

At the in-person **ANNUAL MEETING of COUNCIL** held on Wednesday 28th May 2025, commencing at 6.00pm.

PRESENT

Councillor Miss C. L. Williams (Mayor)

Councillors M. Blackwell, Mrs M. A. Blakeley-Walker, Mrs J. Butterfield JP MBE, Mrs E. M. Chard, Ms J. M. Evans, S. Feeney, A. R. James, K. R. Jones, Mrs D. L. King, Mrs J. L. McAlpine, B. Mellor, Ms V. Roberts, A. J. Rutherford, D. Simmons, A. Walker.

Mr G. J. Nickels – Town Clerk
Mrs H. J. Mead – Deputy Clerk

1. OPENING OF MEETING & APOLOGIES

The Mayor's Chaplain, Father Anthony Nameh, commenced proceedings by leading all those wishing to take part, in prayer.

Apologies for non-attendance were received on behalf of Councillors Mrs J. Chamberlain-Jones, W. Price and Miss S. L. Roberts.

The Mayor welcomed all to the meeting.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Mayor asked if members had any personal and/or prejudicial interests to declare with regard to any of the business to be considered on the agenda?

No declarations were made.

3. ELECTION OF MAYOR AND INSTALLATION

Councillor Miss Williams provided the meeting with a résumé of her year in office by firstly expressing her thanks to the Council membership for having given her the opportunity to be appointed to the distinguished civic role of Mayor.

Gratitude was also expressed to Father Nnamah, as Mayor's Chaplain, and Mrs Ann Jones, as Mayor's Consort for the time and commitment they undertook to fulfil their roles, and to the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Alexander Walker for dutifully representing the office of Mayor in her absence.

Over the past year Councillor Williams explained that she had sought to be an advocate to promote 'equal access to all members of our community', and the essential necessities of life being available to all. Together with her passion for the creative arts acting as a catalyst for encouraging positive mental health.

Reflecting on her year, Councillor Williams highlighted a standout event hosted by Work in Progress. Their community event 'Sharing 2025' that celebrated positive well-being through drama, music and dance. Providing a platform for people with mental health difficulties and disabilities to showcase their talent.

Another engagement Councillor Williams included was the Wicked Wales International Youth Film Festival, a forum that nurtures the imaginative and artistic vision of young local people as well as international young visionaries.

More recently, the Marine Conservation Society's One Ocean Symposium at Rhyl's Pavilion Theatre. An informative event opening her eyes to the beauty and wildlife of the ocean and the important steps we need to take to preserve and enjoy this vital resource. The evening celebrated the work of volunteers through the Hiraeth Yn Y Mor Project.

Furthermore, her visit to the Clwyd Alyn, Single Point of Access Route to Housing, in partnership with Denbighshire County Council and the Welsh Government development on Edward Henry Street, providing affordable social housing to help re-development the West End of Rhyl.

Councillor Williams concluded with the fantastic evening she had enjoyed at the Mayor of Prestatyn's Charity evening.

The Mayor then invited nominations for the election of Mayor for the 2025/26 municipal year.

It was proposed by Councillor S. Feeney and seconded by Councillor A. R. James that Council Alexander Walker be nominated.

RESOLVED that Councillor Walker was elected.

The retiring Mayor, Councillor Williams, then invested Councillor Walker with the Chain of Office and gave him a small gift.

Councillor Walker read aloud and signed the declaration of office.

The new Mayor thanked his proposer and seconder for their nominations and their kind words and advised that he would not have a Consort this year and his Chaplain would be Reverend Helen Gheorghiu Gould supported by Reverend Janet Crane.

The Mayor said that as a representative of the younger generation it was his objective to illustrate to young people that they can become more involved in their community, to bring about positive change and to show that they can have a voice in our society. Going on to say that he is aware more young people are experiencing mental health difficulties, and it is fundamentally important that they have access to mental health support and are signposted to the right organisations offering support.

His chosen charities would be Vale of Clwyd MIND and Rhyl Music Club.

The new Mayor expressed appreciation on behalf of the Council to the retiring Mayor, and presented her with a town crest, past Mayor's medal and flowers. The Mayor also presented the retiring Consort with flowers.

4. **ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR**

In accordance with council policy on annual appointments, the Mayor invited nominations for the election of Deputy Mayor for the 2025/26 municipal year.

It was proposed by Councillor A. J. Rutherford and seconded by Councillor A. R. James that Councillor Mrs J. Butterfield JP MBE be nominated.

RESOLVED *that Councillor Butterfield JP MBE was elected.*

The Mayor invested Councillor Butterfield with the chain of office and invited her to sign the Declaration of Office.

This done, the Deputy Mayor thanked members of the Council for their nominations and advised that her Deputy Consort would be Mr David Turner.

The Mayor presented Councillor Butterfield with flowers and Mr David Turner with the badge of office and a small gift.

5. **MINUTES**

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

Meeting of Council - 16th April 2025 - Min.Nos. 153-169

Proposed by Councillor Miss C. L. Williams and seconded by Councillor A. Walker and **RESOLVED** *as a correct record*

Planning Committee - 16th April 2025 - Min.Nos. 58 - 61

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

Planning Committee - 7th May 2025 - Min.Nos. 62 - 67

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 - 7th May 2025 - Min.Nos. 82 - 90

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

6. **APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES / SUB-COMMITTEES / SCHOOL GOVERNORS FOR THE 2025/26 MUNICIPAL YEAR**

The Mayor requested that members confirm the appointments as shown in the table (circulated with agenda).

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs J. Butterfield JP MBE and seconded by Councillor Miss C. L. Williams and **RESOLVED** that the appointments were approved.

7. **ELECTION OF CHAIR – FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**

In accordance with council policy on annual appointments, the Mayor invited nominations for the Chair of the Finance and General Purposes Committee for the 2025/2026 municipal year.

It was proposed by Councillor B. Mellor and seconded by Councillor Miss C. L. Williams that Councillor A. J. Rutherford be appointed.

RESOLVED that Councillor Rutherford was elected.

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

In accordance with council policy on annual appointments, the Mayor invited nominations for the Vice-Chair of the Finance and General Purposes Committee for the 2025/2026 municipal year.

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs J. Butterfield JP MBE and seconded by Councillor A. J. Rutherford that Councillor B. Mellor be appointed.

RESOLVED that Councillor Mellor was elected.

9. **ELECTION OF CHAIR – PLANNING COMMITTEE**

In accordance with council policy on annual appointments, the Mayor invited nominations for the Chair of the Planning Committee for the 2025/2026 municipal year.

It was proposed by Councillor A. Walker and seconded by Councillor D. Simmons that Councillor Ms J. L. McAlpine be appointed.

RESOLVED that Councillor McAlpine was elected.

10. **ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR – PLANNING COMMITTEE**

In accordance with council policy on annual appointments, the Mayor invited nominations for the Vice-Chair of the Planning Committee for the 2025/2026 municipal year.

It was proposed by Councillor S. Feeney and seconded by Councillor A. J. Rutherford that Councillor D. Simmons be appointed.

RESOLVED that Councillor Simmons was elected.

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

In accordance with council policy on annual appointments, the Mayor invited nominations for the Chair of the SOP Committee for the 2025/2026 municipal year.

It was proposed by Councillor B. Mellor and seconded by Councillor Mrs E. M. Chard that Councillor A. J. Rutherford be appointed.

RESOLVED that Councillor Rutherford was elected.

12. **ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR – STRATEGIC & OPERATIONAL PLANNING (SOP) COMMITTEE**

In accordance with council policy on annual appointments, the Mayor invited nominations for the Vice-Chair of the SOP Committee for the 2025/2026 municipal year.

It was proposed by Councillor A. J. Rutherford and seconded by Councillor D. Simmons that Councillor A. R. James be appointed.

RESOLVED that Councillor James was elected.

13. **AWARD OF LONG SERVICE BADGES**

The badge represents 12 years of service to the community as a Town Councillor.

Councillor Miss Sarah Roberts had given her apologies for the meeting and was therefore not present to receive her badge.

RESOLVED that the badge would be presented to Councillor Roberts at a future meeting.

14. **APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS / PARTNERSHIP GROUPS**

The Mayor requested that members confirm the appointments for the 2025/26 municipal year, as shown in the schedule (circulated with agenda).

It was proposed by Councillor Miss C. L. Williams and seconded by Councillor A. R. James and **RESOLVED** that the appointments were approved.

15. **DESIGNATION OF APPROVED DUTIES**

The Mayor requested confirmation of attendance by appointed representatives at the following:

- Training of Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the Council and its standing committees

- North & Mid Wales Association of Local Councils (and associated Regional Transport Committee)
- Sustainable Denbighshire
- Betsi Cadwaladr University North Denbighshire Project Reference Group
- Attendance of Mayor or Deputy Mayor at civic events in Denbighshire, Flintshire and Conwy.

be designated as approved duties.

It was proposed by Councillor A. J. Rutherford and seconded by Councillor Miss C. L. Williams and **RESOLVED** *that the approved duties was confirmed.*

16. **SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS (2025/26)**

The Mayor requested members' confirmation of the schedule of meetings for the 2025/26 municipal year as shown on the schedule (circulated with agenda).

It was proposed by Councillor A. R. James and seconded by Councillor Mrs E. M. Chard and **RESOLVED** *that the schedule was approved.*

17. **SIGNATORIES (2025/26)**

The Mayor requested members' confirmation of the signatories for the council's current and investment accounts for the 2025/26 municipal year.

It was proposed by Councillor A. R. James and seconded by Councillor D. Simmons that the signatories were confirmed as:

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

Together with one of the following officers:

Town Clerk
 Deputy Town Clerk
 Finance Officer

RESOLVED *that the signatories be confirmed.*

18. **CLOSURE OF MEETING**

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

Mayor:

Date:18.06.2025.....