

## **GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**

Minutes of General Purposes Committee held in Council Chamber, Municipal Offices, Prestatyn on Wednesday 1st June 2011 at 6.15pm- 8.35pm.

### **PRESENT**

Councillors: A. Sampson, M. Eckersley, A. Horobin, G. Green, P. Duffy, M. German, I. German, P. Newell, J. Davies, J. Thompson-Hill, L. Muraca, G. Percival, S. Edwards.

### **IN ATTENDANCE**

Mr N. Acott – Town Clerk/Financial Officer, Mr T. Brown – Internal Auditor.  
Cllr R Hughes – Chair of Scala Trustees, Mr C. Bond – Scala Manager.

### **APOLOGIES**

Councillors: G. Frobisher, P. Curtis, A. Pennington, S. Frobisher, G. Jones.  
Mrs L. Hewitt – Committee Support Assistant.

## **15 PERSONAL STATEMENT**

Cllrs M. German and I. German made personal statements following conclusion of lengthy Public Service Ombudsman for Wales investigation and his decision to discontinue the investigation. Cllr M. German reminded Committee of his resignation as Chairman of General Purposes Committee earlier this year because he had felt threatened in this position.

## **16 CHAIRMAN'S APPOINTMENT 2011/12**

In absence of present Chairman and Vice Chairman of Committee, Cllr A. Sampson (Deputy Mayor) invited nominations for position of Chairman for ensuing Municipal Year. It was proposed by Cllr J. Thompson-Hill seconded by Cllr M. Eckersley that Cllr G. Green be appointed. No other nominations were received.

**RESOLVED** That Cllr G Green be appointed Chairman of General Purposes Committee 2011/12.

## **17 HOUSEKEEPING**

Cllr G. Green, Chairman thanked fellow Councillors for their support. He reminded Committee and Public of requirement to turn off all mobile phones, recording devices and gave details of emergency evacuation procedures in event of fire.

## **18 VICE CHAIRMAN'S APPOINTMENT 2011/12**

Nominations were invited for position of Vice Chairman for ensuing Municipal Year.

**RESOLVED** That this item be Deferred until next meeting.

## **19     SCALA CINEMA AND ARTS CENTRE**

The Chairman welcomed Cllr Rhiannon Hughes, Chair of Scala Trustees and Mr Chris Bond, Scala Manager to the meeting. He referred to Scala Business Development Plan (copy circulated to Members with agenda) and invited Cllr Hughes to explain the plan. Members were informed that the development plan was geared towards requirements of Scala business, Denbighshire County Council and potential funding organisations.

In recent months there had been a lot of good news about Scala including further national awards, recognition of success and increased usage. Following a brief discussion about format of tonight's meeting and potential sensitivity of commercial business information coupled with Members request to discuss financial operations it was proposed that this item be considered under Part II.

**RESOLVED** That Public and Press be excluded in accordance with Local Government Act 1972 Schedule 12A, Parts 1, 4, 5, 7, 10, 12.

## **20     SCALA CINEMA AND ARTS CENTRE continued**

Cllr R. Hughes and Mr C. Bond outlined the key aspects of Scala Business Development Plan involving education, community activity, business links and corporate sponsorship. They then invited questions and comments:

- Cllr ME**           Poor external signage fronting High Street.
- Cllr RH**           External signage and other items were deleted from original plans as cost saving measure. Scala Board seeking grants to install those items.
- Mr CB**            Explained about building structure and actions being taken.
- Cllr PN**            Raised issue of seating and disabled provision.
- Cllr PD**            Would like to know who was Denbighshire County Council portfolio holder at time of construction and disappointed that he has not been made aware of historical issues ..... Why was Ballroom Dancing not taking place as several parties had approached him for such activity.
- Cllr RH**            Ballroom dancing was tried last year but not successful, although Zumba dancing recently introduced and was proving very popular. Problems with building have been regularly raised with Corporate Director, Denbighshire County Council.
- Cllr PD**            He would like a site meeting with Denbighshire County Council officers about building structure and will be talking to them tomorrow. He will also seek details of DCC Cabinet Portfolio holder and Officers signing off project.
- Cllr RH**            Scala profile rising and it has received four national awards recognising value community involvement and enterprise – Civic Trust Award, Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) Grand Final International Award and (RICS) Awards Wales (Community Benefit) and Action for Market Towns Award.

- Cllr RH** Since recent closure of Stadium/Tesco temporary car park shops in Lower High Street have reported downturn in custom. There is uncertainty about impact on Scala although lots of disabled people use Scala and loss of temporary car park could be problem for them.
- Cllr PD** Welcomed tonight's meeting and suggested Scala Board of Trustees should hold an open public session.
- Cllr RH** Scala Board will consider this suggestion. Scala Business Development Plan has been accepted by Denbighshire County Council and includes section in 'Business Links' recognising importance of attracting external business finance and corporate sponsorship and this is focus.
- Cllr SE** Early S. 106 Planning Agreement between Denbighshire County Council and Stadium/Tesco indicated possible financial support for Scala and Tourist Information Centre. Would potential loss of this investment affect viability?
- Cllr RH** It is recognised as a threat in SWOT analysis and would be a setback.
- Cllr SE** Some concerns about staffing matters.....
- Cllr RH** Scala engages 15 'Future Jobs' people and provides training for foreign language students. All employees receive regular training. Any comments, complaints or feedback on services and visitor experience must be directed to Scala Manager.
- Some comments relate to ongoing building construction issues that are being regularly discussed with Denbighshire County Council who own property.
- Cllr SE** Very interested in finances and operational cost breakdown on month by month basis.
- Cllr RH** Scala Board is company responsible for finances and day to day operations. A lot of this information is sensitive commercial information although Manager has prepared figures for tonight showing general state of finances, current usage and comparative trends that are all positive at this time.....
- Cllr GP** What is mass market market appeal for Scala?
- Mr CB** Blockbusters and special events make most money. Live productions can be difficult to predict. There have been some requests to show live sporting events via satellite but there is a high service charge and some companies will not supply cinemas. Daytime films were introduced but not very well supported so currently targeting conferences and events market.
- Cllr IG** Referred to earlier requests by Town Council for detailed financial information and breakdown. Is Scala viable?
- Cllr RH** Yes. Scala Board of Trustees responsible for financial and day to day operations. Cllr A. Sampson is Prestatyn Town Council representative on Scala Board. Town Clerk/Financial Officer recently invited to attend as observer at regular financial review meetings between Denbighshire County Council and Board.

- Cllr PN** Scala needs Denbighshire County Council revenue funding to survive.
- Cllr AS** Scala is meeting all financial obligations.
- Cllr RH** Finances are much better and trends looking very good. Ideally there would be no requirement for Denbighshire County Council annual subsidy and this is one of Scala targets over next few years. Scala is a registered charity and annual returns are publicly available for inspection via Charity Commissions website.
- Cllr MG** Prestatyn Town Council can be regarded as benefactor for Scala with no attachment to company and this is how it was envisaged when Council originally supported project. He is personally comfortable with this approach.
- Cllr JD** Council has a duty to scrutinise and has appointed Cllr A. Sampson as its Scala Board representative. Regular Prestatyn Town Council/Scala liaison meetings can help everyone's understanding as in past too many unknowns.
- Mr CB** Provided details of current trends, comparative data and outlined finances..... Scala is experiencing a good growth period with increasing usage and net profit. The cinema has been helped by big film releases and blockbuster movies.
- Cllr RH** Scala Board is always applying for grants and seeking new opportunities and brief information provided of latest bid.
- Oriel Scala and art shop has been successful. New display gallery to be set up in Cafe Bar area.
- Cllr AH** Local schools input can be invaluable.
- Cllr RH** Totally agree. Scala staff, Friends of the Scala, local schools all play their part and deserve a huge vote of thanks.
- Mr CB** Provided details of staffing levels which he felt were much lower than comparable sites.
- Cllr RH** New Scala Lottery has been launched. Date of AGM not yet confirmed.

## **RESOLVED**

- 1) That Cllr R. Hughes and Mr C. Bond be thanked for their attendance.
- 2) That Scala Board of Trustees be encouraged to hold occasional open public meetings.
- 3) That letter be sent to Denbighshire County Council regarding Scala building.

## **21 NOTICE BOARD AT TOWER BEACH, PRESTATYN**

Cllr M. Eckersley invited Committee to consider increasing height of this notice board. The Town Clerk/Financial Officer gave brief details of history and problems arising from vandalism.

**RESOLVED** That Committee supports provision of new legs to increase height of notice board bearing in mind needs of all service users.

Financial/Legal Implications: Provisional cost estimate £220. Local Government Asct 1972

## **22 PROPOSED WYLFA B NUCLEAR POWER STATION**

Cllr M. German had sought Committee debate on this item and explained he had serious misgivings about future of nuclear power. He reminded Committee that in 1988 Town Council had opposed nuclear testing at Trawsfynydd nuclear power station and referred to tragic consequences arising from Chernobyl and Fukushima incidents.

He had received information about Friends of the Earth indicating that high burn spent fuel from proposed new plant would need to be stored at Wylfa B for one hundred and sixty years before it would become cool enough for recycling. In global terms only 2.8% of energy generated comes from nuclear power. According to his sources UK Government would be responsible for any accident/clean up operations rather than energy producers.

Cllr M. Eckersley expressed concerns about impact of cooling waste water and discharges into Irish sea. He also reported upon Germany's decision yesterday to curtail its future nuclear programme. Cllr A. Horobin recognised loss of proposed nuclear power plant in Anglesey would result in job losses but other energy sources could be explored.

In conclusion Cllr M. German felt HM Government should delay any further nuclear developments until 2020 when further knowledge about high burn nuclear power and research from other emerging energy sources would be better understood. A cost benefit analysis of nuclear power should be sought.

**RESOLVED** That Cllr M. German and Town Clerk/Financial Officer further research this matter and consideration be given to inviting a guest speaker to future meeting.

## **23 TOWN EVENTS**

Committee considered financial assistance applications (copy circulated with agenda) for town events: -

### **a) Prestatyn Promenade Cycle Race**

Committee was informed that the Prestatyn based cycle race was organised by Rhyl and District Cycling Club and had emerged as annual race fixture in recent years. It attracted many cyclists from around UK and last year several professional teams had entered race helping to raise profile.

### **RESOLVED**

- 1) That Committee supports Prestatyn Promenade Cycle Race and awards £300 towards costs.

Financial/Legal Implications: Costs contained within 2011/12 budget provision. Local Government Act 1972 S.137.

- 2) That race organisers be invited to attend future meeting.

**b) Harry Thomas – Community Historian**

Committee was reminded that Mr Thomas was recognised by Town Council as the town's community historian and that he undertook slideshows and talks throughout the town at little or no charge. Several organisations and local schools had written to express their appreciation of service provided.

**RESOLVED**

- 1) That Committee approve honorarium payment of £250 for services 2011/12.

Financial/Legal Implications: As per budget provisions. Local Government Act 1972 S. 144/5.

- 2) That Committee approve purchase of digital projector for use by Community Historian.

Financial Implications: Provisional estimate £200

**c) Funders Fayre PM 209/3**

Committee was informed that Denbighshire Voluntary Services Council (DVSC) had agreed to host such an event in Prestatyn but were seeking six hundred pounds towards costs. Several Members spoke on value of a funders fayre but expressed reservations about significant cost implications.

**RESOLVED**

- 1) That DVSC be informed that Committee welcomes such an event for Prestatyn but it should also seek to provide individual assistance with completion of grant aid forms.
- 2) That Chairman and Town Clerk/Financial Officer liaise with DVSC regarding potential costs and report back accordingly.

**d) North Hoyle Community Funds**

During earlier deliberations Committee discussed grant aid processes, budget provision, town events, community grants and environmental project support. Reference was made to fact that many organisations seeking financial assistance from Town Council were being directed to North Hoyle Community Fund who distributed thirty-five thousand pounds per annum to local groups and organisations.

**RESOLVED**

- 1) That North Hoyle Community Fund representatives be invited to attend future meeting.  
(Cllr S. Frobisher, Prestatyn Town Council nominated representative for this organisation be informed of discussions)
- 2) That Council's Town Events grant aid form be amended to include feedback questionnaire on success or otherwise of event.

Chairman\_\_\_\_\_

## **GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**

Minutes of General Purposes Committee held in Council Chamber, Municipal Offices, Prestatyn on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2011 at 6.15pm- 9.05pm.

### **PRESENT**

Councillors: G. Green (Chairman), A. Sampson, M. Eckersley, G. Frobisher, A. Horobin, P. Duffy, M. German, I. German, G. Jones, P. Curtis, L. Muraca, G. Percival, S. Edwards.

### **IN ATTENDANCE**

Mr N. Acott – Town Clerk/Financial Officer, Mrs L. Hewitt – Committee Support Assistant, Mr T. Brown – Internal Auditor, Cllr H. Evans – Leader of Denbighshire County Council (DCC), Mr H. Williams – Corporate Director of Learning and Communities, Denbighshire County Council, Mr A. Clare and Mr P. Swales – Stadium Developments, Mr M. Coogan – S.P.A. Consultants, Mr E. Price – Capital Projects Officer, Denbighshire County Council, Mr M. Jones, Highways, Denbighshire County Council, Mr Paul Mead, Development Control Manager, Denbighshire County Council.

### **APOLOGIES**

Councillors: S. Frobisher, A. Pennington, P. Newell, J. Davies, J. Thompson-Hill.

#### **73     HOUSEKEEPING**

Chairman welcomed Councillors and Guests and informed them of Council's housekeeping requirements. He also repeated Member comments expressing disappointment at number of apologies for tonight's meeting.

#### **74     VICE CHAIRMANSHIP 2011/12**

Chairman invited nominations for Vice Chairmanship. Cllr L. Muraca proposed and Cllr A. Sampson seconded nomination of Cllr G. Frobisher. No other nominations were received.

**RESOLVED** That Cllr G. Frobisher be appointed Vice Chairman of General Purposes Committee 2011/12.

#### **75     URGENT ITEMS**

The Chairman gave notice of two urgent items brought to his attention relating to Prestatyn Railway Station and Coastal Sea Defences and Committee agreed to consider these items.

## **76     PRESTATYN RAILWAY STATION**

Committee was informed of recent press article about ongoing and frustrating delays with improvement works at Prestatyn Railway Station. Several Councillors had made statements in local press and there was concern that some Members appeared to be speaking on behalf of the authority when this item had not been raised by Committee for sometime. Members were urged to stipulate that Councillor statements to press were their own personal statements unless authorised by Council.

## **77     COASTAL SEA DEFENCE**

Cllrs M. German and Cllr M Eckersley had provided a copy of correspondences they had received from local resident to Town Clerk/Financial Officer which expressed concerns about condition of sand dunes and coastal sea defences. The letters had been circulated to all local residents in Tower Beach area and referred to a forthcoming public meeting. Cllr M. Eckersley personally felt that there was an element of scaremongering from one individual letter writer who was unaware of facts and he was concerned this could affect residential property sales and insurance cover.

Cllr S. Edwards reported that Mr C. Ruane MP had also recently circulated a questionnaire about sea defences and was hoping to arrange public meeting with Denbighshire County Council, Environment Agency and Countryside Council for Wales officials in near future. Cllr S. Edwards on behalf of Mr Ruane MP's office confirmed that Town Councillors would be invited to attend any future public meeting about this matter.

The Town Clerk/Financial Officer circulated a copy of a letter dated 19th July 2011 received via Cllr Eckersley from Mr R. Humphries, Section Manager, Bridge and Coastal Defence, Conwy and Denbighshire County Councils in which he stated 'protection to coastal flooding to Tower Gardens is one of the highest along the Denbighshire coastline; this is due to the additional sea defences installed as part of the development of the Estate'.

Committee would be kept informed of developments and any future official public meetings.

## **78     CHARTER AGREEMENT – COUNTY/TOWN COUNCILS PM 71**

The Chairman welcomed Mr Hugh Evans, Leader of Denbighshire County Council and Mr Hywyn Williams, Corporate Director, Learning and Communities to the meeting and invited them to address Committee. Cllr Evans explained that both County and Town shared a common goal of wanting to provide good quality and efficient local services. The drivers for change were strategic in origin and included Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) pushing for collaboration and efficiency savings. Denbighshire County Council also had a desire to strengthen local services and accountability. In Autumn 2011 all twenty-two Unitary Authorities (Principle County Councils) would sign agreement with WAG to explore opportunities for Regional Services and working.

Denbighshire County Council had already signed Charters with Voluntary Sector and Federation of Small Businesses to help dialogue and understanding of each organisation, assess impact of present economic climate and its effect on future of local government services. The Charters also covered topics such as information and communication, engagement, mutual acknowledgement and local governance. Mr Evans stressed that Denbighshire's view was that the proposed Charter and Devolution/Delegation of Services papers currently under consideration by each Council would enhance local services and he stressed this was not a budget saving exercise.

Mr H. Williams stated that the Charter was a mutual agreement detailing systems that must work to help improve services for residents and it would hopefully define and enhance our working relationships. He then invited Members questions.

- CIlr IG** Communication between Denbighshire County Council and community has broken down. Disappointed County Council no longer invites Town Council to attend regular Area Member Forums. Dialogue needs to be two way process and feels this is not happening – only one way at moment. Lots of local frontline service jobs already undertaken well by Town Council.
- CIlr PD** Public raised a lot of questions about plans for this bus station redevelopment but Prestatyn Town Council (PTC) was not consulted about proposed temporary working arrangements. Town Council already has a lot of services e.g. cleaning bus shelters, public seats and I wonder what County want us to take on.  
Could you also explain story about Bodnant Infants School highlighted in local press recently and why local Councillors were not kept informed.
- CIlr ME** Noticed Denbighshire County Council have issued temporary road traffic restriction order for Kings Avenue to accommodate temporary bus station.
- CIlr SE** Has concerns about Town Council finance and staffing if it provides extra services. Will Prestatyn Town Council get more money and will there be risk of double taxation?
- CIlr HE (DCC)** No double charging but needs to be discussion about how best to provide local service. Denbighshire County Council may in future be unable to provide a service but it may be a priority for Town and we need to work together to find a solution.
- CIlr GP** What is the definition of a frontline service? Would this include refuse collection?
- CIlr HE (DCC)** Frontline Service is one with direct contact with public and most notably Public Realm. This is part of devolution and empowerment project.
- Mr NA** Charter Agreement is looking at consultation, representation and has a much wider overview than services.  
There is a separate Devolution/Empowerment Project currently looking at how services can be delivered locally and this will be subject of further meetings.
- CIlr GG** Devolution of service will involve cost to Town Council.

- Mr HW** (DCC) Budgets will be reducing nationally so eventually some services may no longer be provided. Perhaps Town Council would want to step in to cover or prioritise a particular service for its community.
- Cllr HE** (DCC) Charters would enable formal discussion to take place regarding issues and funding. We need to start sharing information and close gap between County/Town.
- Cllr GG** Denbighshire County Council no longer invites Town Councillors to attend Area Member Groups and requests Cllr H. Evans to look into resurrecting joint County/Town Councillor meetings to help improve dialogue.
- Cllr SE** Are Statutory Services part of devolution? Hillside Gardens split between different County departments and very confusing.
- Cllr HE** (DCC) Hopefully Statutory Services will remain intact with Denbighshire County Council but level of service could be affected. DCC managers trying to make its services more accessible and easier to understand and comments on Hillside will be taken back.
- Cllr MG** Welcomes proposed Charter. Five tiers of government representation. People want a nice town and pavements they can walk on without Overgrown vegetation forcing them onto roads. We are 'Walkers Are Welcome' town. CAB office recently spent fortune on upgrading former County building in Nant Hall Road but outside it looks a mess and still plagued with hogweed and litter.
- Cllr PD** I take my hat off to Public Realm workers who do a great job. I want to see more partnership working and taking ownership. DCC Leader is doing a good job at improving communications between County and Town and welcomes attendance tonight. What about Bodnant School incident?
- Cllr HE** (DCC) Wants to promote Local Partnership Working.
- Mr HW** (DCC) Bodnant was a school issue following inspection by Environmental Health of kitchens during summer so difficult to inform people about what was going on. Press article caught them by surprise.
- Cllr PD** I can tell you what is wrong – single brick wall getting damp as gutters not cleaned regularly. Flaking paint in kitchen is dreadful because of damp.
- Cllr AH** As Chair of School Governors I can tell you maintenance of that building is sadly neglected and school has been asking County to look at problem for a long time and this still is outstanding. Canteen staff are marvellous.
- Mr HW** (DCC) I thought this particular matter had been resolved but don't know exact working details. I will chase up and provide you with update.
- Cllr PD** Are Denbighshire County Council cutting back on services and expecting Prestatyn Town Council to make up difference?

**Mr HW (DCC)** What you take responsibility for is your Council's decision. We don't know how finances will pan out and or what County services may have to stop.

**Cllr SE** Denbighshire County Council don't want to put up rates so Town Council will have to take on more responsibilities. Is this what you are saying?

**Cllr MG** We'll bite the bullet together.

**Cllr HE** Town and County Councils need to be fully engaged with each other because efficiency savings in public service must be made. Focus is on providing most efficient method of service delivery.

**RESOLVED** Thanks to Cllr H. Evans and Mr H. Williams.

**79** **COMFORT BREAK** – Five minutes comfort break.

**80** **EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS**

**RESOLVED** Public and Press be excluded in accordance with Local Government Act 1972 Schedule 12A Parts 7, 8, 9 during item on Stadium Development.

**81** **STADIUM DEVELOPMENT**

The Chairman welcomed representatives of Stadium Developments and Denbighshire County Council Officials to the meeting. Mr Paul Mead, Development Control Manager, Denbighshire County Council (DCC) explained that latest planning permission for this major retail development was granted on 27th July 2011 with planning conditions relating to construction, traffic, noise etc. and also off site highway works and bus station. Plans for public perusal and comment on highway plans will be placed in Scala Cinema and Arts Facility within next fourteen days.

Mr Paul Swales Stadium Developments reported his company had worked closely with Denbighshire County Council on highway issues and a principle of working had recently been agreed together with phased operational stages over next fifteen months.

Mr Mike Jones, Traffic Engineer, Denbighshire County Council advised that traffic counters were employed last year to record traffic data, flows, volume etc. and this data was used to forecast future traffic movements. Once information had been gathered a computer programme was then used to show traffic movement on existing road layout and then planned improvements were incorporated into design to obtain optimum flow.

Denbighshire County Council, Stadium Developments and Welsh Assembly Government were all contributing partners (details provided) to a scheme to improve existing Prestatyn bus station. Earlier proposals to relocate bus station had proved frustratingly slow because of delays and previous external funding levels had since been significantly reduced so original plan was no longer a viable option. Several Councillors expressed their disappointment and suggested present scheme be deferred until funds become available or savings made elsewhere to reinstate original proposals.

Mr Eric Price, Capital Projects Officer, Denbighshire County Council talked about proposed bus station developments and introduction of temporary bus stop arrangements involving use of Kings Avenue, Prestatyn. All businesses in Kings Avenue had received personal visits and County had been sympathetic to any suggestions made by local businesses. Cllr I. German reflected many Councillors concerns and felt there would be major problems in using Kings Avenue for temporary bus stops. Cllr P. Duffy suggested use of former Omnitec site although Mr Price stated this had already been considered and ruled out because of limited turning space for buses.

Committee was informed that current temporary taxi rank would return to bottom of High Street once building works had been completed. The need for additional coach parking at new bus station would also be investigated by County officials following comments at tonight's meeting.

Cllr S. Edwards expressed concerns about high number of traffic lights being introduced by scheme although Mr M. Jones, County Engineer (DCC) explained many sets would be in phased sequence to help maintain traffic flows. Cllr G. Percival referred to a lack of consultation about traffic restrictions and also suggested railings, street furniture etc. should be shown on consultation plans. Mr E. Price indicated that he would check on a recent bus station consultation exercise that apparently failed to include Town Council as consultee.

In response to a question raised by Cllr M. German the Stadium Development representatives confirmed Next, New Look, Costa, Marks and Spencer and River Island had all agreed to open at the new retail park.

#### **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED**

- 1) That Stadium Developments and Denbighshire County Council be thanked for their attendance. Representatives welcome to attend any future Town Council meeting.
- 2) That Denbighshire County Council be requested to introduce free car parking throughout town centre to assist shopkeepers and visitors during major town centre development works. (Motion was proposed by Cllr I. German and supported by all Members present)

(Cllr P. Curtis left meeting at 8.50pm)

#### **82 ENVIRONMENTAL/HIGHWAY ISSUES PM56**

A letter received from Section Manager Network Management, Highways and Infrastructure, Conwy and Denbighshire Councils (copy circulated with agenda) outlined arrangements for maintenance of grass verges, pavements and enforcement notices etc.

Several Members commented upon need for stronger Council enforcement action against property owners who allowed overgrown vegetation to impair pedestrian rights of way.

#### **RESOLVED**

- 1) That a letter be sent to Denbighshire County Council seeking stronger enforcement action against property owners that allow overgrown vegetation to impair public rights of pedestrian access
- 2) That Denbighshire County Council be informed of requirement to prioritise Safe Routes to School for inspection to ensure safe public passage especially at Nant

Hall/Bodnant Bridge and to visit Ceg y Ffordd Bridge, Prestatyn to see if improvements can be made.

- 3) That Denbighshire County Council be requested to investigate problems of overgrowth impairing visibility of road traffic movements e.g. driveways joining onto Meliden Road and also publicity banners on hi viz safety railings by roundabout at Gronant/Meliden Road, Prestatyn.
- 4) That Denbighshire County Council be requested to consider resurrection of Joint County/Town Council meetings. (Motion was proposed by Cllr I. German)

(Cllr A. Horobin retired from the meeting)

### **83     PRESTATYN AND DISTRICT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSOCIATION PM 69/1**

Letter received from Secretary, Prestatyn and District Environment Association detailing management of association and its meetings. In response to Member's query the Town Clerk/Financial Officer confirmed that if Town Councillor was appointed as Council's nominated representative then the body would be formally recognised by Town Council.

**RESOLVED** That Cllr M. Eckersley be appointed as Council representative.

(Cllr G. Jones declared interest and retired from Council Chamber during item).

### **84     STANDING ORDERS**

**RESOLVED** That Standing Order No1 be waived and meeting extended by five minutes.

### **85     LOCALISM BILL PM 69/2**

An explanatory guide had been circulated with agenda . Committee was informed that there would be much further debate and discussion about proposals in forthcoming months although initially legislation would be introduced in England only.

**RESOLVED** That information be received.

Chairman\_\_\_\_\_

## **GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**

Minutes of General Purposes Committee held in Council Chamber, Municipal Offices, Prestatyn on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2011 at 6.20pm- 8.15pm.

### **PRESENT**

Councillors: A. Sampson (Chairman), P. Duffy, M. German, I. German, G. Jones, J. Davies, J. Thompson-Hill, L. Muraca, S. Edwards, G. Percival.

### **IN ATTENDANCE**

Mr N. Acott – Town Clerk/Financial Officer, Mrs L. Hewitt – Committee Support Assistant, Mr T. Brown – Internal Auditor, Mr B. Evans – Group Manager and Ms M. Rendell – Town Regeneration Officer, Denbighshire County Council, Ms G. Lawman and Mr N. Allum, Prestatyn and District Business Association.

### **APOLOGIES**

Councillors: A. Pennington, M. Eckersley, G. Frobisher, A. Horobin, G. Green, P. Newell, P. Curtis.

### **132 CHAIRMAN'S APPOINTMENT**

In the absence of Chair and Vice Chair nominations were invited for Chairman of tonight's meeting.

**RESOLVED** That Cllr A. Sampson be appointed Chairman for tonight's meeting.

### **133 HOUSEKEEPING**

The Chairman reminded all present to switch off mobile phones and recording devices. General housekeeping rules and emergency evacuation procedures in event of fire were also provided.

### **134 PRESTATYN DEVELOPMENT WORKS**

Mr Brian Evans, Group Manager and Ms Michelle Rendell, Town Regeneration Officer, Denbighshire County Council were welcomed to meeting and invited to explain the draft Prestatyn Town Centre Development Communications Plan (copy circulated with agenda).

Mr B. Evans informed Committee that Denbighshire County Council were hoping to help businesses with support during the major town centre redevelopment works by improving communications between Businesses, County Council departments, Town Council, Developer and Welsh Assembly Government. He referred to draft communications plan that included roles and responsibilities of both his and Michelle's position. The draft communications plan included introduction of regular progress meetings, publication of newsletter, business advice sessions, improved business signage etc.

Michelle was then introduced and outlined the proposed High Street shop front improvement scheme that would allow individual businesses to seek matched funding up to five hundred pounds. The scheme would provide support for cosmetic improvements to shop fronts e.g. painting and decoration. Several Town Councils in Denbighshire had already offered their support for the scheme and in conjunction with County Officers actively managed grants on a town by town basis. In response to Member's question Michelle advised that the last shop front improvement scheme for Prestatyn only five businesses took up offer.

There then followed a question and answer session:

- Cllr SE** Delays with bus station improvement works causing concern.
- Mr BE** Cannot guarantee start date but latest is 21st November 2011. Part of delay relates to legalities of bus route diversion orders, land transactions and contractor schedules.
- Cllr SE** Will there be business rate relief for businesses? Prestatyn and District Business Association (PDBA) have new committee in place and hoping County will help push for business rate relief.
- Mr BE** Prestatyn and District Business Association (PDBA) have meeting planned next week and I have arranged for Valuation Officer to attend to explain what help maybe available to businesses. Denbighshire County Council (DCC) are supporting PDBA to reestablish themselves.
- Cllr IG** Can work on bus station be delayed until after Christmas? Only four taxi ranks in town. Would like to know/meet Business Association.
- Cllr PD** DCC have listened to pressures of local business and appointed two County Officers to help. I can't see any reason to delay bus station start.
- Cllr MG** Pleased with short presentation and communication plan. Should include AM and Public as recognised stakeholders. Bus station could have been redeveloped without shutting it. Issues such as car parking, security, shopping incentives and business opportunities need attention.
- Mr BE** Town Plan is being developed and will cover many areas including marketing and promotions. Michelle previously developed the Town Action Plan and many activities being introduced as a result. County Business Support Unit also has access to many specialist staff such as Lucy Grace for marketing. Will add AM to list of stakeholders and look at opportunities for public involvement with plan.
- Cllr JTH** Lack of taxi ranks a big issue at present and numbers being looked at but problem with lack of space.
- MR** Shop Front improvement scheme will be available to local businesses and explained process to be managed by County. Decisions on grants made by County Officer and Town Clerk.
- Cllr SE** The scheme could include outside cleanliness, appearances, signage and painting? Absent landlords can be an issue.
- Cllr GJ** Can a group of businesses apply as this happened in Flint?

- MR** No. This scheme is for individual businesses.
- Cllr MG** Is there a cost to Town Council?
- MR** No but small amount of Town Clerk's time will be required.
- Cllr LM** What is criteria?
- MR** Business needs to submit two written quotations. Colour sample needed if premises in conservation area.
- Cllr GP** Charity shops should be told to maintain premises during their tenancy to improve visual environment. Some charities appear to be running as businesses.
- BE** Will take comments on board. Funding for shop front improvement scheme needs spending by March 2012.
- Cllr AS** Can PDBA reps speak.
- Cllr IG/MG** Not on agenda.
- NA** Yes if Committee agree. I had invited them tonight as PTC had previously indicated they wished to meet PDBA reps and this seemed good opportunity as Association integral part of communication on planning development and DCC officers had no problems.
- G. Lawman (PDBA Chair)** PDBA listening to businesses and keen to develop role of Association. Planned meeting on 15th November 2011 includes Chief Executive Denbighshire County Council to talk about businesses and free car parking. BBC Wales covering event and wants to encourage positive people into Association.

#### **RESOLVED**

- 1) That Mr B. Evans, Ms M. Rendell and Business Association representatives be thanked for attendance.
- 2) That draft Prestatyn Town Centre Development Communications Plan be received and suggestion to extend stakeholder listing to include AM and Public be noted by County Officers.
- 3) That Town Council supports and participates in County Council's Shop Front Improvement Scheme.

Financial Implications: None but possible staff time required.

Legal Implications: DCC Local Government Act 2000.

**135 ENVIRONMENTAL/HIGHWAY ISSUES PM 82.**

A letter was received from Head of Highways and Infrastructure, Conwy and Denbighshire County Councils and copy circulated with agenda. The County had responded to complaints raised at previous meeting about several highway issues. Members commented that Town Councillors had a potential role as inspectors of service and representatives of local needs.

**RESOLVED**

- 1) That letter be accepted and request clarification of Highway Contact Officer for future reference.
- 2) That County Officer be invited to meet small delegation of Ward Councillors to discuss local problems.
- 3) That clarification be sought on criteria used by Denbighshire County Council for selection of priority towns for Safe Routes to School initiative.

**136 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS AND TOWN EVENTS**

- a) Festive Light Switch On Ceremony – Ty Nant 1st December 2011.

The Town Clerk/Financial Officer reported upon arrangements for Mayoral Christmas Light switch on event involving local school children. There would also be a tree placed outside Meliden Community Centre.

Reference was also made to large tree normally located at bottom of High Street but due to construction works this site would not be available this year. Committee suggested alternative sites be investigated such as Prestatyn in Bloom Gardens and Ty Pendre Memorial Gardens with preference for root balled tree. Committee was reminded that two previous root balled trees at Meliden CC had been vandalised following planting.

- b) Christmas Events

Details of proposed activities by Prestatyn and District Business Association (PDBA) had been circulated with agenda. The Town Clerk/Financial Officer also informed Committee of staff proposals to hold Santa's Grotto at Council owned Ty Pendre Community Building that would link with late night shopping and be run on voluntary basis. Committee was reminded of last years successful event held at Town Council Offices that had benefitted Mayor's Charity.

Committee discussed proposals and range of events being promoted by PDBA and preferred location of Santa's Grotto in High Street. Unfortunately the preferred Oriol Scala shop unit would require a commercial rent and this was felt prohibitive.

**RESOLVED**

- 1) That Committee award £450 to Prestatyn and District Business Association for its planned Christmas Events programme subject to receipt of annual accounts.

Financial/Legal Implications: To be contained within Town Events budget provision 2011/12. Local Government Act 1972 Section 137.

- 2) That Committee express its disappointment that Scala Board was unable to assist Town Council and Prestatyn and District Business Association with Santa's Grotto by lowering rental charges.

c) Rotary Club of Prestatyn

Letter and audited accounts from Honorary Secretary had been received seeking financial support towards refurbishment of Rotary Float and copy circulated with agenda. The Club had indicated that following refurbishment the float would be available for local events throughout the year.

**RESOLVED**

- 1) That Committee award £1,000 to Rotary Club of Prestatyn.

Financial/Legal Implications: To be contained in Town Events budget provision 2011/12. Local Government Act 1972 Section 137.

- 2) That consideration be given to future Community Grants being part of annual Committee cycle with recognised start and finish timetable.

d) Festival of Trees

Letter received from Friends of Parish of Prestatyn seeking financial support for the annual Festival of Christmas trees event (copy circulated with agenda).

**RESOLVED** That Committee award £75.00 to Friends of Parish, Festival of Trees event subject to receipt of annual accounts.

Financial/Legal Implications: To be contained in Town Events budget provision 2011/12. Local Government Act 1972 Section 137.

**137 FINANCIAL ESTIMATES**

Committee was invited to identify any significant plans or changes to be considered when preparing financial estimates. Some Members suggested increasing Town Events budget to assist possible activities including Christmas Market, Hillside Gardens Concert, themed events throughout the year, Wales in Bloom and provision of new planters and hanging baskets in High Street, Prestatyn.

**138 POP IN CENTRE**

Councillors were pleased to receive invitation to Pop In Centre on Thursday 8th December 2011 at 6.00pm to coincide with late night shopping.

Chairman\_\_\_\_\_

## **GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**

Minutes of General Purposes Committee held in Council Chamber, Municipal Offices, Prestatyn on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2012 at 6.15pm- 7.40pm.

### **PRESENT**

Councillors: G. Green (Chairman), A. Sampson, G. Frobisher, P. Duffy, P. Newell, G. Jones, J. Davies, J. Thompson-Hill, P. Curtis, L. Muraca, G. Percival, S. Edwards.

### **IN ATTENDANCE**

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

### **APOLOGIES**

Councillors: A. Pennington, M. Eckersley, A. Horobin, S. Frobisher.

### **200 HOUSEKEEPING**

The Chairman advised of general housekeeping, emergency procedures and requested all mobile phones and recording devices be switched off before commencement of meeting.

### **201 URGENT BUSINESS**

The Chairman gave notice of two additional financial assistance applications from Prestatyn North West Community Association and Prestatyn Youth Arts Festival to be considered later in proceedings.

### **202 COMMUNITY HEALTH INITIATIVES**

Community Health Initiatives report prepared by Council employees Sue Edwards, Health Improvement Officer and Debbie Hughes, Health Improvement Assistant circulated at meeting.

The report highlighted various activities including holiday leisure activity programme, garden share scheme, Fairtrade promotions, Y Morfa Allotments Garden Club, social bowling, social cycling, social ballroom and walking initiatives. Committee was informed that the emphasis of community activity was to improve individual health and encourage formation of self help social groups that could operate independently of Council. There had been considerable success in this approach with several groups now operating independently on a self run financial basis.

In addition to Town Council activity both Officers were involved with Cardiac Rehabilitation and Exercise Referral Schemes funded by Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board and Denbighshire County Council respectively.

**RESOLVED**

- 1) That both Community Health Officers be congratulated on excellent work programmes that lead to improvements in both social and individual health and well being
- 2) That Committee continues support of Community Healthy Activities and Holiday Leisure Activity programme 2012/13.

Financial Implications: 2012/13 Local Children's Leisure/Activity Programme Budget Provision £4,500. Welsh Assembly Government/DCC Free Swim Initiative – External Funding £4,763.

**203 DENBIGHSHIRE CHARTER WITH TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCILS PM 71**

A copy of proposed Charter and responses to previous consultations had been circulated with agenda. The Chairman reminded Committee of previous discussions with Hugh Evans, Leader and Hywyn Williams, Corporate Director, Denbighshire County Council. They had both assured Council that the Charter was a means of helping to improve communications between Councils and was not related to cost savings or a means of transferring of services without budget provision.

It was evident that the Charter was seen by Denbighshire County Council as an important document to bring County closer to Town and Community Councils and reflected a growing relationship between both organisations.

**RESOLVED** That Council accept Denbighshire Charter with Town and Community Councils and sign accordingly.

**204 POP IN CENTRE PM 181**

Committee was reminded of its previous discussions and subsequent requests for additional information. Comprehensive details had recently been obtained from Pop In Centre Manager about its operations and copy circulated with agenda. Cllr S. Edwards referred to the huge impact on improving children's safety and pioneering work undertaken by Centre in tackling cyber bullying. The intergenerational cafe project was an important aspect of this work helping to bridge gap between young and old who often talked about such difficult topics in a controlled and supervised environment.

Cllr J. Davies explained that Pop In Centre meetings were dominated by funding issues as it relied on grant aid to fund the various programmes. It was important for Council to be involved in the centre as it benefitted a lot of towns people and any potential funding deficit would seriously affect its future operation.

Members welcomed clarification from Pop In Centre organisers and highlighted benefits arising from small flexible revenue financial grants in contrast to larger grants for specific capital projects and purposes.

It was proposed by Cllr A. Sampson seconded by Cllr P. Duffy that grant be awarded.

**RESOLVED** That Committee award grant of £3,700.

Financial/Legal Implications: 2011/12 – Pop In Centre – C22/23 virements of £1,850. 2012/13 Community Projects £1,850. Local Government Act 1972 Section 137.

(Chairman enquired if any declarations of interest in this item prior to discussion and Cllrs S. Edwards and J. Davies declared both personal and prejudicial interest. However both Members had been granted special dispensation by Denbighshire County Council Standards Committee to discuss this item providing they did not vote)

## **205 PRESTATYN 5 FREE DAYS PARKING**

Committee was informed that Denbighshire County Council offered each Town/Community Council five free days parking at County owned car parks each year. It was for Towns to nominate relevant days often associated with town events e.g. Flower Show.

Following discussion of proposed town events 2012 as per agenda papers it was felt that Prestatyn Area Business and Community Forum, and Prestatyn and District Business Association should also form part of consultation process.

### **RESOLVED**

- 1) That one free Denbighshire County Council free parking day be allocated for Prestatyn Carnival.

(Cllr J. Thompson-Hill declared interest and did not participate in discussion or voting on Prestatyn Carnival Association).

- 2) That Prestatyn Area Business and Community Forum, and Prestatyn and District Business Association be invited to nominate free car parking days subject to response within seven days.

## **206 QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE**

Committee was reminded of earlier budget preparation work and desire to commemorate Jubilee and support local groups that were organising street parties etc.

Several Members had brought forward ideas to celebrate occasion including purchase of commemorative mugs, installation of Hillside Beacon and planting of meadowlands. All three suggestions were considered and Town Clerk/Financial Officer reported upon provisional enquiries and feasibility. The Chairman also explained that commemorative town development works associated with refurbishment of town parks etc would be considered by Town Development Committee which had separate budget provision for this work.

### **RESOLVED**

- 1) That Committee support purchase of commemorative mugs/similar for town's primary school children. Discussions to be undertaken with Prestatyn High School regarding alternative provision.

Financial/Legal Implications: Provisional costing £3,000. Local Government Act 1972 Section 137/145

- 2) That Committee support provision of Hillside Beacon, Prestatyn. Financial/Legal Implications: Provisional costing £480 plus installation. Local Government Act 1972 Section 145. Denbighshire County Council Landowner consents required. Insurance requires clarification.

- 3) That Committee support and promote creation of Meadowlands on public land throughout town subject to County landowners permission.  
Financial/Legal Implications: To be confirmed. Costs dependent upon location and works required.
- 4) That Not for Profit local groups and community based organisations be encouraged to apply for minor grants to assist Queen's Diamond Jubilee events.

## **207 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE APPLICATIONS**

Details of financial assistance applications and accounts had been circulated with agenda together with two additional late applications from Prestatyn North West Community Centre and Prestatyn Youth Arts Festival. Festival being circulated at meeting.

### **RESOLVED**

That following grants be awarded:	£
1) Open Doors – Nant Hall Road Craft and Social Group (2011/12 New Organisation)	300
2) Clwb Garddio – Ysgol y Llys Gardening Club (2011/12 New organisation)	130
3) Urdd Gobaith Cymru - Cultural Festival (2011/12 Cultural activity)	200
4) Denbighshire Learning Disability Forum – Annual Fun Day (2012/13 Other events)	550
5) Prestatyn and District Walking Festival – Annual Festival (2012/13 Walking Festival) (Cllr A. Sampson declared interest and took no part in voting)	1,000
6) Prestatyn North West Community Centre – Jubilee Celebration (2012/13 Other events)	250
7) Prestatyn Youth Arts Festival (2011/12 Youth Arts 1k and 2012/13 Youth Arts 1K) (Cllr P. Newell declared interest and retired from Chamber during this item)	2,000

Chairman \_\_\_\_\_