

At a meeting of the **FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE** held via video conference on Wednesday 2nd June, 2021 commencing at 6.00pm.

PRESENT

Councillor A. J. Rutherford (Chair)

Councillors B. Blakeley, Mrs J. Butterfield JP MBE, Mrs E. M. Chard, A. R. James, K. R. Jones, Mrs D. L. King, Ms J. McAlpine, B.Mellor, Mrs W. M. Mullen-James, P. Prendergast, Ms V. Roberts, T. Thomas, Mrs M. Walker and Miss C. L. Williams.

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

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors B. Jones, Mrs P. M. Jones and Miss S. L. Roberts.

2. PAYMENTS AND RECEIPTS REPORT (SCHEDULE A) MAY 2021

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
1148	HSBC	6.50	Bank charges 17 th March – 16 th April 2021
1140	Denbighshire CC	736.00	NNDR Wellington Road Civic Offices – payment 2 of 10
1149	Gunsmoke Communications	1,440.00	Management Fee for April 2021
1150	HMRC	2,794.49	PAYE Deductions for April 2021
1151	Flintshire CC (Clwyd Pension Fund)	4,294.23	Pension contributions & deficit funding for April 2021
1152	Staff Salaries	7,362.97	Staff salaries for May 2021
1161	Denbighshire CC	32,037.00	SC2 loan – payment 1 of 3 for 2021/22
	Total payments	48,671.19	

Category	Description	Amount
Santander	Interest on 31 Day Notice Account	22.81
HSBC	Interest on 7 Day Deposit	0.54
HSBC	Interest on 7 Day Deposit	0.67
HSBC	Interest on 7 Day Deposit	0.67
HSBC	Interest on 7 Day Deposit	0.67
	Total income	25.36

RESOLVED that the report was approved.

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

Further to minute 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 No.	Supplier Name	Description of Service	Amount £
1153	Gunsmoke Communications	Pin badges for events	49.00
1154	Powells of Prestatyn	Cleaning of mayoral chain	50.00
1155	Diabetes UK Cymru	Distribution of mayoral charity events funds 19/20	1,243.49
1156	Treasure Chest	Distribution of mayoral charity events funds 19/20	616.90
1157	Canda Copying Ltd	Rental and B&W copies	288.23
1158	Canda Copying Ltd	Colour copies	78.67
1159	Sioned Graham Cameron	Translation services for May 2021	154.51
1160	Morrisons	Flowers for AGM	60.00
1163	JDH Business Services Ltd	Internal Audit 2020/21	383.04
1164	Denbighshire CC	Cost of Bryn Hedydd By-Election on 6 th May 2021	1,833.60
Total			£4,757.44

Emergency Payments (Vouchers 1154 & 1160) – payments required prior to the Annual Meeting of Council via the town council's card.

RESOLVED that the schedule was approved for payment, and would be signed by two councillors in due course.

FURTHER RESOLVED that Standing Orders be suspended to enable the Town Clerk to respond as a matter of urgency.

4. TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES

The Town Clerk presented his report (circulated with agenda) seeking to confirm the remit of the council's committees and sub-committees.

RESOLVED that the report was approved.

5. LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND ELECTIONS WALES ACT 2021

Further to the Annual Meeting of Council the Town Clerk submitted his report (circulated with agenda) advising of the implications to the town council of the above Act recently introduced.

The Town Clerk briefly reported that Part 1 of the Act, relating to voting arrangements, would be implemented as and when appropriate by the Returning Officer.

A further report would follow on Part 2, the general power of competence for town and community councils, after clarification on how it would be implemented was received.

Part 3 of the Act, relating to promoting access to local government and making a number of changes to the way councils hold their meetings in the future. Specifically, the requirement for a hybrid of virtual and physical attendance at future meetings for both councillors and members of the public, adhering to all

Covid-19 guidelines, and enabling members of the public to speak on all agenda items.

The Town Clerk advised that for now, due to the unpredictable nature of Covid-19 levels and the changeable rules, virtual meetings would continue for the foreseeable future.

With regard to members of the public having the opportunity to speak on all agenda items, the Town Clerk offered two possibilities. The first was to allow members of the public to speak throughout the meeting as the agenda was progressed? The second was to introduce a standing item on all future agendas enabling members of the public to speak at the beginning of meetings on any of the forthcoming items. That done, the meeting would proceed in the traditional way?

The Town Clerk added that town and community councils would be required to publish an annual report about their priorities, activities and achievements during the year, and suggested that this be done in July of each year.

Also, that community meetings would be introduced, although further guidance was required before this was fully discussed and organised.

Councils must publish a training plan for members and officers after at least each ordinary election. This would be done in conjunction with the 2022 elections.

The Town Clerk advised that given the current council chamber's inferior wi-fi provision, internet access was in the process of being upgraded to enable future hybrid meetings to be conducted from there. The town council's IT consultant had advised that this would need new hardware and would cost from £1,000 to £1,500. He added that the new equipment would transfer to the council's new premises.

RESOLVED that:

- *A standing item be added to future agendas whereby members of the public can comment on any of the items to be considered at the beginning of each meeting. To be reviewed if a better way becomes apparent.*
- *An Annual Report be published each July.*
- *The Town Clerk to confirm if the word 'officers' refers to the council's staff or to members who are Chairs and Vice-Chairs of committees and report back and the training to include provision for Member on Member mentoring.*
- *An estimated spend of between £1,000 and £1,500 to upgrade the equipment to enable good internet access in the council chamber was approved.*

6. CONSULTATION: SUSTRANS ON BEHALF OF DENIBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL – ACTIVE TRAVEL – WALKING AND CYCLING IN YOUR COMMUNITY

The Chair referred to the above (circulated with agenda) for members consideration.

RESOLVED that the proposed Active Travel Network Map was approved.

7. MEMBER'S ITEM: E-SCOOTERS IN TOWN CENTRE

Due to receiving dental treatment just prior to the meeting, making speaking difficult, Councillor K. R. Jones had contacted the Town Clerk to ask that the item be deferred.

RESOLVED that the item was deferred.

8. MEMBER'S ITEM: VERBAL SEXIST COMMENTS / ABUSE TOWARDS YOUNG WOMEN

Due to the absence of the councillor requesting the item, Councillor A. S. Johnson, the Town Clerk suggested that it be also be deferred.

RESOLVED that the item was deferred.

9. MEMBER'S ITEM: RE-LOCATION OF PLASTIRION POLLING STATION

As item no.7 above, Councillor K. R. Jones, asked that the item be deferred.

RESOLVED that the item was deferred.

10. GROUNDS MAINTENANCE SUB-COMMITTEE: COMMEMORATIVE TREE

The Town Clerk advised that the Chair of the town council's Ground Maintenance Sub-Committee, Councillor Mrs J. Butterfield, had asked to put the idea of planting a tree in memory of the lives of local people lost to Covid-19 to the committee for consideration.

Councillor Butterfield said that the idea had come from the Queen's Green Canopy initiative to plant a tree to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in 2022, with planting starting in October of this year.

Councillor Butterfield suggested that the park on Morley Road or the Cyril Roberts Memorial garden on Vale Road might be a good location if members were in support?

RESOLVED that members were in support of planting a tree and that the tree type and location be referred to the council's Grounds Maintenance Sub-Committee for determination.

[At this point in the meeting the Town Clerk asked if Councillor Mrs M. Walker, attending whilst driving via a mobile device, had people in the car with her as the meeting was about to move into closed session. Councillor Walker said that she did and so left the meeting]

11. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

It is recommended, pursuant to Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, that the Press and Public be excluded from the Meeting during consideration of the following items of business, on the grounds of confidentiality.

12. RHYL TOWN COUNCIL INSURANCE RENEWAL 2021

Further to the Annual Meeting of Council held on 19th May 2021, the Town Clerk asked that members note the decision of the council's Risk Assessment Sub-Committee (copy of the report submitted to the sub-committee circulated with agenda) to approve the change in insurance provider which would mean a saving to the council.

RESOLVED *that the decision was approved.*

13. UK GOVERNMENT LEVELLING UP FUNDING

The Town Clerk referred to his confidential report (circulated with agenda), which since writing, he had discovered that the town council could not apply for the funding itself but could have some influence on Denbighshire County Council's application.

The Town Clerk suggested that a small group be appointed to meet with Denbighshire County Council to discuss how the town council could play a part in shaping their application.

RESOLVED *that Councillors K. R. Jones, Mrs D. L. King, Mrs W. M. Mullen-James and A. J. Rutherford were appointed to meet with Denbighshire County Council.*

14. CLOSURE OF MEETING

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

Chair:

Date: