

At a meeting of the **FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE** held via video conference on Wednesday 7th July 2021 commencing at 6.00pm.

PRESENT

Councillor A. J. Rutherford (Chair)

Councillors Mrs J. Butterfield JP MBE, Mrs. J. Chamberlain-Jones, Mrs E. M. Chard, A. R. James, A.S. Johnson, B. Jones, K. R. Jones, Mrs D. L. King, Ms J. McAlpine, B. Mellor, Mrs W. M. Mullen-James, P. Prendergast, T. Thomas and Mrs M. Walker.

Mr G. J. Nickels – Town Clerk

15. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Miss C. L. Williams and Miss H. J. Windus (Deputy Town Clerk).

16. 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
1165	BT	250.56	Phone & Broadband Services
1162	HSBC	6.50	Bank Charges 17 March 2021 to 16 May 2021
1167	Citizens Advice Bureau	2,000.00	Energy Efficiency Officer – Payment 1 of 4 2021/22
1140	Denbighshire CC	736.00	NNDR Wellington Rd Civic Offices – Payment 3 of 10
1169	Gunsmoke Communications	1,440.00	Management Fee May 2021
1170	HMRC	2,794.89	PAYE Deductions May 2021
1171	Flintshire CC (Clywd Pension Fund)	4,294.23	Pension Contributions & Deficit Funding May 2021
1172	Staff Salaries	7,363.17	Staff Salaries June 2021
1168	Benefits Advice Shop	2,750.00	Appeals Officer Payments 1 to 3 of 12 2021/22
1183	BT	232.11	Line Rental
	Total payments	21,867.46	

Category	Description	Amount
Santander	Interest on 31 Day Notice Account	23.57
HSBC	Interest on 7 Day Deposit	0.67
HSBC	Interest on Money Maker Account	2.80
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	29.05

RESOLVED that the report was approved.

17. **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 £
1188	B&M	Purchase of A4 paper	£30.32
1189	Sioned Graham-Cameron	Translation Services	£228.43
1190	Rhyl Steam Preservation Trust	Insurance for Billy & Nameplate	£122.00
1191	ProPaint (UK) Ltd	Works @ Remembrance Gardens	£1,710.00
1192	Greengrass Services Ltd	Works @ Remembrance Gardens	£474.00
Total			£2,564.75

Emergency & Card Payments: There was one payment made. Voucher 1188 for £30.32, using the corporate 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.

18. **APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE ON OUTSIDE ORGANISATION – NORTH EAST WALES REGIONAL COMMUNITY COHESION TEAM**

To receive and determine an invitation (copy enclosed) for the town council to appoint a representative to attend meetings of the above organisation.

RESOLVED that Councillor A. J. Rutherford be appointed with Councillor Mrs J. Butterfield appointed as a substitute if required.

19. **INFORMATION ITEM: DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL – LAUNCH OF FUND: IMPROVING INFRASTRUCTURE TO MAKE IT EASIER TO STAGE EVENTS**

The Chair submitted information (circulated with agenda) from Denbighshire County Council relating to the launch of a new fund to assist with capital expenditure for the staging of events.

Members felt that this was a potentially beneficial fund and it was **RESOLVED** that the availability of the fund be noted and that the Town Clerk to liaise with the council's events organiser to ascertain whether there was a suitable application which could be made.

20. CONSULTATION: WELSH GOVERNMENT - CONSULTATION ON QUALIFICATIONS OF CLERKS IN WALES REGULATIONS

The Chair submitted information (circulated with agenda) relating to a Welsh Government consultation and sought to determine the council's response.

In response to members' questions the Town Clerk advised that the council had already supported him to achieve the relevant qualification and a similar offer had been extended to the Deputy Town Clerk.

In response to a further question the Town Clerk advised that it would not be possible to dismiss a Clerk already in post but that a council would need to comply with the qualifications requirement when appointing a successor.

RESOLVED *that the consultation was received and noted.*

21. MEMBER'S ITEM: USE OF E-SCOOTERS IN RHYL

Councillor K. R. Jones advised the committee of concerns being expressed within the community and from a local Police Community Support Officer in respect of an increasing number of e-scooters being improperly used and the potential conflict with pedestrians and road users.

He further clarified that his concerns related to the potential consequences of a collision of both the e-scooter rider and the other party and advised the council of recent incidents nationally, which had resulted in the death of a rider and also the issue of fixed penalty notices by other police forces to individuals improperly using them.

Members noted that although the use of such vehicles was, other than on private land or pilot areas, currently illegal, the machines were readily available to purchase at high street retailers and that this might give the impression that they were suitable for use on the public highway.

Individual members cited local incidents that they had experienced of the e-scooters being used particularly in the town centre.

Members felt that given the potential harm that could arise from the use of such vehicles it was important that potential users and particularly young people received suitable advice on their usage.

RESOLVED *that the Town Clerk to contact the local secondary schools and Rhyl College to request that the appointed Police Liaison Officer be asked to provide information to the students on the proper use of such vehicles.*

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

[Councillor A. S. Johnson joined the meeting at this point]

22. MEMBER'S ITEM: VERBAL ABUSE OF YOUNG FEMALES

Councillor A. S. Johnson advised the committee of a recent incident he had witnessed relating to a young person being the subject of verbal abuse (wolf whistle) from a passing vehicle, and expressed the view that this sort of behaviour was unacceptable in the modern age and requested the council to draw public attention to the issue.

Members agreed that such behaviour should be reported where possible to the police and should be highlighted in the next Town Council newsletter.

RESOLVED *accordingly.*

23. MEMBER'S ITEM: 2021 SENEDD ELECTIONS

Councillor K. R. Jones expressed his concerns over issues he had experienced/witnessed during the recent Senedd elections, namely

- That on the day of the election, information relating to the polling stations for the Plastirion and Tynewydd wards was incorrect on the County Council website (and remained so)
- A lack of information at the original long standing polling stations to redirect voters to the correct stations to exercise their voting rights.
- The relocated polling station at the Taste Academy being adjacent to heavy plant and equipment entering the beach area and posing a danger to voters entering the station, and his view that this should have been considered as part of a risk assessment undertaken as to the suitability of the building as a polling station.

Councillor Jones sought support for a letter to be sent to the Returning Officer identifying the concerns.

The Town Clerk advised that the relocation of the Tynewydd Polling Station had been subject to publicity through an earlier consultation by the County Council and that the relocation of the Plastirion station had arisen as a result of the original Maes Emlyn station no longer being available.

RESOLVED *that a letter be sent to the Returning Officer outlining the concerns above.*

24. MEMBER'S ITEM: COMMUNITY DEFIBRILLATOR

Councillor Mrs J. Butterfield advised that she had received a request from a local organisation seeking the council's support for the costs relating to the installation of a community defibrillator. Whilst in favour, in principle, of the request, she requested that it be referred to the SOP Committee to enable proper consideration to be given to the council supporting such initiatives in the future.

A member advised that previously the council had rejected a similar request from another organisation and that the council should be seen to be consistent. However it was clarified that the previous request had been submitted by a

national company primarily to benefit their customers and not from a community organisation.

A member reported that the local Rotary Club had provided two defibrillators at Denmore Stores and the West End surgery and the costs incurred.

A member advised that an online map of the locations of existing defibrillators was available via the NHS website.

RESOLVED that the matter be referred to the SOP Committee for further examination.

25. CLOSURE OF MEETING

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

Chair:

Date: