

At a hybrid meeting of the **FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE** held on Wednesday 6th December 2023 commencing at 6.00pm.

PRESENT

Councillor A. J. Rutherford (Chair)

Councillors M. Blackwell, Mrs M. A. Blakeley-Walker, Mrs J. Butterfield JB MBE, Mrs J. Chamberlain-Jones, Mrs E. M. Chard, Mrs J. M. Evans, S. Feeney, A. R. James, K. R. Jones, Mrs D. L. King, Ms J. L. McAlpine, Mrs W. M. Mullen-James, Ms R. Roberts, Ms V. Roberts, D. Simmons, A. Walker and Miss C. L. Williams.

Mr G. J. Nickels – Town Clerk
Miss H. J. Windus – Deputy Clerk

51. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors B. Mellor and Miss S. L. Roberts.

52. PAYMENTS AND RECEIPTS REPORT (SCHEDULE A) – NOVEMBER 2023

The Chair referred to the Town Clerk’s report (circulated with agenda) detailing the schedule of payments made and income received.

Voucher No.	Supplier name	Amount	Description of Goods & Services
1526	Tesco	3.00	Mobile phone insurance HW
1722	HSBC	8.00	Bank charges
1526	Tesco	12.99	Mobile phone charges HW
1658	Benefits Advice Shop	1,166.67	Appeals Officer 23/24 – payment 8 of 12
1723	HMRC	2,983.50	PAYE deductions – Oct 2023
1724	Clwyd Pension Fund	4,737.10	Pension deductions & deficit funding – Oct 2023
1725	RTC Staff	7,861.70	Net pay - Nov 2023
1617	Denbighshire CC	753.00	NNDR WRCC Civic Offices 2023/24 – payment 8 of 10
1539	Tesco	3.00	Mobile phone insurance GN
1539	Tesco	12.99	Mobile phone charges GN
	Total payments	17,541.95	

Category	Description	Amount
Santander	Interest on 31 Day Notice Account	295.99
HSBC	Interest on 7 Day Deposit	17.64
HSBC	Interest on 7 Day Deposit	17.65
HSBC	Interest on 7 Day Deposit	17.65
HSBC	Interest on 7 Day Deposit	17.65
HSBC	Interest on 7 Day Deposit	17.65
	Total income	384.23

RESOLVED that the report was received and approved.

53. AUTHORISATION OF PAYMENTS/ADDITIONS TO APPROVED SUPPLIERS LIST (SCHEDULE B)

Further to min.no.143 of the meeting of Council held on 15th March 2017 and in accordance with the council's adopted financial regulations, the Chair referred to the Town Clerk's submitted schedule B (a list of non-regular payments to be released over the coming month) (circulated with agenda).

Voucher Number	Supplier	Details of Supply	Amount £
1741	Rhyl Silver Band	Donation for Remembrance Sunday service	50.00
1742	St. John Ambulance Cymru	Donation for Remembrance Sunday service	50.00
1743	SLCC	Professional fees for Mr G. J. Nickels (Town Clerk)	418.00
1744	CIPFA	Professional fees for Mr A. O. Williams (Finance Officer)	380.00
	Total Schedule B		898.00

RESOLVED that the schedule was approved for payment and signed by two councillors.

54. APPOINTMENT OF INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL AUDITORS FOR 2023/34

The Town Clerk referred to his and the Finance Officer's joint report (circulated with agenda) in respect of the appointment of the Council's auditors, JDH Business Services for internal audit, who was the internal auditor for 90% of Town and Community Councils in North Wales and considered to be the expert.

The Welsh Audit Office is the automatic external auditor for all Town and Community Councils.

The Town Clerk asked members to consider whether they had a personal or business interest to declare with regard to both appointments.

RESOLVED that the appointments were approved.

55. APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS: RHYL DEMENTIA ACTION GROUP

The Chair reported receipt of correspondence from the above group (circulated with agenda) and asked members to consider appointing a representative to attend future group meetings on behalf of the Town Council.

RESOLVED that Councillor A. J. Rutherford was appointed.

56. CONSULTATION: DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL – PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER (PSPO) – REQUEST TO ADDRESS TOWN COUNCIL

The Town Clerk reported receipt of correspondence from Denbighshire County Council (circulated with agenda) asking members if representatives could attend

a future meeting of the Town Council to talk through the proposed new terms of the PSPO for Rhyl.

The Town Clerk advised that they were unable to attend the December meeting of Council, but could make the January meeting.

RESOLVED that the request was accepted for the January meeting of Council.

57. MEMBER'S ITEM: RHYL BONFIRE & FIREWORK DISPLAY

The Chair advised that Councillor Mrs J. Butterfield JP MBE had asked for the item due to concerns being raised about the event, but that she was not in attendance.

RESOLVED that members deferred the item for consideration at the next meeting, with Councillor Butterfield present.

58. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED that the Press and Public be excluded from the Meeting for consideration of the following items of business in accordance with Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act, 1960, on the grounds of confidentiality.

59. REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE: PURCHASE / INSTALLATION OF PURPLE PLAQUE TO COMMEMORATE DOROTHY MILES

The Town Clerk referred to his report (circulated with agenda) following an approach from historypoints.org asking members to consider a contribution towards the provision of a Purple Plaque to recognise the childhood home of Dorothy Miles here in Rhyl, who was a pioneer in the development of British Sign Language for the deaf.

RESOLVED that the request was approved and a contribution of £1,000 was approved, which would include the plaque and a modest reception for the unveiling.

60. CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES

The following minutes were submitted (circulated with agenda) for members' information and approval of the recommendations contained therein:

Strategic & Operational - 10th July 2023 - Min. Nos. 10-14
Planning (SOP) Committee

Grounds Maintenance - 10th July 2023 - Min. Nos. 1-8
Sub-Committee

Risk Assessment - 26th July 2023 - Min. Nos. 7-15
Sub-Committee

Strategic & Operational - 11th September 2023 - Min. Nos. 15-20
Planning (SOP) Committee

RESOLVED that the minutes were received and approved.

61. HONORARY FREEMAN / FREEWOMAN POLICY

The Town Clerk made reference to his confidential report (circulated with agenda) for members' information and asked that any nominations should be submitted to him in writing by no later than 12.00pm on Monday 11th December 2023.

For the newer members, the Town Clerk provided a brief explanation of the policy.

RESOLVED that the report was received.

62. ANNUAL BUDGET 2024/25 / FIVE YEAR FINANCIAL PLAN

The Town Clerk referred to the Strategic and Operational Planning (SOP) Committee's recommendations (circulated with agenda) for the 2024/25 Annual Budget for subsequent recommendation to the meeting of Council to be held on 20th December 2023, and to recommend a precept for the financial year 2024/25.

RESOLVED that the report was received and approved for recommendation to the meeting of Council on 20th December 2023.

63. ADDITIONAL ITEM: RHYL TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE AND RHYL MUSEUM

The Town Clerk advised that Denbighshire County Councillors had recently received an email from Mr Peter McDermott informing them of a feasibility study he had commissioned examining the potential of 'co-locating' both provisions which could impact on the Town Council's plans to re-locate to the Bee and Station building.

The Town Clerk sought members' authorisation to offer the 'co-location' within the Bee and Station, as the Tourist Information Centre was a preferred service of the Town Council's to re-locate to the Bee and Station.

Councillor Mrs J. Butterfield joined the meeting during the above item.

[Councillor Mrs W. M. Mullen-James declared a prejudicial interest in the above item due to her position as Cabinet member for Denbighshire County Council, and vacated the meeting, taking no further part in debate or voting thereon]

64. CLOSURE OF MEETING

There being no further items of business the Chair declared the meeting closed.

Chair:

Date: