirty thousand pounds had also been established to assist smaller regeneration projects involving community groups with grants up to twenty thousand or 50% of project costs.

A question and answer session followed :

**ME** Can multi occupancy landlords get property refurbished free?

**PS** Several different forms of funding and help available dependent upon location and property but not necessarily SRA funding. HMO's acquired with SRA funding can be redeveloped by social housing organisations, demolished for open space or improved highway arrangements etc. Support for private HMO landlords would normally have conditions to protect public investment e.g. repayment of grant in event of sale.

**GG** Presentation material handed out tonight seems outdated and very little investment for Prestatyn.

**PS** Apologies for handout but much of information produced last year remains the same. The SRA action plan 2016 is available on web site and additional copies will be forwarded to Town Clerk.

Prestatyn has received £308,000 towards Central Beach development and Prestatyn Railway Station improvements receiving a contribution of £105,000. A further £60,000 has been allocated for Webbers Arcade at Central Beach but this has not been drawn by Denbighshire County Council. I will take back Members concerns about comparatively low levels of investment in the town.

**GJ** Seems very little community involvement or opportunity to discuss future plans.

**PS** I have only recently moved to the post and part of role is to assist local communities awareness.

**IG** 12.5 million pounds for 2009/10 seems a lot of money but Prestatyn always seems to be left out. A sum of 8 million allocated for sea defences in Rhyl but nothing for Prestatyn.

**PS** Level of funding for 2010/11 still not clear. The funds for coastal defence work comes from different funding source and is additional to SRA money. Work is complex and costly and not yet started. Sea defence modelling work still in progress. Coastal defence is not part of remit for SRA.



- MG** Surprising public money used to pull down houses for open space. With SRA designation what is Denbighshire County Council, Economic Development Unit doing? Prioritisation of resources important and coastal defence must be priority over artworks.
- PS** I am seconded from Economic Development but unit still very strong and busy with its own associated programmes and work. Prestatyn sea defences protected town during recent storms. Artwork is proven to help regenerate towns e.g. Angel of the North and in some areas it can be focus of regeneration activity.
- JM** European Objective 1 Liverpool project spent more on administration than regeneration. Too many civil servants and quangos
- PS** I cannot comment on EU One projects administration costs. There are eight employees for NWC-SRA including secondments. The Director would be able to provide figures and costs of administration.
- JD** Prestatyn still missing out on public investment. Early intervention could prevent many future problems e.g Prestatyn High Street needs immediate support and a small amount of money would do much good to help pockets of deprivation.
- PS** I will feedback comments to Welsh Assembly Government that Prestatyn in need of attention.

**RESOLVED** That Mr P. Smith be thanked for his presentation.

(Cllrs J. Morris, P. Newell, G Jones left meeting).

## **221 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** That Minutes of Full Council meeting 17th February 2010 be accepted.

Pursuant to Minute 182 Land by side of Aldi, Gronant Road, Prestatyn – In response to Members questions about progress the Town Clerk/Financial Officer confirmed item would be agendered for discussion at future meeting. He reported that there was ongoing dialogue between Denbighshire County Council and its appointed contractor about poor quality of turf etc. The Pop In Centre staff and volunteers had kindly offered support to assist future maintenance and volunteers programme was being prepared by County officials.

## **222 MINUTES OF OTHER COMMITTEES**

**RESOLVED** That Minutes of other Committees be accepted as follows :

Town Planning Committee – 17th February 2010.

General Purposes Committee – 3rd March 2010.

Town Development Committee – 3rd March 2010.

Pursuant to Minute 196 Prestatyn Business Growth Partnership. It was reported that Tesco Stores Ltd no longer had a designated officer for Prestatyn development and there were no plans for replacement.

Pursuant to Minute 201 Hillside Viewpoint – Flintshire County Council and Denbighshire County Council had confirmed that damaged wall would be repaired later this year although the reason for delay was not known and further enquiries would be made.

Town Planning Committee – 3rd March 2010.

Finance and Management Committee – 24th March 2010.

Town Planning Committee – 24th March 2010.

Mayor \_\_\_\_\_