

**GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**

Minutes of General Purposes Committee held in Council Chamber, Municipal Offices, Prestatyn on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2010 at 6.15pm- 7.10pm.

**PRESENT**

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

**IN ATTENDANCE**

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

**APOLOGIES**

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

**16 CHAIRMAN'S APPOINTMENT 2010/11**

Nominations were invited for position of Chairman for ensuing Municipal Year. It was proposed by Cllr I. German, seconded by Cllr J. Morris that Cllr M. German be appointed. No other nominations were received.

**RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY** That Cllr M. German be appointed Chairman of General Purposes Committee 2010/11.

**17 VICE CHAIRMAN'S APPOINTMENT 2010/11**

Nominations were invited for position of Vice Chairman for ensuing Municipal Year. Cllr J. Thompson- Hill nominated Cllr G. Jones but he declined nomination due to family commitments. Cllr I. German proposed and Cllr G. Percival seconded nomination of Cllr P. Duffy.

**RESOLVED** That Cllr P. Duffy be appointed Vice Chairman of General Purposes Committee.

**18 PUBLIC SESSION**

- a) Mr G. Bourne presented numerous letters and correspondences to Chairman regarding Council and individual Councillor's activity. The Chairman indicated correspondence would be passed to Town Clerk's Office for consideration as appropriate.
- b) Ms Gemma Lawman - Prestatyn and District Business Association introduced herself as local business woman, explained her interest in the Association and her desire to improve the Town's business sector. Gemma was currently working to provide radio link between shops and CCTV. A town business directory flyer, to include programme of town events would also be published shortly.

Gemma indicated that some funding had been secured for both projects but it was probable a grant application to Council would be needed to enable completion of radio link with booster aerial as cost estimated at three thousand five hundred pounds.

## **19 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE APPLICATIONS**

Details of financial assistance applications together with financial statements had been circulated with agenda.

- a) North East Wales Veterans Group – Armed Forces Day 19<sup>th</sup> June 2010.  
Committee discussed support for this type of event that had previously been shared between Rhyl and Prestatyn but was located in Rhyl for 2010.

**RESOLVED** That a grant of £150 be awarded.  
Financial/Legal Implications : S.137 Local Government Act 1972.

- b) Prestatyn Flower Show 30<sup>th</sup>/31<sup>st</sup> July 2010  
Members were informed the Flower Show Committee had offered to assist watering of troughs around vicarage wall as part of their contribution to Wales in Bloom this year.

**RESOLVED** That a grant of £800 be awarded.  
Financial/Legal Implications : S.137 Local Government Act 1972.

- c) Denbighshire County Council – Prestatyn Summer Events  
Committee considered grant application for service and discussed lack of formality by applicant in completing forms. Reference was made to the success of last years event and some Members expressed disappointment that Council had not been involved with earlier preparation work for this year's activity.

The Town Clerk/Financial Officer referred to the comparatively large sum being sought that would clearly affect overall remaining budget provision for other forthcoming events. It was noted that a recent coastal events listing being produced by Denbighshire County Council included numerous events in Rhyl but very few in Prestatyn.

A number of propositions were made in support of Prestatyn Summer Events Programme.

**RESOLVED** That a grant of £1,000 be awarded.  
Financial/Legal Implications : S. 145 Local Government Act 1972.

- d) Prestatyn Football Club 150 years celebration.  
Reference was made to the longstanding of the Club and its association with Town.

**RESOLVED** That a grant of £500 be awarded.  
Financial/Legal Implications : S.137 Local Government Act 1972.

- e) Friends of the Ffrith  
Committee was informed that Friends had helped to transform area of open common land adjoining Ffrith Festival Gardens site and wished to continue with similar work. Several areas belonging to Denbighshire County Council had been neglected over many years and required attention e.g. bridges. Further sections had recently been leased to new company operating at Ffrith and grounds maintenance improvement work was ongoing by new tenant.

Within the grant application reference was made to use of herbicide and Committee indicated desire to discontinue such environmentally damaging practise.

**RESOLVED** That a grant of £500 be awarded.

Financial/Legal Implications : S. 137 Local Government Act 1972.

f) Harry Thomas Slideshows

Committee agreed to consider a request for assistance from volunteer Town Historian, Mr H. Thomas who wished to copy photographs on to DVD and purchase a digital projector. Members referred to the excellent community services provided to the town and local interest generated by his colourful slideshows.

**RESOLVED**

1) That honorarium of £250 be awarded in recognition of historical services to town and its community.

2) That Chairman and Town Clerk/Financial Officer hold further talks with Mr Thomas regarding his planned programme of activity and safeguarding of towns social history.

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

Chairman \_\_\_\_\_



## **GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**

Minutes of General Purposes Committee held in Committee Room 1, Ty Nant Prestatyn on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2010 at 6.15pm – 7.45pm.

### **PRESENT**

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

### **IN ATTENDANCE**

Mr N Acott - Town Clerk/Financial Officer.

### **APOLOGIES**

Councillor: A. Horobin.

Mrs L. Hewitt – Committee Support Assistant, Mr T. Brown – Internal Auditor.

### **78 ONE MINUTE SILENCE**

Council stood for one minute silence as token of respect following passing of Cllr John Morris.

### **79 PUBLIC SESSION**

The Chairman invited local residents to address Councillors and reminded them this was an opportunity for them to raise any items directly with their elected representatives.

a) Karen Beattie – raised objections on behalf of family about planning application for handrail to roof of TV gantry at Prestatyn Football Club that would be unsightly and lead to loss of privacy for adjoining properties (letter and photographs circulated). The Club had commenced work prior to planning permission being considered and County enforcement officers had recently been called to stop further work. The Chairman advised that a Denbighshire County Council planning consultation had been received and would be discussed later this evening.

b) Norman Jones – expressed concerns about Denbighshire County Council car parking charges and queried why there was no charge at Prestatyn Magistrates Court – refer to Denbighshire County Council who are responsible for the town's car parking charges.

c) Frank Bailey, Prestatyn and District Environment Association – reported that the group was working with Denbighshire Countryside Services to develop allotments at civic amenity site when it closes later this year. Additional car parking space and a community orchard were also being planned. Financial grants totalling forty thousand pounds had been secured from Strategic Regeneration and Tidy Towns' fund.

d) Gary Bourne – presented several letters to Chairman re objection to planning application for Prestatyn Town Football Club; DCC removal of Sustrans Millenium Marker; concerns about building site hoardings around Nant Hall Road; lack of response by Cllr M. German to previous correspondence; information about new group Heroes of Prestatyn and offer to maintain Ty Pendre Community Gardens.

**80 PRESTATYN WAR MEMORIAL**

The Town Clerk/Financial Officer reported that Rev Quentin Bellamy, Vicar of Prestatyn had sought assistance on securing repairs to Prestatyn War Memorial located at Prestatyn Parish Church. Following investigation details of CADW listing had been obtained, views of County Conservation Officer sought and estimates for repair of between eight and ten thousand pounds obtained (details circulated with agenda).

Committee referred to the need to ensure ongoing maintenance of the war memorial and expressed a desire to assist with community partnership project. Proposed safety railings would need to be in keeping with monument. Several parties would be involved including Parish Church, Denbighshire County Council, Prestatyn Town Council and Royal British Legion. It was envisaged that grant aid would be available and the Vicar had offered to act as lead on grant application process.

Cllr G. Percival suggested that a public appeal be launched to help raise necessary funds.

**RESOLVED** That Committee supports project to secure repairs to Prestatyn War Memorial and Town Clerk/Financial Officer be authorised to assist with project.

Financial/Other resource Implications ; Provisionally Town Clerk’s assistance to secure grant aid for project. Financial assistance may be sought at later date dependent upon final costs etc.

Legal Implications : War Memorials Act 1923. Local Government Act 1948.

**81 PRESTATYN DYSERTH WAY- BAT PROJECT**

The Chairman reported upon discussions with Denbighshire Countryside Service to provide bat accommodation and seating along Prestatyn Dyserth Way (details circulated with agenda).

Discussion took place about different species of bat, benefits of providing wildlife friendly habitat and corridors, and use of caves and shelters. Cllr I. German referred to the former wooden shelter located at Bishopswood Road and desire to seek replacement.

A recorded vote was requested.

**RESOLVED**

1) That Mr G. Davies, Denbighshire Countryside Services be invited to attend a future meeting to discuss proposals e.g. location of bat boxes and seating, bat species and numbers.

FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN
Cllrs M. Eckersley, G. Percival J Davies, P. Curtis, L. Muraca, G. Green, A. Pennington, G. Jones, J. Thompson-Hill, S. Frobisher, G. Frobisher, A. Sampson	Cllrs M. German, I. German, P. Newell	
(12)	(3)	(0)

2) That Dyserth Community Council be invited to consider contributing towards project.

(Cllr G. Jones declared interest in this item as Member of Prestatyn and District Environment Association referred to in correspondence).

## **82      PRESTATYN AND CLWYDIAN RANGE WALKING FESTIVAL 2010**

Details of the reports from various walking groups associated with this highly successful event had been circulated with agenda.

**RESOLVED** That Minutes of Festival of Walking AGM, Walkers Are Welcome Annual Report and Minutes from 'You'll Never Walk Alone Meeting held on 21.05.10 be accepted.

## **83      WALES IN BLOOM COMPETITION 2010**

Cllr J. Davies, Chairman of Prestatyn entry was invited to report upon results of competition. He referred to WIB judges' complimentary comments and prestigious Merit Award. There had been a large entry in the towns category and very few points difference between the top three winning towns.

The judge had been particularly impressed with involvement of town's business community, artwork projects interwoven with town's entry, and planting of 11,000 trees in community woodland. He had suggested future sponsorship of displays be considered, and also production of a leaflet to explain art works and its links with town's culture.

Cllr Davies thanked fellow Councillors A. Horobin and A. Sampson, Town Council Staff and Denbighshire County Council officers, local businesses and everyone involved with this year's competition.

Cllr M. German commented that whilst town looked lovely this year he still came across many overhanging hedges and weeds growing in public pathways. He felt Denbighshire County Council should be more proactive in such matters rather than relying on complaints.

**RESOLVED** That Cllr J. Davies and his team of volunteers be congratulated and all participants be thanked for their contribution.

## **84      PRESTATYN COMMUNITY CYCLING**

A comprehensive report detailing history of community cycle project had been compiled by Mrs D. Hughes, Community Health Improvement Assistant and circulated at meeting. Committee was informed that the three year project commenced following successful grant aid bid to Sports Council of Wales in 2007.

The promotional programme had many successes e.g. links to GP referral scheme and holiday leisure activity programme and also set backs including the closure of local bike shop which affected cycle hire operations leading to alternative community led cycle rides and training of volunteer cycle leaders.

Committee was given outline plans for the future e.g. continued support of Annual Charity Bike Race and Prestatyn hosting of North Wales Cyclo Cross Championship, continuation of community led cycles and plans for disability rides. A review of Council owned equipment was currently being undertaken. Links with evolving cycle schemes operated by Pop In Centre and Prestatyn Youth Club were also being explored. Members were invited to provide a steer on future direction of Council's cycle scheme following completion of grant aid programme.

### **RESOLVED**

1) That Community led cycle scheme insurance arrangements be reviewed due to age of cycles and report brought back to Committee.

- 2) That Council stock be reviewed by Officers and plans for future use, costs and possible transfer of surplus equipment to other schemes or disposal be considered.
- 3) That Mrs D. Hughes be thanked for her report.

## **85 COMMUNITY ENDEAVOUR AWARDS**

A letter had been received from Ffrith Leisure offering to host the Council awards at Ffrith Beach Festival Gardens. Committee discussed the kind offer and referred to historical connection with Council Chambers and pride in hosting the civic event. It was suggested that future Mayor's may wish to consider holding fund raising events at Ffrith.

**RESOLVED** That Ffrith Leisure be thanked for offer but declined on this occasion.

## **86 COUNCIL CHAMBERS, MUNICIPAL OFFICES, PRESTATYN,**

The Chairman and Committee agreed briefly to discuss this item because of earlier discussions about community endeavour awards and buildings suitability to accommodate public. Karen Beattie, service user had knowledge of Council Chambers and their limitations e.g. outdated lift and poor emergency evacuation facilities.

The Town Clerk/Financial Officer reminded Committee of the history and many unsuccessful attempts to engage with Denbighshire County Council (property owners) to discuss future of the building and consider possible improvements/change of use.

**RESOLVED** That a letter be sent to Denbighshire County Council demanding meaningful discussion and dialogue about future use of this building.

## **87 WORKING WITH TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCILS**

Details of correspondence received from Chief Executive, Denbighshire County Council had been circulated with agenda. The Chairman informed Committee that he felt it was important for the authority to be in a position to respond promptly to the many changes facing local government and especially the severe cuts to both finance and services expected to be introduced by Denbighshire County Council next year.

Cllr G. Green - referred to County proposals to devolve management to towns and importance ensuring this also included realistic budgets. He is currently Vice Chair of County Scrutiny Committee looking into efficiency and savings throughout County run services and there was a link with possible devolution of services to meet local need.

Cllr G. Percival – felt Assembly members should be involved and answer questions about devolving services and cuts in local government grants/finances.

Cllr J. Davies – important for Town Council to engage with County Council over future of local government services.

Cllr I. German – would like to know what County services are provided and how much it costs to run them. Which services are statutory and non statutory?

Cllr M. Eckersley – high level of County Council tax paid by residents but little returned to Prestatyn Town.

Cllr P. Curtis – much more information needed from County before any County/Town meeting to discuss devolving services.

Cllr P. Newell – if County services devolved will County Councillor salary payments be reduced?

Committee was informed that Denbighshire County Council would soon commence exploratory talks with Town and Community Councils about possibility of devolving local government services.

**RESOLVED** That Chief Executive Officer, Denbighshire County Council and his management team be invited to attend future meeting.

**88**     **CLWB HWYL HWYR**

Details of financial assistance application and supporting financial statements circulated with agenda. Committee discussed grant application for assistance towards provision of Welsh language courses for adults.

An earlier motion for grant of £300 was declared lost upon Chairman's casting vote.

**RESOLVED** That Mr S. Davies be invited to attend future meeting.

(Cllr G. Frobisher declared interest and took no part in voting on this item).

**89**     **FINANCIAL ESTIMATES 2011/12**

Committee was invited to identify potential changes in service and/or developments that may need to be considered during preparation of financial estimates 2011/12. Members highlighted provision of new shelter at Bishopswood, possible extension of Co Options waste collection services and investigation of opportunities for introduction of green waste collection point in town.

Chairman \_\_\_\_\_



**GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**

Minutes of General Purposes Committee held in Council Chamber, Municipal Offices, Prestatyn on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2010 at 6.15pm- 8.00pm.

**PRESENT**

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

**IN ATTENDANCE**

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

**APOLOGIES**

Councillors: S. Frobisher, A. Horobin, J. Thompson-Hill, G. Percival.  
Officers: Mrs D. Hughes, Mrs S. Edwards.

**128 PUBLIC SESSION**

The Chairman invited local residents to address Councillors and reminded them this was an opportunity for them to raise any items directly with their elected representatives.

- a) Mr Frank Bailey – provided an update on Friends of the Ffrith activity and work to improve local amenity e.g. provision of benches and picnic tables. Councillors were informed the group had recently been awarded Best Community Team, Denbighshire Visitor area by Trinity Newspapers and Scottish Power.
- b) Mr P. Roberts – regular train commuter was concerned about lack of shelter due to ongoing work at Prestatyn railway station – refer item to Denbighshire County Council, Passenger Transport and Rail companies.

**129 DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE**

Committee welcomed Cllr Sherry Edwards who had recently won the Central Ward contested elections. The Town clerk/Financial Officer reported that Cllr Edwards had read and signed her Declaration of Acceptance following election to office. All Members offered their congratulations.

**130 COMMUNITY CYCLE PROJECT PM 84**

A detailed Community Cycling report had been circulated with agenda. Unfortunately Mrs D. Hughes was unable to be present at tonight's meeting but had prepared a further information pack (circulated at meeting) on future plans to develop voluntary community led cycling and continuing support of annual cycle promotion events.

The Town Clerk/Financial Officer responded to Members questions about community cycling activity including reasons for declaring some equipment surplus to requirements following closure of local bike shop. The shop's closure had forced a change of plan and direction from original scheme resulting in the successful development of annual charity promenade race, annual North Wales Cyclocross Championship at Meadows playing fields and introduction of two new cycle schemes run by Prestatyn Pop In Centre and Prestatyn Youth Club. Several locally based volunteer community cycle leaders had also received professional training to assist future sustainability of project.

Committee was informed that Council's insurers had confirmed insurance cover for qualified volunteer community led cycle scheme would continue providing cycles were properly maintained and inspected by competent cycle technicians as present. Members expressed disappointment that some of the equipment purchased had not been fully utilised for reasons stated earlier but the two associated partner town schemes had confirmed they would be able to make use of this equipment. Local schools were also involved in a number of emerging cycle activities.

### **RESOLVED**

- 1) That Committee support continuation of Council's community led cycle activity and future development plans.  
Financial/Resource Implications: As per report and staff time of approximately two hours per week contained within existing budget provisions.
- 2) That Committee recommend transfer of listed redundant/surplus equipment as per discussions to associated partner town based community cycle schemes and North Wales Police.  
Financial/Legal Implications: Transfer of equipment to partner not for profit organisations. Local Government and Rating Act 1997.
- 3) That Mrs D. Hughes be thanked for submission of Community Cycling report and Ms S. Edwards for Community Health Initiatives update also circulated at meeting.

### **131 SCALA CINEMA AND ARTS FACILITY PM 125**

Committee was reminded that notes of recent Scala Liaison meeting had been previously circulated and action points circulated with agenda. An information pack had since been received from Scala Manager that included Staff Structures, annual returns to Charity Commissioner, names of Trustees etc. The level of funds raised and denoted by Friends of the Scala had not been made available.

Cllr A. Sampson, Council's representative reported upon recent Board meeting and advised of changes to Trustee Board following completion of work by Denbighshire County Council's appointees. A number of cost saving measures were currently being implemented by Scala management and introduction of Scala lottery had been announced. The Board had suggested that a small sub group of Town Councillors could be appointed to hold regular meetings with Scala Management and they had also offered to prepare a Memorandum of Understanding to improve relationship between Board and Town Council e.g. protocol concerning release of commercially sensitive material and publication of quarterly financial accounts.

In response to Members question Cllr A. Sampson reported that Cllr R. Hughes, Chair of Trustees Board had recently attended Welsh Assembly Government meeting to discuss a number of matters including potential new funding opportunities.

The Chairman summed up discussions and stressed the importance of Scala operating as a viable asset for the town. It was fundamental that Scala Board recognised the key role played by Town Council in providing funds for building Scala Cinema and Arts Facility and of necessity to keep Council well informed of its operations.

**RESOLVED**

- 1) That Memorandum of Understanding be prepared and submitted to future meeting for consideration.
- 2) That Town Clerk/Financial Officer progress Council's request for release of Scala's quarterly financial statements.

(Cllr G. Jones declared interest in this item).

**132 PUBLIC NOTICE BOARDS**

- a) Ffrith Festival Gardens – Friends of the Ffrith were seeking financial support for provision of information board (letter circulated with agenda).

Cllr M German, Chairman declared interest and retired from Council Chamber before commencement this item. The Town Clerk/Financial Officer reminded Committee of need for Councillors to declare any personal or prejudicial interests and also reported that he had recently received notification from Public Service Ombudsman in Wales of a complaint made involving both Councillor and Council's actions in respect to Friends of the Ffrith.

Following Town Clerk's discussion with County Monitoring Officer prior to meeting tonight it was being recommended that this item should be deferred. On point of order Chairmanship for this item was discussed and Vice Chairman and other Chairmen indicated they were felt unable to Chair meeting in present circumstances and consequently item was withdrawn.

(Cllr M. German, Chairman returns to Council Chambers).

- b) Land near Melyd CP School – a request had been received for provision of public noticeboard from Meliden Residents Action Group supported by Ward Councillor G. Frobisher. Committee discussed request and possible resiting and/or reuse of existing notice boards.

**RESOLVED**

- 1) That Committee support relocation of public notice board from former toilet block at Coronation Gardens and/or resiting of Star Inn notice board subject to further consultation and discussion with Meliden Ward Councillors.
- 2) That list of current notice boards be circulated to all Councillors.

**133 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE APPLICATIONS**

Councillors were reminded of Code of Conduct and need to declare any significant personal or prejudicial interests in items under discussion.

a) Denbighshire Care and Repair - Committee considered financial assistance application (copy circulated with agenda) towards introduction of new pilot handyman/gardening service for vulnerable older persons. Cllr S. Edwards referred to genteel poverty in town as elderly residents accounted for over sixty percent of population of town. Several Councillors spoke about the positive response they had received from public in support of the organisation.

**RESOLVED**

- 1) That grant of £500 be awarded to Denbighshire Care and Repair.  
Financial/Legal Implications :Contained within budget provisions 2009/10. Local Government Act 1972 S. 137.
- 2) That a Denbighshire Care and Repair representative be invited to attend future meeting.  
  
(Cllr P. Curtis declared interest in this item and took no part in voting)

b) National Eisteddfod for Wales 2011 - Committee considered financial assistance application (copy circulated with agenda).

**RESOLVED** That grant of £200 be awarded.

Financial/Legal Implications: Figure contained within Other Events/Activities budget provision 2009/10. Local Government Act 1972 S. 137.

c) Nant Hall Road Church – Holiday Club  
Committee considered financial assistance application (copy circulated with agenda). Members were reminded the Club was publicised alongside Council's holiday leisure activity programme.

**RESOLVED** That a grant of £110 be awarded to Holiday Club.

Financial/Legal Implications: Figure contained within Other Events/Activities budget provisions 2009/10.

d) North East Wales Veterans Group – Armed Forces Day - A letter had been received from Sharon Keatings, Secretary to Group enquiring about level of commitment from Council for a major event in 2011. It was recognised that there were already several other major events held across the country that received significant funding.

**RESOLVED** That a letter be sent advising group that Committee is sympathetic to approach and limited financial support available for such events.

(Cllr M. Eckersley declared interest and retired from Council Chambers during this item).

**134 REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS**

a) Wales in Bloom – Cllr M. Eckersley, Mayor reported upon presentation of Silver Merit Certificate for Town floral displays 2010 and of his desire to display copy in Municipal Offices and Prestatyn Library.

- b) Fairtrade Status - Town Clerk/Financial Officer reported that Cllr A. Horobin, Chair of Prestatyn and Meliden Fairtrade Group wished to inform Council of success in achieving Fairtrade Town Status (further details circulated at meeting).

**RESOLVED** That a letter of congratulations be sent to Prestatyn and Meliden Fairtrade Group.

- c) Ysgol Bodnant Juniors – Committee was informed of urgent need to consider nominating a replacement School Governor following sad passing of Cllr J. Morris.

**RESOLVED** 1) That Cllr P. Duffy be nominated. 2) That enquiries be made with Denbighshire County Council regarding name of County representative for Ysgol Penmorfa.

- d) Ysgol Penmorfa – Cllr G. Jones reported that he had raised problems of parents parking in St George's Drive, Prestatyn at recent meeting. The School Governors had reminded parents about need to be mindful of needs of local residents but had no plans to close gates at this entrance as it was a recognised safe route to school.

Cllr S. Edwards reported that in addition to school users local residents had also complained about people parking at weekends when using nearby football pitches. North Wales Police had been requested to consider a more proactive approach/enforcement role at this and other schools in the town.

Chairman\_\_\_\_\_

**GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**

Minutes of General Purposes Committee held in Council Chamber, Municipal Offices, Prestatyn on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2011 at 7.40pm -9.10pm

**PRESENT**

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

**IN ATTENDANCE**

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

**APOLOGIES**

Councillors: A. Horobin, J. Thompson-Hill, A. Pennington, P. Newell, J. Davies.  
Officers: Mrs D. Hughes, Mrs S. Edwards.

**192 PERSONAL STATEMENTS**

Cllr M. German informed Committee that he had resigned as Chairman of Committee because he felt his position was under threat. Cllr P. Duffy informed Committee that he had resigned as Vice Chairman of Committee due to unsubstantiated personal attacks on his business integrity and failure to receive apology from fellow Councillor or support from whole Council.

**193 CHAIRMAN'S APPOINTMENT 2010/11**

Nominations were invited for post of Chairman following resignation of Cllr M. German from this position. Cllr P. Curtis proposed and Cllr G. Percival seconded nomination of Cllr G. Frobisher. No other nominations were received.

**RESOLVED**

- 1) That Cllr G. Frobisher be appointed Chairman of General Purposes Committee.
- 2) That Cllr M. German be thanked for his past services.

**194 VICE CHAIRMAN'S APPOINTMENT 2010/11**

Nominations were invited for post of Vice Chairman following resignation of Cllr P. Duffy from this position. Cllr S. Frobisher proposed and Cllr G. Percival seconded nomination of Cllr P. Curtis. No other nominations were received.

**RESOLVED**

- 1) That Cllr P. Curtis be appointed Vice Chairman of general Purposes Committee.
- 2) That Cllr P. Duffy be thanked for his past services.

**195 URGENT ITEMS**

The Chairman reported upon two items of urgent business to be considered later in proceedings:-

Postal Collection Services and Prestatyn Classic Car Show.

**196 GRANT AND CRITERIA**

Background papers and information sheets had been circulated with agenda. The Town Clerk/Financial Officer referred to past changes in Council's approach to the award of grant aid e.g. focus on new groups, referrals to North Hoyle Community Funds, support for town events and reduced financial provisions.

Committee discussed opportunities to enter agreement with funding bodies such as North Hoyle to manage a single grant aid fund for local organisations. It also considered merits of establishing a theme for year and programming of grant aid process rather than current ad hoc arrangement. Committee was informed that General Purposes Committee budget for 2011/12 was £35,150 and bulk of this expenditure supported existing local groups, town events and community projects. A sum of one thousand pounds had been allocated for grant aid to new organisations.

Members commented upon current grant aid application form and made suggestions to improve layout, clarify CRB checks, focus on community benefit questions and grant aid criteria including emphasis on promotion of self funding activities. Detail of pending financial assistance application requests had been circulated with agenda for information purposes.

Cllr M. German proposed and Cllr I German seconded removal of Friends of the Ffrith pending grant aid application and requested a recorded vote. Cllr M Eckersley and G Green declared interest and retired from Chamber. However, Town Clerk/Financial Officer explained that item was for information only with no supporting papers and actual grant applications would be considered at a future meeting. Consequently proposal was withdrawn by proposer.

**RESOLVED** That Grant Aid application form and criteria be revised as per discussions and pending applications be considered at a future meeting.

**197 PARCEL COLLECTION SERVICES, PRESTATYN**

Several Councillors had been notified by local residents of concerns about parcel collection services in event of non delivery. Cllr S. Frobisher explained that following closure of Royal Mail sorting office, Prestatyn the company had accepted that non delivered parcels would be available for collection from local post offices. The current proposals would result in withdrawal of this service and a trip to Rhyl Sorting Office.

Mr Colin Hall, Sub-Postmaster, Prestatyn explained current system worked well for local residents and gave illustrative costings that may arise from new system. Recent press articles about Royal Mail and Sub-Postmaster consultations did not reflect reality as he had not been properly consulted. Furthermore he had been informed by regular postmen that new system would commence next week.

Rhyl Sorting Office was considered totally inappropriate due to location, increased travel costs for local residents, non customer friendly building, difficulty of taking large parcels on public transport and demographics of town. It also reneged on previous Royal Mail commitment to Town following closure of Prestatyn Sorting Office in 2007/8.

**RESOLVED**

- 1) That a letter be sent to Head Postmaster detailing Council's full support for retention of Royal Mail parcel collection service from Prestatyn/Meliden post offices and offers its continuing support for Sub-Postmasters.
- 2) That Chairman and Town Clerk/Financial Officer be authorised to enter discussion with Royal Mail officials to discuss financial support to maintain this vital community service and report back accordingly.
- 3) That Prime Minister David Cameron, Chris Ruane MP and Ann Jones AM be informed of Council's opposition to Royal Mail proposals and concerns about continuing loss of local community postal services.
- 4) That Mr C. Hall, Sub-Postmaster be thanked for his attendance.

**198 TOWN EVENTS**

- a) Prestatyn and District Walking Festival 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> May 2011.

Committee considered grant application together with financial statements circulated with agenda. Members referred to past success of Walking Festival, benefits to the Town and promotional opportunity.

**RESOLVED**

That Committee supports Prestatyn and District Walking Festival and awards grant of £1,000.

Financial/Legal Implications: £1,000 contained in budget provisions 2011. S. 137 Local Government Act 1972.

(Cllr A. Sampson declared interest and took no part in discussion or voting on this item)

- b) Prestatyn Car Show 29<sup>th</sup>/30<sup>th</sup> May 2011.

Details of grant application together with financial statements were circulated at meeting. Committee expressed support for this event and referred to publicity gained for Town and boost for local economy.

**RESOLVED** That Committee supports Prestatyn Classic Car Show 2011 and awards grant of £650.

Financial/Legal Implications: £650 as per budget provision 2011. S. 137 Local Government Act 1972.

**199 COMMUNITY/ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS 2011/12**

- a) Queen's Diamond Jubilee 2012.

Details of Public Open Space Challenge had been circulated with agenda. Councillors were invited to put forward ideas and suggestions for celebrating the Jubilee that involved enhancement of public open spaces.

**RESOLVED** That Town Clerk/Financial Officer be notified of suggestions for further consideration by Committee.

## b) Offa's Dyke Path

Information about the relatively new company and plans for improving signage on Gwaenysgor Hill had been circulated with agenda. The National Trail would soon celebrate its 40th anniversary and application had been submitted for World Heritage Site status.

Since receiving correspondence Denbighshire Countryside Services, Denbighshire County Council had indicated they would help provide and improve signage as part of Hillside footpaths improvements.

**RESOLVED** That Committee supports improved signage and seeks further information about costings, designs and level of financial assistance being offered by Denbighshire County Council.

## c) Prestatyn Hillside – Footpath Improvements

Committee was reminded that it had previously discussed creation of a new link footway between the Top Car Park (Viewing Point) and footpath network lower down Prestatyn Hillside. Denbighshire Countryside Services had recently secured landowner consent for a permissive pathway and had submitted proposals for works detailed in paper that was circulated at tonight's meeting.

**RESOLVED** That Committee recommends support for the new footway.

Financial/Legal Implications: Joint project with Denbighshire County Council. Funding Clwydian Range (Area of Outstanding Beauty) Sustainable Development Fund £2,000. Prestatyn Town Council £2,000 contained in financial provisions 2010.

Denbighshire County Council will be responsible for commissioning and implementation of works and had agreed to undertake future maintenance of footpath.

**200 STANDING ORDERS**

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

**201 HOLIDAY LEISURE ACTIVITY PROGRAMME 2011/12**

Sue Edwards and Debbie Hughes, Health Improvement Officers, Prestatyn Town Council had circulated their report and details of last year's programme, attendances etc. with agenda. Members referred to the excellent work undertaken by Staff and enquired about number of actual registrations for future reference.

**RESOLVED**

- 1) That Sue and Debbie be thanked for their report and invited to attend a future meeting.
- 2) That Committee supports Holiday Leisure Activity Programme 2011/12.

Financial Implications: £4,500 HLAP as per budget provisions 2011/12.  
£5,300 free swim subject to confirmation of Welsh Assembly Government funding.

Legal Implications: Local Government Act 1972 S. 144/5.

**202 PUBLIC SESSIONS**

The Town Clerk/Financial Officer reported that he felt Committee should be aware of recent Public Service Ombudsman in Wales interest following complaint against a Councillor arising from item raised during an informal public session. It would appear the PSOW considered such informal sessions as part of Council proceedings and consequently Codes of Conduct, Declarations of Interest and other regulatory conditions would need to apply at all times.

Members commented that future sessions, if continued, would require much stricter control, strong Chairmanship and limits to discussion. Earlier informal public sessions had been conducted at discretion of Chairman supported by fellow Councillors.

Chairman\_\_\_\_\_