

MINUTES of a MEETING
of the
FINANCE AND ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
held in the
Council Chamber, Buckley
on
Tuesday 28th November 2017

PRESENT

Councillor J F Thornton – in the Chair

Cllr V E Blondek	Cllr J S Jones	Cllr I Peters
Cllr C A Ellis	Cllr R B Jones	Cllr N Phillips
Cllr D Ellis	Cllr W A Lewis	Cllr E L Preece
Cllr I D Howe	Cllr M J Peers	Cllr M P Teire
Cllr E J Hutchinson	Cllr S Peers	Cllr A Woolley
Cllr H D Hutchinson		

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr M B Wright – Town Clerk & Financial Officer
Mrs L George – Office Administrator

16867- APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence and reasons were received and approved from Councillors N A Cropper (family commitments), C M Preece (work commitments) and A G Williams (work commitments).

16868- DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

One Declarations of Interest was made in relation to this Agenda Item 8 – Welsh Border Community Transport – Request for Financial Assistance, by Councillor A Woolley. It was –

Resolved – that the Declaration of Interest was noted.

16869- MINUTES

Resolved - that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Finance and Economic Development Committee held on 24th October 2017, as now submitted, be signed by the Committee Chair.

**16870- MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE
(BURSARY AWARD PANEL) HELD ON 2nd NOVEMBER 2017**

The minutes of the Finance Sub-Committee (Bursary Award Panel) were approved as a correct record by those Members who had attended the above meeting and acknowledging that the Sub-Committee had delegated powers to act, it was -

Resolved – that the minutes of the Finance Sub-Committee (Bursary Award Panel) be received and noted.

16871- ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Resolved - (i) that the accounts numbered 11180-11219 (inclusive as detailed in the revised Schedule of Accounts Number 482 dated 28th November 2017 [a copy of which had been distributed to all Members] and amounting in total to the sum of £26,626.43) be approved for payment and the Town Clerk be authorised to make the necessary arrangements to ensure that the payments were properly actioned through the Council's Bank Current Account in accordance with the Council's Internal Financial Controls.

(ii) that the expenditure be authorised in accordance with powers contained within the relevant local government acts and as identified and described within Appendix 1 of the NALC advice 'Governance and Accountability in Local Councils in England and Wales, a Practitioners' Guide' as revised and amended.

16872- BANK RECONCILIATION

The Committee received the monthly Bank Reconciliation as at 31st October 2017.
It was –

Resolved – that the Bank Reconciliation as at 31st October 2017 be received, noted and approved.

**16873- REMUNERATION TO MEMBERS OF COMMUNITY AND TOWN
COUNCILS**

The Committee received and considered a report from the Clerk, which dealt with the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales Annual Report 2018. The Committee was provided with the relevant pages from the above report. The Clerk made particular reference to Determinations 44 to 52 inclusive, which dealt with payments to Town and Community Councillors. In the past the payments had been permissive, whereas from 2018/19 onwards the payments would be directive and therefore payable. Members would however have the right to sign individual declarations that they did not wish to receive the stated payments.

The Determinations discussed related to:-

- 44 That Town and Community Councils should pay each of its Members £150.00 per annum for expenses incurred in their official duties.

- 45 That £500.00 be paid to a minimum of one and a maximum of five Members for additional and specific responsibilities. The £500.00 was in addition to the payment due under Determination 44.
- 46 This Determination did not apply to Buckley Town Council because of the level of its Precept.
- 47 That Members were entitled to claim mileage allowance for the use of their vehicles on official duties.
- 48 That Members were entitled to reimbursement for expenses incurred for overnight stays on official business.
- 49 That Members were entitled to recover financial loss compensation where that loss has actually occurred for attending official duties.
- 50 That Members were entitled to recover the cost of the care of dependent children and adults whilst performing official duties.
- 51 That the Civic Head of the Town Council was entitled to an additional allowance up to a maximum of £1,500.00.
- 52 That the Deputy Civic Head of the Town Council was entitled to an additional allowance up to a maximum of £500.00.

The Clerk's report advised the Committee that Determinations 47, 51 and 52 were already paid. In relation to Determination 47 payment was made upon receipt of a completed claim form. Following a detailed discussion, it was –

Resolved – that the Committee recommended to its Members that they should not claim the monies detailed in Determinations 44, 45, 48, 49 and 50 and that a Declaration Form stating that each individual Member would not claim the above monies would be forwarded to each Member for their signature. It was also resolved that the Town Clerk be instructed to convey the Town Council's negative views on the payments listed under Determinations 44 to 52 inclusive being made directive and not retained as permissive.

16874- WELSH BORDER COMMUNITY TRANSPORT – REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The Committee received and considered a letter from Welsh Border Community Transport requesting financial assistance in 2018/19 in the value of £6,615.00, which represented a 50% increase on the cost of travel for people in Buckley using WBCT service in 2018/19. It was –

Resolved – that the requested sum of money be included in the Draft Budget for 2018/19 and that WBCT be requested to provide a copy of the Charity's latest set of accounts, a list of those other Town or Community Councils that supported the Charity and whether or not the support was sufficient to cover all journeys made by their residents each financial year.

16875- FREE PARKING IN BUCKLEY – 2018/19

The Committee received and considered a report from the Clerk which advised that following meetings with the Chief Officer (Streetscene and Transportation), Flintshire County Council, a tentative agreement had been reached that if the Town Council was willing to pay approximately £41,500.00 to Flintshire County Council in 2018/19, the County Council would not levy charges for parking on its car parks in Buckley for that year. The Clerk advised the Committee that as it already committed itself to pay for December each year to provide free parking in Buckley, the net effect would be an increase on current expenditure of approximately £36,100.00. The Clerk sought the Committee's decision as to whether or not the matter should be placed in the Draft Budget for 2018/19.

During the ensuing debate it was stated that approximately £3,000.00 had been offered by various traders in the town to support the Town Council in funding the free parking. It was –

Resolved – that the matter be included in the 2018/19 Draft Budget and that the Clerk provide a detailed explanation of how the matter would affect the Precept should it be included when the Budget is approved in January 2018. It was also resolved that should the matter be approved at the Budget Setting Meeting in January 2018, it would be for a trial one year period. A recorded vote was requested prior to the vote being taken, upon the vote being taken, all Members present voted in support of the motion.

16876- FREE PARKING FOR DECEMBER IN BUCKLEY

The Committee received and considered a report from the Clerk which advised that the Approved Budget for 2017/18 included an element for paying Flintshire County Council for allowing free parking in Buckley during December 2017. The Clerk advised the Committee because of the short timescales involved, he had corresponded with the Chief Officer (Streetscene and Transportation), Flintshire County Council, to move the matter forward and had agreed a figure of £5,365.12 for payment to Flintshire County Council to allow for free parking in Buckley during December 2017. The Clerk advised the Committee that he had agreed with the Chief Officer to implement the free parking. The Clerk sought the Committee's acknowledgement and approval of his actions and the costs to be incurred. It was –

Resolved – that the Clerk's report be received and noted, that the sum of money stated and the Clerk's actions in the matter be received, acknowledged and approved.

16877- COMMEMORATIVE BENCH IN MEMORY OF THE LATE COUNCILLOR R G HAMPSON (RON)

The Committee received and considered a report from the Clerk which advised that at the request of the Mayor, the Clerk had corresponded with Flintshire County Council with a view to a commemorative bench being installed in Bistre Churchyard in memory of Councillor R G Hampson. The Clerk had also corresponded with the Reverend Martin Batchelor on the matter. The Clerk had suggested to Flintshire County Council that the

potential cost to provide and install the bench could be match-funded between the two Councils as Councillor R G Hampson had been a Councillor for both. Flintshire County Council had indicated it could not match-fund the cost of the bench (£755.00) but would be willing to fund its installation (£350.00). Both figures excluded VAT. It was –

Resolved – that the installation of a commemorative bench in Bistre Churchyard in memory of Councillor R G Hampson be approved and that the Mayor and Clerk be given delegated authority to act to action the matter.

CHAIR