

At the **ANNUAL MEETING of COUNCIL** held on Wednesday 10th May 2023 via hybrid meeting, commencing at 6.00pm.

PRESENT

Councillor Mrs D. L. King (Mayor)

Councillors M. Blackwell, Mrs M. Blakeley-Walker, Mrs J. Butterfield JP MBE, Mrs J. Chamberlain-Jones, Mrs E. M. Chard, Ms J. M. Evans, S. Feeney, A. R. James, K. R. Jones, Mrs P. M. Jones, Ms J. L. McAlpine, B. Mellor, 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.

Gareth Nickels – Town Clerk

1. OPENING OF MEETING & APOLOGIES

The incoming Mayor's Chaplain, Reverend Chris Spencer commenced proceedings by leading all those wishing to take part, in prayer.

Apologies for non-attendance were received on behalf of Miss H. J. Windus - Deputy Town Clerk.

The Mayor welcomed all to the meeting, particularly the civic guests and representatives of her charities.

2. ELECTION OF MAYOR AND INSTALLATION

Councillor King provided the meeting with a resume of her year in office and expressed appreciation for having been assigned the honour of being Mayor of Rhyl and thanked Father Nnamah (her Chaplain); her family and friends for their much needed and appreciated support throughout her year in office and particularly mentioned her consort Councillor P. Prendergast for his unyielding support, the Deputy Mayor Councillor Ms J. L. McAlpine, and her fellow councillors.

Councillor King then provided the meeting with an overview of her year in office and highlighted the following engagements:

- The commemoration of the platinum jubilee of the late Queen Elizabeth II;
- The British Final of the One Act Plays held at the Pavilion Theatre;
- The unveiling of the sensory garden at Ysgol Christchurch;
- The raising of the Green Flag Community Award at the Marine Lake
- Attendance at the North Wales Women's Centre "Orange Day"
- The Rhyl Air Show
- Launching the charity fundraiser for the "Pantri Bach" initiative at Ysgol Christchurch to address the growing need for foodbanks;
- With local school children to leave a mark on the steel beams to be installed at the Queen's Market redevelopment;
- Attendance at the event to mark the 40th Anniversary of the Glan Clwyd Branch of the British Heart Foundation;
- Supported events organised by the Rhyl BID initiative;
- Adjudicated the Town Council's Christmas Windows Competition.

- Her final engagement to host the Rhyl Mayors May Day that jointly celebrated the coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla.

Councillor King then asked the meeting to remember the indelible people we had lost during the year particularly the sad passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and Councillor Brian Blakeley, a stalwart of the community who devoted his life to representing the people of Rhyl.

In summary the Mayor expressed how her year had been a humbling experience enveloping herself into the heart and soul of the Rhyl community and witnessing the outstanding contributions made by our diverse residents in uniting together to secure a bright and positive future for the town.

Councillor King announced that during her year she had raised £1,126.08 for North Wales Women's Centre, and £563.04 each for the Alzheimer's Society Cymru and the RNLI.

Certificates acknowledging the amounts were presented to:

Ms Lucy Chard & Ms Katrina Jones representing the North Wales Women's Centre;

Mr Andrew Hall representing the Alzheimer's Society; and

Mr Callum Robinson representing the Royal National Lifeboat Institute

Councillor King then paid tribute to Councillor Mrs P. M. Jones who had indicated her intention to retire from the Council at the conclusion of this meeting.

Councillor King said that although she hasn't known Councillor Jones for as long as many of her fellow councillors have, she had the great pleasure of knowing her since she became a town councillor in 2017.

She went on to say that Councillor Jones was a well-seasoned councillor with nearly 30 years' experience under her belt, so was well qualified to mentor her back in 2017 and tell her everything she needed to know about the Cefndy ward and its residents.

Some of Councillor Jones' legacy achievements have been developing free school meals for children in one of the most deprived areas of the town, the setting up of the Phoenix Centre and establishing the playing fields and the community centre.

Councillor Jones had worked tirelessly for the betterment of others and campaigned for social justice throughout the last 30 years, and never has a bad word to say about anyone.

She is held in the highest esteem by all who know her. She is people person with a high standard of emotional intelligence, which is illustrated in all that she does, whether with her family or as part of her council work.

Councillor King said that if she could achieve a fraction of what Councillor Jones has, then she will be very happy.

In response, Councillor Jones thanked Councillor King for her very kind words, and thanked all of her colleagues past and present for their friendship.

Councillor Jones said it was a sad moment, as 30 years is a long time, but that it was time for her go.

Councillor Jones thanked the Town Clerk, who she said had been a wonderful Clerk to the council.

As a friend and colleague for 30 years, Councillor Mrs Joan Butterfield, said that this was quite a milestone and thanked Councillor Jones for her care and friendship and wished her well in her retirement.

Councillor King referred to flowers and a gift from councillors and staff, that Councillor Prendergast would deliver to her home tomorrow.

In accordance with council policy on annual appointments, the Mayor then invited nominations for the office of mayor for the municipal year 2023/2024.

It was proposed by Councillor P. Prendergast and seconded by Councillor S. Feeney that Councillor Ms J. L. McAlpine be nominated.

RESOLVED that *Councillor McAlpine was elected.*

The retiring Mayor, Councillor King then invested Councillor McAlpine with the Chair of Office.

Councillor McAlpine then read aloud and signed the declaration of office.

The new Mayor thanked her proposer and seconder for their nominations and their kind words and confirmed that her Consort would be Ms Charlotte Taylor-Smith and her Chaplain the Rev. Chris Spencer.

The new Mayor then expressed appreciation on behalf of the Council to the retiring Mayor and presented her with a Town Crest, past Mayor's Medal and flowers. The Mayor also presented the retiring Mayor's consort with a bottle of wine in appreciation of his support to the Mayor during her year of office.

The new Mayor then addressed the Council and advised that she was acutely aware of the intense pressures currently faced by people in our community brought about by the current cost of living crisis, and that she aimed to prioritise promoting organisations who offer support. This was reflected in her choice of charities for her year which would be the Rhyl Benefit Advice Shop who offer vital support and advice to the most vulnerable in the community, and also the Rhyl Sea Cadets for their work providing wonderful opportunities for young people from a diverse demographic. In conclusion Councillor McAlpine indicated that she intended dedicating her time as Mayor working to instil a sense of cohesion and inclusivity within our town and was looking forward to the year ahead.

3. **ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR**

In accordance with council policy on annual appointments, the Mayor invited nominations for the election of Deputy Mayor for the 2023/24 municipal year.

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs J. Butterfield JP MBE and seconded by Councillor Mrs E. Chard that Councillor Miss C. L. Williams be nominated.

RESOLVED that Councillor Williams was elected.

The Mayor invested Councillor Williams with the chain of office and invited her to sign the Declaration of Office.

This done, the Deputy Mayor thanked members of the Council for their nominations and advised that her Deputy Consort would be Mrs Ann Jones.

The Mayor presented Councillor Williams with flowers and Mrs Ann Jones with the badge of office and flowers.

4. **MINUTES**

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

Council - 19th April 2023 - Min.Nos. 161-169

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

Planning Committee - 19th April 2022 - Min.Nos. 54 - 56

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

Planning Committee - 3rd May 2023 - Min.Nos. 57 - 59

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 - 3rd May 2023 - Min.Nos. 65 - 73

Proposed by Councillor A. J. Rutherford and seconded by Councillor B. Mellor and **RESOLVED** as a correct record and confirmed for action.

5. **APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES / SUB-COMMITTEES / SCHOOL GOVERNORS FOR THE 2023/24 MUNICIPAL YEAR**

The Mayor requested that members confirm the appointments as shown in the schedule (circulated with agenda).

It was proposed by Councillor A. J. Rutherford and seconded by Councillor Mrs D. L. King and **RESOLVED** that the appointments were approved subject to appointment of a school governor to Ysgol Emmanuel being referred to the Finance and General Purpose Committee for consideration.

6. **ELECTION OF CHAIR – FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**

In accordance with council policy on annual appointments, the Mayor invited nominations for the Chair of the Finance and General Purposes Committee for the 2023/2024 municipal year.

It was proposed by Councillor Ms. J. McAlpine and seconded by Councillor P. Prendergast that Councillor A. J. Rutherford be appointed.

RESOLVED that Councillor Rutherford was elected.

7. **ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR – FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**

In accordance with council policy on annual appointments, the Mayor invited nominations for the Vice-Chair of the Finance and General Purposes Committee for the 2023/2024 municipal year.

It was proposed by Councillor A. J. Rutherford and seconded by Councillor Mrs D. L. King that Councillor B. Mellor be appointed.

RESOLVED that Councillor Mellor was elected.

8. **ELECTION OF CHAIR – PLANNING COMMITTEE**

In accordance with council policy on annual appointments, the Mayor invited nominations for the Chair of the Planning Committee for the 2023/2024 municipal year.

It was proposed by Councillor P. Prendergast and seconded by Councillor Mrs D. L. King that Councillor Ms J. L. McAlpine be appointed.

RESOLVED that Councillor McAlpine was elected.

9. **ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR – PLANNING COMMITTEE**

In accordance with council policy on annual appointments, the Mayor invited nominations for the Vice-Chair of the Planning Committee for the 2023/2024 municipal year.

It was proposed by Councillor P. Prendergast and seconded by Councillor Mrs J. L. McAlpine that Councillor D. Simmons be appointed.

RESOLVED that Councillor Simmons was elected.

10. ELECTION OF CHAIR – STRATEGIC & OPERATIONAL PLANNING (SOP) COMMITTEE

In accordance with council policy on annual appointments, the Mayor invited nominations for the Chair of the SOP Committee for the 2023/2024 municipal year.

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs W. M. Mullen-James and seconded by Councillor A. R. James that Councillor A. J. Rutherford be appointed.

RESOLVED that Councillor Rutherford was elected.

11. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR – STRATEGIC & OPERATIONAL PLANNING (SOP) COMMITTEE

In accordance with council policy on annual appointments, the Mayor invited nominations for the Vice-Chair of the SOP Committee for the 2023/2024 municipal year.

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs D. L. King and seconded by Councillor Mrs E. M. Chard that Councillor Mrs W. M. Mullen-James be appointed.

RESOLVED that Councillor Mullen-James was elected.

12. AWARD OF LONG SERVICE BADGES

On behalf of the Town Council, the Mayor presented Councillor Mrs W. M. Mullen-James and A. J. Rutherford with the Council's Civic Badge to mark their 12 years of service to the Town Council and the Rhyl community.

13. APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

The Mayor requested that members confirm the appointments as shown in the schedule (circulated with agenda).

It was proposed by Councillor A. R. James and seconded by Councillor Miss S. L. Roberts and **RESOLVED** that the appointments were approved with vacancies to be referred to Finance and General purposes Committee for consideration.

14. APPOINTMENT OF RHYL TOWN COUNCIL YOUTH CHAMPION

Further to min.no.57 of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 5th April 2023, the Mayor invited nominations for a member to be appointed as the Town Council Youth Champion for the 2023/24 Municipal Year.

The Town Clerk advised that he had been notified that a Member (Councillor K. R. Jones) had expressed an interest in undertaking the appointment in accordance with the approved Role Description.

It was proposed by Councillor J. L. McAlpine and seconded by Councillor D. L. King and **RESOLVED** that Councillor K. R. Jones be appointed as the Rhyl Town Council Youth Champion.

15. **DESIGNATION OF APPROVED DUTIES**

The Mayor requested confirmation that attendance by appointed representatives at the following:

- Training of Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the Council and its standing committees
- North & Mid Wales Association of Local Councils (and associated Regional Transport Committee)
- Sustainable Denbighshire
- Betsi Cadwaladr University North Denbighshire Project Reference Group
- Attendance of Mayor or Deputy Mayor at civic events in Denbighshire, Flintshire and Conwy.

be designated as approved duties.

It was proposed by Councillor A. J. Rutherford and seconded by Councillor D. Simmons and **RESOLVED** that the approved duties was confirmed.

16. **SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS**

The Mayor requested members' confirmation of the schedule of meetings for the 2023/2024 municipal year as shown on the schedule (circulated with agenda).

It was proposed by Councillor A. J. Rutherford and seconded by Councillor B. Mellor and **RESOLVED** that the schedule was approved.

17. **SIGNATORIES**

The Mayor requested members' confirmation of the signatories for the council's current and investment accounts for the 2023/2024 municipal year.

It was proposed by Councillor A. J. Rutherford and seconded by Councillor B. Mellor that the signatories were confirmed as:

The Mayor and Deputy Mayor, as Chair and Vice-Chair of the Council
The Chair & Vice-Chair of the Finance and General Purposes Committee
The Chair & Vice-Chair of Planning Committee
The Chair & Vice-Chair of Strategic and Operational Planning Committee

Together with one of the following officers:

Town Clerk
Deputy Town Clerk
Finance Officer

RESOLVED that the signatories be confirmed.

18. CLOSURE OF MEETING

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

Mayor:

Date:21.06.2023.....