

At a hybrid **MEETING of COUNCIL** held on Wednesday 15th February 2023, commencing at 6.00pm.

PRESENT

Councillor Mrs D. L. King (Mayor)

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

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

110. APOLOGIES

Apologies for non-attendance were received on behalf of Councillors Mrs M. A. Blakeley-Walker, B. Mellor and Ms V. Roberts.

111. ELECTION OF COMMUNITY COUNCILLOR – RHYL TYNEWYDD WARD

On behalf of the town council the Mayor congratulated and welcomed the newly elected Tynewydd Ward Councillor Mike Blackwell to his first meeting.

112. MINUTES

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

Meeting of Council - 18th January 2023 - Min. Nos: 100-109

Proposed by Councillor Mrs D. L. King and seconded by Councillor Ms. J. L. McAlpine and **RESOLVED** as a correct record.

Planning Committee - 18th January 2023 - Min. Nos: 40-42

Proposed by Councillor Ms J. L. McAlpine and seconded by Councillor D. Simmons and **RESOLVED** as a correct record.

113. PRESENTATION: RHYL BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT (RHYL BID)

The Mayor welcomed Rhyl BID representatives Ms Abigail Pilling, Mr Nadeem Ahmed and Ms Sue Nash to the meeting and invited them to address members on the BID's achievements so far.

Ms Abigail thanked the town council for inviting them along to address councillors and advised:

- That the BID worked within four action areas – Safe & Welcoming, Marketing & Promotion, Cleansing & Maintenance and Business Support.

- That the Town Rangers, as the face of the BID, continued to work successfully five-six days a week throughout the town centre.
- That as part of Safe & Welcoming they had introduced Safe Space, Anti-Crime Partnership, Dementia Friendly Rhyl and the Community Safety Forum initiatives.
- That as part of Cleansing & Maintenance the Town Rangers had been actively involved in fly-tipping, breakages, hazards and planning enforcement issues; and had financially contributed to cleansing equipment like the Glutton machine with a dedicated DCC operator, a wet sweeper attachment and the Surf Rake.
- That as part of Marketing & Promotion they had organised a MacMillan fund-raiser, Halloween, Christmas and Easter events and had financially contributed to large events like K-Fest and the Air Show; and had introduced and supported local campaigns like Your Rhyl circular economy scheme, #LoveRhyl, QRBoxx and Café Banners, along with assisting with the promotional of all of them.
- That as part of Business Support they had provided training and development for businesses in first aid, QRBoxx, the Delyn Training Portal and had supported signposting and the feedback loop as well as Covid support (information sharing, PPE procurement, etc).
- That they had lobbied on a number of local issues like the removal of the post Covid lane defenders and the introduction of additional loading bays on the high street, frequent cleaning of street furniture and vinyl coverings for buildings owned by Denbighshire County Council.

The town council's representative on the Rhyl BID, Councillor A. R. James, reported that he had been warmly welcomed at their meetings and was pleased to see so much partnership working for the benefit of Rhyl.

The Mayor thanked Ms Pilling, Mr Ahmed and Ms Nash for a very comprehensive presentation.

114. MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor referred to the event she had attended on behalf of the council over the past month (circulated with agenda), which was Rhuddlan Town Council's Civic Service and was a lovely day.

115. PAYMENTS AND RECEIPTS REPORT (SCHEDULE A)

The Mayor 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
1567	BT	585.81	Telephone rental & call charges
1566	Shire Leasing	337.33	Avaya telephone system – lease payment 4 of 4 2022/23
1526	Tesco Mobile	3.00	Monthly payment insurance
1568	HSBC	8.00	Bank charges 17 th Nov to 16 th Dec 2022

1569	HMRC	4,675.36	PAYE deductions for Dec 2022
1570	Clwyd Pension Fund	5,459.97	Pension deductions & deficit funding for Dec 2022
1571	RTC Staff	7,861.31	Net Pay for RTC staff Jan 2023
1391	Denbighshire CC	736.00	NNDR for Civic Offices, WRCC, Rhyl
1419	Benefits Advice Shop	916.66	Part-Time Appeals Officer – payment 9 of 12
1539	Tesco Mobile	3.00	Monthly payment insurance
1578	Denbighshire CC	32,037.00	SC2 Loan – payment 3 of 3 for 2022/23
	Total payments	52,623.44	

Category	Description	Amount
Santander	Interest on 31 Day Notice Account	168.80
HSBC	Interest on 7 Day Deposit	23.02
HSBC	Interest on 7 Day Deposit	23.02
HSBC	Interest on 7 Day Deposit	23.02
HSBC	Interest on 7 Day Deposit	23.02
Military Mutual Insurers	Insurance claim re: damaged illuminations	7,032.23
HMRC	VAT claim Q3 (Oct to Dec 2022)	8,870.46
	Total income	16,163.57

116. 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 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.

Supplier	Details of Supply	Voucher Number	Amount £
Proarb Ltd	Christmas Tree 2023	1579	1,818.00
Information Commissioner's Office (ICO)	Annual Fee 2023	1580	35.00
Sioned Graham Cameron	Translation services	1585	521.93
Prestatyn Town Council Mayoral	2 x tickets for Mayor's Charity Dinner 17 th Feb 2023	1586	80.00
Delwedd Ltd	Website hosting and maintenance	1587	828.17
Cllr D. L. King	Mayoral allowance 22/23 payment 3 of 3	1588	433.33
Cllr D. L. King	Senior Member Allowance 22/23 payment 3 of 3	1589	166.66
Cllr J. L. McAlpine	Deputy Mayoral Allowance 22/23 payment 3 of 3	1590	133.32

Cllr J. L. McAlpine	Senior Member Allowance 22/23 payment 3 of 3	1591	166.66
Canda Copying Ltd	Photocopier rental	1592	259.32
Canda Copying Ltd	Photocopier charges	1593	303.34
Blachere Illumination UK Ltd	Repairs to illuminations	1594	1,608.94
Total Schedule B			£6,354.67

Emergency Payments: Two payments made (Finance & General Purposes Committee scheduled for 1st February 2023 was cancelled) – vouchers 1579 and 1586.

Card Payments: None

RESOLVED that the schedule was approved for payment and signed by two councillors.

117. **ANNUAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY 2022/23**

The Town Clerk referred to his and the Finance Officer's joint report (circulated with agenda) for members' approval.

RESOLVED that the Annual Investment Strategy for 2022/23 was approved.

118. **FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS TO 31st DECEMBER 2022 AND FORECASTS FOR THE 2022/23 FINANCIAL YEAR**

The Town Clerk made reference to his and the Finance Officer's joint report (circulated with agenda) for members' information.

RESOLVED that the report was noted.

119. **CLWYD PENSION FUND – TRIANNUAL VALUATION 2022 FOR RHYL TOWN COUNCIL AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NEXT THREE YEARS**

The Town Clerk referred to his and the Finance Officer's joint report (circulated with agenda) following the triannual valuation of the council's participation in the Clwyd Pension Fund and their joint recommendations.

The Town Clerk reminded members of the significant deficit of 52% in the fund back in 2013, and of the town council's over-payments made each month since then, which had brought the fund back up to 97%.

The Clwyd Pension Fund had recommended the remaining 3% be paid over an eight year period, giving the town council a budget saving of £14,500 in the current year. However, the Town Clerk advised that having asked the pension fund for figures should the town council pay off the 3% deficit earlier, that the Finance Officer had crunched the numbers which enabled him and the Town Clerk to recommend paying off the deficit in the 2023/24 financial year. This would result in a small overspend of £3,400 initially, which could be met from reserves, but would save the town council £4,000 in interest payments and a permanent budget saving of £17,100 each year going forward.

RESOLVED that members approved the officers' recommendation of paying off the 3% deficit in one go in the 2023/24 financial year to reap the long-term savings.

120. RHYL TOWN COUNCIL ADOPTED MEMBER AND STAFF TRAINING PLAN

Further to min.no.75 of the meeting held on 16th November 2022, the Town Clerk referred to his report and to the draft Training Plan (circulated with agenda) for members' consideration and approval.

A member suggested that a general Q&A session for new councillors should be added into the plan.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) *The Training Plan was accepted with the addition of the Q&A session for new councillors.*
- (ii) *Time permitting (on 1st March 2023) a Q&A session to be held immediately after the question setting session in preparation for the attendance of representatives from the Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board.*
- (iii) *The Town Clerk was authorised to include any training suggestions made by members to the plan, rather than having to return each to Council for its approval.*

121. RHYL BUS SHELTERS / QR CODES

The Town Clerk advised of an approach from the Rhyl BID asking for the town council's permission to utilise its bus shelters to display QR (Quick Response) Codes.

The Town Clerk added that the purposes of the codes were to promote local businesses and events and that there were no cost implications for the town council.

RESOLVED that the request was approved.

[Councillor Ms J. L. McAlpine declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the above item, due to her own business already featuring within QR Codes currently available throughout the town, and vacated the council chamber, taking no further part in discussions or voting thereon]

122. MEMBERS ITEM: WELSH INDEX OF MULTIPLE DEPRIVATION (WIMD)

Councillor Mrs J. Butterfield JP MBE, sought members support for the council to establish a small working group to understand how the WIMD issues can be addressed and create a road map for reducing deprivation in the town.

Councillor Butterfield advised that Denbighshire County Council had established a Rhyl Community Development Board, and that she had attended two of its meetings, and had concerns about the direction it was going in.

Councillor Butterfield reported that the Board had introduced food and early learning initiatives in Ruthin and St. Asaph and not in Rhyl, which she had found staggering,

and felt that a real understanding of deprivation was clearly needed to be shared with the Board.

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk will re-visit the substantial document the town council produced years ago in response to previous WIMD statistics and update it with the latest figures in the first instance before submitting it to the Joseph Rowntree Trust for their comment.

123. 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.

124. CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES

The following minutes were submitted (circulated with agenda) for members' information and approval of the recommendations contained therein:

Grounds Maintenance - 26th September 2022 - Min. Nos. 11 - 17
Sub-Committee

RESOLVED that the minutes were received and approved.

125. CLOSURE OF MEETING

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

Mayor:

Date: