

CABINET

Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held in the Town Hall, Ruthin on Thursday, 28th February, 2002 at 10.00 a.m.

PRESENT

Councillors W.R. Webb (Deputy Leader), I.M. German, D.M. Holder, D.M. Morris, E.A. Owens, A.E. Roberts and K. Wells.

Observers: Councillors M.Ll. Davies, S. Drew, M.M. Jones and J.A. Smith.

ALSO PRESENT

Chief Executive, Corporate Director of Resources and the Legal Services Manager.

APOLOGIES

Councillors E.C. Edwards (Leader of the Council), R.W. Hughes and G.M. Kensler.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Councillor W.R. Webb, Deputy Leader extended the Cabinet's sympathy to Sally Ellis, Director of Resources on the recent death of her mother, and said the Leader had sent the Cabinet's condolences. Members stood in sympathy.

1332. URGENT MATTERS

The Deputy Leader of the Council gave notice of the following items which in his opinion should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency pursuant to Section 100B(4) of the Local Government Act 1972:-

- (i) Recruitment - Item 3ii - Amended paper circulated.
- (ii) Councillor E A Owens, Lead Member for Finance raised the matter of the tables used in the Assembly Rooms, Town Hall, Ruthin being unsuitable for meetings. The Assistant Chief Executive: Strategy said he would look into the possibility of procuring more suitable tables.

1333. MINUTES OF THE CABINET

The Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 14 February 2002 (previously circulated) were submitted.

Item 10 Lease Surrender - WRVS, King's Avenue, Prestatyn: Councillor I.M. German, Lead Member for Human Resources queried whether the continued usage of the building would have cost implications. Councillor E.A. Owens, Lead Member for Finance confirmed that the building had to be totally vacated otherwise there would be cost implications for the Council from business rates.

RESOLVED that subject to the above, the Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 28 February 2002 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Leader.

1334. RECRUITMENT (CABINET 2002 - 01)

The Deputy Leader of the Council, Councillor W.R. Webb submitted the following applications for approval:-

- (i) SO1 Mechanical & Electrical Maintenance Surveyor - Environment: Consultancy Services
- (ii) SO1 Waste Minimisation Officer - Environment: Public Protection Department - Amended paper
- (iii) Sc 3 P/T Royal International Pavilion Education Officer - Lifelong Learning: Culture & Leisure
- (iv) Sc 5 Royal International Pavilion Marketing Officer - Lifelong Learning: Culture & Leisure

RESOLVED that the external advertisement of the above mentioned posts be approved.

1335. LOCAL AUTHORITY REPRESENTATION ON CLWYD COMMUNITY HEALTH COUNCIL (CABINET 2002 - 02)

Councillor W.R. Webb, Deputy Leader of the Council presented the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' consideration of the re-nomination of two of the six members who currently represent the County Council on the Clwyd Community Health Council whose term of office ends on 31 March 2002, namely Councillor D. Jones and Mr. W. Evans (Denbighshire Association of Local Councils) and how to fill the third vacancy created by the Independent Member, Councillor D.A. Thomas, not wishing to continue to represent the County Council on the Clwyd Community Health Council.

Councillor Webb, Deputy Leader said the Independent Group would provide a name for the vacancy.

RESOLVED that Cabinet approved the re-nomination of Councillor D. Jones and Mr. W. Evans (DALC) for a four year period from 1 April 2002 until 31 March 2006 and a nominee would be provided by the Independent Group for the vacancy.

1336. OFF STREET PARKING PLACES ORDER (CABINET 2002 - 03)

Councillor D.M. Morris, Lead Cabinet Member for the Environment submitted the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' agreement to seal the Off Street Parking Places Order (OPPO) for Rhyl Railway Station, Crown Lane, Denbigh and the Council's free car parks. Members were asked to take account of the objections received and qualify the Off Street Parking Places Order to ensure community needs were properly incorporated. Where the objections were invalid the requests were to be overruled.

Councillor E.A. Owens, Lead Member for Finance suggested the provision of free car parks was uneven across the County. If charges were levied on some of these car parks the income could be considerable. Councillor Owens proposed an amendment to the resolution, for a review of free car parking facilities be carried out within 3 months. Councillor I.M. German, Lead Member for Human Resources seconded the request for a review. On being put to the vote putting the amendment was not carried.

Councillor W.R. Webb, Deputy Leader reminded Members that the Scrutiny Panel had thoroughly reviewed the provision of free car parks within the County.

RESOLVED that Members approve the sealing of the Off Street Parking Order, incorporating the following qualifications as requested by the Community:-

- (a) permitted parking by buses and coaches at Ffordd Talargoch (Meliden) and Craft Centre (Ruthin) car parks;
- (b) permitted parking by buses, coaches and lorries at Green Lane (Corwen) and Lon Parcwr (Ruthin) car parks;
- (c) permit 24 hour parking at Ffordd Talargoch (Meliden), Bridge Street (Corwen) and Pavilion, London Road (Corwen) car parks, and
- (ch) to overrule the remaining objections as shown in Appendix B to the report.

1337. PROVISION OF OPEN SPACE / PLAY AREAS - WEST RHYL RENEWAL AREA (CABINET 2002 - 04)

Councillor D.M. Morris, Lead Cabinet Member for the Environment submitted the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' approval to allocate finances from the West Rhyl SCA to meet the cost of part funding the provision of much needed open space / play facilities in the West Rhyl Renewal Area.

Councillor E.A. Owens, Lead Member for Finance thanked the Director of Resources and the Community Agency Manager for the detailed consultation exercise into the innovative improvements to the West Rhyl Renewal Area.

Councillor D.M. Holder, Lead Member for Training, asked whether the tender documents had been received. The Director of the Environment informed Members that tenders had been received and the tendering for the second phase would take place within a week.

RESOLVED that Cabinet authorise the allocation of £100,000 of the West Rhyl Supplementary Credit Approval to the creation of play / open space on the John Street / Gordon Avenue sites. Officers were authorised to seek tenders for the scheme from suitable contractors and to accept the most suitable tender received in accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations and Standing Orders.

1338. WATER QUALITY REPORT - FAILURE TO REACH MANDATORY STANDARD IN 2001 - RHYL AND PRESTATYN - ENVIRONMENT AGENCY SHORT REPORT (CABINET 2002 - 05)

Councillor D.M. Morris, Lead Cabinet Member for the Environment submitted the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' agreement for the Authority to raise matters of concern with the Environment Agency relating to its report to the National Assembly for Wales on the state of North Wales beaches.

Councillor E.A. Owens, Lead Member for Finance congratulated the Directorate on their work.

RESOLVED that Members agree a letter be sent to the Environment Agency raising the Council's concern at the outcome of the report, requesting that action be taken to prevent further failures and that there should be a report back to Cabinet within the next 3 months.

1339. REVENUE BUDGET 2001/2002 (CABINET 2002 - 06)

Councillor E.A. Owens, Lead Cabinet Member for Finance presented the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' consideration of further actions to reduce the balance of overspendings on services. Councillor Owens said improvements continued to be made and the Authority was on target.

The Chief Executive said he had reminded Heads of Services how important it was to dispose of the Authority's negative balances.

The Corporate Director of Lifelong Learning gave an update on the three pressures within the Centrally Held School Funds to Members.

Councillor W.R. Webb, Deputy Leader congratulated the Lead Member for Finance, the Director of Resources and his staff and the Authority as a whole on the progress made to eliminate negative balances.

RESOLVED that Members noted the figures in the appendices and the possible future need for remedial actions to ensure the elimination of negative balances by the end of the current financial year.

1340. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 7, 8, 9 and 13 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

1341. DENBIGH TOWN HALL REFURBISHMENT (CABINET 2002 - 08)

Councillor W.R. Webb, Lead Cabinet Member for Property submitted the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' approval of the extension of the contract for the refurbishment of Denbigh Town Hall through negotiation with the contractor currently on site.

In reply to a query from the Lead Member for Finance, the Corporate Director of the Environment informed Members that he was of the opinion that Denbigh Town Council were in support of the scheme.

RESOLVED that Members authorised the Head of Consultancy Services to negotiate with Pen y Bryn Joinery of Denbigh to undertake the remaining refurbishment work for the ground floor at Denbigh Town Hall.

1342. LOCAL GOVERNMENT PAY NEGOTIATIONS (CABINET 2002 - 09)

Councillor I.M. German, Lead Cabinet Member for Human Resources submitted the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' confirmation of adherence to the 3% provision for pay awards as previously agreed in the budget papers approved by Council.

Members discussed in general the effect of a pay award of more than 3%.

RESOLVED that Cabinet confirmed the budget assumption of a pay increase of 3%.

1343. BEST VALUE: REVIEW OF HOUSING RENTS (CABINET 2002 - 10)

Councillor A.E. Roberts, Lead Cabinet Member for Personal Services submitted the report (previously circulated) seeking Members' approval of the second Best Value Review of Housing Rents including the Five Year Action Plan.

The Principal Housing Rents Officer detailed the current improved situation for Members and said tenant arrears had been reduced over the last 6 months to £814k, the lowest figure since March 2000. A 5 Year Action Plan was being introduced which would cover rent statements provided bi-annually and direct debit facilities being provided for tenants. A 25% reduction had been achieved for tenants owing more than £1k. Housing benefit overpayments were now under £200k.

RESOLVED that Members received the report and approved the second Best Value Review of Housing Rents including the Five Year Action Plan.

The meeting concluded at 10.45 a.m.
