

At the **MEETING of COUNCIL**, held via video conference, on Wednesday 20th January 2021 commencing at 6.00pm.

PRESENT

Councillor Mrs E. M. Chard (Mayor)

Councillors J. Ball, B. Blakeley, Mrs J. Butterfield JP MBE, Mrs J. Chamberlain-Jones, A. R. James, A. S. Johnson, B. Jones, K. R. Jones, Mrs P. M. Jones, Mrs D. L. King, B. Mellor, Mrs W. M. Mullen-James, P. Prendergast, Ms V. Roberts, A. J. Rutherford, T. Thomas, R. Turner and Miss C. L. Williams.

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

35. APOLOGIES

No apologies were received.

36. MINUTES

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

Meeting of Council - 16th December 2020 - Min.Nos. 26-34

Proposed by Councillor Mrs E. M. Chard and seconded by Councillor Mrs D. L. King and **RESOLVED** as a correct record.

Planning Committee - 16th December 2020 - Min.Nos. 14-16
Council

Proposed by Councillor Mrs W. M. Mullen-James and seconded by Councillor Mrs P. M. Jones and **RESOLVED** as a correct record.

Planning decisions taken - December 2020 - Schedule 24
during Christmas recess

Proposed by Councillor Mrs W. M. Mullen-James and seconded by Councillor Miss C. L. Williams and **RESOLVED** that the decisions were approved.

37. PAYMENTS AND RECEIPTS REPORT (SCHEDULE A) DECEMBER 2020 - JANUARY 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
1087	BT	128.16	Internet services
1078	HSBC	7.40	Bank charges 17 th Oct – 16 th Nov 2020

Voucher No.	Supplier name	Amount £	Description of Goods & Services
1079	Gunsmoke Communications	1,440.00	Management fee Nov 2020
985	Benefit Advice Shop	916.67	Appeals Officer 20/21 payment 9 of 12
984	Denbighshire County Council	736.00	NNDR 20/21 for Wellington Road office – payment 9 of 10
1080	HMRC	2,804.70	PAYE deductions Nov 2020
1081	Clwyd Pension Fund	4,294.23	Pensions deductions & deficit funding Nov 2020
1082	RTC Staff	7,355.85	Staff salaries Dec 2020
1088	HSBC	32.00	Annual card fee
1089	BT	211.72	Rental charges
	Total payments	£17,926.73	

Category	Description	Amount
Interest Received	Santander 31 Day Notice Account	22.81
Interest Received	HSBC 7 Day Deposit	0.67
Interest Received	HSBC 7 Day Deposit	0.58
Interest Received	HSBC 7 Day Deposit	0.58
Interest Received	HSBC 7 Day Deposit	0.58
Interest Received	HSBC 7 Day Deposit	0.58
Interest Received	HSBC Money Maker Account	2.73
Precept 2020/21	Denbighshire County Council – tranche 3 of 3	184,537.00
	Total income	£184,565.53

RESOLVED that the report was approved.

38. AUTHORISATION OF PAYMENTS/ADDITIONS TO APPROVED SUPPLIERS LIST

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 Town Clerk submitted schedule B (a list of non-regular payments to be released over the coming month) and details of one additional supplier to be added to the suppliers list after members' approval.

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

Schedule B payments for approval (9th December 2020 to 12th January 2021)

Supplier	Details of Supply	Voucher Number	Amount £
SLCC	Membership fee for Mr G. Nickels (232407)	1099	379.00
Blachere Illuminations UK Ltd	Repairs to lights	1100	2,189.09
Denbighshire CC	Rental charge – Rhyl Remembrance Gardens	1101	13.50
Denbighshire CC	Rental charge – Tir Morfa Bus Shelter	1102	1.00
Denbighshire CC	Christmas tree installation & removal	1103	349.27
Wales Audit Office	Audit of accounts (annual return) 2019/20	1104	263.10
Total Schedule B			£3,194.96

39. ANNUAL RETURN 2019 / 2020 – CONCLUSION OF AUDIT

The Town Clerk presented his and the Auditor’s reports (circulated with agenda).

There were no issues identified by the Auditor.

RESOLVED *that the reports were accepted and approved.*

40. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2019 / 2020

The Town Clerk referred to his report and the draft statements (circulated with agenda) for members’ approval.

RESOLVED *that the statements were approved with thanks to the Finance Officer.*

41. MARINE LAKE USERS FORUM – REQUEST FOR A LETTER OF SUPPORT

The Deputy Mayor took the chair due to the Mayor’s declaration of interest in the item and reported receipt of a request for a letter of support for an application the forum was making to Denbighshire County Council’s commuted sums funding for a noticeboard at the lake (circulated with agenda).

RESOLVED *that the request was approved.*

[Councillor Mrs J. Butterfield declared a personal interest in the item due to her position as a Trustee of the Miniature Railway Trust and took no further part in discussions or voting thereon]

[Councillor Mrs E. M. Chard declared a personal interest in the item due to her position as a member of committee and took no further part in discussions or voting thereon]

[Councillor K. R. Jones declared a personal interest in the item due to his position as a member of the committee and took no further part in discussions or voting thereon]

[Councillor T. Thomas declared a personal interest in the item due to his position as a member of the committee and took no further part in discussions or voting thereon]

42. **ADDITIONAL ITEM: SUPPORTERS OF BOTANICAL GARDENS – REQUEST FOR A LETTER OF SUPPORT**

On resuming the chair, the Mayor reported receipt of a request for a letter of support from the above for their application to Denbighshire County Council's commuted sums funding for an upgraded disabled children's roundabout in the playground, an upgrade to the i-player teenager facility and repair of some fencing around the Multi Use Games Area (MUGA). In order to comply with the grant funding time scales it was necessary for council to consider the request at this meeting.

RESOLVED that the request was approved.

43. **MEMBER'S ITEM: RHYL PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

Councillor Mrs J. Butterfield sought members' support for a letter to be sent to Denbighshire County Council requesting an urgent meeting with representatives of the Planning, Housing, Licensing and Social Services departments to discuss the concentration of Houses of Multiple Occupancy (HMOs) in West Rhyl and the negative impact this was having on the area as a whole and beyond.

Councillor Butterfield added that she would like to see special planning guidance applied to the whole of West Rhyl as is the case for Lake Avenue.

RESOLVED that members were in support and the Town Clerk asked to send the letter and invite the departments mentioned above to a Zoom meeting.

44. **MEMBER'S ITEM: ROAD MARKERS ON THE PROMENADE**

Councillor T. Thomas sought members' support for the town council to request that Denbighshire County Council remove the new bollards on the promenade outside the Premier Inn.

On a different matter, Councillor Thomas firstly advised that the Queen Street car park would be closing for a six-month period, and that the free parking offered there from 8.30-10.30am would be transferred to the new car park on the corner of Wellington Road and Water Street.

Councillor Thomas went on to report that the bollards on the promenade were not included in the scheme brought to the Rhyl Members Area Group (MAG) before it's installation, and were already causing some traffic congestion. In the summer months this would be a real problem.

He added that this was a view shared by many local businesses who were members of the Rhyl Business Improvement District (BID).

The matter was to be brought to next Rhyl MAG in February, but he was looking for the town council's support beforehand.

Members agreed that all of the new measures in the town centre were having a detrimental impact and failing in their objective.

RESOLVED that members were in support of the removal of the bollards and all of the newly installed social distancing measures in Rhyl.

45. 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.

46. POLICE CADETS / YOUNG PERSONS MENTORING

The Town Clerk presented his report (copy circulated with agenda) following an approach from the above seeking to establish a mentoring scheme for young people in Rhyl and looking for the town council's 'in principle' support.

RESOLVED that 'in principle' support be offered, subject to further information around child protection issues and the long-term funding of the scheme, being received.

47. TOWN CENTRE COVID-19 GRANT FUNDING SCHEME

The Town Clerk referred to the Strategic and Operational Planning (SOP) Committee's report (circulated with agenda) advising that the committee had identified two potential projects for the forthcoming grant from Welsh Government to support the recovery of town centres from the Covid-19 pandemic.

The first was the refurbishment of the ponds along the promenade and the second was the provision of cycle lockers in town centre car parks.

Unfortunately, both were received negatively as Welsh Government had confirmed that promenade schemes would not be successful and Denbighshire County Council felt that the cycle lockers in car parks would not work and suggested they be located in the pedestrian areas of the town centre.

Given the town council's view that the pedestrian areas were already over used by non-pedestrians, this was considered to be in direct conflict with that problem.

Therefore the committee recommended no action.

RESOLVED that the town council would not be taking up the grant.

48. HONORARY FREEMAN / FREEWOMAN REPORT

Further to minute no.31 of the meeting held on 16th December 2020, the meeting considered the two remaining individuals nominated for the award (details circulated with agenda), and on being put to the vote it was **RESOLVED** that neither received the required level of support from members.

RESOLVED that the town council would not be making an award this year.

49. MINUTES OF THE SOP COMMITTEE

The Mayor referred to the following confidential minutes for members' information:

23rd November 2020 - Min.Nos.1-4
11th January 2021 - Min.Nos.5-9

RESOLVED that the minutes were noted.

50. ADDITIONAL ITEM: RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE GROUNDS MAINTENANCE SUB-COMMITTEE

The Deputy Town Clerk advised that due to an additional level of approval now required by the town council's financial regulations on all spends over £5,000, the Grounds Maintenance Sub-Committee requested Council's authorisation to proceed with the 2021 plant order to the value of £10,158.14.

RESOLVED that the order was approved.

51. CLOSURE OF MEETING

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

Mayor:

Date: