

At a meeting of the **FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE** held via video conference on Wednesday 2nd February 2022 commencing at 6.00pm.

PRESENT

Councillor A. J. Rutherford (Chair)

Councillors B. Blakeley, Mrs J. Butterfield JP MBE, Mrs E. M. Chard, A. R. James, B. Jones, K. R. Jones (from 6.15 pm), Mrs P. M. Jones, Mrs D. L. King, B. Mellor, Mrs W. M. Mullen-James, P. Prendergast, Miss S. L. Roberts, Ms V. Roberts, T. Thomas (from 6.39 pm), Mrs M. Walker and Miss C. L. Williams (from 6.15 pm).

Mr G. J. Nickels – Town Clerk

69. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor J. Ball, Mrs J. Chamberlain-Jones, and Ms. J. McAlpine and Miss H. J. Windus – Deputy Town Clerk

70. PAYMENTS AND RECEIPTS REPORT (SCHEDULE A) JANUARY 2022

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
1299	Shire Leasing	337.33	Avaya Telephone System Lease Rental 21/22 4 of 4
1300	BT	512.34	Line Rental & Maintenance & Call Charges
1304	HSBC	8.00	Bank Charges 17 November 2021 to 16 December 2021
1140	Denbighshire CC	736.00	NNDR Wellington Rd Civic Offices – Payment 10 of 10
1168	Benefits Advice Shop	916.66	Appeals Officer Payments 9 of 12 2021/22
1309	Gunsmoke Communications	1,600.00	Management Fee Dec 2021
1310	HMRC	2,794.69	PAYE Deductions Dec 2021
1311	Flintshire CC (Clywd Pension Fund)	4,294.23	Pension Contributions & Deficit Funding Dec 2021
1312	Staff Salaries	7,362.97	Staff Salaries Jan 2022
	Total payments	18,562.22	

Category	Description	Amount
Santander	Interest on 31 Day Notice Account	23.57
HSBC	Interest on 7 Day Deposit	0.61
HSBC	Interest on 7 Day Deposit	0.61
HSBC	Interest on 7 Day Deposit	0.61
HSBC	Interest on 7 Day Deposit	0.61
Rhyl BID	Reimbursement of Frames Christmas Windows	23.50
WPS Insurance	Refund of Insurance Premium – Bonfire Event – Not required	343.05
	Total income	392.56

RESOLVED that the report was approved.

71. 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).

Voucher No.	Supplier Name	Description of Service	Amount £
1325	Office Depot (Viking Direct)	Copier Paper	£159.11
1326	Sage & Co	Payroll Services – October to December 2021	£93.00
1327	Rhyl Community Association	Management Fee for Tynewydd CC – Quarter 4	£2,625.00
1328	BJS Solutions	Audit-Visual Equipment for Council Chamber	£9,412.80
1329	BJS Solutions	Replacement Laptop Battery	£95.60
1330	BJS Solutions	Renew 5 Antivirus Licences	£179.94
Total			£12,565.45

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

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

72. APPOINTMENT OF INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL AUDITORS FOR 2022/23

The Town Clerk referred to his and the Finance Officer's joint report (circulated separately from the agenda) on the appointment of both the Internal and External Auditors, JDH Business Services (Internal) and the Wales Audit Office (External), and reminded members of the need for them to declare any personal or business interests they might have with both.

RESOLVED that the appointments of JDH Business Services was approved and the Welsh Audit Office was noted.

73. INVESTMENTS PERFORMANCE REPORT – OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2021

The Chair referred to the Town Clerk and the Finance Officer's report (circulated with agenda) advising that the total interest earned from the town council's five accounts for the above period was £81.10.

RESOLVED that the report was noted.

74. ANNUAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY 2022/23

The Chair referred to the Town Clerk and the Finance Officer's report (circulated with agenda) seeking members' approval of the 2021/22 strategy.

RESOLVED that the Annual Investment Strategy for 2021/22 was approved.

75. FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS TO 31 DECEMBER 2021 AND FORECASTS FOR THE 2021/22 FINANCIAL YEAR

The Town Clerk presented his and the Finance Officer's report (circulated with agenda) forecasting a deficit of £75,000 for 2021/22 which was primarily due to the previous decision of Council to repay an £100,000 off the SC2 loan and to restructure the payments over a 20year period going forward.

The report also identified the detailed anticipated expenditure to be incurred prior to year-end and advised that once the final financial positions were known a further report would be submitted relating to the recommended movement in the Council's named reserves.

The Chair placed on record his appreciation for the work of the Finance Officer in preparing the reports and statements.

RESOLVED that the report was approved.

**[The following members joined the meeting during the following item:
Councillors K.R. Jones, T. Thomas, and Miss C. Williams]**

76. CONSULTATION: DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL – STREET TRADING

The Chair referred to the consultation document (circulated with agenda) which had been brought to the Council's attention by Councillor Mellor who served on the County Council Committee reviewing the street trading policy. The Chair invited Councillor Mellor to address the meeting.

Councillor Mellor advised that the draft policy was currently being reviewed and that specifically the County Council were seeking the Town Council's views in respect of the streets listed within Annex A and identified as "part prohibited". Councillor Mellor clarified that the County Council were not aware of what actual areas of the identified streets should be classes as prohibited or consent street and were therefore seeking the Town Council's views.

Members felt that the report would have benefited from the inclusion of a map showing the prohibited streets. – The Town Clerk advised that it was likely that Annex A was a reproduction of a schedule originally prepared by the former Rhuddlan Borough Council and that the original order would have contained a detailed Map together with the explanation for the reasons why certain streets were defined as consent or prohibited. He further advised that these records should be retained by the County Council as the successor authority.

Members felt that the report raised issues over the re-introduction of street markets into Rhyl and that where street trading was to be permitted care should be taken to avoid the stalls selling produce available and in competition to nearby

permanent retailers. It was also considered that the use of generators by traders should be strictly controlled and only permitted where they did not cause a nuisance in terms of noise or pollution to permanent retailers and pedestrians particularly at sites in the vicinity of where foodstuffs were sold.

Concern was expressed at the level of requirements imposed by Annex D relating to the suitability of persons to be street traders. A number of members considered that the requirements relating to DBS checks were excessive for the purpose and took little account of the Rehabilitation of Offenders legislation.

Councillor Mellor advised that the draft policy would be submitted to the County Council's Licensing Committee scheduled to be held on 2nd March 2022

A Member advised that the County Council wished to approve the policy prior to the May elections.

It was agreed that those Members of the Town Council who also served on that Committee as County Councillors would relay the above concerns at that meeting and report on the outcome to the next FGP meeting.

RESOLVED accordingly.

77. CANCELLATION OF MEETING

The Town Clerk referred to the meetings of the Finance and General Purposes Committee and Planning Committee scheduled for 4th May 2022 and sought Members instructions given its close proximity to the forthcoming Local Government Elections.

RESOLVED that the meetings be cancelled.

78. CLOSURE OF MEETING

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

Chair:

Date: