

At a **Special MEETING of COUNCIL** held on Wednesday 8th March 2023, commencing at 6.00pm.

PRESENT

Councillor Mrs D. L. King (Mayor)

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

Mr G. J. Nickels - Town Clerk

126. APOLOGIES

Apologies for non-attendance were received on behalf of Councillors Mrs J. M. Evans, K. R. Jones, Mrs. P. M. Jones and Miss H. J. Windus – Deputy Clerk

127. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Town Clerk advised members that:

- (i) Earlier in the day he had forwarded an e-mail invitation to all members to attend the launch of the Sky Flyer and requested that members wishing to attend respond directly to the address identified within the e-mail.
- (ii) That following the cancellation of the Finance & General Purposes and Planning Committees on 1st March 2023, Councillor M. Blackwell had attended at the office and undertaken maintenance of the Council's IT system for meetings. The Town Clerk wished to place on record his appreciation to Councillor Blackwell for undertaking the work.

RESOLVED *that the reports be received and Councillor Blackwell be thanked for his work.*

128. ANNUAL MEETING/RECEPTION

The Town Clerk submitted his written report relating to the Annual Meeting/Mayor Making and seeking members' instructions.

In respect of the Mayor Making the Town Clerk advised upon the practices being adopted by similar sized councils and sought clarification that members still wished to proceed with the event.

Members felt that it was important that the Office of Mayor continue to be promoted as the civic head of the town and reference was made to the importance of networking that the event enabled. This members felt had to be balanced against the current financial climate being experienced.

RESOLVED *that the 2023 Annual Meeting and Mayor Making be held as in previous years but be the subject of urgent review by the Civic and Social Events Sub*

Committee for future years with the possibility of charging for attendance at the event being considered.

In respect of the Annual Meeting the Town Clerk advised upon the reduced space available within the Council Chamber following the installation of the required IT equipment to accommodate hybrid meetings. The Town Clerk reminded members that the Annual Meeting of Council was always well attended and that this led to the room becoming uncomfortable and his recommendation that attendance at the Annual Meeting be limited where possible.

RESOLVED *that for the 2023 Annual Meeting only the family of the incoming Mayor and Deputy Mayor and Retiring and Incoming Mayors' Chaplains be encouraged to attend the Annual Meeting with all other guests being encouraged to attend the Mayor Making event only and that the Civic Guest list be referred to Civic & Social Events Sub-Committee for further consideration.*

The Town Clerk advised that the proposed date for the Annual Meeting was currently 17th May 2023, but that enquiries had revealed that none of the venues for the Mayor Making element would be available that day. The Town Clerk further advised that as this was a none-election year the Council could hold the Annual Meeting on any date in May.

RESOLVED *that the Town Clerk in consultation with the Incoming Mayor determine a suitable date for the Annual Council Meeting for 2023.*

129. SELECTION OF MAYOR 2023/24

RESOLVED *that Councillor Peter Prendergast to nominate and Councillor S. Feeney to second the Mayor Elect be Councillor Ms. J. L. McAlpine.*

130. SELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR 2023/24

RESOLVED *that Councillor Mrs. J. Butterfield to nominate and Councillor Mrs. E. M. Chard to second the Deputy Mayor Elect be Councillor Miss C. L. Williams.*

131. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

RESOLVED *that the Chairs and Vice Chairs move and second the minutes of their respective Committees i.e.*

*Councillors Mrs D. L. King and Mrs. J. McAlpine for Council
Councillors Ms McAlpine and D. Simmons for Planning Committee
Councillors A. J. Rutherford and B. Mellor for Finance & General Purposes Committee*

132. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES/SUB-COMMITTEES/SCHOOL GOVERNORS FOR THE 2023/24 MUNICIPAL YEAR

RESOLVED *that Councillor A. J. Rutherford to propose and Councillor Mrs. D. L. King to second that membership of the town council's committees/sub-committees be as per Appendix 2.*

133. ELECTION OF CHAIR – FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

RESOLVED that Councillor Ms. J. L. McAlpine nominate and that Councillor P. Prendergast second that the Chair of Finance and General Purposes Committee for 2023/24 be Councillor A. J. Rutherford.

134. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR – FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

RESOLVED that Councillor A. J. Rutherford nominate and that Councillor Mrs. D. L. King second that the Vice-Chair of Finance and General Purposes Committee for 2023/24 be Councillor B. Mellor.

135. ELECTION OF CHAIR – PLANNING COMMITTEE

RESOLVED that Councillor P. Prendergast nominate and that Councillor Mrs. D. L. King second that the Chair of Planning Committee for 2023/24 be Councillor Ms. J. L. McAlpine.

136. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR – PLANNING COMMITTEE

RESOLVED that Councillor P. Prendergast nominate and that Councillor Ms. J. L. McAlpine second that the Vice-Chair of Planning Committee for 2023/24 be Councillor D. Simmons.

137. ELECTION OF CHAIR – STRATEGIC & OPERATIONAL PLANNING (SOP) COMMITTEE

RESOLVED that Councillor Mrs. W. M. Mullen-James nominate and that Councillor A. R. James second that the Chair of SOP Committee for 2023/24 be Councillor A. J. Rutherford.

138. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR – STRATEGIC AND OPERATIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

RESOLVED that Councillor Mrs. D. L. King nominate and that Councillor Mrs. E. M. Chard that the Vice Chair of SOP Committee for 2023/24 be Councillor Mrs. W. M. Mullen-James.

139. APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS / PARTNERSHIP GROUPS

RESOLVED that Councillor A. R. James propose and Councillor Miss S. L. Roberts second that appointments on outside organisations be as per the circulated schedule.

140. DESIGNATION OF APPROVED DUTIES

RESOLVED that Councillor A. J. Rutherford propose and Councillor D. Simmons second that attendance by appointed representatives at the following to be designated as approved duties under the town council's Members Allowances Scheme, where meetings are held outside of the town boundaries:

- *Training of Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the Council and its Standing Committees*
- *North & Mid Wales Association of Local Councils (and Transport Committee)*
- *Sustainable Denbighshire*
- *Betsi Cadwaladr University North Denbighshire Project Reference Group*
- *Attendance by the Mayor/Deputy Mayor at events*

141. SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS 2023/24

RESOLVED that Councillor A. J. Rutherford propose and Councillor B. Mellor second that the circulated schedule of meetings be approved.

142. SIGNATORIES (2023/24)

RESOLVED that Councillor A. J. Rutherford propose and Councillor B. Mellor second that the following signatories for the council's current and investment accounts for the municipal year 2023/24.

The Mayor and Deputy Mayor, as Chair and Vice-Chair of Full Council
 The Chair and Vice Chair of Finance and General Purposes Committee
 The Chair and Vice Chair of Planning Committee
 The Chair and Vice Chair of Strategic and Operational Planning Committee

Together with one of the following:

The Town Clerk
 The Deputy Town Clerk
 The Finance Officer

143. DRAFT AGENDA/DATE FOR ANNUAL COUNCIL

RESOLVED that the circulated draft Agenda for the Annual Meeting be approved.

144. ROYAL ALEXANDRA HOSPITAL – MEETING WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF BETSI CADWALADR HEALTH BOARD

Further to min.no.107 of the meeting held on 18th January 2023 the Town Clerk confirmed that representatives of Betsi Cadwaladr Health Board would be attending the meeting of Council to be held on 15th March 2023, and that members had previously resolved to determine questions to be asked in advance of the meeting relating to the proposed Royal Alexandra replacement hospital.

Members generally debated the history of the proposed new hospital and that previous attendance by representatives of the Health Board at Denbighshire County Council meetings had suggested that the although the ambition for the hospital remained, there was reluctance on the part of the Welsh Government to release the necessary funding. It was further reported that business cases submitted by the Health Board had been rejected by the Welsh Government.

A member advised that Ms. Alison Constantine had now been appointed to oversee the development.

Members generally commented upon that the Health Authority was seen as being too large, that it was currently placed in Special Measures, that the Health Board had recently been replaced, and that there had been serious financial failings and that these may be contributing factors to the delay in releasing the necessary funding and commencing work on the replacement hospital.

Members felt that the Council needed to know who would be ultimately making a decision on the future of the rebuild of the hospital and expressed concern that other organisations had received conflicting information from different departments of the Health Authority.

Following further debate it was ***RESOLVED*** that the Council would seek answers to the above issues and following the presentation consider approaching the Welsh Government to arrange a meeting with the relevant Minister to seek their position on the hospital.

145. RHYL TOWN COUNCIL - TRAINING PLAN

Further to the meeting of Council held on 15th February 2023, the Town Clerk advised members that when approving the Town Council Training Plan it had been agreed that this section of the meeting would be set aside to enable members to hold a Question & Answer Session.

Members commented that they felt that it was important that new and existing members be given the opportunity of training on election/re-election to the Council, particularly given the size of the budget that they were being asked to manage.

Members did not feel that the Council's previous practice of Councillor on Councillor mentoring was effective.

A member commented that it was difficult for members to ask for specific training as a new member would not appreciate the areas of training they would require.

The Town Clerk referred to the recent e-mail exercise requesting Councillors to identify any areas that they would wish to receive training on but that only one member had indicated a specific area.

The Town Clerk advised that he and other officers were always willing to meet with any members who wished to receive additional information on a specific subject and emphasised that members should assure themselves that they fully understood an issue before voting on it. The Town Clerk advised that he would be willing to meet any members between 5 – 5.30pm before a Council meeting if there were particular issues on the agenda for which they required additional information or clarification.

A member advised that the Council's accounts were an area where they felt that it would be beneficial to meet with officers to discuss and the Town Clerk confirmed that he would be happy to facilitate such a meeting.

146. CLOSURE OF MEETING

There being no further business the Mayor closed the meeting.

Mayor:

Date: