



AGENDA

for a meeting of the **Executive** to be held on
Friday 20th September 2019 at 10.30am
in the Rhyl Town Council Offices

1. Record of attendance

To record a record of attendance.

2. Minutes of the last Executive Meeting

To approve the minutes of the last meeting – see appendix A.

3. Declarations of interest

To record and declarations of interest.

4. Financial Report

To consider a financial report – see appendix B.

5. Advice and Committees

There have been a number of calls referred to the secretary since the last audit regarding the annual meetings and the recording of Committees and their remits along with authority. Many do not have clear records of this which is causing some Councils some concern.

6. Agenda for the Annual Meeting and Quarterly Meeting 25th October 2019

To consider the agenda for the next quarterly meeting – see appendix B.

7. Dates of future meeting

Quarterly - Friday 25th October 2019 – Holywell Town Council

Executive – Friday 13th December 2019 – Rhyl Town Council



APPENDIX A

MINUTES

of a meeting of the **Executive** held on
Friday 7th June 2019 at 10.30am in the Rhyl Town Council Offices

8. Record of attendance

Present were: Cllr B Roberts (Chair), Cllr J Butterfield (President), Cllr J Arnold (Welshpool), Cllr B Bertola (Llandudno) and

Apologies were received from

Cllr H Meredith (Vice Chair), Cllr B Barton and Cllr R Waters.

9. Minutes of the last Executive Meeting

The meeting approved the minutes of the last meeting.

10. Declarations of interest

There were no recorded declarations of interest.

11. Financial Report

The meeting considered an update on the finances. Current balance £6,679.30p.

12. Agenda for the Annual Meeting and Quarterly Meeting 19th July 2019

The meeting considered and approved the agenda for the annual meeting and next quarterly meeting to be hosted by Connah's Quay Town Council on Friday 19th July 2019.

13. Secretariat

To note that Robert will be retiring from Welshpool Town Council in May 2020. There is no action to be taken in the current (if Robert is re-elected) but consideration as to expenses when Robert retires from Welshpool Town Council will need to be considered if he is to continue after that date.

14. Recommendations

The meeting considered other subjects which are included on the main agenda for the meeting to be held on 19th July.



15. Dates of future meetings

Friday 19th July 2019 – Connah’s Quay Town Council - Annual Meeting

Friday 10th July 2019 – Connah’s Quay Town Council – Quarterly Meeting

The Annual Meeting starts at 10.30am with the Quarterly Meeting following.

**APPENDIX B****AGENDA**

for the Quarterly Meeting of the Association to be held on
 Friday 25th October 2019 at 10.30am
 at Holywell

1. Homeless Issues in Wales

To receive a presentation regarding the above from Welsh Government.

2. Record of attendance

To record attendance and any apologies for absence.

3. Members contact details

To confirm postal and or email addresses for paperwork for meetings.

4. Minutes of the last Meeting

To consider and approve the minutes of the last quarterly meeting as at appendix 1.

5. Declarations of interest

To record any declarations of interest.

6. Actions from the last meeting

To consider a report on actions to be taken forward from the last meeting:

To invite a senior civil servant or Minister to meet with the Association on the subject of the homeless.	
To post the Sleep Rough Report on the web site.	Completed
To include this item as a standing item on the agenda for the foreseeable future.	Completed
Archives to be placed in the Library of Wales	Being arranged
Contact to be made with NALC and IESE to seek association membership	
Seek a North and Mid Wales Minister dedicated to those areas via an approach to Welsh Government.	Letter sent
Prepare a paper for the next meeting on Council Tax and the alternatives.	Completed



6. Financial Report

To consider an update on the finances of the Association.

7. Executive Meeting Minutes

To consider the minutes of the Executive Meeting as set out at appendix 2.

7. Business Rates

To consider a report as attached at appendix 3.

8. Council Tax

To consider a report as attached at appendix 4.

9. Consultation on Wind and Solar Farms

To consider a consultation on TAN8 revisions to provide more onshore wind farms and solar panel farms. See appendix 5.

10. Any other business

Any other business notified to the Chair or Secretary prior to the start of the meeting.



MINUTES

of the Quarterly Meeting of the Association held on
 Friday 19th July 2019 at 10.30am
 at The Civic Halls Connah's Quay

11. Record of attendance:

Council	Attending	Apologies received
Officers	Cllr P Morton Vice Chair Cllr J Butterfield President R A Robinson Secretary	Cllr J Ellis Chair
Abergele Town Council	Cllr B Roberts Cllr S Jones-Roberts Cllr R Waters	
Amlwch Town Council		
Argoed Community Council		
Bagillt Community Council	Cllr C Williams	
Bangor City Council	Cllr D Hainge Cllr J Martin Ian Jones (Clerk)	
Bay of Colwyn Town Council	Cllr B Barton Cllr H Meredith Tina Earley (Clerk)	
Broughton Community Council		
Buckley Town Council	Cllr V Blondek Cllr A Wooley	
Caerwys Town Council	Cllr L Edwards	
Caia Park Community Council		
Connah's Quay Town Council	Cllr I Smith Cllr P Davies Cllr E Faulkner Cllr G Faulkner S Goodman (Clerk)	
Conwy Town Council		



Denbigh Town Council	Cllr R Tickle	Cllr D Derry
Flint Town Council	Cllr S License	
Holywell Town Council	Cllr K Davies Cllr P York Jason Baker (Clerk)	
Llanasa Community Council		
Llandrinio/Arddleen Community Council		Carol Davies
Llandysilio Community Council		Cllr F Buckingham
Llandudno Town Council	Cllr B Bertola	Cllr M Lyon
Llanfairfechan Town Council		
Menai Bridge Town Council	Cllr D H Davies	
New Hawarden Community Council		
Penmaenmawr Town Council	Cllr M Baines Martin Hanks (Clerk)	
Prestatyn Town Council		
Rhuddlan Town Council		
Rhyl Town Council	Cllr J Chamberlain-Jones	
Ruthin Town Council	Cllr S Beach Cllr K Robson	
Shotton Town Council		
St Asaph City Council		
Towyn and Kinmel Bay Town Council	Cllr M Jones	Cllr B McLoughlin
Welshpool Town Council	Cllr C Robinson Cllr F Veenstra	

12. Homeless Issues in Wales

The meeting was informed that many of the County Councils and Welsh Government were asked for someone to attend the meeting on this subject. No one was available or offered anyone who could attend. The Secretary is to contact each to say that the Association was disappointed in this regard.



The meeting received a presentation from Cllr C Robinson on the homeless (in particular to Liverpool as an example).

The Committee received the Rough Sleeping Report of 2017 and the meeting accepted the report.

There was much discussion with the following noted:

- a) MORE SENIOR CITIZENS ON STREET FOR OVER A DECADE
- b) MEDICALLY RETIRED ARMED SERVICES LEFT TO FEND FOR THEMSELVES
- c) MANY ON THE STREET ARE RELIANT ON DRUGS AND ALCOHOL TO SURVIVE
- d) HOMELESS ISSUES NOW WORSE THAN IN LIVING MEMORY
- e) LOTS OF PEOPLE JUST A MONTH AWAY FROM BEING HOMELESS

The meeting also noted the following actions that Town and Community Councils could take to help (some are doing this already):

- A) Understand that most do not wish to be homeless
- B) Understand that Universal Credit is a real issue
- C) Understand that under 18's are not recognized as they are not claiming
- D) Understand there are issues around Arm Services support
- E) Understand there is much abuse towards homeless
- F) What can we do:
 - i) Help with forms, referrals, knowing where to signpost people to help
 - ii) Receive the information pack
 - iii) Community meals

The meeting asked for the following actions to be taken forward by the Association as follows:

- a) To invite a senior civil servant or Minister to meet with the Association on the subject of the homeless.
- b) To post the Sleep Rough Report on the web site.
- c) To include this item as a standing item on the agenda for the foreseeable future.



13. Members contact details

Members were asked to give their email addresses for receipt of agenda and minutes etc so that it is more likely that the papers will make to members.

14. Minutes of the last Meeting

The meeting considered and approved the minutes of the last meeting.

15. Actions from the last meeting

The meeting received a report on actions to be taken forward from the last meeting:

No	Heading	Action
1	Homeless	Arrange for a speaker for the July 2019 quarterly meeting.
2	Welsh Language Policy	Prepare a draft policy which reflects the current position of the Association.
3	Audit Office Welsh Government	A letter to be sent seeking a 'softer approach' by the external auditor.
4	Climate Change	To implement the Climate Change Policy.
5	Business Rates	A letter to be sent regarding both a change in business rates and a relief for Town and Community Councils.
6	Hospital Letters	A letter to be sent to the NHS on letter information about headings.
7	Bank Mandates	Information on bank mandates to be passed to the secretary for circulation if members are willing.

6. Financial Report

The current bank balances were received.

7. Executive Meeting Minutes

The meeting received the minutes of the last meeting of the Executive.

8. Future of Local Councils

The meeting considered the next stage of the consultation as follows:

Item for discussion	Notes	Response
Consider how desirable, possible and how it work to appoint clerks from a national list including wider work implications.	The idea is that there would be a list of Clerks registered at the Society of Local Council Clerks. Councils would be required to select a Clerk	The meeting is opposed to any restriction on how or who the Council appoints as their Clerk.



	<p>from that list. There may be a requirement for the larger Councils to have a Qualified Clerk from that approved list.</p>	
<p>Consider if Councillor training should be mandatory.</p>	<p>The idea is that training would be mandatory, maybe via County Councils, maybe via One Voice Wales or maybe via the Local Councils own resources. Such training would be required to be to a set standard.</p>	<p>The Association supports the provision of training but is opposed to making it mandatory. The Association would also not wish to be required to use any particular source for their training.</p>
<p>Explore what can be done to facilitate relationships between the two tiers of Councils and if there needs to be a statutory relationship.</p>	<p>There were a lot of Local Councils that complained about the relationship between themselves and their County Council – it was almost universal. There were various reasons given. The Welsh Government wants to know how Local Councils would like to resolve this issue.</p>	<p>This item is to be deferred to the next meeting.</p>

9. Archives

To meeting considered approving the safe keeping of the Association records held by the Secretary at Welshpool Town Council. These records are from the very start of the Association. The recommendation is that the Library of Wales is approached to store the original copies for the Association so that a record is kept. Current records would be stored in the same way on an annual basis.

The meeting agreed with the proposal.

10. One Voice Wales

The meeting considered the attached email from Tina Early from By of Colwyn Town Council. See appendix 1.

The meeting considered the contents and agreed to contact both NALC and IESE to seek corporate membership for information.

10. Minister for North and Mid Wales

The meeting agreed to call for a Minister for Mid and North Wales and agreed that a letter should be sent to the Welsh Government seeking same.



11. Council Tax and Business Rates

The meeting considered if they should invoke a national campaign to seek the abolition of Council Tax with a suitable replacement.

The meeting considered the same for Business Rates.

The meeting agreed to consider the Council Tax proposal at its next meeting with full information on the alternatives.

The meeting also agreed to consider the Business Rates proposal at a future meeting.

12. Dates of future meetings

To note the dates for future meetings as agreed at the Annual Meeting held on the same day.

Quarterly Meetings

25th October 2019

Holywell Town Council

17th January 2020

Rhyl Town Council

24th April 2020

Welshpool Town Council

17th July 2020

Connah's Quay Civic Halls

Executive Meetings

20th September 2019

13th December 2019

13th March 2020

12th June 2020

All Executive Meetings are held at Rhyl Town Council Offices.

All meetings commence at 10.30am.



13. Actions to be taken forward

The following actions to be taken forward:

To invite a senior civil servant or Minister to meet with the Association on the subject of the homeless.	
To post the Sleep Rough Report on the web site.	
To include this item as a standing item on the agenda for the foreseeable future.	
Archives to be placed in the Library of Wales	
Contact to be made with NALC and IESE to seek association membership	
Seek a North and Mid Wales Minister dedicated to those areas via an approach to Welsh Government.	
Prepare a paper for the next meeting on Council Tax and the alternatives.	



APPENDIX 3

BUSINESS RATES
(Retail High Streets in particular)

“The governments just haven’t got it. They need to take some responsibility for the high street’s decline.”

The Entertainer’s chief executive Gary Grant is far from the only prominent figure to blame business rates for the worryingly extensive roster of retailers facing insolvency or administration.

Recently, books retailer Foyles largely blamed their £88,791 loss on the rise in business rates, while fresh research from real estate advisory group Altus suggests that business rates rises were a key factor in House of Fraser’s recently announced CVA.

Last year, Argos chief executive John Rogers said it was “it is no surprise the profit warnings tended to be from those companies that predominantly have a high street presence, because they are paying a cost to their business that’s not borne by most of their online competition,” joining MPs from the influential Treasury Select Committee in his criticism.

The list of the tax’s critics is almost as long as the list of retailers large and small who are struggling to make ends meet in the current retail climate.

But just how much of the blame for the high street’s current woes can be pinned on this controversial tax?

“The fundamental issue is persisting with the link between rates liability and property value”

“Unsecured borrowing was the least since November 2012 chiming with the recent drop in consumer confidence and rise in saving intentions,” Altus Group’s head of UK business rates Robert Hayton told the *Retail Gazette*.

“Add to the mix the already lethal cocktail of increased operating costs for the national living wage and apprenticeship levy against a backdrop of rates bills having rose by more than a fifth before the revaluation creates the perfect storm for 2018 being the year of the CVA.

“Business rates are rarely the sole driver for insolvencies but certainly a contributory factor being one of the least negotiable taxes and the hardest to defer.”



Placing the sole blame for a very complex and multifaceted issue on a single piece of legislation is always going to be reductionist, and could cause more problems than it solves.

That said, unlike wider economic burdens that cannot be controlled, such as customers' exodus away from physical retail or the fall in the value of the pound, business rates stands out as a seemingly unnecessary weight on retailers' shoulders.

This is largely due to the fact it is based on an outdated framework for retail, failing to account for the lightning-fast, but never unexpected rise of online players.

As Richard Roberts, head of retail at independent legal practice Brabners, points out, traditional retailers are hindered by their reliance on high footfall properties.

“High-street vendors have far less choice about where they locate their stores than ecommerce businesses who enjoy the geographical freedom to base themselves in more remote locations, which benefit from far lower rateable values,” he said.

“The fundamental issue is persisting with the link between rates liability and property value, meaning high-street retailers are punished because they need to have a physical presence in high-footfall, high-value locations.

“Unless the link between property value and business rates is severed, we will see increasing numbers of outlets forced out of urban centres leading to more boarded-up units and high streets with little variety beyond charity shops, £1 retailers and pop-up traders.”

Since the initial rates rise came into effect last year, both the Chancellor Philip Hammond and newly-appointed Home Secretary Sajid Javid have promised change.

The most concrete effort to alleviate pressure was announced in the Autumn Budget last year. Hammond announced that the inflation measure used to calculate the rates would move from the Retail Prices Index (RPI), to the lower Consumer Price Index (CPI).

Though the move was largely welcomed, Roberts described it as “the government re-arranging the deck chairs on the Titanic”.

Hayton added that despite the headline £2.3 billion reprieve the industry would enjoy as a consequence of this change, it is but a drop in the ocean of the overall costs of the tax.



“Even with business rates rises limited for this financial year to last September’s CPI rate of three per cent, that still drove business rates bills from April for 2018/19 up for the embattled retail sector by £226 million,” he said.

With a further 55,000 retail businesses having to deal with yet more rises this year, it’s no stretch of the imagination to assume the current shop vacancies situation will get worse.

Possible solutions



APPENDIX 4

COUNCIL TAX

APPENDIX 5

TAN 8 REVISION – WIND AND SOLAR FARMS – ALL WALES

