

At the hybrid **MEETING of COUNCIL** held on Wednesday 20th March 2024, commencing at 6.00pm.

PRESENT

Councillor Ms J. L. McAlpine (Mayor)

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

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

129. OPENING OF MEETING & APOLOGIES

The Mayor's Chaplain, Rev. Helen Gheorghiu Gould, led all those who wanted to take part, in prayer.

Apologies for absence were submitted by Councillors Mrs M. A. Blakeley-Walker, Miss S. L. Roberts and D. Simmons.

130. MINUTES

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

Meeting of Council - 21st February 2024 - Min. Nos. 119-128

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

Planning Committee - 21st February 2024 - Min. Nos. 43-45

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

To Confirm or otherwise:

Finance & General Purposes Committee - 6th March 2024 - Min. Nos. 77-83

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

131. MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor submitted details of events attended by herself and the Deputy Mayor over the past month, and mentioned the Rhyl BID's Annual Business Awards Evening. A nice evening and great to see so many businesses present and being recognised. The Mayor also spoke about presenting a

letter of appreciation to her Honour Cadet at the Rhyl Sea Cadets Division Night. Another enjoyable evening.

The Deputy Mayor referred to the Charity Ukrainian Concert and the Chernobyl Children's Life Line's 'Helping Hand for Ukraine' Afternoon Tea. Both were wonderful events.

RESOLVED that the report was received.

132. SCHEDULE OF REGULAR PAYMENTS (SCHEDULE A) FOR 2024/25

The Chair referred to the Town Clerk's report (circulated with agenda) detailing the schedule of regular payments for 2024/25 and seeking authority to spend for the items listed.

Supplier & Description	Amount £	Frequency
RTC staff net salaries	8,800	Monthly
HMRC salary deductions	3,500	Monthly
Flintshire CC Clwyd Pension Scheme	3,500	Monthly
Denbighshire CC – Council Tax (10 months)	800	Monthly
HSBC bank charges	15	Monthly
BT telephones & Internet Services	1,950	Quarterly
Tesco Mobile - Phones	64	Monthly
Benefits Advice – Appeals Officer	1,250	Monthly
Citizens Advice – Fuel Poverty Officer	2,250	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.

133. 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).

The Town Clerk advised that an amended Schedule B had been produced to include an additional payment of £75.88 for Mayoral Support.

Voucher Number	Supplier	Details of Supply	Amount £
1801	Sandra Williams	Translation service	314.08
1802	Cllr J. L. McAlpine	Mayoral support	75.88
	Total Schedule B		£389.96

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

134. CHAIR OF RISK ASSESSMENT SUB-COMMITTEE ASSURANCE REPORT 2023/24

The Town Clerk referred to the Chair of the sub-committee's annual report (circulated with agenda) detailing the work undertaken and spot-checks he has carried out, as required by the Town Council's financial regulations.

RESOLVED that the report was received.

135. ANNUAL RISK REVIEW 2023/24 AND FORWARD PLAN 2024/25

Further to the cancelled meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee, the Town Clerk made reference to the above documents (circulated with agenda), which were required to be brought before Council each year for its approval.

RESOLVED that the Risk Review 2023/24 and the Forward Plan for 2024/25 was approved.

136. MEMBER'S ITEM: INTRODUCTION OF PARKING CHARGES AT MARINE LAKE

Councillor Mrs E. M. Chard advised that she attended a meeting of the Marine Lake Users Forum yesterday, as the Town Council's representative on the group, at which the above was discussed at length.

The discussion included the Forum's disappointment that the charges were to come in at such short notice and without consultation with the lake's user groups.

Councillor Chard reported that she had asked the Harbourmaster (present at the meeting) if parking passes could be used by members of the Forum when doing their litter-picks? He said he would arrange this, and also said, in an email received by Councillor Chard this morning, that beach and long-stay permits could be used at the Marine Lake car park. The Harbourmaster added that monies raised by the parking charges would be invested in the lake and that Denbighshire County Council's (DCC) website would soon be updated providing all information relating to the car park.

Councillor Chard said she was very unhappy that ordinary people visiting the lake in their car would now be charged to do so.

Councillor Mrs J. Butterfield, advised that she and her fellow ward councillor, Councillor A. R. James had also been in communication with the Marine Lake User Forum's Secretary and the relevant department of the County Council and had also expressed their disappointment at the lack of consultation with user groups. Councillor Butterfield said she had asked them if the Miniature Railway, the sailing lessons and the Sea Cadet volunteers could be given

parking permits to enable them to continue their important community work on and around the lake, and was awaiting a response.

Councillor K. R. Jones also spoke of his disappointment as someone who was at the lake almost every morning, enjoying the space and the strong community spirit there.

Councillor Jones reported that on the Marine Lake page on DCC's website, it says that there are 175 parking spaces, when in fact there are only 35 (32 plus three disabled spaces). Councillor Jones wondered whether DCC were therefore expecting more parking revenue than would be the case?

Councillor Jones felt that charging people to park at the lake would add to the parking problems already experienced in the roads around the site, as more people would be looking for free on-street spaces as an alternative.

Councillor A. R. James advised that Councillor Butterfield and himself would be meeting with DCC's Mr Paul Jackson next week to discuss the matter, and said they would report back to the next meeting of Council.

RESOLVED that Councillors Butterfield and James to put all of the concerns raised by members to Mr Jackson and report back at the next meeting of Council.

137. MEMBER'S ITEM: LEVELLING UP FUNDING

Councillor Mrs J. Butterfield JP MBE referred to the recent announcement by the Chancellor of the Exchequer:

"The town of Rhyl will receive £20 million over ten years through the Long-Term Plan for Towns, giving it long-term certainty to deliver projects based on local needs and priorities."

Councillor Butterfield advised that the money would be distributed by Denbighshire County Council and that a group was to be set up to oversee its spending.

Councillor Butterfield suggested that the town council is ready with an appointed representative to sit on that group, should this be possible, and nominated Councillor A. J. Rutherford.

Councillor Butterfield further suggested a joint meeting be held with the Town Council and the Rhyl Members Area Group (MAG) to discuss the funding and how it's going to be progressed and administered.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) *the Town Clerk to contact DCC to offer to host a joint meeting in the council chamber at 6pm on a Wednesday evening, or if this is not possible, to ask for the meeting to be held in the usual venue for Rhyl MAG meetings which is Russell House.*

- (ii) *Councillor A. J. Rutherford was appointed as the town council's representative to sit on the organising body, should this be possible?*

138. 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.*

139. REPORT OF RISK ASSESSMENT SUB-COMMITTEE

The Town Clerk referred to the Risk Assessment Sub-Committee's confidential report (circulated by email separately to the agenda) updating members on the outcome of a meeting with DCC representatives and the town council's negotiating team.

RESOLVED *that the report was received and the negotiating team to continue to meet with DCC to progress the best outcome for the Town Council.*

140. CLOSURE OF MEETING

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

Mayor:

Date: