

At a meeting of the **FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE** held on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2018 at the Civic Offices, Wellington Road Community Centre, Rhyl commencing at 6.00pm.

**PRESENT**

Councillor A. J. Rutherford (Chair)

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

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

**102. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were submitted from Councillors J. Ball, Ms J. Hughes, and Mrs. D.L. King

**103. PAYMENTS AND RECEIPTS REPORT – JANUARY 2018**

The Town Clerk presented his report (circulated with agenda) detailing the schedule of payments made.

Voucher No.	Supplier name	Amount £	Description of Goods & Services
407	Shire Leasing Group	337.33	Avaya telephone system lease Q4 2017/18
408	BT	348.61	Line rental & charges
409	BT	87.71	Line rental for franking machine
252	Rhyl Community Association	4,500.00	Rent for civic offices Q4 2017/18
410	HSBC	5.50	Bank charges
411	Sage & Co	30.00	Payroll service for Jan 2018
417	Flintshire County Council	4,141.80	Pension contributions & deficit funding for Dec 2017
418	HMRC	2,557.82	Payroll deductions for Dec 2017
419	RTC staff	6,645.17	Staff salaries for Jan 2018
420	Gunsmoke Communications	1,600.00	Events services for Dec 2017
260	Benefits Advice Shop	916.66	Appeals Officer contribution 9 of 12
258	Denbighshire County Council	686.00	Council Tax 2017/18 payment 9 of 10
421	Sioned Graham-Cameron	405.41	Translation services
269	Citizens Advice Bureau	2,000.00	Energy Advisor contribution 2017/18 payment 4 of 4
	Total payments	24,262.01	

**RESOLVED** that the report was approved.

#### 104. AUTHORISATION OF PAYMENTS/ADDITIONS TO APPROVED SUPPLIERS LIST

Further to minute no.143 of the meeting of Council held on 15<sup>th</sup> 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) (circulated with agenda).

Voucher No.	Supplier Name	Description of Service	Amount £
417	Sand in Your Eye Ltd	Workshops for SeaFest event 2018 – 50% deposit on booking	1,038.00
418	Racecraft Signs	Updating of honours board in the chamber	162.00
419	St. John Cymru	First Aid provision at Xmas event at Town Hall on 9/12/17	60.00
420	Proarb	Xmas tree 2017	1,272.00
305	Councillor A. R. James	Mayor's allowance payment 3 of 3	997.50
306	Councillor P. Prendergast	Deputy Mayor's allowance payment 3 of 3	332.50
422	Information Commissioner	Registration fee 2018/19	35.00
<b>Total payments</b>			<b>£3,897.00</b>

*The following addition to the approved supplier list was approved:*

- Sand in Your Eye Ltd – to provide workshops at SeaFest 2018

**RESOLVED** that the schedule was approved for payment and signed by the Chair and Councillor A. R. James.

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

#### 105. FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS TO 31<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER 2017 AND FORECASTS FOR 2017/18 FINANCIAL YEAR

The Town Clerk presented his and the Finance Officer's joint report (circulated with agenda) showing performance against budget, which needed to be brought before councillors on a quarterly basis.

**RESOLVED** that:

- the report was received.*
- (subject to formal written agreement) an initial payment of £150,000 towards the new waterpark to Denbighshire County Council was approved.*
- the forecasted deficit of £91,357 for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018 was noted.*

#### **106. RHYL TOWN COUNCIL RESERVES POLICY**

The Chair referred to the draft policy as recommended by the Risk Assessment Sub-Committee (circulated with agenda).

**RESOLVED** *that the policy was approved.*

#### **107. TREASURY MANAGEMENT – ANNUAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY REVIEW 2018/19**

The Town Clerk submitted his and the Finance Officer's joint report (circulated with agenda).

**RESOLVED** *that the Annual Investment Strategy for 2018/19 as recommended by the SOP Committee, was approved.*

#### **108. REVIEW OF TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCILS:** **(i) PROPOSED TOWN COUNCIL RESPONSE** **(ii) PROPOSED ATTENDANCE AT ENGAGEMENT EVENT**

##### Proposed Town Council Response

The Town Clerk made reference to his report (circulated with agenda) containing councillors' responses to the four questions asked by the Independent Review Panel on the future of Town and Community Councils in Wales.

After some discussion it was felt that although many good points were raised by councillors, their responses did not really offer up answers the questions asked, and that the questions were far too open ended for such complex answers and suggestions.

##### Proposed attendance at engagement event

In view of the varied responses received by councillors no clear mandate could be given to Town Council representatives to feed into the process.

A suggestion was made for the representatives to go with a 'listening brief' whilst teasing out issues and ideas via the workshop sessions.

**RESOLVED** *that:*

- (i) Councillor Mrs J. Butterfield JP MBE and the Town Clerk to attend the second consultation event on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2018 in Wrexham and report back.*
- (ii) Councillor Butterfield and the Town Clerk to travel to the event together and claim travelling expenses (namely mileage).*

#### **109. MEMBERS' INFORMATION ITEMS**

The Town Clerk reported that following on from the Rhyl Local Reference Group meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2018, the consultants and communications officers from Denbighshire County Council would be coming to a future meeting of the

town council to present details of the proposed consultation on a new masterplan for Rhyl.

**110. 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.

**111. TO RECEIVE RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE SOP COMMITTEE ON THE BENEFITS ADVICE SHOP – APPEALS OFFICER**

The Chair referred to the SOP committee's report (circulated with agenda) recommending that the town council continues to provide part funding of the Appeals Officer post.

***RESOLVED*** that the town council to continue the existing arrangement for the 2018/19 financial year (£11,000 from the Commissioned Services budget).

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

**112. TO RECEIVE RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE SOP COMMITTEE ON THE CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU – ENERGY EFFICIENCY OFFICER**

The Chair referred to the SOP committee's report (circulated with agenda) recommending that the town council continues to provide part funding of the Energy Efficiency Officer post.

***RESOLVED*** that the town council to continue the existing arrangement for the 2018/19 financial year (£8,000 from the Commissioned Services budget).

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

**113. ADDITIONAL ITEM: DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL'S PROPOSED LIGHTING ON THE PROMENADE**

The Town Clerk circulated a report from the SOP committee following the attendance of DCC officers Mr Andy Clark, Works Unit and Streetscene Manager and Mr Andy Hughes, Technical Manager, at its last meeting to put forward a new LED lighting scheme on the promenade.

The scheme would achieve long-term cost savings due to LED lighting being much more energy efficient, and would provide a consistent theme at the clock tower, the waterfall and theatre features and the at the entrance to remembrance gardens, which would all be easily programmable with a large number of colours available to support national days or events.

The scheme would cost £27,374, £10,000 of which would be met by Mr Clark's 2017/18 budget underspend and savings. The town council were asked to consider meeting the shortfall of £17,374 by the end of this financial year, to

enable the order to be submitted by this time and the installation works to begin shortly afterwards.

The Town Clerk advised that the SOP committee's recommendation was for the council to provide the £17,374 to enable one of the town council's long-term ambitions to provide an improved lighting scheme along the promenade, to come to fruition.

The Town Clerk added that he was looking for a steer from the committee before taking the decision to the February meeting of Council for formal approval, and that he had identified budget savings to the value of £17,374 to enable the progression of the proposed scheme, should the committee support it.

**RESOLVED** *that the committee supports the proposed scheme.*

**114. TYNEWYDD COMMUNITY CENTRE**

The Town Clerk submitted his report (circulated with agenda) following members' requests for the future of the centre to be reviewed.

**RESOLVED** *that the Town Clerk to arrange for the property to be valued with a view to selling it.*

**115. STANDING ITEM: POLICE CLOSURE ORDERS**

Further to minute no.79 of the meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2016, the Town Clerk advised that no applications had been received from North Wales Police.

**116. CLOSURE OF MEETING**

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting.

Chair: .....

Date: .....