

At the hybrid **MEETING of COUNCIL** held on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2023, commencing immediately after the conclusion of the Special Meeting of Council.

**PRESENT**

Councillor Ms J. L. McAlpine (Mayor)

Councillors M. Blackwell, Mrs M. Blakeley-Walker, Mrs J. Butterfield JP MBE, Mrs J. Chamberlain-Jones, Ms J. M. Evans, S. Feeney, A. R. James, K. R. Jones, Mrs D. L. King, B. Mellor, Mrs W. M. Mullen-James, P. Prendergast, Ms 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

**23. APOLOGIES**

No apologies were received.

**24. MINUTES**

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

Annual Meeting of Council - 10<sup>th</sup> May 2023 - Min.Nos. 1-18

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

Planning Committee - 7<sup>th</sup> June 2023 - Min.Nos. 1 - 3

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

To Confirm or otherwise:

Finance & General Purposes Committee - 7<sup>th</sup> June 2023 - Min.Nos. 1 - 18

The Town Clerk apologised for a column of figures being missing from the table featured as part of agenda item number four and advised that the figures had been inserted to form a correct record.

Proposed by Councillor A. J. Rutherford and seconded by Councillor A. R. James and **RESOLVED** as a correct record and confirmed for action.

**25. MAYOR'S REPORT**

The Mayor referred to the events she and the Deputy Mayor had attended over the last month (circulated with agenda), and particular to Dwr Cymru's Cost of Living event at the Ask Centre providing lots of information on how to access a

range of support. Councillor McAlpine also mentioned the Rhyl Sea Cadets visit to the Council Chamber and the presentation of Honour Cadet badges, which had been another enjoyable evening.

The Deputy Mayor referred to the three events she had attended and said that they had all been great.

**26. HONORARY FREEPERSON**

Further to min.no.21 of the Special Meeting of Council held immediately prior to this meeting, the Mayor formally announced that former Town Councillor Mrs Patricia Margaret Jones had been awarded the title of Freeperson of Rhyl.

**27. PRESENTATION: RHYL COLLEGE, COLEG LLANDRILLO PRINCIPAL**

Further to min.no.60 of the meeting of Council held on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2022, the Town Clerk advised that Mr Wood had not arrived and suggested that the meeting progressed with a view to members receiving Mr Wood's presentation should he present before the closure of the meeting.

**RESOLVED** that members would receive the presentation should Mr Wood arrive before the closure of the meeting.

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

Further to min.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 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).

<b>Voucher Number</b>	<b>Supplier</b>	<b>Details of Supply</b>	<b>Amount £</b>
1651	Mold Town Council	2 x tickets for Mayor's concert on 23/6/23	20.00
1652	Cllr Ms J. L. McAlpine	Mayoral Allowance 22/23 – payment 1 of 3	433.33
1653	Cllr Miss C. L. Williams	Deputy Mayoral Allowance 22/23 – payment 1 of 3	133.33
1654	Cllr Ms J. L. McAlpine	Senior Role Allowance 22/23 – payment 1 of 3	166.67
1655	Cllr Miss C. L. Williams	Senior Role Allowance 22/23 – payment 1 of 3	166.67
1656	Blossom & Bloom	Contribution towards operating costs	500.00
	<b>Total Schedule B</b>		<b>£1,420.00</b>

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

**29. INTERNAL AUDITOR'S REPORT 2022/23 (FINAL)**

The Town Clerk referred to his and the Finance Officer's joint report (circulated with agenda) and asked members to consider and approve the Internal Auditor's Final Report (circulated with agenda).

The Town Clerk added that the two issues raised by the Internal Auditor in his Interim Report in February 2023, had been considered and actioned by the Risk Assessment Sub-Committee and noted that no further issues had been identified within the Final Report.

**RESOLVED** *that the reports were received and approved.*

**30. ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2022/23**

The Town Clerk made reference to his and the Finance Officer's joint report (circulated with agenda) and to the completed Annual Governance Statement for 2022/23 for inclusion within the Town Council's Annual Return for 2022/23.

**RESOLVED** *that the Annual Governance Statement was approved and the Mayor authorised to sign the document on the Town Council's behalf.*

**31. LOCAL COUNCILS IN WALES ANNUAL RETURN 2022/23**

The Town Clerk referred to his and the Finance Officer's joint report (circulated with agenda) and to the completed Annual Return document (circulated with agenda) and asked members to approve it for submission to the External Auditor.

**RESOLVED** *that the Annual Return was approved and the Mayor authorised to sign the document on the Town Council's behalf.*

**32. MEMBER'S ITEM: NEW LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (LDP)**

Councillor D. Simmons sought members' support for representations to be made to Denbighshire County Council, for the identification of land in the north of the country to be allocated for a new cemetery within the emerging Local Development Plan.

Councillor Simmons went on to report that Rhuddlan cemetery would be full in 18 months' time and that to visit lost loved ones at Coed Bell cemetery in Upper Gronant from Rhyl via bus was a round trip of four bus rides and a three mile walk.

**RESOLVED** *that the request was approved and the Town Clerk to copy in all neighbouring community councils who once formed Rhuddlan Borough Council and Kinmel Bay Town Council to seek their support for the same.*

**33. 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.

**34. CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES**

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

SOP Committee - 15<sup>th</sup> May 2023 - Min. Nos. 1-9

The Town Clerk drew members attention to the decisions taken by the committee to approve £2,000 for Rhyl Homestart, to increase the town council's contribution from £11,000 to £14,000 per annum and to the approval of £500 to the local charity, Blossom and Bloom, for administrative costs.

The contribution to Blossom and Bloom would be Section 137 expenditure requiring formal resolution that members are satisfied that the expenditure would bring direct benefit to some of Rhyl's inhabitants and that the benefit is commensurate with the expenditure incurred.

Councillor Mrs J. Butterfield JP MBE advised that she was in full agreement with the contributions to be made to Rhyl Homestart and the Benefits Advice Shop, but not for Blossom and Bloom, and would like this to be noted within the minutes.

**RESOLVED** that the minutes were received and approved.

**35. PRESENTATION: RHYL COLLEGE, COLEG LLANDRILLO PRINCIPAL**

The Town Clerk advised that Mr Lawrence Wood had arrived and would now provide members with his presentation.

The meeting continued in open session.

The Mayor welcomed Mr Wood to the meeting, who apologised for being late as he had mistakenly thought that the Town Council was based within the Town Hall.

Mr Wood advised that the college's mission was to improve people's futures, and that since he became Principal in November 2016 the focus had been on making sure the college was fit for purpose, to provide people with the skills they needed to progress and to do all that we could to support them throughout.

Mr Wood said that Rhyl held a particularly special place in his heart as his family were from here.

Part of the strategy was 'improvement'. Learners who were 14/15 during the Covid lockdown had their education hugely interrupted and entirely changed, and all of this at a key stage of their development. These learners were now coming to college aged 16/17 and having to adapt to 'in person' learning again.

To support and encourage learners, the college provided free breakfasts for all to better equip them to learn and participate, and a Starbucks with comfy sofas had been introduced to the campus.

The college had Learner Success Mentors, which were dedicated staff supporting learners to attend college and be successful.

Learners' progress was followed and tracked and those failing to attend were supported and challenged to attend and complete the work they needed to be doing to achieve success.

The college had high expectations for learners and saw no reason why they couldn't go on to prestigious universities like Oxford and Cambridge and get highly skilled, top-level jobs.

Another additional facility the college would be offering over the summer, was a new library as a modern social space.

The new engineering facility was moving from Rhos-on-Sea to Rhyl, which showed a real commitment to Rhyl.

Part of new building would be dedicated to renewable energy, training apprentices and staff to work on the many windfarms in the area in need of highly skilled people to maintain them in return for good, well-paid jobs. The college was in partnership with RWE Renewables to see this happen.

The new building would also offer the more traditional engineering (machinery) and electronics and advanced manufacturing, providing skilled employees to attract businesses and investment to the area.

The motor vehicle training was going from strength to strength and that the college had taken ownership of a Tesla for students to learn from.

The planned September opening had been put back to around the October half-term due to a delay in the arrival of the steel frame materials since Russia invaded Ukraine.

£1m had been invested on IT engineering equipment. Welsh Government had provided 65% of the total cost of the build and Covid Catch-Up monies had also been utilised.

Mr Wood admitted that, like so many professions and organisations nowadays, he had some recruitment concerns going forward, but that at the moment they were doing ok.

The plan was to increase the A-Level provision offered by the college's Sixth Form, but that this was difficult, as the college has become known as a place for vocational training, but that what they did offer was a high level of teaching that just last year was one mark off the very top 25% of achievement in the UK. If the college could maintain this standard then take-up would surely increase.

In response to members' questions and comments, Mr Wood said that:

- he acknowledged the contradiction between the provision of free breakfasts and providing a Starbucks, but that the feedback from students and staff is great and seems to work.
- they first appointed the mentors during lockdown, but was unable to say if they had been introduced at other learning sites across North Wales.
- last year they had a 76% success rate, which was number of learners that complete their course and passed, leaving 24% who didn't, and that he was disappointed with the 24% and this was a continued challenge.
- this year the college's completion rates were up.
- losing qualified engineers to nearby cities in England if there wasn't enough local jobs to go around was a risk, but one worth taking.
- the engineering block will be equipped with the latest technology and machinery and that this level of provision would be spread throughout the campus to attract learners and investment and strengthen ties with local industry.
- RWE are wholly committed to working with the college as their main apprenticeship provider.
- the college was continually recruiting staff, but without wanting to tempt fate, said that they were in a good position just now.
- there was a Sixth Form on the campus that offered a range of subjects with small class sizes providing excellent teaching and that degree courses would be offered next year, expanding it further.
- the college provided 3,000 apprenticeships and had strong links with local motor vehicle companies and construction companies.
- A-Level provision at the moment was quite small, but would be expanding with creative ways to attract learners despite financial constraints and challenges.

On behalf of members, the Mayor thanked Mr Wood for his time and said that they were very much looking forward to seeing the new engineering facility.

**36. CLOSURE OF MEETING**

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

Mayor: .....

Date: .....