

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

PRESENT

Councillor Mrs D. L. King (Mayor)

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

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

147. APOLOGIES

Apologies for non-attendance were received on behalf of Councillors Mrs M. A. Blakeley-Walker and Miss S. L. Roberts.

148. MINUTES

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

Meeting of Council - 15th February 2023 - Min.Nos 110-125

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 43-45

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

149. ROYAL ALEXANDRA HOSPITAL – MEETING WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF BETSI CADWELADR HEALTH BOARD

Further to min.no.107 of the meeting held on 18th January 2023, the Mayor welcomed the Health Board's Acting Director of Therapies and Health Science, Mr Gareth Evans and Integrated Health Community Director for Conwy and Denbighshire Services, Ms Libby Ryan-Davies to the meeting and invited them address members.

Mr Evans gave an update on the business case for the hospital in that back in January 2023, Welsh Government wrote to the Trust asking two questions.

One was asking if the Alexandra Hospital business case was a priority to them, which the Trust have confirmed that it is one of six regional priorities and that they had recently signed off a 10 year plan around those priorities.

Secondly, Welsh Government wanted an indication of support of the business case from the Regional Partnership Board in North Wales. The Trust had confirmed that they had received a letter of support from the Partnership Board and that further work with the Board was planned as they themselves were in the process of putting a 10 year plan together for capital investment in North Wales.

Mr Evans advised that they had provided Welsh Government with the answers to their questions and were now awaiting a decision from them.

Mr Evans and Ms Ryan-Davies then invited members' questions and offered the following responses:

- The hospital scheme is one of six of our top priorities, which were all at different business case stages and that there was not an order of priority within the six. The Alexandra Hospital's case was now 'oven ready'.
- They acknowledged that the time taken to progress the scheme was significant and frustrating.
- A three-stage business case has been submitted, with the third being the final stage, as submitted two years ago.
- Building costs have risen since then along with the additional associated costs following the decision to widen the scheme to include a Minor Injuries Unit.
- That the services to be provided at the hospital would include an increased scope for out-patient district / community nursing, along with numerous other out-patient provision.
- The hospital will serve as a centre of excellence hub for community dental provision, sexual health services, an intravenous suite, improved level of diagnostic services (X-Ray and ultrasound), improved older persons services and CAMS.
- That 100,000 on-site activities per annum was anticipated.
- That the site lends itself to the possibility of providing Out of Hours GP services. This required further conversations with private care providers.
- That the business case scope identified a high level of planned provision, but in-depth discussions were taking place throughout Conwy and Denbighshire around providing acute services at alternative sites like this one to enable better local access for patients.
- Modernising services and provision was also an objective, to provide better care and also to attract healthcare professionals to roles throughout North Wales in these times of challenging recruitment.
- They continue to speak to and push Welsh Government for a decision.
- That the delay since submission of the business case two years ago has been down to capital funds being restrictive at Welsh Government level.

- That Chris Stockport is Executive Director of Strategy and Planning at the Health Board and takes the lead for this project, but responsibility lies with the Health Board as a whole.
- The Health Board's own financial situation has no bearing on the scheme.
- The opening of the new hospital in Holywell was back in 2009, well before any plans to redevelop the Royal Alexandra Hospital and the new facilities at the hospital in Denbigh were just that and not a new build in any way, so had not been priorities above this scheme.
- Recent developments at the Health Board understandably are cause for concern for everybody, but that they felt the Board could be trusted to spend wisely and see the project through. However, ultimately it was for Welsh Government to put their trust in the Board and in this scheme.

On behalf of all members, the Mayor thanked Mr Evans and Ms Ryan-Davies for their attendance.

150. MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor referred to events she and the Deputy Mayor had attended over the last month (circulated with agenda), particularly to the raising of the Commonwealth of Nations Flag of Peace at St. Asaph Cathedral.

The Deputy Mayor commented on the Rhyl Sea Cadets Parade and Presentation Evening, which she had really enjoyed.

A member asked if the Mayor was invited to the annual business dinner organised by Denbighshire County Council?

The Mayor and Town Clerk said that they did not recall an invitation ever being received.

Members felt that an invitation would be of mutual benefit to the Town Council and to local businesses, and asked the Town Clerk to contact Denbighshire County Council to ask that an invitation be extended to the Mayor in the future.

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk to ask Denbighshire County Council for an invitation to be extended to the Mayor to attend next year's event.

151. CANCELLATION OF FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE 1st MARCH 2023

Further to the cancellation of the Finance & General Purposes Committee scheduled to have been held on 1st March 2023, the Town Clerk asked members to confirm the following decisions taken by the Chair of the Finance & General Purposes Committee under delegated authority:

5.1 PAYMENTS AND RECEIPTS REPORT – FEBRUARY 2023 (SCHEDULE A)

Payments approved by the Chair under Schedule A (circulated with agenda).

5.2 AUTHORISATION OF PAYMENTS / ADDITIONS TO APPROVED SUPPLIERS LIST – FEBRUARY 2023 (SCHEDULE B)

Payments approved by the Chair under Schedule A (circulated with agenda).

RESOLVED that decisions taken by the Chair of the Finance & General Purposes Committee were approved.

152. REVIEW OF TOWN PLAN – YOUTH CHAMPION

Further to the cancelled meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee, the Town Clerk explained that the appointment of a Youth Champion was one of the ambitions included within the Town Plan, but that the appointment had not been progressed.

The Town Clerk advised that at a recent meeting of the Strategic and Operational Planning (SOP) committee, members had expressed a desire to see the role duly considered, but that a Role Description would need to be considered and written before an appointment could be made.

Members agreed that the role was one they wanted to see progressed to engage better with the town's young people.

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk to draft a Role Description for the position and bring it back to Council for approval before an appointment could be made.

153. ANNUAL RISK REVIEW 2022 / 23 AND FORWARD PLAN 2023/24

Further to the cancelled meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee, the Town Clerk referred to the Risk Assessment Sub-Committee's report (circulated with agenda) seeking Council's approval of the work undertaken by the sub-committee over 2022/23 and its proposed Forward Plan for 2023/24.

RESOLVED that the Risk Review 2022/23 and the Forward Plan for 2023/24 was approved.

154. SCHEDULE OF REGULAR PAYMENTS (SCHEDULE A) FOR 2023/24

The Chair referred to the Town Clerk's report (circulated with agenda) detailing the schedule of regular payments for 2023/24 and seeking authority to spend for the items listed.

| Supplier & Description | Amount £ | Frequency |
|---|-------------|-----------|
| RTC staff net salaries | 8,300 | Monthly |
| HMRC salary deductions | 3,600 | Monthly |
| Flintshire CC Clwyd Pension Scheme | 4,600 | Monthly |
| Denbighshire CC – Council Tax (10 months) | 800 | Monthly |
| HSBC bank charges | 15 | Monthly |
| BT telephones & Internet Services | 1,080 | Quarterly |

| Supplier & Description | Amount £ | Frequency |
|--|-------------|-------------|
| Tesco Mobile - Phones | 48 | Monthly |
| Shire Leasing – Avaya phone system | 337 | Quarterly |
| Benefits Advice – Appeals Officer | 917 | Monthly |
| Citizens Advice – Fuel Poverty Officer | 2,000 | Quarterly |
| Denbighshire County Council SC2 loan | 32,037 | 3 per annum |
| Denbighshire County Council CCTV Partnership | 15,000 | Annually |

RESOLVED that Schedule A and the authority to spend on the items listed as Appendix A were approved.

155. AUTHORISATION OF PAYMENTS / ADDITIONS TO APPROVED SUPPLIERS LIST (SCHEDULE B)

Further to min.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 Number | Supplier | Details of Supply | Amount £ |
|----------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1606 | Cllr Mrs D. L. King | Mayoral expenses for February 2023 | 72.00 |
| 1607 | Denbighshire County Council | Illuminations contract 2022/23 | 11,841.60 |
| | Total Schedule B | | £11,913.60 |

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

156. APPOINTMENT OF INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL AUDITORS FOR 2022/23

The Town Clerk referred to his and the Finance Officer's joint report (circulated with agenda) with regard to the appointment of the council's auditors.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) *The appointment of JDH Business Services for Internal Audit was approved.*
- (ii) *The appointment of the Welsh Audit Office for External Auditor was approved.*
- (iii) *Members to inform the Town Clerk of any personal or business interests they might have in JDH Business Services or the Welsh Audit Office.*

157. WELSH INDEX OF MULTIPLE DEPRIVATION (WIMD) – APPOINTMENT OF WORKING GROUP

Further to min.no.122 of the meeting held on 15th February 2023, the Town Clerk made reference to his report (circulated with agenda) providing members with background to the WIMD and suggesting terms of reference for the establishment of a Town Council Working Group.

The Town Clerk suggested that the nominated councillors will need to commit to a significant amount of time and work, including weekly meetings, and set about examining the figures in detail in the first instance, then understand the attempts to address them, identify any lessons to be learnt from other areas and put together a plan of actions and targets to seek to improve Rhyll's standings.

Members suggested that the working group look at the website Stats Wales and for the last Census results.

RESOLVED that Councillors Mrs J. Butterfield JP MBE, Ms J. Hughes and Ms J. L. McAlpine.

158. 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.

159. CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES

To receive the following minutes (circulated with agenda) for information and to approve the recommendations contained therein:

Risk Assessment - 27th February 2023 - Min.Nos 25-31
Sub-Committee

RESOLVED that the minutes and the recommendations contained therein, were approved.

160. CLOSURE OF MEETING

There being no further business the Mayor closed the meeting.

Mayor:

Date: