

At the hybrid **MEETING of COUNCIL** held on Wednesday 20th September 2023, commencing at 6.00pm.

PRESENT

Councillor Ms J. L. McAlpine (Mayor)

Councillors M. Blackwell, Mrs J. Butterfield JP MBE, J. M. Evans, A. R. James, K. R. Jones, Mrs D. L. King, B. Mellor, Mrs W. M. Mullen-James, P. Prendergast, Ms R. Roberts, Ms V. Roberts, A. J. Rutherford, A. Walker and Miss C. L. Williams

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

53. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Mrs M. A. Blakeley-Walker, Mrs J. Chamberlain-Jones, Mrs E. M. Chard and D. Simmons.

54. MINUTES

The minutes of the following meetings of council and committees were submitted for approval as a correct record:

Meeting of Council - 19th July 2023 - Min.Nos. 37-52

Proposed by Councillor Miss C. L. Williams and seconded by Councillor Mrs W. M. Mullen-James and **RESOLVED** as a correct record.

Planning Committee - 19th July 2023 - Min.Nos. 7-11

Proposed by Councillor P. Prendergast and seconded by Councillor A. J. Rutherford and **RESOLVED** as a correct record.

Planning Committee - 6th September 2023 - Min.Nos. 12-15

Proposed by Councillor Ms J. L. McAlpine and seconded by Councillor A. R. James and **RESOLVED** as a correct record.

To Confirm or otherwise:

Finance & General Purposes Committee - 6th September 2023 - Min.Nos. 19-30

Proposed by Councillor A. J. Rutherford and seconded by Councillor A. R. James and **RESOLVED** as a correct record and confirmed for action.

With regard to min.no.25 (Consultation: North Wales Fire & Rescue Authority – Emergency Cover Review), Councillor B. Mellor advised that he had been informed that the community room hire element was no longer available at the Fire Station on the Coast Road. Councillor Mellor was concerned that a

considerable amount of money had been invested in the station by Welsh Government, and that room hire had been lost to the local community.

FURTHER RESOLVED *that the Town Clerk to write to the Fire Service to ask if this was the case and if so, what had led to the decision to withdraw this facility.*

55. MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor referred to the events she and the Mayor had attended over the last month (circulated with agenda), and particular to the Summer Soul event at the Events Arena which she and her Consort had thoroughly enjoyed, having danced the day away and had their faces painted!

The Mayor also mentioned the Air Show, which once again was a lovely few days that had brought the crowds in. The Mayor added that she had met a 95 year old man, Mr Ron Hastings, who had flown the Lancaster Bomber. She had informed the Red Arrows team of his presence and a member of the team sat down with Mr Hastings and enjoyed a long chat with him.

The Deputy Mayor also referred to the Air Show and to the two flag flying ceremonies she had attended to mark Merchant Navy Day and to commemorate Emergency Service Day. Two important days that she was pleased to be a part of.

Councillor Mrs W. M. Mullen-James congratulated the Mayor and Deputy Mayor on attending so many events during the summer holidays before going on to say that she felt that the Town Council should have a much more prominent presence at the Air Show, considering the amount of money the Town Council contributed to it.

The Town Clerk advised that this was a matter currently being considered by the Strategic and Operational Planning (SOP) Committee.

56. 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.*

57. RHYL TOWN COUNCIL ILLUMINATIONS SCHEME

The Town Clerk referred to his confidential report (circulated with agenda) which he had re-circulated, with hard copies available in the chamber, having corrected a figure he had provided in error.

The Town Clerk reported on the outcome of the Sell2Wales invitation to tender before bringing a representative from Blachere Illuminations, Mr Jonathan Bradford, into the meeting to answer any questions members may have.

Mr Bradford took members through each of the three proposed schemes (A, B & C) and shared his screen to show day-time and night-time visuals and animations.

In response to questions asked by members and the Town Clerk, Mr Bradford advised that:

- the standard warranty was for two seasons, but that he would be happy to extend that to three.
- there was a range of compatible cross-street motifs available for all three options.
- should the town council choose to lease a scheme, then the warranty would absorb any transportation costs required should there be any problems with the units (excluding vandalism and extreme acts of weather).
- Blachere did not offer a 'buy-back' scheme but would help the town council to recycle its current illuminations.
- all of the units fell well below the required tolerance with regard to flashing lights triggering epilepsy.
- Option B, if leased, would be a mixture of new and re-furbished units that had been used for just one season.
- Option C, if bought, would be a scheme of entirely brand-new units.
- all three options would be covered by same three-year warranty.
- all three options were reserved in the warehouse for the town council and would be delivered in time for this year's Christmas display.

The Mayor thanked Mr Bradford for his attendance before he left the meeting.

The Town Clerk advised that to keep repairing the current illuminations that were all well beyond their lifespan, was costing the town council more in the long-term than it would be to buy or lease a brand-new scheme.

After considering all of the options submitted by Blachere Illuminations and taking all of Mr Bradford's responses into account, it was **RESOLVED** that:

- (i) *the Town Clerk to proceed with the purchasing of the proposed scheme put forward as Option C from Blachere Illuminations at a total cost of £31,573.*
- (ii) *members authorise the Town Clerk to spend up to an additional £5,000 for any unforeseen costs that arise.*

58. OPEN SESSION

RESOLVED that the remainder of the meeting continued in open (non-confidential) session.

59. RHUDDLAN TOWN COUNCIL – PROPOSED MEETING TO DISCUSS CEMETERY PROVISION

The Mayor reported receipt of the above correspondence (circulated with agenda) seeking a collaborative approach to discussing the need for a new cemetery in North Denbighshire, and inviting a representative from Rhyl Town Council along to a meeting at 7pm on 26th October.

RESOLVED that the Mayor and the Town Clerk to attend the meeting.

60. CONSULTATION RESPONSE: NORTH WALES FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE – EMERGENCY COVER REVIEW CONSULTATION

Further to the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 6th September 2023, the Town Clerk reported receipt of a response from the Fire and Rescue Service (circulated with agenda) following the town council's representations to its consultation, for members' information.

RESOLVED that the response was gratefully received.

61. 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.

62. ADDITIONAL CONFIDENTIAL ITEM: DCC CABINET MEETING

The Town Clerk advised that following comments made at the above meeting in relation to the Rhyl Business Improvement District (BID) by County Councillors Mrs J. M. Evans and B. Jones, a number of members had asked for the comments to be discussed and for a formal response to be determined.

Members who were in attendance at the Cabinet meeting and who watched the live webcast of the meeting said they were extremely angry and disappointed to hear a number of inflammatory and inaccurate comments made about the relationship the town council had with the Rhyl BID from its inception.

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk to:

- (i) draft a letter to the Leader of Denbighshire County addressing the inaccuracies and asking that, once approved by members, the letter be read aloud to the next meeting of the Cabinet or to the meeting of full Council as the town council's right to reply.

- (ii) *meet with the Manager of the Rhyl BID, Ms Abigail Pilling, to ensure that this matter does not impact upon the numerous collaborations the town council has with the Rhyl BID.*

63. CLOSURE OF MEETING

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

Mayor:

Date: