

At the **MEETING of COUNCIL**, held via video conference, on Wednesday 16th December 2020 commencing at 6.00pm.

PRESENT

Councillor Mrs E. M. Chard (Mayor)

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

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

26. APOLOGIES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Apologies received from Councillor Ms J. L. McAlpine.

Councillor Mrs W. M. Mullen-James advised members of the results of the Christmas Windows competition.

27. MINUTES

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

Meeting of Council - 18th November 2020 - Min.Nos. 16-25

Proposed by Councillor Mrs E. M. Chard and seconded by Councillor Miss C. L. Williams and **RESOLVED** *as a correct record.*

Planning Committee - 18th November 2020 - Min.Nos. 8-10
Council

Proposed by Councillor Mrs W. M. Mullen-James and seconded by Councillor Mrs D. L. King and **RESOLVED** *as a correct record.*

Planning Committee - 2nd December 2020 - Min.Nos. 11-13

Proposed by Councillor Mrs W. M. Mullen-James and seconded by Councillor Mrs D. L. King and **RESOLVED** *that the decisions were approved.*

To Confirm or otherwise:

Finance & General - 2nd December 2020 - Min. Nos.7-14
Purposes Committee

Proposed by Councillor A. J. Rutherford and seconded by Councillor Miss C. L. Williams and **RESOLVED** *as a correct record and confirmed for action.*

28. AUTHORISATION OF PAYMENTS/ADDITIONS TO APPROVED SUPPLIERS LIST

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 Town Clerk submitted schedule B (a list of non-regular payments to be released over the coming month) and details of one additional supplier to be added to the suppliers list after members' approval.

RESOLVED that the following was approved for payment and would be signed by two councillors in due course.

Schedule B payments for approval (24th November and 8th December 2020)

Supplier	Details of Supply	Voucher Number	Amount £
Sioned Graham-Cameron	Translation services	1083	£468.57
Delwedd Ltd	Increase enquiries mailbox	1084	£12.96
CIPFA	Professional fees 2010 for Andrew Owen Williams (Finance Officer)	1085	£332.00
WPS Hallam	Additional insurance premium for laptops, etc for home-working	1086	£28.19
Total Schedule B			£841.72

29. MEMBER'S ITEM: RHYL COVID ACTIVE TRAVEL CONSULTATION

Councillor B. Jones advised of a lack of understanding of the background to the Active Travel Covid Scheme in Rhyl by two town councillors, which had resulted in the reputational damage of the town council during its rollout.

Councillor Jones added that Welsh Government had contacted Denbighshire County Council (DCC) offering a grant for the works, with DCC officers having just one week to respond. He has suggested that for the future, schemes/projects be 'pigeon-holed' and matched-up to available funding streams as they are offered, so that they are ready-to-go.

He reported that DCC had brought the scheme before the Rhyl Members Area Group (MAG), where it received a good response and so was progressed to consultation stage. DCC sent an email to the town council accordingly. Once the consultation exercise was complete, the Rhyl MAG received a presentation on it and approved it. As a member of DCC's Cabinet, he had then signed it off.

Councillor Jones felt that Rhyl county councillors and town councillors were not singing from the same hymn sheet, which was not the fault of the town councillors, and exposed a flaw in the channels of communication between them.

In response to Councillor Jones, members said that:

- They were uncomfortable with Councillor Jones speaking as a Denbighshire County Councillor and not a Rhyl Town Councillor at tonight's meeting.

- The Rhyl MAG was a confidential group which therefore prevented the Rhyl County Councillors from sharing information with their town council counterparts, and that this was something that the Rhyl county councillors complained about on a regular basis.
- The town council was ignored as an email was not received by the Town Clerk, and in any case, a single email without follow-up was not a satisfactory way of communicating with the town council on a scheme of the level of impact this one has had in the town centre.
- The scheme had been brought before the Rhyl MAG on two occasions with the first having a feeling of 'fait a comple' about it and the second receiving a disquiet about the permanency of it.
- There was another £12,000 for Active Travel on the horizon, which should not be approached with the same haste.
- Rhyl town councillors felt insulted when they were no longer invited/trusted to attend the MAGs.
- Councillor Jones perhaps had a conflict of interest as a DCC Cabinet member and a member of the Rhyl BID.

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk to contact the Chair of the Rhyl MAG to ask that town councillors be invited to all future meetings.

30. **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.

31. **HONORARY FREEMAN / FREEWOMAN REPORT**

The Town Clerk briefly explained the history of the award, which was the highest the town council could bestow, and referred to his report (circulated with agenda), featuring four individuals nominated for initial consideration.

A member advised that he would like to withdraw his nomination, as the individual had passed away and the award could not be given posthumously.

The meeting went on to consider the remaining three nominations in turn.

After voting, the second nomination did not receive the required level of support and so was unsuccessful. The third was too close to reflect a clear level of support as two councillors had to leave the meeting during the item.

RESOLVED that the third and fourth nominations be deferred to the January meeting of Council for consideration.

32. **ANNUAL BUDGET / FIVE-YEAR FINANCIAL PLAN**

Further to the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 2nd December 2020, the Town Clerk sought formal approval of the budget recommendations and the five-year General Reserves Recovery Plan and to levy a precept for the financial year 2021/2022 and to advise Denbighshire County Council accordingly.

Having considered the recommendations of the Finance and General Purposes Committee members approved them and the recommended precept of £553,611. This would represent a 0% increase requiring a charge of £57.68 for a Band D property.

RESOLVED that the Council:

- (i) *approves and levies a precept of £553,611 (Five Hundred and Fifty Three Thousand, Six Hundred and Eleven Pounds) upon Denbighshire County Council for the financial year commencing 1st April 2021, Denbighshire County Council to be advised accordingly.*
- (ii) *notes the progress to achieve the Five-Year Reserves Recovery Plan as set out within the Town Clerk's report.*

33. **CHRISTMAS RECESS – DELEGATION OF EXECUTIVE POWERS**

The Town Clerk requested members' approval of the arrangements for the delegation of executive powers to the Town Clerk, in consultation with the appropriate chairs during the period from 17th December 2020 to 16th January 2021, as follows:

- Civic Matters - Mayor and / or Deputy Mayor
- Planning Matters - Chair and / or Vice-Chair of the Planning Committee
- SOP Committee - Chair and / or Vice-Chair of SOP Committee
- All other business - Chair and / or Vice-Chair of the Finance and General Purposes Committee

RESOLVED that the arrangements were confirmed.

34. **CLOSURE OF MEETING**

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

Mayor:

Date: