

At the **ANNUAL MEETING of COUNCIL** held on Wednesday 20th May 2026, commencing at 6.00pm.

PRESENT

Councillor Alexander Walker (Mayor)

Councillors Mrs M. A. Blakeley-Walker, Mrs J. Butterfield JP MBE,
Mrs E. M. Chard, S. Feeney, A. R. James, C. L. Jones,
K. R. Jones, Ms J. L. McAlpine, B. Mellor, W. Price, Ms V. Roberts,
A. J. Rutherford and Miss C. L. Williams.

Mrs H. J. Mead – Town Clerk
Mrs T. A. Jones – Deputy Clerk

1. OPENING OF MEETING & APOLOGIES

The mayor, commenced proceedings by leading all those wishing to take part, in the Lord's prayer.

Councillor Walker referred to the recent passing of past town councillor and mayor's chaplain, Rev. Stanley Walker, and honorary freewoman of Rhyl, Mrs Jean Frost MBE. The meeting stood in silence to remember them.

Apologies for non-attendance were received on behalf of Councillors Mrs S. L. Connolly, Mrs J. M. Evans, J. Kenney, Mrs D. L. King, Ms R. S. Roberts, and D. Simmons.

The mayor welcomed all to the meeting.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The mayor asked if members had any personal and/or prejudicial interests to declare with regard to any of the business to be considered on the agenda?

No declarations were made.

3. ELECTION OF COMMUNITY COUNCILLOR

The Town Clerk reported that an election would be held on 25th June, to fill the vacancy in the office of community councillor on the Derwen ward.

4. ELECTION OF MAYOR AND INSTALLATION

Councillor Walker provided the meeting with a résumé of his year in office, remarking on how quickly his tenure as Mayor had past and expressing his hope that as the town's youngest mayor, he had shown other young people that age is not a barrier to becoming involved in local government that is central to the development of our communities.

He reflected on standout events that demonstrate civic pride in our town – Remembrance Sunday, a poignant day that brings together the community to give thanks to those who gave their lives in service, and the town's civic service joining together with the community, other leaders and councillors that served

as a reminder of those who voluntarily serve others. Time and time again people giving freely of their time to help others at their hardest and best moments. He gave the RNLI in Rhyl as a prime example, having been fortunate to attend two of their events, a tour of the station and to support their chilly Boxing Day dip. Aside from the fun and camaraderie it demonstrated the extraordinary commitment of volunteers who help those in distress and, in many cases saving lives in the process.

He was also pleased to have promoted his two charities Rhyl Music Club and Vale of Clwyd Mind, whose work continues to make a positive difference to many people.

To conclude he expressed his gratitude to fellow councillors and all those who had supported him in what had been a defining year.

The Mayor then invited nominations for the election of Mayor for the 2026/27 municipal year.

It was proposed by Councillor A. J. Rutherford and seconded by Councillor B. Mellor that Council Mrs Joan Butterfield JP MBE be nominated.

RESOLVED that *Councillor Butterfield JP MBE was elected.*

The retiring Mayor, Councillor Walker, then invested Councillor Butterfield with the Chain of Office and gave her a modest gift.

Councillor Butterfield read aloud and signed the declaration of office.

The new mayor thanked her proposer and seconder for their nominations and their kind words, confirming her chaplain for the year would be Reverend Janet Crane, her Consort Mr David Turner and expressed thanks to both for their guidance and support.

The mayor then acknowledged with thanks the service of the retiring mayor, presenting him with a town crest, past mayor's medal and a modest gift.

She advised even though it was her third term as mayor it remained a great honour to represent our town and was proud to support three charities: Rhyl Sea Cadets, Dementia Friendly Rhyl, and 1st Rhyl Scout Group. Together, they serve people of all ages and reflect the importance of supporting every part of our community.

She explained the theme of her mayoral year would be cohesion—bringing together communities, organisations, and individuals for the common good. Working together to build a stronger, more resilient Rhyl, to better support those who live and work here. Highlighting that as a council, we have an important role in listening to residents, championing their aspirations, and supporting the organisations that make such a difference locally, and emphasised that engaging with young people would be a particular priority for her.

In concluding, the mayor advised that having served as a town councillor for over 40 years, she had witnessed significant changes and throughout every

challenge Rhyl has remained resilient and hopeful and was grateful for the trust placed in her to represent the town once again.

The retiring mayor then presented the newly appointed Mayor's Consort with the badge of office and a modest gift.

5. ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR

In accordance with council policy on annual appointments, the Mayor invited nominations for the election of Deputy Mayor for the 2026/27 municipal year.

It was proposed by Councillor K. R. Jones and seconded by Councillor Mrs J. Butterfield JP MBE that Councillor Will Price be nominated.

RESOLVED *that Councillor Price was elected.*

The mayor invested Councillor Price with the chain of office and presented him with a modest gift before inviting him to sign the Declaration of Office.

This completed, the deputy mayor thanked Councillors Jones and Butterfield for their nominations and advised that his Deputy Consort would be Councillor Mrs Michelle Blakeley-Walker.

The mayor presented Councillor Blakeley-Walker with the badge of office and a modest gift.

6. MINUTES

The minutes of the following meetings of council and committees were submitted for approval as a correct record:

Meeting of Council - 15th April 2026 - Min.Nos. 173-187

Proposed by Councillor A. Walker and seconded by Councillor Mrs E. M. Chard and **RESOLVED** *as a correct record*

Planning Committee - 15th April 2026 - Min.Nos. 42 - 46

Proposed by Councillor Ms J. L. McAlpine and seconded by Councillor A. R. James and **RESOLVED** *as a correct record.*

7. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES / SUB-COMMITTEES / SCHOOL GOVERNORS FOR THE 2026/27 MUNICIPAL YEAR

The mayor requested that members confirm the appointments as shown in the table (circulated with agenda).

It was proposed by Councillor B. Mellor and seconded by Councillor Miss C. L. Williams and **RESOLVED** *that the appointments were approved.*

8. ELECTION OF CHAIR – FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

In accordance with council policy on annual appointments, the Mayor invited nominations for the chair of the Finance and General Purposes Committee for the 2026/2027 municipal year.

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs E. M. Chard and seconded by Councillor Miss C. L. Williams that Councillor A. J. Rutherford be appointed.

RESOLVED that Councillor Rutherford was elected.

9. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR – FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

In accordance with council policy on annual appointments, the Mayor invited nominations for the vice-chair of the Finance and General Purposes Committee for the 2026/2027 municipal year.

It was proposed by Councillor A. J. Rutherford and seconded by Councillor Ms J. L. McAlpine that Councillor B. Mellor be appointed.

RESOLVED that Councillor Mellor was elected.

10. ELECTION OF CHAIR – PLANNING COMMITTEE

In accordance with council policy on annual appointments, the mayor invited nominations for the chair of the Planning Committee for the 2026/2027 municipal year.

It was proposed by Councillor B. Mellor and seconded by Councillor K. R. Jones that Councillor Ms J. L. McAlpine be appointed.

RESOLVED that Councillor McAlpine was elected.

11. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR – PLANNING COMMITTEE

In accordance with council policy on annual appointments, the Mayor invited nominations for the vice-chair of the Planning Committee for the 2026/2027 municipal year.

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs E. M. Chard and seconded by Councillor Ms J. L. McAlpine that Councillor D. Simmons be appointed.

RESOLVED that Councillor Simmons was elected.

12. ELECTION OF CHAIR – STRATEGIC & OPERATIONAL PLANNING (SOP) COMMITTEE

In accordance with council policy on annual appointments, the mayor invited nominations for the chair of the SOP Committee for the 2026/2027 municipal year.

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs E. M. Chard and seconded by Councillor Mrs V. Roberts that Councillor A. J. Rutherford be appointed.

RESOLVED that Councillor Rutherford was elected.

13. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR – STRATEGIC & OPERATIONAL PLANNING (SOP) COMMITTEE

In accordance with council policy on annual appointments, the mayor invited nominations for the vice-chair of the SOP Committee for the 2026/2027 municipal year.

It was proposed by Councillor A. J. Rutherford and seconded by Councillor A. Walker that Councillor A. R. James be appointed.

RESOLVED that Councillor James was elected.

14. APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS / PARTNERSHIP GROUPS

The mayor requested that members confirm the appointments for the 2026/27 municipal year, as shown in the schedule (circulated with agenda).

It was proposed by Councillor B. Mellor and seconded by Councillor A. J. Rutherford and **RESOLVED** that the appointments were approved.

15. DESIGNATION OF APPROVED DUTIES

The mayor requested confirmation of attendance by appointed representatives at the following:

- Training of chairs and vice-chairs of the council and its standing committees
- North & Mid Wales Association of Local Councils (and associated Regional Transport Committee)
- Sustainable Denbighshire
- Betsi Cadwaladr University North Denbighshire Project Reference Group
- Attendance of mayor or deputy mayor at civic events in Denbighshire, Flintshire and Conwy.

be designated as approved duties.

It was proposed by Councillor A. J. Rutherford and seconded by Councillor A. Walker and **RESOLVED** that the approved duties were confirmed.

16. SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS (2026/27)

The mayor requested members' confirmation of the schedule of meetings for the 2026/27 municipal year as shown on the schedule (circulated with agenda).

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs V. Roberts and seconded by Councillor K. R. Jones and **RESOLVED** that the schedule was approved.

17. SIGNATORIES (2026/27)

The mayor requested members' confirmation of the signatories for the council's current and investment accounts for the 2026/27 municipal year.

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs E. M. Chard and seconded by Councillor Miss C. L. Williams that the signatories were confirmed as:

The mayor and deputy mayor, as chair and vice-chair of the council
The chair & vice-chair of the Finance and General Purposes Committee
The chair & vice-chair of Planning Committee
The chair & vice-chair of the Strategic and Operational Planning Committee

Together with one of the following officers:

Town Clerk
Deputy Town Clerk
Finance Officer

RESOLVED *that the signatories be confirmed.*

18. CLOSURE OF MEETING

There being no further items of business the mayor declared the meeting closed.

Mayor:

Date: