

At a meeting of the **FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE** held on Wednesday 5th February 2020 at the Civic Offices, Wellington Road Community Centre, Rhyl commencing at 6.00pm.

PRESENT

Councillor A. J. Rutherford (Chair)

Councillors J. Ball, B. Blakeley, Mrs J. Butterfield JP MBE, Mrs E. M. Chard, A. R. James, S. Johnson, B. Jones, K. R. Jones, Mrs D. L. King, B. Mellor, Mrs W. M. Mullen-James, Ms V. Roberts, T. Thomas, R. Turner and Miss C. L. Williams.

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

50. APOLOGIES

Apologies were submitted from Councillors Mrs J. Chamberlain-Jones, Mrs P. M. Jones, Ms J. L. McAlpine, P. Prendergast and Miss S. L. Roberts.

51. WELSH INDEX OF MULTIPLE DEPRIVATION (WIMD)

The Town Clerk advised that Ms Judith Greenhalgh had not yet arrived and suggested the above item be returned to once she did.

RESOLVED that the item be returned to when possible later on on the agenda.

52. PAYMENTS AND RECEIPTS REPORT (SCHEDULE A) – JANUARY 2020

The Chair referred to the Town Clerk’s report (circulated with agenda) detailing the schedule of payments made and income received.

Voucher No.	Supplier name	Amount £	Description of Goods & Services
908	BT	104.15	Line Rental
909	BT	396.04	Line Rental and Calls
907	Shire Leasing	337.33	Avaya Telephone System Lease payment Q4 19/20
910	HSBC	9.70	Bank Charges 17/11/19 to 16/12/19
911	Gunsmoke Communications	1,440.00	Events Management Fees for December 2019
912	RTC Staff	7,142.52	RTC Staff Salaries January 2020
913	HMRC	2,743.31	PAYE Deductions December 2019
914	Flintshire CC	4,290.48	Pension Contributions & Deficit Funding Dec 2019
716	Denbighshire CC	723.00	NNDR for Wellington Road Offices - Payment 10 of 10
723	Benefits Advice Shop	916.67	Part Time Appeals Officer 19/20 Payment 10 of 12
926	Denbighshire CC	32,622.00	Contribution to Rhyl Waterpark - 3 of 3 2019/20

Voucher No.	Supplier name	Amount £	Description of Goods & Services
928	Sage & CO	93.00	Payroll Fees October to December 2019
731	CAB	2,000.00	Energy Efficiency Officer - Payment 4 of 4
	Total payments	£52,818.20	

Category	Description	Amount
Interest Received	Santander 31 Day Notice Account	41.40
Interest Received	HSBC 7 Day Money Market	23.02
Interest Received	HSBC 7 Day Money Market	22.64
Interest Received	HSBC 7 Day Money Market	22.19
VAT	HMRC Refund for Quarter 3 (Oct-Dec 2019)	1,326.43
Interest Received	HSBC 7 Day Money Market	34.52
Interest Received	HSBC 7 Day Money Market	33.38
Mayors Fundraising	Mayors Charity Collections December 2019	421.12
Mayors Fundraising	Fish & Chip Supper Night – ticket sales	60.00
	Total income	1,984.70

RESOLVED that the report was approved.

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

Further to minute 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 No.	Supplier Name	Description of Service	Amount £
927	NMWATC	Lunches 3 delegates meeting 17/01/2020	48.00
929	Denbighshire CC	Stress Test Brackets and Repairs to lights	3,326.28
930	Denbighshire CC	Attend to hanging electrical box	27.94
931	T.R. Electrical Services	PAT Testing	92.00
932	Proarb Ltd	Christmas Tree 2019	1,680.00
933	Cllr E Chard	Mayoral Allowance 19/20 – Payment 3 of 3	433.00

934	Cllr D King	Deputy Mayoral Allowance 19/20 – Payment 3 of 3	133.00
935	Cllr E Chard	Senior Members Allowance 19/20 – Payment 3 of 3	167.00
936	Cllr D King	Senior Members Allowance 19/20 – Payment 3 of 3	167.00
937	Prestatyn Town Council	2 x Tickets for Mayor’s Valentines Event	20.00
938	Urdd Eisteddfod	Advert for Event at Rhyl Pavilion in February 2020	50.00
944	Rhuddlan Charity Account	2 x tickets for Mayor’s Charity Event 15/02/2020	40.00
Total Schedule B			£6,184.22

Emergency Payment – Voucher 927 - payment for the lunches was required prior to the event

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

FURTHER RESOLVED that Standing Orders be suspended to enable the Town Clerk to respond as a matter of urgency.

54. INVESTMENTS PERFORMANCE REPORT – APRIL-DECEMBER 2019

Further to min.no.73 of the meeting of Council held on 16th October 2019, the Town Clerk presented his and the Finance Officer’s joint report (circulated with agenda) advising of a £1,437 return on investments up until 31st December 2019, with a further £463 expected by 31st March 2020.

RESOLVED that the report was received.

55. ANNUAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY 2020/21

The Town Clerk referred to his and the Finance Officer’s joint report (circulated with agenda) submitted for members’ approval.

RESOLVED that the strategy was approved.

56. WELSH INDEX OF MULTIPLE DEPRIVATION (WIMD)

Further to minute no.98 of the meeting of council held on 18th December 2019, the Chair welcomed Ms Judith Greenhalgh (Chief Executive of Denbighshire County Council and Ms Nicola Kneale (Denbighshire County Council Strategic Planning Team Manager) to the meeting and invited them to address councillors.

Ms Greenhalgh began by saying that she and her officers were all saddened by the latest WIMD statistics for Rhyl, but added that there was some good news in terms of slight improvements in some areas, which had perhaps got lost in the overall headline due to having the most ground to make up since the last set of figures were published.

Ms Greenhalgh said that the results had galvanized her and her fellow officers and that they were determined to improve conditions and aspirations for the people of Rhyl.

Ms Kneale briefly summarized the Rhyl domains as follows:

Income – improvement since 2014 figures, but bigger strides in improvement are needed.

Employment – as Income above.

Health – figures for Rhyl are similar to those throughout Denbighshire.

Education – that the figures for Rhyl West LSOAs 1, 2 and 3 were particularly high, but there was hope of actual improvement since these figures had been taken from the 2011 Census (nine years ago) with much investment having gone into Rhyl since then.

Access to Services – that Rhyl was holding its own whilst more rural areas in the county had fared worse.

Housing – again a concern in Rhyl West LSOAs 1 and 2, but again these figures were based on the 2011 Census, so hopefully the picture was not as bad in reality.

Community Safety – high figures for Rhyl West LSOAs 1 and 2 in particular.

Physical Environment – concern in Rhyl South West 2 LSOA, due to households being at risk of flooding.

In response to members' comments the officers said that:

- They did not agree that all of the investment in Rhyl had been fruitless and that appointing Ms Nikki Jones (one officer) to address community cohesion in a town the size of Rhyl was paying lip service to the problem. They assured members that there were many dedicated, hard working Denbighshire County Council officers putting their heart and soul into Rhyl, not just one officer. That Ms Jones was a member of community development team, and stressed that a good amount of these figures were taken nine years ago.
- They agreed that working closer with Rhyl Town Councillors was key, and a reason why they had attended tonight's meeting.
- They couldn't see that a WIMD 'task and finish' group could be the answer, when there was already a Rhyl Local Reference Group that met regularly comprised of senior Denbighshire officers and Rhyl Town Councillors providing that link, but Ms Greenhalgh would take the suggestion back for further consideration.
- They would happily arrange for town councillors to meet up with Ms Jones to share information and ideas.
- They agreed that pushing ahead with the new Rhyl hospital would have a real positive impact and with a move away from permitting one bedroom homes in the town.
- Ms Greenhalgh referred to the new Police Inspector for the area, James Keene, who she was due to meet with next week, and suggested that be invited to attend a town council meeting to discuss the WIMD figures and how they were being addressed by the Police.
- SC2 being open all year round was never the intention.
- Drawing down revenue funding was a constant struggle and unfortunately led to budget cuts that impacted upon third party organisations like the Citizens Advice Bureau and the Benefits Advice Shop. Numerous capital funding streams had enabled the significant building projects in Rhyl.

- To the contrary, Ms Greenhalgh advised that she had recently visited Rhyl College and seen trades being taught alongside vocational subjects.
- Rhyl residents had reacted to the WIMD figures saying that the Rhyl they reflect doesn't 'feel' like the town we live in, indicating that the perception of residents is more positive than the figures would have us believe.
- Although Denbighshire County Council could not replicate the WIMD statistics as it didn't have access to the same data collection methods, they could work on their own data set, which would be slow and steady but worthwhile to reflect a more accurate set of results.
- They would not allow Rhyl's figures to be obscured by the wider Denbighshire picture.

Councillor T. Thomas, in his position as a Denbighshire County Council Cabinet member, advised that:

- the Public Protection Order (PPO) for the town centre was imminent, and would help to tackle the problem of anti-social behaviour.
- Housing improvements were underway via the planning process.

The Chair thanked Ms Greenhalgh and Ms Kneale for their attendance before they left the chamber.

RESOLVED that:

- The Town Clerk to produce the town council's own historical WIMD statistics to enable a more co-ordinated response to the latest report.*
- The Town Clerk to call a dedicated WIMD meeting in two months' time to facilitate a comprehensive understanding and debate on the matter, with councillors to pre-submit their questions.*

57. CHAIR OF THE RISK ASSESSMENT SUB-COMMITTEE'S ASSURANCE REPORT

Further to min.no.30 of the meeting held on 6th November 2019, and in the Chair, Councillor P. Prendergast's absence, the Town Clerk made reference to Councillor Prendergast's report (circulated with agenda) in accordance with the council's financial regulations.

RESOLVED that the report was received with thanks to Councillor Prendergast.

58. FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS TO 31ST DECEMBER 2019 AND FORECASTS FOR THE 2019/20 FINANCIAL YEAR

The Chair referred to the Town Clerk and the Finance Officer's joint report (circulated with agenda) showing performance against budget and reporting a healthy financial position.

RESOLVED that the report was received.

59. ANNUAL RETURN 2017/18 – CONCLUSION OF AUDIT

Further to min.no.86 of the meeting of Council held on 20th November 2019, the Town Clerk reported receipt of correspondence from the Welsh Government concluding the council's 2017/18 audit.

RESOLVED *that the correspondence was received.*

60. REQUEST FOR LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR FUNDING FOR CCTV SYSTEM

The Town Clerk explained that a letter had been requested by the partnership in support of an application for external funding it had recently made.

The town council's representative on the partnership, Councillor B. Mellor, advised that expenditure to the value of £300,000 was needed to renew cameras, 20 of which in Rhyl, and that the cameras would be positioned by North Wales Police for optimum results.

An application had been made to a windfarm's community fund for £50,000 and a letter of support would be greatly appreciated.

RESOLVED *that the pre-prepared letter written by the Town Clerk, was approved.*

61. CONSULTATION: DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED PAY AND DISPLAY TOWN HALL CAR PARK

The Town Clerk made reference to the above correspondence (circulated with agenda) relating to the former Crown Post Office site.

RESOLVED *that the proposal was approved.*

62. CONSULTATION: DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL – LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN ADDITIONAL CANDIDATE SITES

Further to min.no.43 of the meeting of Council held on 17th July 2019, the Town Clerk reported receipt of the above (circulated with agenda) advising of two local sites put forward for consideration for inclusion in the next Local Development Plan, land at Cwybr Fawr on Rhyl Road and land on the south east of Rhyl.

The Town Clerk added that an area within the land suggested to the south east of the town, was previously identified by Denbighshire County Council, as the only suitable area for a future cemetery, but that they had more recently advised that it was no longer suitable.

RESOLVED *that the Town Clerk to make another plea for a new cemetery in Rhyl and to ask why the area referred to above was now deemed unsuitable for this use.*

63. CONSULTATION: DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL – REVIEW OF CHARTER BETWEEN DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL AND CITY, TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCILS

The Town Clerk reported receipt of the above (circulated with agenda) and presented his suggested comments.

RESOLVED *that all of the suggestions were approved.*

64. INFORMATION ITEM: 75TH ANNIVERSARIES OF VE DAY AND VJ DAY

The Town Clerk advised that the Royal British Legion's poppy seller Mr Richard Kendrick was in the process of organising an event at Rhyl Rugby Club on Friday 8th May and hopefully at the Pavilion Theatre that evening to mark the 75th anniversary of VE Day.

Subject to the Strategic and Operational Planning (SOP) Committee's approval, the next planned Mayor's May Day would incorporate a VE Day theme.

Mr Kendrick was also trying to organise something on the high street to commemorate VJ Day in August that he would welcome support from the town council for.

RESOLVED *that the SOP Committee to consider marking VJ Day in some way.*

65. INFORMATION ITEM: DYSERTH ROAD CEMETERY

The Town Clerk reported that Mr Richard Kendrick had also informed him that St. Thomas' Church, all three cadet forces, girl guides, scouts, military charities and local people had come together to restore the cemetery.

A meeting was to take place at the Drill Hall at 2pm on Sunday 16th February, that councillors were more than welcome to attend.

66. INFORMATION ITEM: CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Councillor T. Thomas advised that the fayre usually held in Llandudno had been cancelled and would be coming to Rhyl the weekend of the 19th – 22nd November selling local products and quality crafts.

The stalls would be in Sussex St, High St and Queen's St with a music event upstairs in the town hall and that both would be free entry.

Denbighshire County Council would be contributing £90,000.

The Rhyl Business Improvement District (BID) would be deciding whether to support it or not on 18th February.

In response to a member's question, Councillor Thomas said that the last fayre in Llandudno hadn't been particularly successful, which was thought to be due to the entry price of £4.50 and to bad weather leading to low numbers.

67. MEMBER'S ITEM: REQUEST TO PRESENT TO THE TOWN COUNCIL

Due to time restraints and given the already lengthy meeting, Councillor J. Ball suggested that the above item be deferred to the next meeting.

RESOLVED that the above item was deferred to the next meeting.

68. MEMBER'S ITEM: REQUEST TO APPOINT A REPRESENTATIVE TO THE RHYL BUSINESS GROUP AND THE RHYL BID

Councillor T. Thomas sought members' support for the town council to appoint representatives to the Rhyl Business Group and the Rhyl BID.

The Town Clerk reminded members that they had declined an invitation to re-appoint to the business group in October 2019.

Again, due to time restraints, the Chair suggested that in-order to give appointing to the Rhyl BID proper consideration, the item be deferred to the next meeting.

RESOLVED that the invitation to appoint to the Rhyl Business Group was declined, with consideration of appointing to the Rhyl BID deferred to the next meeting.

69. MEMBER'S INFORMATION ITEM: ICAN MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS

Councillor A. R. James referred to the flyer circulated at the meeting relating to an awareness event taking place the following day between 11am and 3pm at the ICAN Hub Rhyl (the former Dewi Sant Centre), Clwyd Buildings, Clwyd Street.

70. MEMBER'S INFORMATION ITEM: SPRING CLEANS

Councillor K. R. Jones advised that the regular beach cleans were being extended to any area in need of a litter pick between 20th March and 13th April, and asked for members to identify places in their wards.

71. 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.

72. TOWN CENTRE GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

Further to min.no.121 of the meeting of Council held on 15th January 2020, the Town Clerk made reference to a confidential e-mail received from Denbighshire County Council's Ms Nicola Caie (circulated with agenda), outlining initial greening project ideas, the first two of which had been included in the funding bid, with the last to be incorporated into future tree planting across Rhyl.

RESOLVED that the draft ideas were received.

73. CLOSURE OF MEETING

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting.

Chair:

Date: