

At a **MEETING of COUNCIL** held on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2022 via hybrid meeting, commencing at 6.00pm.

## **PRESENT**

Councillor Mrs D. L. King (Mayor)

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

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

## **26. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for non-attendance were received on behalf of Councillors Mrs. J. Chamberlain-Jones, Mrs E. M. Chard and Mrs J. M. Evans.

## **27. MINUTES**

To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the following Council and committee meetings (copies enclosed):

Meeting of Council - 15<sup>th</sup> June 2022 - Min. Nos: 13-25

Proposed by Councillor Mrs D. L. King and seconded by Councillor A. R. James and **RESOLVED** as a correct record.

Planning Committee - 15<sup>th</sup> June 2022 - Min. Nos: 6-9

Proposed by Councillor D. Simmons and seconded by Councillor S. Feeney and **RESOLVED** as a correct record.

## **28. MAYOR'S REPORT**

The Mayor referred to events she had attended on behalf of the Council over the past month, and made particular reference to Ysgol Emmanuel's Sensory Garden, The Osbourne Trust's 'Ozzie's 8<sup>th</sup> Birthday Boogie Bingo', who support the children of parents with cancer, the East Parade Bowling Club who had raised £262 from a raffle which they kindly donated to the Mayor's charities, and finally the Drama Association of Wales reception, performances and awards ceremony.

**29. PRESENTATION: DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL – FORMER QUEEN’S MARKET DEVELOPMENT**

The Mayor welcomed the Queen’s Market Development, Project Manager, Mr Russell Vaughan to the meeting and invited him to present to councillors.

Mr Vaughan advised of the following:

- That after acquiring two thirds of the site, the vast majority of the buildings were in such poor condition that they had to be demolished.
- The only remaining original building on the site being the Queen’s Chambers, within the town centre conservation area.
- Construction was due to start in May, but nesting birds has caused a two - three month delay. Once the chicks have left, then works can begin.
- Solid timber hoardings, featuring elevation graphics, have been erected around the site to secure the area.
- Wynne Construction will start Phase 1 on 15<sup>th</sup> August with works expected to be complete in June 2023.
- The Queens Market is hoped to be open to the public by July 2023.
- That more external and internal visuals of the market were being worked up.
- The market would contain 11 stalls and five hot food kiosks, a bar and toilets on the ground floor.
- Upstairs on the first-floor mezzanine will include an over-flow seating area, a changing places hygiene room, management offices and storage.
- The events hall will be a single storey flexible space, with access from Sussex Street. This area could house pop-up/seasonal markets, gigs, exhibitions, etc, and will include a bar.
- They are working to procure an operator for the facility to manage the space on Denbighshire County Council’s behalf, and are speaking to other authorities who have gone through similar processes to learn any lessons and make the best choice. They will go out to market in August and hope to award the contract in November.
- The aspiration was for the facility to offer good quality food and drink from local Welsh providers, but there is an appreciation that this might not be initially commercially possible.
- The nearest successful scheme of a similar nature is Crewe Market. A visit is planned for councillors for 10<sup>th</sup> August, which Mr Vaughan will organise.

In response to members' comments and questions, Mr Vaughan advised that:

- He believed that the seating and standing numbers for the Events Hall would be around 400, but he would confirm this.
- Queen's Market signage will include an apostrophe.
- The building could accommodate a few tweaks if required by the future operator.
- Offers within the building would not be in competition with or duplicated within the town centre.
- It was still DCC's intention to acquire the whole of the site to progress with Phases 2 and 3 and provide access from the high street, but whether this would ever be possible was another matter.
- The building is entirely Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) compliant.

The Mayor thanked Mr Vaughan for his presentation before he left the meeting.

### **30. AUTHORISATION OF PAYMENTS/ADDITIONS TO APPROVED SUPPLIERS LIST**

Further to minute no.143 of the meeting of council held on 15<sup>th</sup> 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 be signed by two councillors in due course.

| <b>Supplier</b>         | <b>Details of Supply</b>  | <b>Voucher Number</b> | <b>Amount<br/>£</b> |
|-------------------------|---|-----------------------|---------------------|
| BT                      | Phone & Broadband   | 1418                  | 276.82              |
| HSBC                    | Bank charges 17 <sup>th</sup> April – 16 <sup>th</sup> May 2022 | 1416                  | 8.00                |
| Gunsmoke Communications | Management fee for May 2022                                     | 1420                  | 1,600.00            |
| HMRC                    | PAYE deductions for May 2022                                    | 1421                  | 3025.81             |
| Clwyd Pension Fund      | Pension deductions & deficit funding for May 2022               | 1422                  | 4,339.63            |
| RTC staff               | Net pay for RTC staff for June 2022                             | 1423                  | 7,394.64            |
| Denbighshire CC         | NNDR for Civic Offices, WRCC, Rhyl                              | 1391                  | 736.00              |
| Benefits Advice Shop    | Part-time Appeals Officer – 3 months April – June 2022          | 1419                  | 2,750.06            |
| Citizens Advice Shop    | Energy Efficiency Officer 22/23 – payment 1 of 4                | 1435                  | 2,000.00            |
| BT                      | Regular charges   | 1434                  | 252.20              |
| <b>Total Schedule B</b> |   |                       | <b>£22,383.16</b>   |

| Category  | Description   | Amount          |
|-----------|---|-----------------|
| Santander | Interest on 31 Day Notice Account                   | 42.04           |
| HSBC      | Interest on Money Maker Account                     | 6.50            |
| HSBC      | Interest on 7 Day Deposit (extended due to Jubilee) | 42.20           |
| HSBC      | Interest on 7 Day Deposit                           | 26.86           |
| HSBC      | Interest on 7 Day Deposit                           | 26.86           |
| HSBC      | Interest on 3 Day Deposit                           | 11.51           |
| HSBC      | Interest on 7 Day Deposit                           | 26.86           |
|           | <b>Total income</b>                                 | <b>£ 182.83</b> |

**RESOLVED** that the reports were approved.

### 31. **PAYMENTS AND RECEIPTS REPORT JUNE/JULY 2022**

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

The Town Clerk reported three amendments to the schedule. The first being that Councillor Mrs P. M. Jones had recently advised that she did not wish to accept the Costs and Expenses Allowance. The second was that the cost of the summer plants would be slightly less than indicated on the schedule, and the third was that the NMWATC meeting was attended by an additional delegate, so three meals rather than two were required.

| Voucher No. | Supplier name                     | Amount   | Description of Goods & Services                                    |
|-------------|-----------------------------------|----------|--|
| 1438        | Rhyl Steam Preservation Trust     | 122.00   | Insurance for Billy & Nameplate                                    |
| 1439        | Sioned Graham Cameron             | 481.86   | Translation Services   |
| 1440        | Bernie's Miles of Smiles          | 250.00   | Face Painter for Royal Rhyl event                                  |
| 1441        | Cllr D. King                      | 137.70   | Mayoral expenses for May & June 2022                               |
| 1442        | Denbighshire Leisure Services Ltd | 1,323.90 | Catering & drinks reception for Mayor's event at 1891              |
| 1443        | Flying Colours                    | 1,092.00 | Artistes for Royal Rhyl event 4 <sup>th</sup> June 2022            |
| 1444        | Gunsmoke Communications           | 16.57    | Facebook adverts for Royal Rhyl event                              |
| 1445        | The Osbourne Trust                | 20.00    | 2 x Tickets for event on 8 <sup>th</sup> July 2022                 |
| 1446        | Fool's Paradise Limited           | 2,058.00 | Artistes for Summer Starter event on 30 <sup>th</sup> July 2022    |
| 1447        | Bernie's Miles of Smiles          | 250.00   | Facepainter for Summer Starter event on 30 <sup>th</sup> July 2022 |
| 1454        | Delwedd Ltd                       | 51.84    | Increase in mailbox sizes  |
| 1455        | Cllr D. King                      | 433.33   | Mayoral Allowance 22/23 – payment 1 of 3                           |
| 1456        | Cllr D. King                      | 166.67   | Senior Members Allowance 22/23 – payment 1 of 3                    |
| 1457        | Cllr J. McAlpine                  | 133.33   | Deputy Mayoral Allowance 22/23 – payment 1 of 3                    |

|      |                               |                   |   |
|------|-------------------------------|-------------------|---|
| 1458 | Cllr J. McAlpine              | 166.67            | Senior Members Allowance 22/23<br>– payment 1 of 3                  |
| 1459 | Cllr A. Walker                | 150.00            | Costs & Expenses Allowance<br>22/23                                 |
| 1460 | Cllr S. Feeney                | 150.00            | Costs & Expenses Allowance<br>22/23                                 |
| 1461 | Pottles Premier<br>Plants Ltd | 10,372.90         | Summer plants   |
| 1462 | NMWATC                        | 42.00             | Meals for two delegates at<br>meeting on 22 <sup>nd</sup> July 2022 |
| 1463 | Cllr E. Chard                 | 150.00            | Costs & Expenses Allowance<br>22/23                                 |
| 1464 | Cllr J. Hughes                | 150.00            | Costs & Expenses Allowance<br>22/23                                 |
| 1465 | Cllr P. Jones                 | 150.00            | Costs & Expenses Allowance<br>22/23                                 |
| 1466 | Zoom                          | 150.00            | Zoom Renewal 2022 - Estimate  |
|      | <b>Total payments</b>         | <b>£18,018.77</b> |   |

**Emergency Payments:** Vouchers 1438 to 1442 were authorised for payment by the Chair of the F&GP Committee due to the cancellation of the meeting scheduled for 6<sup>th</sup> July. It was unfair for suppliers to wait for payment until after July 2022 Council. Voucher 1455 was approved for payment by the Town Clerk as the event was before the next Council meeting and tickets had to be paid for in advance of the event.

**Card Payments:** No card payments were made between 9<sup>th</sup> June and 12<sup>th</sup> July 2022.

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

### **32. INVESTMENTS PERFORMANCE 2022/23 (QUARTER 1: APRIL-JUNE 2022)**

Further to min.no.74 of the meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2022, the Mayor referred to the Town Clerk and the Finance Officer's joint report (circulated with agenda) reporting a modest £330.30 interest earned across all investment accounts.

**RESOLVED** that the report was received.

### **33. REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS – POLICY REVIEW**

The Town Clerk made reference to his report (circulated with agenda) advising of an unusual occurrence having happened at a meeting attended by one of the town council's representatives. The group decided to have a 'whip-round' to raise a very small amount to replace a damaged item. The representative made a contribution of £20.00, which they accepted to be a personal donation, but was seeking clarification of the Council's policy in this regard.

**RESOLVED** that:

- i) the Town Clerk was authorised to re-imburse the councillor for the £20.00, once a claim form had been submitted.

- ii) *should a similar circumstance happen in the future, the Town Clerk was authorised to re-imburse payments of up to £25 per representative, per organisation.*

**34. INFORMATION ITEM: RHYL HIGH STREET**

The Town Clerk reported receipt of correspondence from Denbighshire County Council's Mr Mike Jones (circulated with agenda) advising that a temporary barrier had been installed on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2022 and became operational on 18<sup>th</sup> July, to address the continuing problem of motorists driving and parking within the pedestrianised zone.

Mr Jones reports that the Rhyl BID and all businesses on High Street and Sussex Street were informed in advance via hand delivered letters.

Members were pleased to see the barrier installed, which had made an immediate impact. They were a little frustrated that it had taken over a year to do, but accepted that the delay had been due to trying to use a barrier material that would hold up to the sand and salt problems in that area.

**RESOLVED** *that the Town Clerk to write to Denbighshire County Council to thank them for the barrier.*

**35. MEMBER'S ITEM: THE ERASMUS PROJECT**

Councillor Mrs W. M. Mullen-James advised that the project was a link between British and European schools and the enabled primary school age children to travel abroad to develop their skills through imaginative play. Becoming capable learners and ethical citizens of the world.

Welsh councils give £300 to create the link, and they then have to apply to be considered.

The last time Rhyl had been successful, the children had gone to Spain and had a great time. This year, the trips are to Portugal and Norway. The trips are paid for, but the kit to travel to Norway is not, and this is where help is needed. The kit costs £200.00 per child.

There are 15 children from Rhyl this time around from a cluster of schools (Llewelyn, Emmanuel and Christ Church schools in Rhyl and a school in Rhuddlan)

**RESOLVED** *that a formal approach for what is effectively a funding application, with full details on the project, be made to the next SOP Committee in September for full consideration.*

**[Councillor A. R. James declared a personal interest in the above item due to his personal relationship with Councillor Mrs W. M. Mullen-James, remaining within the chamber but taking no further part in debate or voting thereon]**

**36. 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.*

### **37. DENBIGHSHIRE LEISURE LIMITED (DLL): SUMMER EVENT**

The Town Clerk confidentially reported on receipt of an email from Denbighshire Leisure Limited (circulated with agenda) explaining that the town council's earmarked £7,000 for DLL to provide a summer Events Arena concert this year, would not be needed as the event would not be going ahead due to DLL not having the capacity having put on six large commercial concerts this summer.

Members were disappointed that the free to all concert would not be provided this year, as it always proved to be very popular with residents and visitors, although they understood that the Covid pandemic had had a huge detrimental impact on DLL and therefore they needed to recoup their significant financial losses.

**RESOLVED** *the report was received and that DLL are invited to apply to the town council for funding for the additional concert next year.*

**[Councillor P. Prendergast declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the above item due to his position on the Denbighshire Leisure Limited Board, and vacated the chamber, taking no further part in debate or voting thereon].**

**[Councillor Prendergast did not return to the meeting due to a personal engagement]**

### **38. ILLUMINATIONS DISPLAY 2022**

The Town Clerk confidentially reported that the display consists of 48 units/lights which were originally on a three-year lease scheme, after which we bought them. All are now beyond their life-span and are being patched up as we go.

12 were damaged in the 2021 storm, 6 were beyond repair.

The Town Clerk suggested a short-term repair and re-location budget of between £7,000 and £10,000 to make the best display possible, but that the whole scheme was in need of review for 2023 onwards including looking into solar and greener solutions.

**RESOLVED** *that the suggested budget and future plan was approved.*

### **39. RHYL COMMUNITY BONFIRE & FIREWORKS**

The Town Clerk sought members' direction on discussing the nature of the fireworks display from 2023 onwards.

Members reiterated their support for the annual bonfire and fireworks displays at the field opposite the Sainsburys store, as a means of removing the necessity for residents to have their own personal fires and reducing injury numbers.

**RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk to speak to the organisers about the possibility of including silent fireworks for the 2023 display in response to the view that traditional fireworks cause significant distress to family pets.

**40. AUGUST RECESS – DELEGATION OF EXECUTIVE POWERS**

The Mayor requested members' approval of the arrangements for the delegation of executive powers to the Town Clerk, in consultation with the appropriate chairs during the August recess, as follows:

- Civic Matters - Mayor and / or Deputy Mayor
- Planning Matters - Chair and / or Vice-Chair of the Planning Committee
- SOP Committee - Chair and / or Vice-Chair of SOP Committee
- All Other Business - Chair and / or Vice-Chair of the Finance and General Purposes Committee

**RESOLVED** that the arrangements were confirmed

**41. CLOSURE OF MEETING**

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

Mayor: .....

Date: .....20.072022.....