

FULL COUNCIL

Minutes of Full Council held in Council Chamber, Municipal Offices, Prestatyn on Wednesday 27th July 2011 at 6.15pm – 8.50pm.

PRESENT

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

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr N. Acott – Town Clerk/Financial Officer, Mrs L. Hewitt – Committee Support Assistant, Rev. Quentin Bellamy, Francon Roberts and Sue Ward – North Hoyle Community Fund.

APOLOGIES

Councillors: G. Percival, P. Newell, A. Horobin.
Mr T. Brown – Internal Auditor, Father D. Rigby, Mayor's Chaplain.

61 PRAYERS

The Mayor welcomed Rev Q. Bellamy who was covering for Father D. Rigby, due to indisposition.

Rev Q. Bellamy offered prayers thanking God for his good works, protection and gift of faith.

62 HOUSEKEEPING

The Mayor reminded all Councillors, Guests and Public to switch off all mobile phones and recording devices.

63 MAYORAL COMMUNICATIONS

- a) Mayoral Diary of Events – details of all events attended in May, June, July were circulated at meeting.
- b) Letters of thanks for recent donations and assistance had been received from Prestatyn Carnival, Youth Volunteering and Prestatyn Royal Party.
- c) National Trails, Art in Prestatyn – The Town had received a commendation from Action for Market Towns, Environment and Culture category for its regeneration work.

64 NORTH HOYLE COMMUNITY FUNDS PM 23d/2

Sue Ward and Francon Roberts were welcomed to meeting and invited to outline history of fund and current activity. Francon explained that about four years ago Npower set up the 30k per annum index linked community benefit fund (currently 34k) to distribute monies amongst local community groups. The windfarm related fund is available for next twenty-two years starting from date of commencement and present operating company is RWE Renewables who recently took over from Npower.

Council was informed there is a partnership arrangement with Rhyl who also receive annually 30k plus 15k (Rhyl West) compared to 30k for Prestatyn/Meliden. All monies index linked and paid annually into a charitable fund set up for this purpose.

For Prestatyn/Meliden grant applications are invited July/August each year from local groups and organisations with grant aid criteria directed at capital/equipment costs for specific named project. Last year 70 applications were submitted seeking over 130k of finance so a considerable amount of sifting and vetting went into awards. RWE Renewables has a rigorous monitoring process and must also approve grants before release of any money. Funds not spent by groups within twelve months of application must be returned.

A short question and answer session revealed that notice of grants was published in local newspaper with information packs being available from First Class Clothes (Lower High Street) and Pop In Centre (Meliden Road) each year. Sue Ward confirmed that any suggestions to extend availability of packs e.g. Library, PTC office would be considered by Committee but there were issues with return of application forms to multiple points. Francon also responded that information pack downloads direct from internet were being considered but early work had shown numerous technical problems. Both gave details of local groups the fund had assisted to date, type of project and arrangements for annual grant awards ceremony.

Reference was made to potential use of numerous Town Council notice boards and opportunity for poster display to help raise further awareness of fund and application processes and this offer was welcomed by Sue and Francon.

RESOLVED That Sue Ward and Francon Roberts be thanked for their attendance and informative talk.

65 MINUTES

RESOLVED That Minutes of Annual General Meeting held 18th May 2011 be accepted.

66 MINUTES OF OTHER COMMITTEES

RESOLVED That Minutes of other Committees be accepted as follows:

General Purposes Committee – 1st June 2011

Pursuant to Minute 15 Personal Statement – Cllr I. German referred to another complaint submitted by Cllr G. Jones to Public Service Ombudsman for Wales (PSOW) against

Cllr M. German. The PSOW had decided not to investigate this complaint. Cllr I. German referred to waste of public money on such matters and felt the action went against Council's previous discussions about seeking internal resolution prior to engaging with outside bodies.

Pursuant to Minute 19 and 20 Scala Cinema and Arts Centre – Councillors made reference to the Scala Trustee Limited Company AGM and lack of public access to such meetings. Council reiterated its desire for regular meetings with Scala Board, desire for Board to host open public meeting, and need for quarterly reporting of financial trends and customer usage.

Cllrs P. Duffy and S. Edwards requested their concerns that Council may be 'brought to task' over its lack of involvement with operating company be recorded. The Town Clerk/Financial Officer reminded Members that local service agreement between Denbighshire County Council (property owner) and Town Council related to capital construction cost only. At the time of this agreement Town Council did not wish to pursue any involvement with future day to day revenue operations.

A letter from Chief Executive Officer, Denbighshire County Council was read out indicating that an independent surveyors report had recently been commissioned following concerns raised by company about building construction. It was also reported the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Scala Board and Town Council was due to be considered at the Board's forthcoming Annual General Meeting. **RESOLVED** That a further letter be sent to Scala Board of Trustees seeking completion of Memorandum of Understanding and provision of regular quarterly financial and customer trend reports.

Pursuant to Minute 23(c) Funders Fayre, Prestatyn. It was reported that Denbighshire Voluntary Services Council had offered to share costs of £600 with Town Council towards hosting of this event provisionally planned for October 2011. **RESOLVED** That Council enquire if event could be held without financial support from the authority.

Town Planning Committee – 1st June 2011

Finance and Management Committee – 29th June 2011

Pursuant to Minute 39(d) Prestatyn Carnival Association. Several Councillors wished to thank organisers for wonderful town event that brought life and colour into town centre. Plans for next year's Carnival were already being considered and it was suggested that provision of High Street bunting would add to appeal. **RESOLVED** That Mrs Joy Williams, Chairman of Prestatyn Carnival Association and her Team be thanked for their excellent work.

Town Planning Committee – 29th June 2011

Town Development Committee – 6th July 2011

Pursuant to Minute 51 North Wales Police – Personal Safety. Cllr I. German indicated that she continues to feel very threatened and intimidated by continuing presence in Council Chamber of a member of public who targets Councillors and Staff for personal e.mail, internet attacks etc. It is distressing for individual Councillors, Staff and families of those subject of personal attacks and recent unbelievably tragic international events have heightened concerns. Members present shared this view and felt authorities should do more to protect public servants and democratically elected Councillors who voluntarily served the whole community from such abuse.

Pursuant to Minute 53 Fern Avenue Car Park – Cllr I. German requested that her proposal and Cllr P. Duffy seconder to the motion for free car parking together with request for recorded vote be shown. Council had been unanimous in support of proposals.

A letter received earlier in day from Mike Hitchens, Head of Operations, Highways and Infrastructure, Denbighshire County Council was circulated at meeting and provided details of outcomes from recent discussions with Town Clerk/Financial Officer. **RESOLVED**
 1) That a letter of thanks be sent to Mr M. Hitchens, Denbighshire County Council 2) That Council accept Denbighshire County Council proposals dated 26.07.11. Financial/Management Implications: £7,000 as per letter. Denbighshire County Council to be responsible for maintenance, insurance, signage and enforcement. 3) That Town Clerk/Financial Officer issue press statement.

67 COMFORT BREAK – FIVE MINUTES

68 NOTICE OF AUDIT PM 36

- a) Council was informed that Annual Return 2010/11 had been signed by Cllr J. Thompson-Hill following acceptance of report to last Finance and Management Committee.
- b) Appointment of Internal Auditor 2011/12
 A letter had been received from Mr Tom Brown offering to continue his services as Council's Internal Auditor.

RESOLVED

- 1) That Mr TGR Brown be thanked for his excellent past services.
- 2) That Mr TGR Brown be appointed Council's Internal Auditor 2011/12.

69 REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Council considered the following requests:-

- 1) Prestatyn and District Environment Association
 A letter received from Association had been circulated with agenda. It was understood that the Association comprised of Ordinary Members and an elected Management Committee although it was unclear if all meetings were open to the public. It was also reported that the Management Committee were Trustees although there was uncertainty about role of any nominated Town Councillor.

RESOLVED

- 1) That this item be Deferred pending further enquiries.
- 2) That Town Clerk/Financial Officer seeks information about Localism Bill (England).

(Cllrs J.Davies and G. Jones declared interest and retired from Council Chamber during this item).

- b) Flint Town Council – Community Hospitals

Flint Town Council had raised concerns about future of community hospitals and were seeking representatives to help establish feasibility and merits of North Wales group (letter circulated with agenda) to protect community hospital provision.

RESOLVED That Council supports proposals and will nominate representative once date of meeting has been determined.

c) Bodnant School.

Mr M. Blythin, Headteacher Bodnant Junior School had advised that both Junior and Bodnant Infants School, Governing Bodies would merge in January 2012 and subsequently only one Town Council representative would be required.

RESOLVED That Cllr L. Muraca be nominated to the new joint Governing Body.

70 DENBIGHSHIRE REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND PLACES

The above document had been received from Dr M. Mehmet Electoral Registration Officer, Denbighshire County Council and copy circulated with agenda.

Council discussed the various town polling stations and submitted comments accordingly.

RESOLVED

1) That documentation dated 11th July 2011 be received.

2) That the following comments be forwarded to Denbighshire County Council:

Prestatyn (Central), Prestatyn Sports Centre – Need to ensure site is fully Disability Discrimination Act compliant.

Prestatyn North and North West – Proposed sharing of Jubilee Community Centre for two separate wards has previously caused confusion amongst electors. There is a need to provide separate locations. Suggestions for alternative North West site include: Ffrith Festival Gardens, Church of Holy Spirit, North Wales Bowls Centre and/or temporary accommodation.

71 CHARTER BETWEEN DENBIGHSHIRE'S TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCILS AND DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Details of the above proposed Charter had been circulated with agenda. The Town Clerk/Financial Officer reminded Council of former pioneering charter agreement between Denbighshire County Council and Prestatyn Town Council signed by respective Chairman and Mayor in 1998. He expressed disappointment that County had not promoted or used this agreement for many years and this view was supported by majority of Councillors.

Members expressed deep reservations about financial implications for Town and Community Councils although it was explained the Charter focussed on consultation processes and engagement. There was an ongoing separate work stream relating to devolution/delegation of services. It was clear that in future Town/Community Councils would be expected to undertake more services and this would have implications for voluntary Town Councillors and Council Staff.

Reference was made to range of powers currently available to Town Councils including drainage works. A Member reported upon overgrowth in drainage ditch at Sea Road/Trevor

Road, Prestatyn. In such circumstances the Environment Agency, Welsh Water and Denbighshire County Council all played a role in maintaining such ditches and this had led to some confusion amongst residents. Council was reminded that usually responsibility for clearance works lay with responsible landowner.

RESOLVED That Cllr Hugh Evans, Leader Denbighshire County Council be invited to attend future meeting.

Mayor_____

FULL COUNCIL

Minutes of Full Council held in Council Chamber, Municipal Offices, Prestatyn on Wednesday 12th October 2011 at 6.15pm – 9.10pm.

PRESENT

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

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr N. Acott – Town Clerk/Financial Officer, Mrs L. Hewitt – Committee Support Assistant, Rev. Quentin Bellamy, Mr J. White – Manager of Pop In Centre, Mrs V. Wells – Chair of Pop In Centre, Mr T. Brown – Internal Auditor.

APOLOGIES

Councillors: G. Percival, P. Newell, A. Horobin, G. Green, G. Jones, P. Curtis.
Father D. Rigby, Mayor's Chaplain.

117 PRAYERS

Rev Q. Bellamy offered an Australian prayer encouraging people to love and respect each other in peace.

118 MAYORAL COMMUNICATIONS

- a) Mayoral Diary of Events – details of events attended in July, August, September, October circulated at meeting.
- b) Wales in Bloom – Holywell Town Council offered their congratulations to Town following recent achievements and success in Town Trophy category.

119 URGENT ITEMS

The Mayor gave notice of three urgent items to be considered later in tonight's proceedings: Festive Lighting, Prestatyn Carnival, Eisteddfod.

120 PRESTATYN POP IN CENTRE

The Mayor welcomed Mr Jonathan White, Manager and Mrs Veronica Wells, Pop In Centre to the meeting and invited them to address Council. Mrs Well gave a brief history of centre that was purchased and established thirteen years ago by volunteers. It had developed into five day per week operation accommodating up to forty children per evening. The centre was primarily funded by successive grant aid schemes but there had been no successful major grant aid bids in last twelve months resulting in reduced staffing levels and a potential operating deficit of forty-nine thousand pounds. A linked computer suite in adjoining rented accommodation had been closed and children were raising funds to help centre maintain operations.

Last year five hundred and twenty four individual children accessed its services. Mr J. White explained target users were 11-25 year olds although some homeless children as young as nine had been supported. Sexual health and pregnancy advice continued to be well used and it was notable that many referrals came from schools who were unable to give time or persuade youngsters to attend their general practitioners. It was explained that many youngsters only revealed their difficulties and worries after they had attended centre on several occasions because they felt secure about confidentiality. Denbighshire County Council only provided six hundred and fifty pounds for the centre's sexual advice service.

Mr J. White referred to a wide range of services being run from centre including trips for youngsters, cycling, computer training, foodshare and inter-generational coffee mornings held each Saturday. Opportunities for youngsters to socialise, mix and relax in familiar non-pressurised surroundings was also a very important aspect of centre's operations.

Mrs V. Wells praised volunteer helpers for their support of services but explained it was necessary to provide paid staff to help run and develop centre. At present there was very little funding for paid staff and many grant aid bodies seemed reluctant to pay staff thus creating a very difficult operational situation.

There followed a question and answer session:

- Cllr PD** Are you doing anything to raise funds?
- JW** Funding applications pending but also looking to base staff in centre.
- VW** DCC seem to have stopped providing sexual health advice service and referring children back to centre. Recently centre has taken a lead on anti-bullying but no funds to do anything about it.
- JW** Kids vulnerable when on streets and some families just don't want to know about what their children do.
- Cllr PD** Do you use volunteers? Cllr G. Frobisher is Volunteer Coordinator and can help. Have you approached County Health and Well Being Officers.

- JW** We already have lots of volunteers and have spoken to County.
- Cllr SE** Very high regard for work at centre. Thank you to Pop In for assistance with Hillside and Offa's Dyke Path.
- Cllr PD** If assistance needed with food I can help.
- VW** Foodshare scheme already working well at centre.
- Cllr JTH** Any financial or practical help from Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board?
- VW** Yes - some training offered but no financial help to run service.
- Cllr MG** Welsh Assembly Government passed legislation to protect rights of child. Any offer of support from Town Council would fall short of what is needed. PTC should spearhead a meeting to identify need and encourage partners to invest in future generations.
- VW** It's simple. We need recognition and payment for services provided. We need advocates to try and explain this to right people and fundholders. It would be a tragedy to reduce services. Centre is already spearheading meeting with many partners.
- Cllr IG** What grants have been applied for?
- VW/JW** Lottery (three years funding £260k), Tudor Trust (running cost £49k), Community Chest (sports leader training), DCC Community Revenue Fund, Tomas Howell Education Trust (sexual health awareness programme 5k).
- Cllr SF** I think application has also been made to North Hoyle Community Funds for Charity Insurance in sum of £1,600.
- VW** Centre also helps kids coming out of care into independent living. It even offers laundry service e.g. blankets as some youngsters struggle.
- Cllr LM** Concerns that some agencies trying to offload services.

RESOLVED

- 1) That Mr J. White and Mrs V. Wells be thanked for their attendance.
- 2) That a letter be sent to Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board/Denbighshire County Council/Welsh Assembly Government/DCC Area Member Group seeking assistance in supporting Prestatyn Pop In Centre.

(Town Clerk/Financial Officer to seek factfile, annual reports/needs assessment/work programme from Centre Manager).

121 DENBIGHSHIRE AREA MEMBER GROUPS

Council briefly discussed above and sought clarification on means of providing input to Denbighshire County Council internal process for allocating of fifty thousand pounds to community area funds.

RESOLVED That a further letter be sent to Denbighshire County Council stressing need for regular Joint County/Town Councillor meetings.

122 MINUTES

RESOLVED That Minutes of meeting held 27th July 2011 be accepted subject to correct spelling of invited guests Mr Ffrangcon Roberts and Mr Mike Hitchings.

Pursuant to Minute 64 North Hoyle Community Funds – Cllr M. German indicated that he felt it was a good meeting with robust questioning. He was surprised to learn Mayor had later felt it necessary to apologise and enquire with Mr F. Roberts and Ms S. Ward after meeting if they were upset. In response Mayor confirmed that he had spoken to both after meeting but did not name any Councillor and neither party had been upset by any questions or conduct of meeting.

Pursuant to Minute 66 – Scala Company Ltd – In response to Member question the Town Clerk/Financial Officer confirmed that Company Secretary had indicated draft Memorandum of Understanding would be ready this week but to date had not been received.

Pursuant to Minute 70 – Denbighshire Review of Polling Districts and Places **RESOLVED** That Town Clerk/Financial Officer seek update from Denbighshire County Council.

123 MINUTES OF OTHER COMMITTEES

RESOLVED That Minutes of Other Committees be accepted as follows:

Town Planning Committee 27th July 2011

General Purposes Committee 7th September 2011.

Pursuant to Minute 77 Coastal Sea Defence – Cllr M. German referred to letter from Chris Ruane MP and circulated via Town Clerk's office about a meeting between Tower Beach residents and public officials. Cllr German was disappointed that only Ward Councillors had been mentioned in correspondence but they not been named or received personal letter. Cllr S. Edwards confirmed meeting had taken place and been successful advising that it was normal practise for MP's office to invite Ward Councillors and was sorry for any offence he may of felt.

Pursuant to Minute 81 Stadium Developments Ltd – The Town Clerk/Financial Officer read a letter from Chief Executive Officer, Denbighshire County Council (copy circulated at meeting) advising that income generated by car parks was seventy thousand pounds per annum. If free car parking was introduced this would result in reduced services or need to increase income from other sources. Reference was made to car park costs around County area seriously damaging town centres and several anomalies e.g. free parking at Ruthin Craft Centre were highlighted. Cllr S. Frobisher , Lead Member for Environment and Sustainable Development, Denbighshire County Council offered to provide historical car park income records. In response to vociferous questioning by Cllr P. Duffy about introduction of free

car parking Cllr S. Frobisher explained that she had corporate responsibility towards whole of County and could not simply introduce free parking in any one town without considering wider impact upon County services. **RESOLVED** 1) That further letter be sent to Denbighshire County Council, also Stadium Developments Ltd and Tesco Stores Ltd (Omnitec site owners) seeking support/financial assistance for provision of temporary free car parking during time of building disruption. 2) That Cllr P. Duffy approach Northern Markets Ltd to enquire about possibility of introducing additional free car parking at Prestatyn market site.

Town Planning Committee 21st September 2011

Finance and Management Committee 21st September 2011

Pursuant to Minute 95 Funders Fayre 18.10.11. In response to Members question it was confirmed Council's support for this event would be recognised by Denbighshire Voluntary Services Council.

Short recess.

Town Planning Committee 5th October 2011

Pursuant to Minute 110 – Denbighshire Planning Consultations Stadium Retail Park Members commented that conditions and planning consultations were difficult to understand and were appreciative of County Officers and Developers attendance at this meeting. If Council had not supported proposals the conditional applications would have been referred to County Planning Committee causing further delays.

Town Development Committee 5th October 2011

Pursuant to Minute 114 Prestatyn Railway Station – Cllr M. German referred to size of steps on the new bridge and following research since last meeting had found British Rail had specified tread width.

(Cllr S. Frobisher left meeting at 8.00pm)

124 MAYORAL ALLOWANCES AND EXPENSES

Cllr P. Duffy had requested Council discussion of this item as he felt all payments should be published and records made available. The Town Clerk/Financial Officer explained that there were three separate accounts held in the name of incumbent Mayor. There was a personal allowance of eight hundred pounds awarded to incoming Mayor upon appointment to office, Mayoral Public Participation Fund of two thousand five hundred pounds subject of Council's internal controls and separate Mayoral Charity Fund to hold any funds raised at Mayoral charity events etc.

There was a wide ranging discussion on Mayoral activity, role, duties and expenses. Mr T. Brown, Council's Internal Auditor explained that during his work he inspected the Mayoral Public Participation Fund but also took account of staff resources allocated to such activity. He then reported annually to Council upon his findings. By nature Mayoral accounts were fluid and it was often difficult to expect Mayor to produce receipts such as minor purchase of raffle tickets, small donations at events etc.

Council accepted that public accountability in Mayoral office was very important and for this reason it had introduced a number of internal controls in recent years that included supervision of Mayoral Public Participation Fund by Town Clerk/Financial Officer and annual review and report by Council appointed Independent Internal Auditor.

A recorded vote was requested.

RESOLVED That Motion for Mayor's Personal Allowance and Mayor's Public Participation Fund being open to public scrutiny be declared LOST.

FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN
Cllrs P. Duffy, S. Edwards	Cllrs J. Thompson-Hill, J. Davies, L. Muraca. A. Sampson, G Frobisher	I. German, M. German
2	5	2

(Cllrs A. Pennington and M. Eckersley declared interest and retired from Council Chamber during this item. Cllr A. Sampson in Chair).

125 DENBIGHSHIRE CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU, PRESTATYN

Details of letter, financial report and extracts from CAB Annual Report had been circulated with agenda. Members referred to the excellent work undertaken by CAB, local service operated from shared Pop In Centre, Meliden Road, Prestatyn and town outreach service.

RESOLVED

- 1) That Council award sum of £4,250 to Denbighshire CAB, Prestatyn

Financial/Legal Implications: As per budget provision. S. 137 Local Government Act 1972

- 2) That Mrs D. Bailey, Chief Executive Officer, Denbighshire CAB be invited to attend a future meeting.

126 STANDING ORDERS

RESOLVED That Standing Order No 1 be waived and meeting extended by twenty minutes.

127 CHRISTMAS WORKING ARRANGEMENTS

Cllr J. Thompson-Hill, Chairman of Finance and Management Committee introduced this item and referred to options paper circulated with agenda.

A recorded vote was requested for both proposals.

RESOLVED That Option 2 be accepted.

Fri 23 rd Dec	Sat 24 th Dec	Sun 25 th Dec	Mon 26 th	Tues 27 th	Wed 28 th	Thurs 29 th	Fri 30 th	Sat 31 st	Sun 1 st Jan	Mon 2 nd Jan
Normal Hours	XMAS EVE	XMAS DAY	Bank Hol	Bank Hol	Special Leave			New Years Eve	New Years Day	Bank Hol

FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN
Cllrs J. Thompson-Hill, J. Davies, L. Muraca, G. Frobisher, I. German, S. Edwards, P. Duffy, M. German, A. Sampson (9)	Cllr M. Eckersley (1)	Cllr A. Pennington (1)

An earlier motion for Option 3 was declared LOST

FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN
Cllrs M. German, I. German, P. Duffy, M. Eckersley (4)	Cllrs S. Edwards, J. Davies, A. Sampson, G. Frobisher, L. Muraca J. Thompson-Hill (6)	Cllr A. Pennington (1)

128 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS 2011

The Town Clerk/Financial Officer reported that Denbighshire County Council had made no change to service costs for this year. Members reminded of earlier contract timescale adjustment to coincide with equipment rental hire agreement.

RESOLVED That Denbighshire County Council be appointed service contractor 2011.

Financial Implications: £9,311 as per budget provisions. Repairs £1,778 to PTC equipment.

Legal Implications: S.144 Local Government Act 1972.

129 PRESTATYN CARNIVAL ASSOCIATION

A letter had been received from Carnival Association seeking Council's permission to reproduce town crest on bone china trophy plate awarded to Carnival Queen and for

embroidering of sash. It was reported that Miss Prestatyn represented Town at many events.

RESOLVED That Council approve reproduction of Town Crest.

Financial Implications: None.

Legal Implications: Council's historical policy of granting permission to local non-profit making community events and heraldic protection on reproduction of Town Crest.

130 **EISTEDDFOD**

Cllr I. German reported that she had received a letter from Eisteddfod organisers inviting four representatives to attend a fund raising planning group for town.

RESOLVED That Cllr I. German, A. Pennington, and M. German be nominated to attend. (Cllr A. Horobin also to be approached).

Mayor _____

FULL COUNCIL

Minutes of Full Council held in Council Chamber, Municipal Offices, Prestatyn on Wednesday 14th December 2011 at 6.15pm – 9.00pm.

PRESENT

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

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr N. Acott – Town Clerk/Financial Officer, Mrs L. Hewitt – Committee Support Assistant, Rev. Quentin Bellamy – Mayor's Chaplain, Mr T. Brown – Internal Auditor.

APOLOGIES

Councillors: A. Horobin, G. Jones, J. Thompson-Hill, S. Frobisher.

153 PRAYERS

Rev Q. Bellamy offered prayers seeking wisdom and guidance in undertaking Council's work.

154 URGENT ITEMS

The Mayor gave notice of an urgent item to be discussed later in tonight's proceedings concerning Ysgol Penmorfa School Governors. Cllr S. Edwards referred to a recent newspaper article about possible closure of Prestatyn Police Station but no details or official communication had been received.

155 MAYORAL COMMUNICATIONS

a) Mayoral Diary of Events – details circulated at meeting for events attended in October, November and December 2011. The Mayor responded to a question about the non wearing of Chains at recent Pop In Centre event. The Town Clerk/Financial Officer advised no formal duty to wear Chains but this was clearly expected on Civic occasions. The Deputy Mayor advised that the last diary omitted functions that he attended and this would need to be checked. The importance of informing Mayoral office of all Civic invitations and events attended was an essential requirement for maintaining up to date Mayoral diary.

b) Letters of Thanks – letters of thanks for recent donations and assistance received from Bodnant Junior School, Denbighshire Citizens Advice Bureau, Rotary Club of Prestatyn and Denbighshire Voluntary Services Council (Funders Fayre).

156 MINUTES

RESOLVED That Minutes of Full Council meeting held 12th October 2011 be accepted.

Pursuant to Minute 122 (PM64) North Hoyle Community Funds – Cllr M. German reported that a recent Public Service Ombudsman in Wales complaint against him arising from his actions at Full Council in July had been concluded to his satisfaction. He was concerned that Mayor's action in speaking to parties involved and referred to by third party in complaint to Ombudsman appeared to differ from official records. Whilst he felt there was some robust questioning during this item by himself and Cllr G. Green it was important to safeguard freedom of speech.

The Mayor referred to rudeness of Cllr German's questions but apologised for this comment at tonight's meeting. He accepted that it was the Chair's responsibility to maintain order during Council meetings and to promote good behaviour and courtesy in Council Chambers.

Pursuant to Minute 123 (PM114) Prestatyn Railway Station – Cllr M. German reported that he had subsequently written to rail companies and was awaiting response. Council had also raised this issue with Passenger Transport Officer, Denbighshire County Council.

157 MINUTES OF OTHER COMMITTEES

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

Town Planning Committee – 12th October 2011.

General Purposes Committee – 9th November 2011.

Town Development Committee – 9th November 2011.

Town Planning Committee – 9th November 2011.

Pursuant to Minute 148 – 43/2011/1262 (Central) Cllr M. German referred to anonymous letter circulated to residents close to this development which made scurrilous remarks about himself and involvement with planning application process. Details had been forwarded to Head of Legal and Democratic Services, Denbighshire County Council and Town Clerk/Financial Officer. He pointed out the Official records show that he has taken no part in planning process for this item.

Full Council (Community Endeavour Awards) – 5th December 2011.

158 ANNUAL RETURN 2010/11 PM 36

A letter had been received from Council's External Auditor, UHY Hacker Young (copy circulated) advising that it was his intention to issue an unqualified audit certificate and report with no matters to be brought to Council's attention.

In response to Member's question the Town Clerk/Financial Officer and Council's Internal Auditor explained the audit process and opportunities to raise questions about accounts. Reference was made to public right to challenge accounts and Council felt that frivolous allegations, unfounded challenges and repeated questions should not be supported or investigated although this course of action did not appear to be covered by legislation. It was reported that Council had incurred a significant charge of seven hundred pounds for audit challenge work arising from questions submitted by named local resident for accounts audit work in 2010/11.

There was further discussion upon nature of audit challenge work that primarily involved two contractors, costs incurred, and staff time in preparing responses. In addition a number Public Service Ombudsman for Wales complaints and Freedom of Information requests overlapped audit process and all impacted upon Council resources. Ultimately such repeated and overlapping work had a detrimental effect upon public services. Members were informed that in some cases legislation included a clause or restrictions on amount of challenge/enquiry work that could be undertaken whilst other regulatory legislation was silent. At the present time all external audit questions and challenge work was charged to Council irrespective of circumstance.

RESOLVED That Town Clerk/Financial Officer, Council Staff and Mr T. Brown, Internal Auditor be thanked for their diligence.

159 DAY SERVICE REVIEW – STAKEHOLDERS GROUP PM 98

Council was informed of background to this item and Denbighshire County Council's proposal to hold three workshops and seek a single Town Council nomination. Unfortunately the first workshop had occurred before tonight's meeting and in accordance with procedures Chairs and Deputies notified and Cllr A. Sampson, Deputy Mayor had agreed to attend but had subsequently missed meeting due to unforeseen work commitments. Cllrs S. Edwards and P. Duffy had attended following notification from a Rhyl Councillor colleague but were disappointed they had not been informed of position by Town Council.

Denbighshire County Council had subsequently advised that the workshop timetable was being changed as some groups had not been able to confirm their nominations because of short timescales involved and use of wrong email addresses. The workshops were a preliminary to further and wider consultation programme.

A recorded vote was requested. Cllr P. Newell nominated and Cllr P. Duffy seconded nomination of Cllr S. Edwards. Cllr M. Eckersley nominated and Cllr A. Sampson seconded nomination of Cllr G. Frobisher.

RESOLVED That Cllr G. Frobisher be appointed as Council's representative on Denbighshire County Council Day Services Review Stakeholder Group.

FOR Cllr G. Frobisher	FOR Cllr S. Edwards	ABSTAIN
Cllrs M. Eckersley, G. Green, J. Davies, A. Sampson, G. Frobisher, G. Percival	Cllrs I. German, M. German, P. Duffy, P. Newell, S. Edwards	Cllrs P. Curtis, L. Muraca, A. Pennington

(6)	(5)	(3)
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160 PRESTATYN CARNIVAL - July 2012

Notification had been received from Prestatyn Carnival Association that date for Carnival and Denbighshire County Council's, Rhyl Air Show would clash next year. The Carnival Association felt this would be detrimental to success of Carnival. Denbighshire County Council had advised dates were determined by booking of Royal Air Force flight paths, timing of Olympic Games and associated air security, and impact upon emergency services and County events team.

Several Councillors highlighted the disparity between support by Denbighshire County Council for Rhyl based events compared to Prestatyn. Other topics included potential traffic jams on A548 Coast Road if events were held same day, compensation to Carnival for any abortive bookings, opportunities for extending Rhyl Air Show to include Prestatyn and need to maximise use of tourism website for local events.

RESOLVED

- 1) That a letter be sent to Tourism Department, Denbighshire County Council enquiring about their proposals for support of Prestatyn town events in future years.
- 2) That Prestatyn Carnival Association be informed of Council's full and continuing support for Carnival 2012 and offer to maintain dialogue.
- 3) That Denbighshire County Council be requested to supply timetable for proposed Rhyl Air Show and to consider extending event to include Prestatyn.

161 SCALA PRESTATYN COMPANY LTD PM 66

A draft copy of proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Scala Board and Town Council had been circulated with agenda. Several Councillors felt MOU lacked the detail required and did not address their concerns about lack of financial reports.

Councillors also reiterated previous comments about Scala Board's poor communication, lack of detailed financial reports and apparent reluctance of Board to engage with public or hold open Annual General Meeting.

The role of Council's appointed Board representative, Cllr A. Sampson was discussed and it was clear that because the company had concerns about confidentiality and commercial sensitivity of information this hampered the Member's reporting to Town Council.

RESOLVED

- 1) That all the Councillors be invited to forward their questions for Scala Board and/or main areas of concern for further discussion to Town Clerk/Financial Officer.
- 2) That all Scala Board Trustees be urged to meet with Town Council. The Scala Board also be requested to consider holding of public meeting e.g. meet the Board event, open Annual General Meetings
- 3) That all Councillors be invited to submit comments on Draft Memorandum of Understanding to Town Clerk's office.

Mayor_____

FULL COUNCIL

Minutes of Full Council held in Council Chamber, Municipal Offices, Prestatyn on Wednesday 8th February 2012 at 6.15pm – 7.50pm.

PRESENT

Councillors: A. Pennington (Mayor), A. Sampson, M. Eckersley, G. Green, P. Duffy, M. German, I. German, 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, Rev. Quentin Bellamy – Mayor’s Chaplain, Mrs D. Bailey – Denbighshire CAB

APOLOGIES

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

187 PRAYERS

Rev Q. Bellamy offered prayers at commencement.

188 URGENT ITEMS

The Mayor gave notice of two urgent items for consideration later in tonight’s proceedings concerning provision of flags and banners, and CCTV coverage.

189 MAYORAL COMMUNICATIONS

- a) Mayoral Diary of Events – details circulated of events attended in December 2011 and January 2012.
- b) Letters of Thanks – letter received from Festival of Christmas Trees Committee.

190 DENBIGHSHIRE CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU PM 125

The Mayor welcomed Denise Bailey, Manager CAB to the meeting and invited her to address Council. Denise began by thanking Council on behalf of CAB and its Staff who all appreciated the long term commitment of Town Council to the CAB service. The CAB service employed four permanent staff covering Ruthin, Llangollen, Rhyl and Denbigh with outreach services in Prestatyn and Corwen. They were supported by a number of specialist central support staff funded by specific grant aid streams and volunteers.

Prestatyn CAB service operates one half day per week from Pop In Centre, Meliden Road, Prestatyn. The current arrangement involves clients using a gateway/triage service that typically consists of ten minute interview and signposting to other services or referral to specialist CAB advisor if appropriate. The majority of cases in Prestatyn Town involve disability allowances and related issues. Unfortunately the present CAB outreach worker has resigned so there will be vacancy shortly but CAB hopeful of improving service by having both a North and South County outreach service.

Last year CAB assisted raising 303 people out of poverty, dealing with 16.5 million pounds of debt insolvency, saving 51 families from homelessness and working with people and businesses facing bankruptcy. Recent studies had shown a close correlation between poor health and insolvency that affected not only individuals but family and sections of community.

Future plans include increasing level of outreach services, Family First programme, Action for Children, Over 65s help programme, Fuel Poverty and Oil Club programme. Denise also referred to various self help CAB booklets and one specifically designed for use by Councillors to help them when they are helping other people and copies will soon be made available. A national CAB helpline telephone number 08444772020 has recently been launched.

- Cllr GG** Does CAB target key groups? **DB** – sometimes dependent upon resources and any grant scheme available e.g. Comic Relief grant awarded for helping over 65s group.
- Cllr PD** Great job. Bankruptcy causes a lot of suffering and can you help? **DB** – last year service dealt with 77 bankruptcy cases. This year numbers rising and mixture of personal and business debt. CAB now have a specialist advisor.
- Cllr MG** Bankruptcy is tragic, impacts on family life and can affect individual health. **DB** - This is a very time consuming area of work and increasingly specialist advice is necessary because of all the inter relationship such as homes, business, assets, mortgages.
- Cllr JD** If suitable accommodation found in Prestatyn would CAB increase service? **DB** - great to have own base premises but unless funds were available could still only service 1 day per week initially.
- Cllr SE** Do you get requests for marital/parental issues such as fathers' rights? **DB** – Yes. General advice given but talks often lead to awareness of other problems such as housing and finances. Without extra money the service will struggle to meet increasing demands.
- Cllr GP** Is there interaction with other agency and support services? **DB** – Yes if service available but not many working locally. It always makes sense to link with others. Money advice service is funding debt service but not as much duplication as previously.
- Cllr IG** CAB is a good cause and PTC has helped over many years. Do other Councils contribute? **DB** – Yes. Ruthin 3k, Denbigh 5k, Llangollen 1.6k, Corwen 0.6k and Prestatyn 4.2k. Some Councils are supportive in other ways so not always finance.

RESOLVED That Denise Bailey, Manager Denbighshire CAB be thanked for her address and open invitation to all Councillors to view work of CAB service.

191 MINUTES

RESOLVED That Minutes of Full Council Meeting held on 14th December 2011 be accepted.

Pursuant to PM 156 (123/114) Prestatyn Railway Station – Cllr M. German provided details of letter he had received from Arriva Train Wales explaining that footbridge met with design standards relating to foot-tread steps width at time. Both Department of Transport and Office of Rail Regulator have agreed footbridge is compliant.

Cllr J. Davies also referred to correspondence he had with rail company following concerns raised about delays in work on Prestatyn Station buildings and it would appear that this had occurred partly due to human error.

Pursuant to PM 161 Scala Prestatyn Company Ltd – In response to Members' questions Town Clerk/Financial Officer confirmed he had written to company urging them to host an open public meeting. Cllr A. Sampson, Council appointed representative confirmed he would also be progressing items raised at last meeting with company. It was not known if any Councillors had volunteered to assist with Scala Celebration event.

Pursuant to PM 164 Information Requests – The Town Clerk/Financial Officer was thanked for his sensitive recording of this matter.

192 MINUTES OF OTHER COMMITTEES

RESOLVED That Minutes of other Committees be accepted as follows:

Town Planning Committee – 14th December 2011.

Town Planning Committee – 18th January 2012.

Finance and Management Committee – 18th January 2012

Pursuant to Minute 181 Pop In Centre – Several Councillors referred to calls and lobbying received from Pop In Centre representatives following Council's decision. Members were reminded they were often called to account for their decisions and should be free to do so without fear or favour in best interests of community.

Pursuant to PM 182 Audio Recordings – Councillors were reminded of importance of reading minutes before meeting and clarifying with Town Clerk/Financial Officer any points of detail. In response to questions the Town Clerk/Financial Officer advised notes of meeting would be destroyed after each Council cycle of meetings and this was usually every two/three months.

193 COUNCIL TAX PRECEPT 2012/13 PM 177

Cllr J. Thompson-Hill proposed and Cllr I. German seconded proposal to adopt recommended Precept arising from Finance and Management Committee held on 18th January 2012.

RESOLVED That Council Tax Precept 2012/13 be £350,505 (Band D equivalent £46.84 – no change).

194 PRESTATYN CARNIVAL 2012 PM 160

A letter had been received from Mr J. Groves, Head of Leisure, Libraries and Community Development regarding the clash of dates for Prestatyn Carnival and Rhyl Air Show (copy circulated with agenda). In a further correspondence he had also outlined a number of potential events for Coastal Denbighshire (copy circulated) subject to financing. Reference was made to Rhyl Town Council that helped fund County Events programme.

It was reported that Denbighshire County Council and Prestatyn Carnival were currently in discussions about dates of their respective events. The Town's Business Forum was also considering a town events working group and this may assist future coordination and support.

The Town Clerk/Financial Officer explained that Council had traditionally offered its financial support direct to organisers rather than County Events programme and any proposed change to funding arrangements would need detailed consideration. Members indicated that the present arrangement should remain but there should also be more dialogue with County Events Officer and additional focus on seafront attractions.

RESOLVED

- 1) That a letter be sent to Denbighshire County Council urging more support and involvement with Prestatyn based events.
- 2) That the Town Clerk/Financial Officer make further enquiries about the evolving Business Forum Tourism Events working group, and also seek involvement of County Events Officer in future plans.

(Cllr J. Thompson-Hill declared interest and retired from Council Chamber during this item).

195 SERVICE REVIEW OF DAY CARE ARRANGEMENTS (NORTH) BY DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL PM 159

Letter received from Denbighshire County Council (copy circulated with agenda) advising that future Stakeholder Group meetings would be deferred until after County Council elections.

RESOLVED That information be received.

196 REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Council considered vacancies for nominated Council representatives for Ysgol Penmorfa and Prestatyn Area Business Community Forum.

RESOLVED That both appointments be Deferred until Council's Annual General Meeting.

(Cllrs M. German and I. German requested their abstention from vote be recorded).

197 FLAGS AND BANNERS

Details of correspondence received from Denbighshire County Council was circulated at meeting. It was proposed by County Council on behalf of Business Forum and local schools that Prestatyn High Street be closed to traffic on 1st March 2012 to accommodate St David's Day Parade. Additionally flags and banners were being sought for this event, together with purchase of other flags suitable for Diamond Jubilee and Olympic events.

A full breakdown of costs associated with proposals had been provided and Denbighshire County Council had agreed to meet half of this cost.

RESOLVED That Council award £1265 matched funding towards flags/banners project.

Financial Implications: £1265 contained in Community Projects.

Legal/Other Implications: S. 144/5 Local Government Act 1972, Denbighshire County Council to clarify responsibility for future maintenance.

198 CCTV

Cllr G. Percival reported upon a number of recent crimes affecting local businesses. Local Community Policing Officers had advised him that there were problems with CCTV coverage. It was also reported that non emergency police call number 101 is currently out of order and North Wales Police were aware of the problem.

RESOLVED That a letter be sent to North Wales Police seeking appraisal of current Prestatyn CCTV systems, crime prevention services and arrangements for CCTV coverage of refurbished railway station and new retail park.

Mayor _____

FULL COUNCIL

Minutes of Full Council held in Council Chamber, Municipal Offices, Prestatyn on Wednesday 18th April 2012 at 6.20pm – 8.25pm.

PRESENT

Councillors: A. Pennington (Mayor), A. Sampson, G. Frobisher, P. Duffy, M. German, 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: P. Newell, A. Horobin, S. Frobisher, P. Curtis, G. Jones., M. Eckersley, G. Green, I. German, J.Davies, J.Thompson-Hill.
Rev Q. Bellamy – Mayor's Chaplain.

235 PRAYERS

Prior to commencement of meeting Prayers were offered seeking guidance and direction on Council business.

Additionally the ramifications of recent national High Court ruling that effectively banned prayers from all Council meetings was discussed and reference made to position of Clergy and Mayor's Chaplain. This matter would be agendered for further discussion following outcome of appeal that would probably be determined by relevant courts after Council May elections.

236 MAYORAL COMMUNICATIONS

- a) Mayoral Diary of Events – details circulated at meeting of events attended in February, March April 2012.
- b) Letters of thanks – letters received following Council's support from Urdd Gobaith Cymru, Open Doors Project, Nant Hall Road Church and Club Garddio – Ysgol y Lllys.

237 MINUTES

RESOLVED That Minutes of Full Council Meeting held on 8th February 2012 be accepted.

Pursuant to Minute 195 Service Review of Day Care Arrangements (North) by Denbighshire County Council some Members expressed disappointment at postponement of review due to Council elections.

Pursuant to Minute 198 CCTV – Town Clerk/Financial Officer confirmed that he expected to have received Denbighshire County Council's report by next Committee meeting.

238 MINUTES OF OTHER COMMITTEES

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

Town Planning Committee – 8th February 2012

General Purposes Committee – 7th March 2012

Pursuant to Minute 204 Pop In Centre, Prestatyn – Council congratulated the management on securing substantial grant aid from Big Lottery Fund. Reference was also made to 'dispensations' awarded by Denbighshire County Council, Standards Committee to two Town Councillors that had allowed them to speak but not to vote on Pop In Centre matters as they both held positions of authority with the organisation in a private not public capacity.

Town Planning Committee – 7th March 2012

Town Development Committee – 7th March 2012

Pursuant to Minute 210 Prestatyn Works – Cllr M. German reported that he had been informed by local businessman today that there would be further delays in works at Prestatyn Bus Station. **RESOLVED** 1) That a letter be sent to Mr B. Evans, Section Manager, Denbighshire County Council seeking better communication and earlier notification of significant changes in town projects work programme timetable. 2) That clarification be sought from DCC over additional costs relating to bus station works (wall and drain) and associated funding arrangements.

Town Planning Committee – 28th March 2012

Finance and Management Committee – 28th March 2012

Pursuant to Minute 234 – Public Service Ombudsman for Wales etc. The Town Clerk/Financial Officer reported upon recent communication from PSOW office advising that they had invoked policy on 'Unacceptable Actions by Complainants' following submission of sixty-five complaints by single person complaining about individual Councillors and Council's conduct. The Council welcomed the common sense and reasonable approach adopted by PSOW office arising from abuse of legislation and high cost to public purse.

239 INTERNAL AUDITOR'S REPORT – ACCOUNTS FOR AUDIT 2012 PM 225/6

Mr T. Brown, Internal Auditor presented his report to Council (copies circulated at meeting) and expressed his satisfaction with financial records. He praised staff for their assistance and manner in which they managed Council's financial affairs on behalf of the authority.

Members discussed the report and queried reason for not including Mayoral accounts. Mr T. Brown explained such accounts did not form part of external audit requirements but he would be auditing these accounts in accordance with Council's request at end of Municipal year. The Town Clerk/Financial Officer confirmed budget provision for Mayoral activity was £2,500 and spending to date was well below this figure.

RESOLVED That Internal Auditor's Report 2011/12 be accepted and Mr T. Brown be thanked for his work.

240 ANNUAL RETURN 2011/12

The Annual Return papers had been circulated with agenda and figures compiled from information contained in Council's annual financial statements and prior year's balances. It had been presented in format required by Welsh Assembly Government, appointed external auditor and reference made to requirement to complete Annual Governance Statement.

The Town Clerk/Financial Officer responded to questions about Annual Return and referred to appended notes notes to Annual Return. Members reviewed Statement of Accounts and highlighted some concerns about impact of repaying Scala Cinema and Arts Facility service agreement that was discussed in detail as separate item later in evening.

RESOLVED That Draft Annual Return and statement of Assurance be accepted as follows:

SECTION 1 – STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

No.		
1 - 14	Accept	

SECTION 2 – ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

No.		
1-8	Yes	Item 4 Public Notice period at time of consideration
9	Not applicable	

SECTION 4 – ANNUAL INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT

No.		
A-J	Yes	Independent Internal Auditor Report accepted
K	Not applicable	

INTERMEDIATE AND SUPPLEMENTARY ASSURANCE AND INFORMATION REQUESTS**STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

No.		
1-4	Yes	

FUTURE PLANS

No.		
5	Yes	

INTERNAL CONTROLS

No.		
6, 7, 8	Yes	

COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS, REGULATIONS AND CODES OF PRACTISE

No.		
9, 11, 12, 13	Yes	
10	No	No changes to Standing Orders and Financial Regulations

ELECTORS RIGHTS

No.		
14	Yes.	Public notice/inspection period at time of consideration

ASSESSMENT OF RISKS

No.		
15, 16, 17	Yes.	

INTERNAL AUDIT

No.		
18,19, 20,21	Yes.	Internal Auditor is not requested to undertake tasks that may compromise independence

AUDITOR'S REPORT

No.		
22, 23	Yes.	

EVENTS DURING/AFTER YEARS END

No.		
24, 25	Yes.	1)Ongoing public liability insurance claim. 2) Potential further litigation following harassment and intimidation of Councillors and Staff. North wales Police prosecuted person in 2011 for malicious communications involving internet abuse of three Town Councillors.
26	Yes	
27	No	Long term funding agreement with Denbighshire County Council for building Scala Cinema and Arts Facility

241 SCALA CINEMA AND ARTS CENTRE PM 161+240

During discussion of earlier item on Annual Return the level of capital financial repayment was discussed and several Members sought information on Council's £1.08 million pound investment. The Town Clerk/Financial Officer explained Council had entered a twenty-six year service loan agreement with Denbighshire County Council to build Scala but had not sought involvement with future day to day management.

Denbighshire County Council (landlord) had subsequently appointed the independent body named Scala Board of Trustees as operating company and it was responsible for day to day operations. Cllr A. Sampson, Council representative, advised that the Trustees were a registered Charity who annually submitted details and financial records to Charity Commission for publication. He stated that, in his opinion, the company was operating well and although money was tight he had no cause for concern.

The Mayor highlighted the differing views on level of Council's involvement in day to day management operations, conflicting messages regarding Memorandum of Understanding and role of Council appointed representative. Cllr S. Edwards felt strongly that the Scala Board should hold annual public meeting for residents to introduce Board Members and answer questions about company operations and future plans etc.

RESOLVED

- 1) That Scala Board of Trustees be informed that Council would welcome regular liaison meetings and details of customer/company trends on quarterly basis.
- 2) That consideration be given to building stronger relationships based on mutual respect and understanding of commercial sensitivity of operations.

242 INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL FOR WALES – REVIEW OF PAYMENTS FOR COMMUNITY AND TOWN COUNCILLORS

A letter had been received from Panel seeking Council's views on potential future payment of Town/Community Councillors (copy circulated with agenda). Members highlighted the value of voluntary Town/Community Councillors whilst accepting they should not be out of pocket for their work.

The correspondence did not indicate who would pay for remuneration of Town/Community Councillors but it was likely to be local Council taxpayer.

RESOLVED

- 1) That Council accepts that a token of appreciation or small allowance to help offset actual costs associated with office e.g. printing, telephone, computer may be appropriate.
- 2) That IRPW office be informed that calling the consultation event so close to Council elections is considered to be insensitive to needs of Councillors.

243 ONE VOICE WALES 2012/13

A letter had been received from Lyn Cadwallader, Chief Executive inviting Council to consider membership and offering fifty percent reduction in annual fees to £1136.50. Cllr G. Percival highlighted the previous objections to joining this body and that historically it purported to represent the views of all Town/Community Councils in Wales even though this was not the case.

Council was informed that the body was favoured by Welsh Assembly Government as representative organisation and had previously received direct funding from WAG. There were ongoing discussions between One Voice Wales and North Wales Association of Town and Community Councils about future collaboration and activity..

RESOLVED That no further action be taken.

244 LOCAL COUNCILLOR COMPLAINTS RESOLUTION PROCEDURE PM 234

Council was reminded of previous discussions about resolving Councillor v Councillor complaints and acceptance of need for local resolution procedures. The Town Clerk/Financial Officer referred to recent correspondence from Public Service Ombudsman for Wales and County Standards Committee acknowledging benefit of local procedures.

A draft Councillor Declaration form had been circulated with agenda and Council debated merits of such an approach.

RESOLVED That Council adopt Prestatyn Town Councillor Declaration form subject to deletion of words 1st paragraph, line 4 'or Chairman of Committee'.

245 RETIRING COUNCILLORS

The Mayor thanked all retiring Councillors Anne Horobin, Paula Curtis, Isobel German, Mike German, George Green, Peter Newell for their past services to community. He offered Council's very best wishes to them in the future and indicated that small tokens of appreciation would be forwarded.

Cllr M. German had completed twenty-four years of service and was invited to receive a small gift on the evening.

Mayor _____