MINUTES OF THE HYBRID COUNCIL MEETING OF SALTNEY TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY,13 MARCH 2024 AT SALTNEY COMMUNITY CENTRE, SANDY LANE, SALTNEY.

PRESENT: Councillor K Shallcross, Mayor, Councillors, V Gay, B Gregory, E Gregory, R Lloyd, R McKeown, A Roberts, M Robinson, K Shallcross, and T Brown, Town Clerk.

193. APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Councillors J Brett Roberts, P Brett Roberts, R Griffiths, and J Shallcross.

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

There were eight members of the public in attendance who wished to speak in relation to agenda item 15.

196. CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declaration of Interest were made.

197. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That

the Minutes of the Council meeting held on Wednesday, 14 February 2024 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

198. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

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The Mayor suspended Standing Orders to enable members public to speak for more than the allocated time.
The Mayor varied the order of business

199. FLOODING ISSUES

The Town Clerk had received a letter from local farmers regarding the balderton brook/watercourse which runs on the land leading to and through Saltney to the River Dee, going through Morrisons land. The proper flow of water was being impeded it was no longer functioning as effectively and efficiently to drain the waterflow. Several farmers upstream of Saltney land were permanently under water.

Local farmers were losing thousands of pounds every year. Councillors Lloyd and Shallcross had previously met with local farmers, Natural Resources Wales and the Environment Agency, and walked along the balderton brook down to Morrisons and towards the River.

It was explained that the ditch by Morrisons was in need of clearing out to help the flow down to the river. Natural Resources Wales had stressed that the flow was not being impeded up until Morrisons land.

It was noted that after the last bout of severe flooding a public meeting was held, where members of the public expressed their concerns on the levels of flooding. The meeting had been well attended, Jack Sargeant and Mark Isherwood were both in attendance.

Members mentioned that the biggest problem was the strip of water at Morrisons, which had a huge tree branch stuck across it. The maintenance of this strip of water was in their planning application, if it's not being maintained then it would be down to Flintshire County Council, Planning Department to enforce that condition of the application.

One of the difficulties seems to be getting Natural Resources Wales and the Environment Agency to work together.

It was also stated that the tidal gates were not working sufficiently to carry the water through effectively to the river.

Members of the public also explained to the Council that the drains were now below the silt levels and the price for that was the continual flooding of land, and homes in the area. The situation would not be a quick fix for any of the organisation concerned.

It was proposed that the Town Clerk be asked to try and organise a meeting with Saltney Town Council, Bretton and Broughton Community Council, Mr Jim Williams, *(farmers representative)* Flintshire County Council, Natural Resources Wales and the Environment Agency to try and establish a working plan of action. It was acknowledged that this could take some time to get all the organisations together.

The Mayor and Councillors thanks members of the public for attending the meeting.

RESOLVED: That

Saltney Town Council, Bretton and Broughton Community Council, Flintshire County Council, Natural Resources Wales and the Environment Agency be asked to form a working group to work together to alleviate the flooding pressures and establish a working plan of action.

200 POLICE MATTERS

No representative was available to attend in person.

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

RESOLVED: That

the police report be noted.

201. STREETSCENE

The Town Clerk agreed to report any comments/concerns from members to John Griffiths, Streetscene and report back to the next meeting where practicable.

202. MAYORS COMMUNICATION

The Mayor reported that she opened the new Zest wooden furniture on River Lane, Saltney, with Councillors Lloyd and Shallcross. Sale on first thing on Friday mornings on surplus stock with up to 80% off.

Attended the Lord Mayors Banquet at the Town Hall, Chester and the Chair of Flintshire County Councils charity evening at the Beaufort Park Hotel, Mold.

203. VACANCIES FOR - MOLD JUNCTION AND STONEBRIDGE WARDS

The Clerk has received two resignations since the last meeting. Councillor Claire Henderson Davis – Mold Junction ward Councillor Ann Lloyd – Stonebridge ward.

Council asked the Town Clerk to commence the election process by putting the initial notice advertising a possible election should ten signatures be submitted to Flintshire County Councils Returning Officer within14 days of the notice being published.

RESOLVED: That

Flintshire County Council Electoral tram be advised of the vacancies and initial notice be advertised.

204. INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL FOR WALES – ANNUAL REPORT 2024

In accordance with the requirements of Section 147 of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011, a link to the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales's Annual Report, February 2024 is detailed below.

The report had also been sent to the Minister for Finance and Local Government and other interested parties.

Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales's Annual Report, February 2024.

All other Determinations set out in 2022 to 2023 and 2023 to 2024 remain valid and should be applied.

RESOLVED: That

the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales – Annual Report for 2023-2024 and the recommendations therein be approved.

205. ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP – ONE VOICE WALES 2024-25

The Town Council had been invited to renew its One Voice Wales membership for 2024-25 at a cost of £962 for the year.

RESOLVED: That

the renewal of £962 for the Town Council's membership with One Voice Wales for a further 12 months commencing April 2024-25 be approved.

206. CHESHIRE WEST AND CHESTER COUNCIL – LOCAL PLAN – PLACE PLANS

Local Plans shape how land was used and how places would change and develop in the future and ensured that future development took place using a planned approach across the Borough and considered the needs of local people in terms of housing and infrastructure.

A new national system to produce Local Plans was now being introduced by Government as part of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023. The Councils Cabinet agreed on 10 January 2024 to commit to preparing a Local Plan under the new national system for plan-making and to support the development of a borough-wide design code to eventually be incorporated into the new Local Plan or a supplementary plan.

Although the new system would not formally commence until late in 2024, the Planning Policy team had begun work on initial engagement and updating the evidence base to aid early vision and strategy development.

RESOLVED: That

the report be noted, there were no comments from the Town Council at this time.

207. ONE VOICE WALES AWARDS CONFERENCE – 27 MARCH 2024

The One voice Wales national awards confrerence was was being held on 27 Marchh 2024 in Bilth Wells, unfortunate this date clashed with the Town Councils community training event.

RESOLVED: That

on this occasion no representtives from the Town Council would be attending, due to the clash of date with the Town Councils community training event.

208. CHESHIRE WEST AND CHESTER COUNCIL - CURZON HOUSE - UPDATE

Members received an update report from Cheshire West and Chester Council on the latest position with regard to Curzon House.

RESOLVED: That

the report be noted.

209. ACCOUNTS

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

RESOLVED: That

the reports be approved.

210. NOTICE OF MOTION

Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor Richard Lloyd, to request that Saltney Town Council contact Flintshire lighting department to inform them that the Town Council no longer requires an inspection of the Town Council’s streetlights until further notice but to

continue to maintain them when informed by the Town Council that a particular streetlight is faulty.

This would be a huge saving on the Town Council's resources.

RESOLVED: That

the notice of motion be approved.

211. QUESTIONS

There were no questions received for the Town Clerk or the Mayor**.**

212. INFORMATION FROM THE LOCAL COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBERS

No reports were given.

213. PAYMENTS OF ACCOUNTS

To authorise payment of the following accounts.

Code	Cheque No.	Payee	Invoice	Amount
4000	100426	Staff	Clerk's salary for March 2024 as calculated by the Council's Agent: Wurkplace Ltd, in accordance with Section 112 Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) (as per Payroll schedule)	
4001	100427	HMRC	HMRC Payroll payments for March 2024 - as calculated by the Council's Agent: Wurkplace Ltd -Section 112 Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) (as per Payroll schedule)	
4300	100428	Flintshire County Council	Lighting Maintenance – TZ097019	474.00

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: …….