Cyngor Dinas Llanelwy
St Asaph City Council

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting of St Asaph City Council held on Wednesday 1st November 2023 at 7.00 pm with remote attendance via Zoom.

Present: M Gedd, L Griffiths, C A Hardie (Mayor), P G Morton, L Nelson, P Scott (Deputy Mayor) and R Williams.

2023/181 Apologies for Absence

- Apologies were received from Cllrs Ellison, Groves and Roberts.

2023/182 Declarations of Interest

- None.

2023/183 Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting 11th October 2023 were discussed regarding accuracy (circulated prior to the meeting).

Resolved to approve the minutes of 11th October 2023 as an accurate record.

2023/184 Matters Arising

- None.

2023/185 St Asaph Library

The Mayor outlined the purpose of the meeting. Following Denbighshire's proposal to reduce the opening hours for all libraries in Denbighshire, the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Clerk attended a meeting with the Denbighshire Head of Service to discuss. Denbighshire had requested the Council's response to the consultation before the next scheduled City Council meeting.

The views expressed by Councillors were as follows:

- The library is a vital service which is valued by the community and should not be cut.
- Unhappy that St Asaph library is having the same proposed reduction in hours as those in other communities where the Community Council does not contribute.
- At the time the first service level agreement was signed, the City Council was under the impression that every community council would also be contributing. The City Council has paid £12,000 a year for the last six years.
- During the course of the meeting with the Head of Service, it was discovered that only St Asaph and Rhuddlan Councils had contributed.
- The people of St Asaph had not been treated fairly as they were contributing via precept as well as through the council tax for a service which was provided by Denbighshire.
- Usage statistics for St Asaph library were above the Denbighshire average.
- Denbighshire had advised that Saturday opening is not worthwhile in St Asaph.
- The library staff had worked hard to set up the warm hub at the library on Fridays, having obtained grant funding.

- Why are other community councils, especially the larger councils, not being asked to contribute to library services?

Resolved that the Clerk is to reply to Denbighshire to advise the Council's response as follows:
As St Asaph City Council has contributed £12,000 per annum to the upkeep of the library for six years, the library opening hours should not be cut.
If Denbighshire is to cut the opening hours for the library, the City Council will withdraw its funding.

2023/186 Remembrance Sunday

The Mayor outlined the arrangements for Remembrance Sunday. Items to be resolved are the speaker system, bugler and refreshments.

- Cllr Scott confirmed that the New Inn has offered the use of its sound system. This will be set up and dismantled by the New Inn.
- Enquiries ongoing re: a bugler, or similar. If a live musician cannot be arranged, a recording will be used.
- The New Inn will provide refreshments, as in previous years. They have requested that the refreshments are held at the New Inn.

Resolved that Refreshments should be held at the New Inn.

The meeting concluded at 7.35 pm

Date of Next Meeting
Meeting in person and with remote attendance held 8th November 2023.

Signed ……
Chairman of the Full Council 8th November 2023