

At a hybrid **MEETING of COUNCIL** held on Wednesday 16th November 2022, commencing at 6.00pm.

PRESENT

Councillor Mrs D. L. King (Mayor)

Councillors Mrs J. Butterfield JP MBE, Mrs J. Chamberlain-Jones, Mrs E. M. Chard, Mrs J. M. Evans, A. R. James, Ms J. L. McAlpine, Mrs W. M. Mullen-James, P. Prendergast, Miss S. L. Roberts, Ms V. Roberts, A. J. Rutherford, D. Simmons, A. Walker and Miss C. L. Williams.

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

70. APOLOGIES

Apologies for non-attendance were received on behalf of Councillors Mrs M. A. Blakeley-Walker, S. Feeney, K. R. Jones, Mrs P. M. Jones and *B. Mellor.

*unable to connect

71. MINUTES

To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the following Council and committee meetings (copies enclosed):

Meeting of Council - 19th October 2022 - Min. Nos: 57-69

The Town Clerk advised that min.no.68 appeared twice and would be amended to read min.no.68A and min.no.68B.

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

Planning Committee - 19th October 2022 - Min. Nos: 25-27

Proposed by Councillor Ms J. L. McAlpine and seconded by Councillor Mrs J. Chamberlain-Jones and **RESOLVED** as a correct record.

Planning Committee - 2nd November 2022 - Min. Nos: 28-30

Proposed by Councillor Ms J. L. McAlpine and seconded by Councillor D. Simmons and **RESOLVED** as a correct record.

To confirm or otherwise:

Finance & General Purposes Committee - 2nd November 2022 - Min.Nos: 30-40

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

72. PRESENTATION: RHIANNON WYN HUGHES MBE, FRSA WICKED WALES INTERNATIONAL YOUTH FILM FESTIVAL – A CREATIVE HUB FOR RHYL

Further to min.no.26 of the meeting of the finance and General Purposes Committee held on 2nd November 2022, the Mayor welcomed Rhiannon Wyn Hughes MBE and Hannah Rowan from the West Rhyl Young People's Project and inviting them to address members:

Ms Hughes thanked the town council for having Ms Rowan and herself attend the meeting and advised that Wicked Wales and the West Rhyl Young People's Project had worked together for some years now and were looking to work closer on this project.

Ms Hughes went on to advised that:

- They were coming to the town council first as its councillors represented every ward in Rhyl and were very much looking for the town council's involvement and advise in these early stages.
- They had worked with local young people for 30 years now and have more recently moved into film and media, having just launched a film festival.
- Film and media is an industry with chronic skill shortages but that delivers well paid jobs, so is something of a 'no brainer' in terms of providing good opportunities for local young people.
- We are serious about this project and have secured funding to commission the services of a consultancy company who will reporting very soon.
- We will keep the town council fully informed throughout, but would like to ask how the town council can be involved, alongside many other Rhyl groups.
- Wales is enjoying much success in TV and film now and Rhyl has as much talent as any other area, but not the equality of opportunity and that's where we want to come in.
- We are looking for a venue to be a one-stop shop for all types of performance. Nothing fancy, just a good size space to accommodate the arts, including bands and gaming and a place to meet with the industry to learn and develop.
- We launched virtual file studios in April of this year and can see that the level of talent and need is very real.
- We have made a few films and one of them has won a documentary award in Wrexham and has been shortlisted for UK recognition, promoting Rhyl nationally and internationally.
- The Town Hall in Rhyl is our festival home. This year's festival had limited guests from Serbia and Sweden over a period of four days and with them brought a conservative estimate of £10,000 into the Rhyl economy.
- We are using the Town Hall and the West Rhyl Young People's Project premises now and will continue to do so, but if we want to do this properly and make a

difference, then we need a large flexible space of our own as a North Wales facility.

In response to members questions and comments, Ms Hughes and Ms Rowen advised that:

- They were looking for a box that could fit a 50 seater performing space, a refreshment area for networking, small studios for editing and recording and for people to come in and enjoy affordable entertainment.
- The hope was that other 'creatives' currently working in isolation would also come together to work collaboratively.
- During lockdown I raised £80,000 for the Rhyl Little Theatre, which was mainly used to improve the heating. We had an office there, but had to vacate as the theatre decided to focus on theatre rather than film and theatre's now doing well, which we're pleased about.
- We have contacted the Scala but unfortunately there are no gaps in their film programme to accommodate us.
- We survive by creating and using freelancers. Half a dozen because of the work we are doing but we would prefer to build our own workforce in this area.
- We are looking for a centre that can work with the industry and therefore school facilities are out because they would only be available in the evenings.
- They were talking to S4C this morning, who are showing our festival and the work we have done with a local young lad and Children in Need.
- They would look into all of the suggestions for possible suitable venues.

The Mayor thanked Ms Hughes and Ms Rowan for their time and wished them the very best for what sounds to be a brilliant project.

73. MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor referred to events the Mayor and Deputy Mayor had attended on behalf of the Council over the past month (circulated with agenda), particularly to the Community Bonfire and Fireworks display which was a very successful evening.

The Deputy Mayor said that the Armistice Day service in Rhyl was well attended and well organised and that she had thoroughly enjoyed the Wicked Wales International Youth Film Festival launch and reception at the Town Hall.

The Deputy Mayor added that she had been presented with commemorative Welsh slate at the film launch, which she would leave in the Mayor's Parlour.

74. 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 be signed by two councillors in due course.

| Supplier | Details of Supply | Voucher Number | Amount £ |
|----------------------------|--|----------------|------------------|
| Canda Copiers | Photocopier rental | 1528 | 259.32 |
| Canda Copiers | Photocopier charges | 1529 | 212.44 |
| Highline Electrical Ltd | Stress testing for eye bolts (illuminations) | 1530 | 825.77 |
| Pottles Premier Plants Ltd | Autumn/Winter plants | 1531 | 1,206.00 |
| NMWATC | Meals for 3 attendees at meeting on 21/10/22 | 1532 | 63.00 |
| Lawnsience | Treatment at Remembrance Gardens | 1533 | 40.00 |
| GoToMyPC | Annual subscriptions for 4 users (staff) | 1534 | 1,862.96 |
| Cllr D. L. King | Mayoral expenses for Oct 2022 | 1535 | 321.10 |
| Gunsmoke Communications | Editorial work for Rhyl Read | 1536 | 2,000.00 |
| Amazon | Stationary order | 1537 | 479.01 |
| Rhyl Little Theatre | 2 x tickets for event on 18/11/22 | 1538 | 24.00 |
| Total Schedule B | | | £7,293.60 |

Emergency Payments: None

Card Payments: Four payments made to GoToMyPC (all under Voucher No.1534) for the annual charges to facilitate home working / access to systems for staff.

Payments were also made for Voucher No.1537 and Voucher No.1538

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

75. RHYL TOWN COUNCIL – MEMBERS AND STAFF TRAINING PLAN

The Town Clerk referred to his report (circulated with agenda) in relation to the new statutory duty on Town and Community Councils under Section 67 of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act, 2021, to produce a plan online following each full election of the Council.

The Town Clerk put three questions to members.

- a) Does the Council believe that its staff are suitably qualified to fulfil its statutory obligations and to operate efficiently?

- b) Does the Council (Elected Members) have sufficient collective knowledge and experience to be able to operate effectively following the May 2022 elections?
- c) Do individual members have specific training needs that they would like to have addressed by the Council?

After some debate it was **RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk to email all members to ask what (if any) training they felt they would benefit from, and also to ask the same question of the staff members and report back.

76. SOUND RADIO WALES

The Town Clerk reported receipt of an invitation from the above (circulated with agenda) who serve North East Wales and are based in Towyn in Conwy.

The invitation is for the Mayor, but unfortunately neither she or the Deputy Mayor are available to attend and so the invitation was offered to any other member to attend on the Mayor's behalf.

RESOLVED that the invitation be politely declined.

77. ADDITIONAL ITEM: TORCHLIT WINTERFEST PARADE, CONWY

The Town Clerk reported receipt of an invitation from Conwy Town Council for the Mayor to attend the above, but unfortunately both she and the Deputy Mayor are unavailable, so once again the invitation was offered to any other member to attend on the Mayor's behalf.

RESOLVED that Councillor A. Walker would attend.

78. INFORMATION ITEM: DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL COMMUTED SUMS

The Town Clerk reported receipt of an email relating to the above (circulated with agenda) advising that the level of Commuted Sums available for Rhyl is £11,907.91, for members' information, should they know of any suitable projects that might like to apply.

79. 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.

80. ESTABLISHMENT – IMPLEMENTATION OF COST OF LIVING PAY AWARD

The Town Clerk reported that an agreement had been reached for the local government pay award which equated to an increase of between 3.5% and 7% dependent on where each staff member was on the salary scale point.

Although the town council had not budgeted for a pay award above 3%, the extra cost could be accommodated within existing budget savings.

RESOLVED that the pay award was approved, back-dated from April 2022.

[The Town Clerk and Deputy Town Clerk both declared their personal and prejudicial interest in the above item but were instructed to remain within the Chamber by the Chairman to respond to Members questions if required]

81. RISK ASSESSMENT SUB-COMMITTEE

The Town Clerk advised of a concern raised by the Chair of the Risk Assessment Sub-Committee that potentially left the town council a little vulnerable in terms of future allegations made against the town council and / or the office of Mayor, particularly around social media.

RESOLVED that the Risk Assessment Sub-Committee to have delegated authority to seek legal advice to assist with any issues in the future.

82. CLOSURE OF MEETING

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

Mayor:

Date: