

At the hybrid **MEETING of COUNCIL**, on Wednesday 16th March 2022 commencing at 6.00pm.

PRESENT

Councillor Mrs D. L. King (Mayor)

Councillors B. Blakeley, Mrs J. Butterfield JP MBE, Mrs J. Chamberlain-Jones, Mrs E. M. Chard, A. R. James, B. Jones, K. R. Jones, J. McAlpine, B. Mellor, Mrs W. M. Mullen-James, P. Prendergast, Ms V. Roberts, T. Thomas, Mrs M. Walker and Miss C. L. Williams.

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

118. APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Councillors J. Ball, A. S. Johnson and A. J. Rutherford.

119. MINUTES

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

Council - 16th February 2022 - Min. Nos.111-117

With regard to min.no.116 (Parking Permit for the Mayor), Councillor B. Mellor asked if any progress had been made.

The Town Clerk advised that he had received a reply from Denbighshire County Council and the matter was in hand. Once concluded, he would report back.

Proposed by Councillor Mrs D. L. King and seconded by Councillor B. Mellor and **RESOLVED** as a correct record.

Planning Committee - 16th February 2022 - Min. Nos. 47-49

Proposed by Councillor Mrs W. M. Mullen-James and seconded by Councillor Ms J. McAlpine and **RESOLVED** as a correct record.

Planning Committee - 2nd March 2022 - Min. Nos. 50-53

With reference to min.no.52 (Applications 45/2021/0738 – 7 Llys Walsh, 45/2021/0739 – 1 Lon Taylor and 45/2021/0740 – 3 Lon Taylor), the Town Clerk reported that Local Planning Authority were in support of the applications.

Councillor Mrs Butterfield commented that she was disappointed to hear that the Local Planning Authority were in support of the applications, and that she and her fellow County Councillors would take this up with the Authority.

Proposed by Councillor Mrs W. M. Mullen-James and seconded by Councillor Ms J. McAlpine and **RESOLVED** as a correct record.

To Confirm or otherwise:

Finance & General - 2nd March 2022 - Min. Nos. 79-87
Purposes Committee

Proposed by Councillor B. Mellor and seconded by Councillor Mrs W. M. Mullen-James and **RESOLVED** as a correct record and confirmed for action.

120. PRESENTATION: DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL – WILDFLOWER MEADOW PROJECT

Further to min. no.104 of the meeting held on 19th January 2022, the Mayor welcomed Mr Liam Blazey, Biodiversity Officer, Denbighshire County Council to the meeting and invited him to address members.

Mr Blazey duly responded and informed that:

- The project aim was to introduce seed banks across Denbighshire, working with City, Town and Community Councils, community groups, schools and anybody wanting wildflower meadows on their land.
- The project was part of Bionet which was working with the four counties in North East Wales (Denbighshire, Flintshire, Conwy and Wrexham) with 710 grasslands identified as areas suitable for expansion.
- After a policy change in 2019, 78% of the rural road verge network within North East Wales was now dedicated to wildflower meadows, which would be linked throughout the counties.
- Denbighshire is impoverished when it comes to grasslands as most were converted to agricultural land and no longer hold native species, but the expansion of the rural road verge network was hoped to address this.
- After just three years of being managed, Beach Road West in Prestatyn is a brilliant example of a coastal wildflower meadow, and is the best he had ever seen.
- 435 sites had been identified for wildflower meadows and were in the process of being visited to check the accuracy of the map.
- They were contacted quite regularly by other councils and more recently by the Cairngorms National Park who are all keen to replicate our work.
- Splash Point, Hilton Drive, Walnut Crescent, Maes Y Gog, Llys Brenig Park, the Rugby Club, Coronation Gardens, Violet Grove, Bryn Cwnin, Cambrian Walk, Clos Gladstone and Marine Lake were all potential sites in Rhyl for meadows, subject to map verification and further discussions with DCC Streetscene.
- Significant increases in native species were already being recorded in the areas already being managed. One in particular, the Toothed Medic can now be found in Prestatyn and is the first in Wales to be recorded.

- As coastal areas the Splash Point and Marine Lake sites were of huge importance for wildflower meadows in Denbighshire, and could be home to the rarest of plants if managed correctly.

In response to members' questions and comments, Mr Blazey advised that:

- Native wildflowers would grow where they were given the opportunity to, and not cutting grass every two weeks provided that opportunity.
- The plan was to collect seeds and grow them in a nursery in St. Asaph to be planted out across the county, although coastal flowers were quite niche so should be focussed on coastal sites as they would struggle on inland areas.
- How the seeds get there was something of a mystery and sheer luck.
- The reason why the designated wildflower site on Marine Drive was unpopulated was because DCC cut the grass every month and therefore were preventing them from developing. With a new Streetscene Area Manager, he was hopeful that this would stop to allow the wildflowers to seed and grow.
- He would welcome working with the town council's Grounds Maintenance Sub-Committee if it identified suitable sites for meadows and would source the seeds. This was already underway in other areas as part of the Bee Friendly scheme.
- Parts of Marine Lake have the potential to provide a stunning display after year three of being properly managed.
- The meadows in Flintshire referred to are, unfortunately not native to the area, and in fact come from abroad, so offer nothing in terms of nature conservation. Here in the UK we have just 1% left of our native meadows, so it is unsurprising that we do not recognise them.
- They were about conservation. They were not gardeners and horticulture was not a part of their work. Sadly, Wales fell bottom in the UK in terms of biodiversity, and this was what the work was addressing.
- The reintroduction of native species takes time and after three years, as we can already see, they look stunning and last for hundreds of years.
- The bunded area of Marine Lake that ran along Wellington Road would not be included so as not to hide the lake from the Marina Quay retail park, and the area around the old shed would also not be included at the request of the Marine Lake Users Forum, so that they would introduce wildflowers there if they wanted that.
- He would look at the area along the railway track on Juniper Way as a possible site.
- The native Black Poplar tree could be trialled at Marine Lake, although the saline water might be a problem? They currently had 30 that were producing roots and so some could be tried there.

The Mayor thanking Mr Blazey for his comprehensive and enthusiastic presentation which members were all in favour of.

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk to send Mr Blazey's email address to members for them to contact him with any sites they think might benefit from wildflower meadows in their wards.

121. MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor referred to the list of engagements (circulated with agenda) over the past month and in particular to the 'Break The Bias' campaign at the North Wales Women's Centre in Rhyl, which was a fantastic event highlighting pay inequality for women.

The Deputy Mayor reported that she had attended Holywell Town Council's Civic Service, which was lovely and had been made very welcome.

122. SCHEDULE OF REGULAR PAYMENTS (SCHEDULE A) FOR 2022/23

The Town Clerk referred to his report (circulated with agenda) detailing the schedule of payments to be made for the 2022/23 financial year and seeking authority to spend for the items listed in Appendix A.

Supplier & Description	Amount £	Frequency
RTC staff net salaries	9,058	Monthly
HMRC salary deductions	3,000	Monthly
Flintshire CC Clwyd Pension Scheme	3,767	Monthly
Denbighshire CC – Council Tax (10 months)	770.00	Monthly
HSBC bank charges	20.00	Monthly
BT telephones – general	863.00	Quarterly
BT telephones – internet	126.00	Quarterly
Shire Leasing – Avaya phone system	337.00	Quarterly
Gunsmoke Communications – PR & Events	1,600	Monthly
Benefits Advice – Appeals Officer	917.00	Monthly
Citizens Advice – Fuel Poverty Officer	2,000	Quarterly
Denbighshire County Council SC2 loan	32,037	3 per annum
Denbighshire County Council CCTV Partnership	15,000	Annually

RESOLVED that Schedule A and the authority to spend on the items listed as Appendix A were approved.

123. 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 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 (22nd February – 10th March 2022)

Voucher No.	Supplier name	Amount £	Description of Goods & Services
1366	Design 2 Print Ltd	489.00	Printing of the Rhyl Read
1367	Bernie's Miles of Smiles	200.00	Facepainting for Mayor's March Day event
1368	Cllr J. L. McAlpine	15.30	Deputy Mayoral expenses for Feb 2022
1369	Gunsmoke Communications	320.00	Fees for Mayor's March Day event
1370	Flying Colours Entertainment Ltd	972.00	Artistes for Mayor's March Day event
1371	Denbighshire CC	3,823.00	Wellington Rd CC service charges – Q4 of 2021/22
1372	Viking Direct (Office Depot)	22.63	Stationery
1373	Llandudno Mayor's Charity	60.00	2x Tickets for Charity Dinner on 11 th March 2022
1374	Blachere UK Ltd	3,260.02	Repairs to illuminations
1375	Gunsmoke Communications	20.00	Daffodils for St. Davids Day event
1376	Amazon UK	69.99	Table & chairs set for use at events
1377	Translation – Rhyl Read	42.11	Translation of Rhyl Read
1378	Translation services	202.47	Translation services
1379	Leaflets & Posters for Mayor's March Day event	231.00	Leaflets & posters for Mayor's March Day event
1380	Contribution towards Christmas 2021 event	4,041.00	Contribution towards Christmas 2021 event
1381	Illuminations contract 2021/22	12,444.00	Illuminations contract 2021/22
	Total payments	£26,212.52	

Emergency & Card Payments: One emergency payment was made (Voucher No. 1373 refers) and one payment was made with the RTC card (Voucher No. 1376 refers).

With regard to Voucher No. 1381, the Town Clerk advised that as yet he had not received an invoice for the illuminations contract but that the payment needed to be paid before the end of this financial year, so asked for authority to make the payment as soon as it came in, subject to consultation with the Chair of the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

RESOLVED that the schedule was approved for payment, and would be signed by two councillors in due course, with authority granted to the Town Clerk in consultation with the Chair of the Finance and General Purposes Committee re: Voucher No.1381.

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

124. ANNUAL RISK REVIEW 2021/22 AND FORWARD PLAN 2022/23

The Town Clerk referred to the Risk Assessment Sub-Committee's report (circulated with agenda) outlining the work undertaken by the sub-committee over 2021/22 and its proposed forward plan for 2022/23 for members' approval.

The Town Clerk added the sub-committee's workload was significant and thanked its members for their continued commitment.

Members also expressed their thanks to the Town Clerk.

RESOLVED that the review and forward plan were approved.

125. ADDITIONAL MEMBER'S ITEM: WELLFED

Councillor Mrs J. Butterfield JP MBE advised that she had recently been made aware of a social benefit company called WellFed run by Clwyd Alyn in partnership with Flintshire County Council, and was an alternative model to food banks.

WellFed provided healthy, cooked food to those in food poverty and Councillor Butterfield sought members' support for inviting representatives from the company to provide the town council with a presentation to advise members of the full extent of their work.

RESOLVED that the request was approved and for Councillor Butterfield to provide contact details to the Town Clerk.

126. MEMBER'S ITEM: PARKING ON THE PROMENADE

Councillors K. R. Jones and B. Mellor referred to the plans Denbighshire County Council had had to introduce a bund along the promenade to prevent a repeat of last summer, when caravans and motorhomes had parked on the grassed areas.

They advised that on being put to Denbighshire County Council's Strategic Investment Group, the group had determined not to fund the prevention scheme.

Councillors Jones and Mellor said that they had been contacted by a ward resident, as had their fellow Ward Councillor T. Thomas, asking what was being done to prevent the same happening again as we approach the summer months.

Councillor Thomas advised that he was hopeful that a simple wooden post scheme would be introduced, which was more cost effective and was residents' preferred option, as it would have minimal impact on their outlook.

RESOLVED that Councillor Thomas to keep members informed of any developments.

127. 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.

128. CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES

To receive the following minutes (circulated with agenda) for information and to approve the recommendations contained therein:

Strategic & Operational - 14th February 2022 - Min.Nos 25-30
Planning (SOP) Committee

Risk Assessment - 28th February 2022 - Min.Nos 45-52
Sub-Committee

RESOLVED that the minutes and the recommendations contained therein, were approved.

129. TRANSFER OF TYNEWYDD COMMUNITY CENTRE

The Town Clerk referred to the report of the Risk Assessment Sub-Committee (circulated separately to the agenda) advising that the transfer documents had been received, but that confirmation of the town council having fulfilled all of its statutory obligations was still outstanding. As such, the sub-committee was recommending that Council authorises the Town Clerk and the Mayor (in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the sub-committee) to sign the transfer documents upon receipt of the confirmation to enable the transfer to complete before 31st March 2022.

RESOLVED that the recommendation was approved.

[Councillors B. Jones and T. Thomas declared a personal interest in the above item due to being members of the Rhyl Community Association, and vacated the meeting, via the virtual waiting room, taking no further part in discussions or voting thereon]

130. ADDITIONAL CONFIDENTIAL ITEM: PROPOSED OFFICE RELOCATION

The Town Clerk reported that whilst the move to 26 Wellington Road was progressing, an alternative building had recently become empty, and that he had registered the town council's interest in it with Denbighshire County Council, as it was put forward as a potential consideration by members back in May 2021.

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk to arrange a site visit for all members prior to the April Council meeting if possible. If not, then the visit would be deferred until after the elections in May, for the new town council's benefit.

131. CLOSURE OF MEETING

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

Mayor:

Date:16.03.2021.....