

At the hybrid **MEETING of COUNCIL** held on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2024, 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 J. Chamberlain-Jones, Mrs E. M. Chard, Mrs J. M. Evans, S. Feeney, A. R. James, K. R. Jones, Ms J. L. McAlpine, B. Mellor, W. Price, Ms R. Roberts, Miss S. L. Roberts, Ms V. Roberts, A. J. Rutherford, D. Simmons and A. Walker.

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

**56. OPENING OF MEETING & APOLOGIES**

The Mayor's Chaplain, Father Anthony Nnamah MSP, led all those who wanted to take part, in prayer.

Apologies for absence were submitted by Councillors Miss S. Fleming and Mrs D. L. King.

**57. MINUTES**

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

Meeting of Council - 18<sup>th</sup> September 2024 - Min. Nos. 50-55

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

Planning Committee - 18<sup>th</sup> September 2024 - Min. Nos. 16-19

Proposed by Councillor D. Simmons and seconded by Councillor M. Blackwell and **RESOLVED** as a correct record.

Planning Committee - 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2024 - Min. Nos. 20-22

Proposed by Councillor D. Simmons and seconded by Councillor S. Feeney and **RESOLVED** as a correct record.

To Confirm or otherwise:

Finance & General Purposes Committee - 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2024 - Min. Nos. 41-50

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

**58. 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.

**59. PRESENTATION: DENBIGHSHIRE LEISURE LIMITED – 2025 EVENTS CALENDAR**

The Mayor welcomed Mr Jamie Groves and Mr Gwyn Hughes from Denbighshire Leisure Limited to the meeting, and invited them to confidentially address members on the company's position with regard to the events they provide on Denbighshire County Council and Rhyl Town Council's behalf, namely the Air Show, the Summertime Weekender and the Christmas Pops and lights switch-on events.

***RESOLVED*** that the Town Clerk to call a special meeting in November following Denbighshire Leisure Limited's meeting with Denbighshire County Council at the end of October, to further discuss the events the Town Council contributes to with a view to next year's provision.

**60. OPEN SESSION**

The meeting continued in open, non-confidential session.

**61. MAYOR'S REPORT**

The Mayor submitted details of events she and the Deputy Mayor had attended over the past month, and referred particularly to the Work in Progress concert she had attended in Denbigh that she was very grateful to have been invited to.

The Deputy Mayor mentioned Holywell Town Council's Civic Service, which he had really enjoyed.

***RESOLVED*** that the report was received.

**62. 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>
1906	Denbighshire Leisure Ltd	Catering for Remembrance Sunday	810.00
1907	BJS Solutions	Replace x5 UPS units	636.00
1908	North Wales Tourism	Contribution to Rhyl Tourist Information Centre	8,100.00

1909	BJS Solutions	Renew anti-virus	359.88
1910	Sandra Williams	Translation costs	415.99
1911	Mayor of Rhuddlan's Charity	Tickets for charity event on 23 <sup>rd</sup> Nov 2004 x2	50.00
1912	NMWATC	Lunches for delegates on 18 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2024 x2	24.00
1913	Rhyl Fire Station Welfare Committee	Contribution to Bonfire & Fireworks 2024	5,000.00
1914	Sage & Co	Payroll services for Q2 2024/25	108.00
	<b>Total Schedule B</b>		<b>£15,503.87</b>

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

**63. ANNUAL RETURN 2023/24 – CONCLUSION OF AUDIT**

The Town Clerk referred to his report and to the council's audited Annual Return document (circulated with agenda), which he was pleased to report had been returned as unqualified, for members' approval.

**RESOLVED** that the Annual Return for 2023/24 was approved.

**64. ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2023/24**

The Town Clerk made reference to his and the Finance Officer's joint report and to the prepared Annual Financial Statements (Final Accounts) (circulated with agenda), for members' approval.

**RESOLVED** that the Financial Statements for 2023/24 were approved.

**65. CODE OF CONDUCT – MEMBER TRAINING**

The Town Clerk reported receipt of training sessions being provided by Denbighshire County Council and reminded members that they had to attend at least one Code of Conduct session during their term of office.

**66. MEMBER'S ITEM: CLOSURE OF CENTRAL (UNDERGROUND) CAR PARK**

Councillor A. J. Rutherford sought members' support for inviting Denbighshire County Council's Chief Executive Officer to a future meeting of the council to explain why Rhyl Town Council was not consulted on the proposal to close the car park, or even informed of the closure prior to it being announced publicly.

Councillor Rutherford added that it was particularly concerning at a time when the town council was being asked to make substantial financial contributions to keep certain public services going, with a view to keeping football in the town centre.

Councillors expressed their disappointment, and referred back to Denbighshire County Council's decision to put payment machines in at

Marine Lake car park not too long ago, again without consultation with the town council.

Councillors felt that the Charter protocols set out by Denbighshire County Council and signed up to by both councils were not being followed.

A member suggested that the matter also be raised at the next Rhyl Local Reference Group on 23<sup>rd</sup> October.

***RESOLVED*** that the Town Clerk to invite Denbighshire County Council's Chief Executive Officer, or relevant senior officer to a future meeting of council, and to ask for the rationale behind closing the car park to be provided to the town council prior to their attendance.

**67. 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.

**68. INSURANCE RENEWAL 2023-2024**

Further to the council's agreement to change the renewal date of the council's insurance cover from 1<sup>st</sup> June to 1<sup>st</sup> November, the Town Clerk referred to his and the Finance Officer's joint report (circulated with agenda) which was the usual report for members' approval.

***RESOLVED*** that the report was approved.

**69. MEETING PROTOCOLS**

The Town Clerk referred to the report circulated prior to tonight's meeting following a general feeling amongst members via comments to meeting chairs, that standards have slipped a little at hybrid meetings.

Councillor A. J. Rutherford, as Chair of the Finance and General Purposes Committee, felt that the standards previously observed at meetings prior to Covid, should be maintained to uphold a level of professionalism throughout.

***RESOLVED*** that the Town Clerk to include meeting conduct in the next review/update of the council's Standing Orders, and to add a standing item on all meeting agendas with regard to the importance of members' declaring personal and/or prejudicial interests at the outset of meetings.

**70. CLOSURE OF MEETING**

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

Mayor: .....

Date: .....