MINUTES OF THE HYBRID COUNCIL MEETING OF SALTNEY TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 8 NOVEMBER 2023 AT SALTNEY COMMUNITY CENTRE, SANDY LANE, SALTNEY.

PRESENT: Councillor K Shallcross, Mayor, Councillors J Brett Roberts, P Brett Roberts, V Gay, B Gregory, E Gregory, R Griffiths, C Henderson Davis, A Lloyd, R Lloyd, R McKeown, A Roberts, M Robinson, J Shallcross, K Shallcross and T Brown, Town Clerk.

109. APOLOGIES

No apologies received.

110. PUBLIC ATTENDANCE AT ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETINGS – PERSON WISHING TO SPEAK

There were 4 members of the public in attendance.

CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declaration of Interest were made.

111. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That

the Minutes of the Council meeting held on Wednesday, 11 October 2023 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

112. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

113. COMMUNITY DONATION

Council had previously given a £500 donation to Air Ambulance Wales earlier in the financial year.

RESOLVED: That

The donation be declined at this time.

The Mayor varied the Order of business

114. AURA FIT FED AND & READ COMMUNITY PROGRAMME

Following the conclusion of the summer 2023 Fit, Fed & Read community programme which took place in nine locations across the county during a five-week period in July and August.

The Fit, Fed & Read programme was a truly multi-agency scheme with a wide range of public sector partners tackling issues such as health inequalities, food poverty, community cohesion, literacy levels, and physical and mental well-being.

Whilst the programme had operated for the past four years, its continuation was at serious risk prior to summer 2023 due to the Welsh Government ending its *Summer of Fun* funding. Fortunately, Aura Wales, working with partners, was able to secure smaller pots of funding which enabled the scheme to take place. At this point in time, we are currently pursuing other funding streams to support the summer 2024 programme, however, nothing had been confirmed at present.

To secure the provision of the highly valued and much needed service, Aura Wales was seeking support from Town & Community Councils to ensure Fit, Fed & Read could operate in summer 2024. On the basis, of a £1,000 financial contribution was requested from Town & Community Councils located in the communities in which the programme operated. Its hopeful that by requesting support early then, subject to your acceptance, it could be built into the scheme's running costs and Aura Wales's budget setting process for 2024/25.

Following a brief but detailed presentation from officers on the valued community programme members approved the £1,000 contribution to the programme.

RESOLVED: That

£1,000 be donated to Aura Fit, Fed and Read Community Programme.

115. POLICE MATTERS

PCSO Bryan attended and that there had been spike in the theft of motorcycles and electronic bikes. 3 stolen and 1 had been retrieved.

A spate of twilight burglaries in residential areas had been reported.

PCSO's would be at the Old Chapel for a cuppa with copper on 15.11.23 11-11.30.

Saltney Youth Club was now up and running again on Monday evenings from 6-8.30pm all seemed to be going well.

It was agreed for Councillor Roberts to have a look at the CCTV camera software on the laptop. He agreed t report back on his findings.

Saltney Mold Junction | Police.uk (www.police.uk)
Saltney Stonebridge | Police.uk (www.police.uk)

116 . STREETSCENE

John Griffiths from Streetscene attended the meeting and members made the following requests:

- Light out junction Saltney tavern (opposite 165 high street), it's been reported.
- Inner part of Sandy Lane, Charlton Avenue Play area hedge overgrown parallel with the brook.
- Issue raised again cleaning of the bus shelters; response they had been done but FCC not happy with the results.

117. MAYORS COMMUNICATION

the Mayor reported she had attended a Charity Dinner, Remembrance Sunday at St Marks Church, a Handbags and Harmonies concert for Hospice of the Good Sheppard at Eaton Hall, and Chester Lord Mayors Charity event at Eaton Hall.

118. INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL FOR WALES DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT – FEBRUARY 2024

In accordance with the requirements of Section 147 of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011:

- The Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales draft Annual Report February 2024.
- Draft Annual Report - consultation questions

You can find the report by using the following link:
Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales Draft Annual Report – February 2024

The Panel considered members of Community and Town Councils should not be out of pocket for carrying out their duties. It therefore proposed the following:

Basic payment for extra costs of working from home.
All Councils must pay their members £156 a year (equivalent to £3 a week) towards the extra household expenses (including heating, lighting, power and broadband) of working from home.

Set payment for consumables.
Councils must either pay their members £52 a year for the cost of office consumables required to carry out their role, or alternatively Councils must enable members to claim full reimbursement for the cost of their office consumables.

It was noted that the payments of £156 and £52 had now been confirmed by HMRC as tax exempt. Both Civic payments of £1500 to the Mayor and £500 to the Deputy Mayor were taxable.

RESOLVED: That

(1) the report and the changes contained therein be approved:

- £156 be paid to members at the end of the financial year (March 2025)
- One off payment of £52 be paid to all members for office consumables no receipts required.

(2) Take policy to Finance and General Purposes Committee for review.

119. FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL - POLLING DISTRICT, PLACE AND POLLING STATION REVIEW 2023/2024

Flintshire County Council had published information regarding the review of polling districts and polling places for the County of Flintshire. The last review took place in 2019. The review would look at our polling district boundaries and the polling places/stations within those boundaries. Most people still vote in person at a polling station, so the aim was to make sure that they had reasonable facilities to do this, taking into consideration the needs of everyone.

The questionnaire was completed online and submitted at the meeting.

RESOLVED: That

the questionnaire be completed online and submitted at the meeting.

120. FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL – WINTER PREPARATIONS 2023-24

Members considered the letter from Flintshire County Council on the winter preparations for 2023-24.

RESOLVED: That

the Town Council did not wish to take up the winter maintenance offers as contained in the letter.

121. COMMUNITY AND TOWN COUNCILS - COUNCILLOR ALLOWANCES - HOMEWORKING ARRANGEMENTS AND CONSUMABLES

Members noted that under Section 316A of the Income Tax (Earnings and Pensions) Act 2003 stated no liability to income tax arises in respect of a payment an employer makes to an employee in respect of reasonable additional household expenses which the employee incurs in carrying out duties of the employment at home under homeworking arrangements. The exemption only applies to the £156 payment made under the Determination of the Independent Remuneration Panel. It does not exempt any additional household expenses that a Councillor may seek to claim.

The following two conditions must apply to the exemption:

- The first provision is that there must be a formal arrangement between the individual councillor and Community and Town Council.
- Secondly, each individual Councillor must declare they work from home regularly under these arrangements. This arrangement should be set out and a template letter is attached for your use.

The Independent Remuneration Panel had determined that Councils must either pay their members £52 a year for the cost of office consumables required to carry out their role, or alternatively Councils must enable members to claim full reimbursement for the cost of their office consumables.

The Panel had also received confirmation from HMRC that an exemption may also be applied (from 5/4/2023) to the flat rate consumables payment. Where a Council has taken the decision to pay a flat rate reimbursement of £52, then this amount is considered exempt from PAYE arrangements.

RESOLVED: That

the report be noted.

122. REVIEW OF DEMOCRATIC HEALTH IN THE COMMUNITY AND TOWN COUNCIL SECTOR

The Welsh Government had created a Democratic Health Task and Finish Group to review the health of Town and Community Councils in Wales.

The group was exploring ways to:

- improve engagement between communities and their community councils, and
- increase the number and diversity of candidates standing for election to community councils.

a survey had been launched to understand your views and experiences and help the group understand the real issues and propose positive actions. The aim was to help build stronger and more inclusive communities across Wales.

RESOLVED: That

individual members to respond to the Democratic Health Task and Finish Group.

123. CLERKS REPORT

The Clerk had received a quote from the Coastal Ranger, following the recent site visit to opening of the Lower Riverside pathway. The quote was in two parts first part to paint and repair the Bouy and the second was for the Councils emblem to go on the beacons shield.

It was agreed that the Coastal ranger be invited to a meeting of the Environmental and Regeneration Committee to give further information.

RESOLVED; That

The Clerk invite the Coastal Ranger to the next meeting of the Environmental and Regeneration Committee.

124. ACCOUNTS 2023

Members were asked to receive a copy of the bank reconciliation reports, cashbook receipts and payments.

RESOLVED: That

there were no financial reports as the bank statement was not received in time for the meeting.

125. QUESTIONS

There was one questions received for the Clerk from Councillor Roberts.

Question - Please can the Clerk advise on when the awareness training will be for the Defibs for Councillors, property owners where Defibs were installed and to residents?

Answer – the Clerk agreed to find an alternative company to the one previously approached. Will contact British Heart Foundation.

126. INFORMATION FROM THE LOCAL COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Councillor R Lloyd reported that he and Councillor J Shallcross had, had a walk about Mainwaring Drive and Ewart Street with the Housing Officer and Cabinet member. There had been a substantial clear up in Ewart Street.

He had attended the Standards Committee, Broughton and Bretton Flood meeting and surgeries at the Old Chapel and Douglas Place.

Put the Lamppost Poppies up for Remembrance Sunday, with Councillor J Shallcross.

Citizen Advice Service would be in Broughton Library 2-4 in November and December.

Councillor J Shallcross reported that Natural Resources Wales had been clearing back along the brook.

RESOLVED: That

the reports be noted.

127. PAYMENTS OF ACCOUNTS

To authorise payment of the following accounts.

Code	Cheque No.	Payee	Invoice	Amount
4000		Staff	salary for November 23 as calculated by the Council's Agent, in accordance with Section 112 Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) (as per Payroll schedule)	
4001 4002		Staff	HMRC for November 23 as calculated by the Council's Agent, in accordance with Section 112 Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) (as per Payroll schedule)	
4044	100376	Saltney Community Centre	3 months Room hire Sept, Oct & Nov	72.00
4040	100377	A Roberts	Supplies for Christmas Fayre 22	762.95
4083	100378	Studio 13	Community Donation for Tumble Track	500.00
4022	100379	P Brett Roberts	Consumables Determination + £6 from £156 Determination	58.00
4022	100380	J Brett Roberts	Consumables Determination + £6 from £156 Determination	58.00
4022	100381	V Gay	Consumables Determination + £6 from £156 Determination	58.00
4022	100382	M Robinson	Consumables Determination + £6 from £156 Determination	58.00
4022	100383	A Roberts	Consumables Determination + £6 from £156 Determination	58.00

Code	Cheque No.	Payee	Invoice	Amount
4300	100386	Flintshire County Council	Lighting Maintenance – TZ096232	711.00
4300	100387	Flintshire County Council	Lighting Maintenance – TZ096274	711.00
4350	100389	Blachere Illuminations UK	Final payment for Christmas Lights 2023	2,277.00
4042	100390	Lord Mayor of Chester Charity Fund	Civic - Lord Mayor of Chester Charity Evening	70.00
4300	100391	Flintshire County Council	Lighting Maintenance – TZ096277	237.00
4042	100392	Hospice of the Good Shepherd	Civic Handbags and Harmonies	40.00

Void Cheque 100384 – incorrect amount				
NB: Monthly				
4008	SO	Sandyford Properties Ltd	Office Rent	360.00
4022	DD	Information Commissioner	Annual fee	40.00
4020	DD	Prism	Telecoms	93.66
4003	DD	Prism	Internet provision	143.23
4010	DD	Wurkplace	Payroll	72.71

Chairman ……

Date: ……...