

MINUTES OF THE HYBRID COUNCIL MEETING OF SALTNEY TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 10 JANUARY 2024 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, A Lloyd, R Lloyd, R McKeown, A Roberts, J Shallcross, K Shallcross and T Brown, Town Clerk.

128. APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Councillors C Henderson Davis and M Robinson.

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

There were no members of the public in attendance.

130. CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declaration of Interest were made.

140. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That

the Minutes of the Council meeting held on Wednesday, 13 November 2023 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

141. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

142. 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)

143. STREETSCENE

It was reported that due the necessary ongoing savings being made by Flintshire County Council a representative from Streetscene would no longer be in attendance at Council meetings.

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

144. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Ref: FUL/000963/23
Proposal: To Erect a Ham Radio Antenna and Mast
Location: 96, Victoria Road, Saltney, Chester, CH4 8SZ
https://digital.flintshire.gov.uk/FCC_Planning/Home/Details?refno=FUL/000963/23

Ref: FUL/001084/23
Proposal: Erection of an Industrial Unit Next to Units 14 and 15 of the Borders Industrial Park in Saltney
Location: Units 14-15, Borders Industrial Park, River Lane, Saltney, Chester, CH4 8RJ
https://digital.flintshire.gov.uk/FCC_Planning/Home/Details?refno=FUL/001084/23

RESOLVED: That

the applications be noted.

145. MAYORS COMMUNICATION

The Mayor reported that she and Councillor J Shallcross and A Roberts had accompanied Deeside Round Table around Saltney, it was a very cold evening, but we helped raise lots of money.

- Studio 13 Christmas event with the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Barrie Gregory, Councillor Eileen Gregory and the Clerk. It was a lovely afternoon great community activity.
- Saltney FC bingo night which was very well attended, a great success and raised an amazing £1500.
- Eaton Hall, Hospice of the Good Shepherd event with Handbags and Harmonies a wonderful night, the ladies were brilliant, and it was for such a worthy cause.
- Lord of Mayor of Chester, Charity Night event again at Eaton Hall, with the Hammond School performing another excellent evening.
- Hospice and Lord Mayors event at Town Hall, Chester, with Rhos male voice choir a very enjoyable evening.
- St Davids High School, afternoon tea event, was very well attended by the Community and Councillors K Shallcross, J Shallcross, R Lloyd, E Gregory, B Gregory, A Roberts and R Griffiths.

146. APPOINTMENT OF INTERNAL AUDITORS 2024/25

For the last few years, the Council have appointed JDH Business Services as their internal auditors. Their services had been entirely satisfactory, and the Council were invited to re-appoint them.

Members asked if there was a time limit on how long the auditor could be reappointed for.

RESOLVED: That

the Clerk be asked to check if there was a time limit of the appointment and report back to Council.

147. APPROPRIATE SUM UNDER SECTION 137(4)(a) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 – SECTION 137 EXPENDITURE LIMIT FOR 2024-25

Members noted the Section 137 expenditure limit for 2024-25.

RESOLVED: That

Section 137 letter be noted.

148. BUDGET 2024/25

Members received the Town Clerks proposed budget report, for the financial year 2024/25 based on a 0% increase which did not cover the Councils required budget. Members proceeded to approve a 2.75% increase in the precept for the 2024/25 financial year of £44.15 an increase of £1.18 that would fund expenditure of £85,925.

It was the first time in almost 15 years that the Town Council needed to increase its precept. The increase would be a 2.3p per week increase.

It was also agreed that the Clerk withdraw the interest from the Public Sector Deposit Fund which helped with approving a lower % on the precept..

Members approved the budget for 2024-25 and asked for further budget forecasting, to be done with the Finance and General Purposes Committee, to help members better understand the budgeting process.

RESOLVED: That

the budget sum of £85,925 be approved and submitted to Flintshire County Council with a 2.75% increase precept will remain at £44.15 for the financial year 2024-25.

149. CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2024

Members were asked to consider the calendar of meetings for 2024. It was noted that the calendar of meetings could be subject to change throughout the year.

RESOLVED: That

the calendar of meetings for 2024 be approved.

150. SUMMER PLAYSCHMES FOR 2024

Members considered the detailed letter from Flintshire County Council on the plans and costs for the 2024 summer playscheme. The costing structure was considered for the 3-year option, by which opting into the 3-year cycle allowed Town Council to budget much further in advance thus ensuring that the County Council could budget in advance ensuring the continued running of the scheme.

RESOLVED: That

the Town Council opt into the 3-year summer playscheme be approved.

151. PRACTITIONERS' CONFERENCE 2023

The Clerk reported on the forthcoming practitioners conference and costings.

RESOLVED: That

the conference details be noted.

152. FLINTSHIRE PROJECTS AWARDED GRANT FUNDING

The item was withdrawn as at this time it did not relate to Saltney.

153. STANDARDS COMMITTEE – FEEDBACK FROM INDEPENDENT MEMBERS VISITS TO TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCILS

Members received the report from the Monitoring Officer, Flintshire County Council.

RESOLVED: That

the report be noted.

154. FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL DRAFT RESOURCE AND WASTE STRATEGY

Flintshire County Council supported the declarations made by Welsh Government for the Public Sector to become net zero by 2030. The County Council had a clear Climate Change Strategy, which set key aims and actions for creating a carbon neutral organisation. Reducing the consumption of raw materials and increasing reuse and recycling to save precious resource would be a key part of reaching net zero.

The County Council were encouraging our residents to read the draft strategy and then complete a short questionnaire to share their views. Further information, could be found along with a copy of the draft strategy and online public consultation questionnaire here: <https://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/Resident/Bins-Recycling-and-Waste/Resource-and-Waste-Strategy-for-Flintshire.aspx>.

RESOLVED: That

there were no comments from the Town Council on the questionnaire.

155. FLINTSHIRE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN – CONSULTATION ON DRAFT SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING GUIDANCE - SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING GUIDANCE (SPG)

Following the adoption of the Local Development Plan (LDP), Flintshire County Council had produced draft Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) relating to the following policy areas :-

- New Housing in the Open Countryside
- Extensions and Alterations to Dwellings
- Conversion of Rural Buildings

The draft SPGs were being made available for public and stakeholder consultation commencing on Friday 1 December 2023 and ending on Friday 26 January 2024. The documents can be viewed on the Flintshire County Council website see link below and copies are also available at Connects offices, at County Hall, Mold and at Ty Dewi Sant, Ewloe.

<https://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/Resident/Planning/Review-of-Supplementary-Planning-Guidance.aspx>

RESOLVED: That

there were no comments from the Town Council on the consultation.

156. NEW CONSULTATION – LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE (WALES) BILL

One Voice Wales would be responding on behalf of Town and Community Councils, to the Senedd Cymru's Local Government and Housing Committee was currently consulting on the Local Government Finance (Wales) Bill. Responses were invited by 15 January 2024.

RESOLVED: That

there were no comments, the Town Council were agreed for One Voice Wales to respond.

157. STANDARDS COMMITTEE VACANCY

The Clerk had been informed that there is a position on the Standards Committee for a Town and Community Council Representative.

RESOLVED: That

Councillor Ros Griffiths be nominated for the position on the Standards Committee.

158. ACCOUNTS

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

There were no questions to the Clerk on the reports.

RESOLVED: That

the reports be approved.

159 . QUESTIONS

There were no questions received.

160. INFORMATION FROM THE LOCAL COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Councillor R Lloyd reported:

- he has attended St Davids School, afternoon tea along with other Councillors.
- delivered 3 Christmas Hampers to families.
- Attended the Environment and Scrutiny Committee
- Chaired Planning Committee
- Green Waste Collection £35 then would be £38 after 1/3/24.

Councillor J Shallcross reported:

- had attended the Old Chapel, great job they are doing for the community of Saltney.

Councillor R McKeown reported:

- he had attended Waste strategy meetings at Flintshire County Council.

RESOLVED: That

the reports be noted.

170. PAYMENTS OF ACCOUNTS

To authorise payment of the following accounts.

Code	Cheque No.	Payee	Invoice	Amount
4000	100399 100401 100406	Staff	Staff salary for Dec 23 & January 24 as calculated by the Council's Agent: Werkplace Ltd, in accordance with Section 112 Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) (as per Payroll schedule)	
4001 4002	100402 100407	HMRC	HMRC Payroll payments Dec 23 & January 24- as calculated by the Council's Agent: Werkplace Ltd - Section 112 Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) (as per Payroll schedule)	
4042	100393	Royal British Legion	Wreath Remembrance	50.00
4040	100394	Non-Stop 00Kids	Entertainer for Christmas Fayre	229.00
4022	100395	Cllr A Lloyd	Determination payment	208.00
4022	100396	Cllr C Henderson Davis	Determination payment	121.00
4040	100397	Cllr K Shallcross	2 vouchers and Selection boxes for Christmas fayre	343.00
4083	100398	Saltney Community Centre	Community Donation for Older Persons Day refreshments	100.00
4043	100400	One Voice Wales	Member Training Cllr Gay Mod 19 Cllr A B Gregory Mod 21 Cllr E Gregory Mod 6 Cllr K Shallcross Mod 21	152.00
4040	100403	Glitterbugz	Christmas Fayre	200.00
4008	100404	W A Jones	Lyndon Farm Christmas Tree	150.00
4008	100405	T Brown	Stationery stamps fire extinguisher for the office	72.07
4042 4083	100408	Cllr K Shallcross	2 civic tickets and community donation voucher for St Davids High School event	70.00
4350	100409	Blachere Ltd	Removal of Christmas lights	2,447.28
4300	100410	Flintshire CC	Lighting Maintenance	474.00
4030	100411	JDH Business services	Data Audit 23-24	535.20

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	Werkplace	Payroll	72.71

171. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

a resolution be passed to excluding the public and press from the meeting due to the confidential nature of the business under discussion the disclosure of which would be prejudicial to the public interest under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.

172. CLERKS UPDATE

The Clerk had now been informed by Audit Wales of the outcome of the Town Councils Audits for the period 2017-18 – 2021-22, 6 years of audits.

The Clerk updated members in detail on the outcome for each of the audits at the meeting.

RESOLVED: That

the Clerk be given permission to contact Audit Wales on behalf of the Town Council.

173. STAFFING MATTERS

The Clerk briefed members on the staffing matter for decision.

RESOLVED: That

the report be approved.

Chairman

Date: