



Cyngor Tref  
**Rhuddlan**  
Town Council

## **Rhuddlan Town Council – Minutes of the meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> December 2019**

### **Present:**

Cllr Arwel Roberts (Mayor in the Chair)  
Cllr Reg Davies  
Cllr Syd Gaskin  
Cllr Mike Kermode  
Cllr Andrew Smith  
Cllr Bleddyn Williams  
Cllr Charlotte Frobisher  
Cllr Gareth Rowlands  
Cllr Mike Elgin  
Cllr Ann Davies  
Town Clerk  
Clerical Assistant/Minute Clerk

### **1. Apologies**

None given

4 members of the public were present along with Steve Buckley of Website Studio.

### **2. Declaration of Interest**

Cllr Mike Kermode, Cllr Arwel Roberts, Cllr Andrew Smith, Cllr Mike Elgin, and Cllr Ann Davies reference the Dementia Group – Item 13a.

Cllr Ann Davies reference Planning Applications – Item 10.

Cllr Gareth Rowlands reference Admirals Playing Field

### **3. Urgent Items – having been advised to the Mayor 24hrs in advance**

Cllr Arwel Roberts introduced Miss Helen Furneaux a resident who represents the Rhuddlan Community Group. Miss Furneaux gave an interesting presentation about the group's new bilingual booklet – Rhuddlan Community Group – 8 Rhuddlan Walks. Explaining how this had been funded and some future ideas about how they could sell and promote the booklet. Selling at only £2:50 each several Members bought a copy for themselves.

Miss Furneaux asked Council's permission to place an advert for the brochure in the town council noticeboard. **Permission granted.**

Cllr Mike Kermode was keen to see the Rhuddlan Community Group working with other groups in the town to encourage the walks. Especially Rhuddlan Dementia Group and how

they could work together to make more walks dementia friendly. Miss Furneaux answered that they have had people living with dementia on previous walks and looked forward to working with the group in the future. Cllr Kermode invited them to attend one of their meetings to promote the walks.

Cllr Gareth Rowlands congratulated the group on their brochure and reminded those present of the existence of the walks on the Town Council website and ibeacons system.

Cllr Arwel Roberts presented Miss Furneaux with a dog waste bag dispenser for the community group to place in Rhuddlan Nature Reserve.

**4. Website Studio Presentation** – Cllr Gareth Rowlands gave some background to the reasons behind wanting a new website layout and that some Members had met with Steve Buckley from Website Studios on December 5<sup>th</sup> to discuss a brief of what was wanted and what might be achieved. Cllr Mike Kermode adding that it would make the town council website look far more professional to potential visitors and businesses.

Steve Buckley then proceeded to present to members a drafted website suggestion based on that discussion.

Cllr Mike Elgin stated he thought the suggestion looked good and asked if other videos could be downloaded to the web site. They can

Cllr Gareth Rowlands informed Members that the website would be bi-lingual.

The Town Clerk commented that Members had been keen to promote tourism through such a promotional video but we are awaiting DCC to assist with this as discussed previously, and asked what Members would like to do.

Cllr Mike Elgin wondered if we could create our own video, and Cllr Mike Kermode adding that perhaps some working relationship could emerge between the Town Clerk, Assistant Town Clerk, and Website Studio in providing website material and uploading it. Steve Buckley replied just send it to them and they will “web it up”.

Cllr Andrew Smith was aware of how much impact this and other social media streams can positively provide.

Cllr Syd Gaskin asked if the website would be compatible with Apple. It would.

Cllr Mike Kermode then commenting that all seemed very positive about the suggested website and asked how much would it cost?

At this point Steve Buckley was thanked for his presentation and asked to leave the Chamber whilst the costs were debated.

The Town Clerk reported that the modernising of our current website would be a one-off cost of £650 and that the monthly maintenance charge would £120.

Cllr Mike Kermode proposed that modernising cost, and the maintenance contract cost, be approved. But, with a condition that it requires a 2-month notice clause if not proving successful. This was seconded by Cllr Gareth Rowlands. **Resolved.**

## **5. Police Matters**

No report had been received and no officer present.

Cllr Arwel Roberts reported that there was a member of the public present who wanted to comment on police matters in Rhuddlan. Mr Andy Sutton addressed the meeting and

introduced himself. He asked if Members were aware of a report in March 2019 of a potential body buried under the bar area of Rhuddlan Golf Club, and if any Members had heard of any progress on the matter.

Cllr Ann Davies replied she was aware of an article in the Daily post back in March

Cllr Mike Kermode was not, but asked why this matter is being brought to the Town Council as it is not the Town Council's responsibility.

Mr Sutton repeated his questions

Cllr Mike Elgin suggested that the questions should be put to the golf club or police not the Town Council.

Mr Sutton informed Members that a police investigation was ongoing and multiple complaints been made and persisted in his questions.

Cllr Arwel Roberts reiterated that this was a matter for the police, not the Town Council, and that the meeting needed to move on.

Mr Sutton and another member of the public then left the Chamber.

Cllr Arwel Roberts then invited Cllr Andrew Smith to speak on another police matter. Cllr Smith noted that police presence at the Town Council meetings are sporadic and there are times that a Police Report is not received. The Town Clerk reminded Members that the Police & Crime Commissioner was attending a meeting in January 2020 and so this issue and others raised previously can be put to him.

Cllr Ann Davies commented that PCSO Roberts is a good officer, works hard, and does his best for our town noting that he seems to attend when on duty.

Cllr Gareth Rowlands said that such a letter has been sent before and the Town Clerk should advise the Police & Crime Commissioner that this will be an issue in January when he attends. **Resolved**

## **6. Minutes – 12<sup>th</sup> November 2019.**

Cllr Gareth Rowlands noted that the last item 5f on P69 which referred to a key to the CCTV lighting box should be amended to say "that CCTV Partnership have a key to the concrete bunker at the MUGA so as to access the power supply to the camera".

Cllr Mike Kermode wished item 5t to be amended from "DCC is running a series of business events" to "DVSC is running a series of business events".

**Subject to these amendments the minutes were proposed by Cllr Mike Kermode, seconded by Cllr Andrew Smith as a true record and signed.**

### **Matters Arising**

- a. **Tourist Video** – the Town Clerk had circulated a list of ideas for any future tourist video, but wanted Members to agree if they should be sent to the DCC tourist department for inclusion on their webpage or the Website Studio webpage.

Cllr Mike Kermode suggested that we ask DCC if their web page could be modernised by our own video, and if not then produce our own. **Resolved.**

- b. **Dog Waste Bag Dispensers** – the Town Clerk circulated a bag dispenser with bags and enquired how many Members would like the Town Council to purchase. Cllr Gareth

Rowlands reported that he knew of a supplier who would supply much cheaper dispensers & bags and will pass on the contact to the Town Clerk.

Cllr Mike Kermode asked who would replenish the dispensers and the following Members offered to do it, Cllrs Mike Elgin, Ann Davies, and Arwel Roberts.

- c. **Repeat Prescriptions** – Cllr Reg Davies reported that the system was still not working efficiently although the surgery repeats prescription box informed patients there was 48 hours wait. The Chemist Miss Timothy, was still having complaints and even went to Prestatyn to collect them. She was informed that there was more waiting but were not logged on the system, and that the system is still not working properly.

Cllr Ann Davies offered to call a meeting with BCHUB but **Members resolved to invite Darren Thomas from BCHUB to our next meeting to discuss.**

Cllr Andrew Smith added that the surgery hours of opening on the door were not right and asked that Mr Thomas address that issue too.

- d. **Deputy Mayors Chain** – Cllr Syd Gaskin asked for any news on the arrival of the chain. The Town Clerk answered that there wasn't.

- e. **Welcome Sign** – The Town Clerk had received an estimate costing of £2,500-£3,000 for the revamping and relocation of the signs as discussed previously.

Cllr Mike Kermode proposed that the Town Council should follow this up and this was seconded by Cllr Andrew Smith.

Cllr Gareth Rowlands agreed with the proposal. **Resolved**

Cllr Arwel Roberts informed the Members that he and the Town Clerk are to meet with Mike Jones from Highways and this will be included in the discussion along with several other issues such as the car park refund voucher, and the Ffordd Rhyl crossing.

**Members resolved to invite Jackie Burnham and Gemma from the Cheesemonger to the meeting with Mike Jones as business representatives.**

- f. **Power Washing** – the Town Clerk informed members that only 20%-30% had been completed when the machine broke down and that it will not be replaced until March. Although the contractors had been recommended Members discussed retendering the work with another contractor.

Cllr Syd Gaskin circulated a photo of the debris left behind when the contractor had visited the town which was not of a high standard.

Cllr Andrew Smith proposed that the Council write to cease the original contractor contract and **Members so resolved.**

Cllr Mike Kermode noted that there was a budget provision for this work and given the winter weather and road salting we should use the money before the end of March. **Resolved.**

- g. **Cleaning Edward 1<sup>st</sup> Inscription** – the Town Clerk informed members that this would be completed before the end of the financial year but the erection of a plaque recording the inscription cannot be placed on a nearby road sign as Members had wanted. It would require a traffic regulation change via the Welsh Government. **Members agreed to wait the outcome of the cleaning before deciding to continue with the plaque.**

- h. **Fresh Air Gym Fence**– now arriving in January.

- i. **Christmas tree** – Cllr Arwel Roberts thanked Cllr Reg Davies for his help with the Christmas tree this year.

- j. **Admirals Field Willow Trees** – now removed.

- k. **Business Breakfast** – Cllr Mike Kermode had met with DVSC and there will be a presentation in January on dementia sufferers and best business practice. The Town Clerk reported that Kirsty Hutton Davies of DCC will be holding another business breakfast in March on the theme of Marketing Rhuddlan, and social media platforms. **Resolved to support both DVSC, Rhuddlan Dementia Group, and DCC with their events.**
- l. **Town Plan** – Amy Selby will be attending the March meeting to advice on writing a draft town plan.  
Cllr Charlotte Frobisher wished to update Members on a recent Hylas Lane incident which highlighted the need to look at a one-way system for the road. This is minuted in Community Matters.
- m. **Unightly land by library** –Cllr Gareth Rowlands stated that we now need to arrange for plants and planting in this area. **Resolved.**
- n. **Bowls Club** – Cllr Mike Kermode informed Members that he had delivered a presentation on providing suitable facilities / adaptations for people with living with dementia
- o. **Christmas Carols around the tree** – Cllr Andrew Smith has arranged a band to be present and was hoping they will show up. Access to the Electric power is required. The Town Clerk will contact the relevant officer in DCC.
- p. **Castle Street Parking** – the Town Clerk had written to the police and the PCSO will contact Roy Price. The car on the junction is not causing an obstruction according to the police but if DCC placed double yellow lines on the road side it would become illegal to park there which may cause problems to businesses when they are awaiting deliveries.
- q. **Environment Enforcement** – Tim Wynne Evans and a member of the new team will be coming to the March meeting.
- r. **Youth Club** – Cllr Ann Davies reported that the club had not yet started as DCC are awaiting a decision on the floor issue.
- s. **Community Matters** – Unfortunately, school children from Ysgol y Castell will not be attending Carols Around the Tree due to the late timing.  
Cllr Gareth Rowlands reported that the Rotary Club's Santa Float can't attend as the programme is put together in September. But please write in a request for 2020 if wanted.  
Cllr Andrew Smith confirmed that the electric car charge point at the Talardy is now working and is regularly used. There then followed a discussion on an electric car charger being provided by the Council on land it owns at the library car park and the potential leasing of the car park to DCC in the future. Cllr Mike Kermode proposed and Cllr Gareth Rowlands seconded that the Town Council get a cost for the charger and get on with it. **Resolved.**  
Coed y Brain does not trigger a Land Transaction Tax as the threshold is £150k.

## **7. Correspondence from:**

### **7a. The Mayor.**

Cllr Arwel Roberts presented his report:

- 9th of November.- Ebeneser Chapel present in their tea party . Invited to congratulate members, minister and officers for their existence as a centre of religion for two hundred years. Also present in the Rock and Groove Dance organised in the Community Centre by Rhuddlan Dementia Group.
- 10th of November - Sunday to Remember the Fallen. Thanks to Cllr Kermode who took down the poppies from all the different street posts.
- 16th of November - coffee afternoon organised by family and friends of the late Val Jones - excellent occasion.
- 17th of November - Caerwys Civic Sunday.
- 22nd of November - Little Theatre Rhyl - excellent show - Little Shop of Horrors.
- 23rd of November - Christmas Service in St Mary's Church organised by Town Woman's Guild within Rhuddlan.
- 30th of November - coffee morning in the Community Centre organised by Treasure Chest main organiser Rhuddlan resident Mrs Mair Solomon. Good support for such a valuable organisation. Visited the Artisan's Fair in St Mary's Church and Christmas Tree Festival.
- 2nd of December - switching of Christmas Lights in the company of Ysgol y Castell pupils.
- Hopefully the Mayoress and myself will be present in these occasions before Christmas:
- 9/12/2019 - Rhuddlan history society dinner.
- 10/12/2019 - Carol Singing in Pengwern College. Rushing then to a Christmas Concert organised for Denbighshire Chairman in Dinbych.
- 17/12/2019 - Carol Singing around the Christmas Tree.

As chair of Rhuddlan's Dementia Group I have present in all organised events such as Music Memories Sessions and Sit and Fit Sessions.

Cllr Mike Kermode reported that he had removed the poppies and would be giving them to Cllr Gareth Rowlands for storage.

**The report was accepted**

**7b. The Deputy Mayor**

None given

**7c. The Town Clerk**

The Town Clerk asked who would be judging the best business and best house decoration competition. It was agreed that Cllrs Arwel Roberts, Ann Davies, and Mike Elgin will meet at 5pm on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December by the Kings Head.

Cllr Mike Kermode congratulated the Town Clerk on receiving her CiLCA Certificate from the Society of Local Council Clerks.

The Mayor's Charity Evening is to be held on February 15<sup>th</sup> 2020 in support of MIND and the Fish & Chip Supper is to be held on March 14<sup>th</sup> 2020.

**The report was accepted**

**7d. DCC – Provision of a new Cemetery.** A reply from Tony Ward had been received on the issue in which he states a cost of more than £950k for a new cemetery (at 2004 prices) and that DCC had decided that the cost was prohibitive. Adding that if the Rhuddlan Town Council were minded to fund a new cemetery, then he would be happy to discuss the matter further.

Cllr Gareth Rowlands was disappointed with the reply and stated that some of the sites had actually been built on now. He asked Cllr Ann Davies were exactly she had mentioned at the November meeting which she explained. He suggested that the Town Council consult with the Rhuddlan community to gauge their opinion on a provision of a new cemetery in Rhuddlan.

Cllr Rowlands suggested a potential site between the bye-pass, Tan yr Eglwys, and leading up to Maes yr Onnen.

There is a budget set aside to carry out a feasibility study / consultation. **The Members resolved to get a quote.**

**7e. Transport for Wales bus passes.** The Town Clerk had received an email which provides instructions on how to apply for a TfW bus pass. This will be placed on the Town Council noticeboard.

Cllr Andrew Smith had heard rumours that the eligible age of 60 is being raised.

Cllr Mike Kermode believed this might be in line with the retirement age.

This is out for consultation at present.

**8. County Council Members Report**

**County Councillor Report – Cllr Ann Davies**

- a. *Cllr Davies updated Members on the Performance Committee activities including the removal of plastic cups, budget cuts for the next financial year, and youth service cuts.*
- b. *Cllr Davies remarked on the potholes in Bryn Hafod road.*
- c. *Cllr Davies thanked Cllr Mike Kermode for his work with the Dementia Group*

**The verbal report was accepted**

**County Councillor Report - Cllr Arwel Roberts**

- a. *Cllr Roberts updated Members on his recent County work*
- b. *He is involved in a problem in Canol y Dre Ruthin*
- c. *Cllr Roberts informed Members of the libraries printing facility and the cost.*
- d. *Cllr Roberts was grateful to Cllr Mike Kermode for his work with the Dementia Group and pointed out to Members the recent article in the Journal*
- e. *Cllr Kermode added that there is a coffee morning on Saturday and the new 2020 dates for Memory singing are now available.*

**The verbal report was accepted**

**9. Budget/Finance Matters**

- a. The Town Clerk presented the due payment list for Members approval.

**The payments were approved**

b. The Town Clerk informed the Members that our next meeting in January 9<sup>th</sup> 2020 will be for the budget setting and expressions of proposals were invited. The Town Council meeting will be held on January 16<sup>th</sup> 2020.

c. The Members were reminded by the Town Clerk that they need to complete a Members Allowance form for 2019/20 and the forms were distributed. If a Member did not want to claim the allowance, then they need to tick the relevant box.

d. A bill had been received in the sum of £960 +vat for the supply, putting up, and removal of Christmas trees for the years 2015/16/17/18. Cllr Reg Davies explained why the bill is late. Cllr Gareth Rowlands acknowledged that the Council was awaiting the bill and proposed that it is paid. **Resolved.**

e. Cllr Arwel Roberts noted that the Prosperity building was empty and wondered if Members would consider purchasing it as a potential Rhuddlan museum in collaboration with the History Club. Cllr Mike Kermode suggested that it should be included in the budget setting meeting on January 9<sup>th</sup> for discussion. Cllr Gareth Rowlands adding that the issue of purchasing the building came up in Town Council years ago but decided not to do it at that time. After further discussion **Members resolved to investigate if the building is for sale now it's empty again.**

**10. Planning Applications for comment:**

Cllrs Mike Kermode and Arwel Roberts abstained from the discussions.

i) 44/2019/0976 Single storey extension and construction of garage at 9 Princes Park, Rhuddlan.

**There were no objections.**

ii) 44/2019/1020 Development of 0.04ha of land for the erection of a detached dwelling at 16 Maes Rhosyn, Rhuddlan.

**There were no objections**

## 11. 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of V.E.Day.

Cllr Mike Kermode suggested holding a 1940's themed celebratory concert in the Community Centre in conjunction with Cor Clwyd and the Town Council. As Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May is confirmed as the 2020 May Day Bank Holiday Cllr Kermode thought holding the concert on that evening would be most suitable. Perhaps having role playing sessions to add to the evening. Cllr Kermode was happy to lead on the event along with the Town Clerk, assistant Town Clerk, and Roy & Jill Price from the Community Centre. During further discussion it was noted that other groups, churches, and organisations in Rhuddlan might like to participate in the celebrations in some way. Cllr Andrew Smith saying that Rhyl Marching Band had already been asked about attending the event. **Resolved to hold a concert on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May.**

## 12. Community Matters

The Mayor Cllr Arwel Roberts asked around the table if any member had any matter to be discussed.

- i) Cllr Gareth Rowlands had contacted the administrator for voluntary led hearing aid clinics and had secured this for Rhuddlan library starting on Friday January 24<sup>th</sup> on the fourth Friday of each month up to June as a trial period. Cllr Rowlands had attended a Grant Clinic in Rhyl Town Hall and informed Members that Rhuddlan Town Council is eligible for Gwynt y Mor windfarm grant scheme as long as the Council has a qualified Clerk of Works. Items like building refurbishment and upgrading were covered by this grant and could help with Coed y Brain project. There was a need to reframe the Wales in Bloom certificates and Cllr Rowlands proposed to put all 4 in one big frame and place in the Community Centre. Cllr Kermode seconded this and all **voted in favour.** Now the willow trees have been removed from Admiral's Field Cllr Rowlands proposed the Council provide and plant 3 rowan trees. **Resolved.** Cllr Rowlands made a plea that the Council should be listening to the youth of Rhuddlan and reminded Members that the school council had written to us and we should not forget to reply commenting on their ideas. Both Ysgol y Castell & Ysgol Dewi Sant should be included in a Mayor visit for Rhuddlan residing children, and report back to Council. Cllr Rowlands wanted to add to the budget setting list the addition of child based Fresh Air Gym equipment as currently it is mostly adult focused. Cllr Andrew Smith asked about any commuted sum for the Tirionfa development but Members heard that this is being used for educational purposes at the school. **Members agreed to add to the budget list for next financial year.**
- ii) Cllr Syd Gaskin noted that the Christmas lights on lamppost 21 was not working. Members believed that this had been rectified but the Town Clerk was asked to look at it again. Cllr Gaskin also reported a flickering lamppost on the bridge across the river. **Cllr Ann Davies will report this to DCC**

Cllr Gaskin said that wild flowers had been planted on the river bund over the bridge but still no trees. Cllr Gareth Rowlands adding how important it is to have such green lungs for our community and wondered if the land owner would be interested in the Town Council providing some trees via Coed Cymru. It was reported that the land in question has now been transferred to another owner but the question will be asked.

- iii) Cllr Charlotte Frobisher described an incident on Hylas Lane on the school pantomime evening. An altercation ensued on someone's private driveway and people claiming that the lane was a one-way street. Cllr Andrew Smith said that the school had been advised to use the lane as a one-way street but it is not classed as such. After some discussion Cllr Arwel Roberts stated that the complainant should report the incident to the police and the school.
- iv) Cllr Bleddyn Williams had a request from the landlady of the New Inn to open up the Community Centre for the homeless on New Year's Eve. He invited the lady to attend the meeting but she had failed to turn up. This is a matter for the Community Centre not the Town Council but if support is needed from Council the lady should write in formally.
- v) Cllr Reg Davies had noticed that boat & canoe access to the river was not available due to the gate by the old laundry being locked. Other areas of the banks are steep and slippery in Rhuddlan so people would have to access the river in Rhyl. Has the Council a key to the gate? Cllr Arwel Roberts suggested asking Peter Robinson. Cllr Gareth Rowlands proposed that the Town Council write to NRW requesting a key to the gate. **Resolved**  
Cllr Davies also commented on the fact that another pedestrian had been knocked over on the High Street pavement by a cyclist, and wondered if the CCTV system could be reviewed. Cllr Gareth Rowlands replied that it could as the police now have a radio link to the control centre in Chester but it needs reporting immediately. It also depends on which way the CCTV camera is pointing.
- vi) Cllr Mike Elgin has spoken to a resident who doesn't drive and had noticed that the new Aldi does not have a taxi free phone but the Prestatyn store does. He proposed that Aldi be approached by the Town Council to ask for this provision. **Resolved**
- vii) Cllr Mike Kermode commented on the state of the road of Bryn Hafod. It is real mess and something needs to be done with particular attention to its repatriation after the works are finished. **Resolved to write to the contractor and Mike Bennion of DCC**
- viii) Cllr Arwel Roberts said he had given a dog waste bag dispenser to the community group and would be putting one each at Admiral's Field and the Nature Reserve. If members have ideas for other sites then please speak to Cllr Roberts.

Cllr Roberts was still concerned about the old shed by the church that was destroyed by fire. Nothing has been done and asked Members what we could

do. There then followed a discussion around the fact that it may be on church ground, and even a thought that a resident of the Pen y Bont terrace had erected it years ago. There appeared to be no one claiming it. **Cllr Frobisher will investigate the Land Registry to ascertain ownership.**

### **13. Part 2 Exclusion of the Press & Public**

By virtue of The Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the press & public are excluded from discussions on the following items on the basis that disclosure thereof would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

#### **a. Request for Financial Assistance – Rhuddlan Dementia Friendly Group.**

Due to a Declaration of Interest from Cllrs Mike Kermode, Arwel Roberts, Ann Davies, Mike Elgin and Andrew Smith they all left the Chamber. Cllr Syd Gaskin was appointed chair who asked the Town Clerk to describe the application for those remaining.

The application is from the Rhuddlan Dementia Group and for £1000 towards the cost of a £20,000 project to provide a sensory garden area in Rhuddlan Nature Reserve. Cllr Gareth Rowlands informed Members that if successful the £1,000 would be a lever for other funding applications. If agreed the funding would be placed in the budget but not be paid to the applicant until other funding is in place.

Cllr Reg Davies so proposed, Cllr Charlotte Frobisher seconded and all voted in favour. **Resolved.**

The Cllrs who had declared an interest where then readmitted to the Chamber and Cllr Arwel Roberts returned to the chair.

#### **b. DCC Youth Services – application for funding from the Council's youth grant scheme. DCC have £12,820 running costs per annum for the proposed youth club. This was broken down into rent of building, rent of kitchen, staffing costs, resources/events, and external providers.**

Cllr Mike Kermode commented that the application seemed worth supporting and this Council have been trying to start a youth club for a long time and we are nearly there.

Cllr Kermode proposed a grant of £500 within the 2019/20 budget to start when the club starts and be payable in arrears. A further £1,820 be granted from the 2020/21 budget to be paid quarterly. A constraint was suggested of this being dependant on receiving quarterly reports from the youth service on its success and how the funding is being spent.

Cllr Andrew Smith seconded the proposal.

Cllr Gareth Rowlands thought this was a good idea and proposed an amendment of the provision of £3,000 for the 2020/21 budget.

Cllr Ann Davies commented that she thought this should be a DCC provision and wondered why Rhuddlan Town Council should be contributing.

Cllr Gareth Rowlands was worried about the youth service cuts that Cllr Davies had mentioned in her County Councillor report and that this amount could provide an encouragement to the County Council to work with us on this issue.

Cllr Arwel Roberts seconded the amendment and all voted in favour. **Resolved**

#### **14. Coed y Brain**

Cllr Gareth Rowlands declared an interest in this matter but was asked to remain in the Chamber to offer advice but not voting.

In the last Town Council meeting, members resolved to ask for a reduction of £6,959 from the original £125,000 offer. The £6,959 is a quote that has been received from a local contractor to carry out essential repair to the building.

Also, members were keen to purchase the additional piece of garden that had been offered by the client.

Correspondence had been received from Jones and Redfearn Estate Agent stating that the vendor expected that the price of £125,000 remains the same. The vendor agreed to the offer of £25,000 for the additional piece of garden.

Cllr Mike Elgin had not expected a further reduction for the building repairs and accepts the vendor's view.

Cllr Reg Davies said he wanted to pay the price now offered.

Cllr Mike Kermode was not liking the offer from vendor now tabled and had noted a window had been broken in the building recently and the owner had put up a board and was not fixing it properly.

Cllr Syd Gaskin commented that the word "converting" used by the estate agents was misleading, it should read "repairs".

Cllr Gareth Rowlands was asked for his advice. Which was that the price had so far been negotiated down by a good amount, and it was time to make a decision adding that Members should think about how bad this Council wants this property for our community.

Cllr Mike Elgin mentioned that he hoped that the necessary repairs could be met by grant applications.

Cllr Ann Davies was in favour of trying to reduce the costs further.

Cllr Andrew Smith adding that in the absence of very limited other interest over a long period of time, the price was still too high. He believed the vendor should move on the cost of repairs issue.

The Town Clerk queried if planning application for the change of use was required as the building may be used for the supply of refreshments in the future.

Cllr Arwel Roberts wanted Members to make a decision either way.

Cllr Mike Elgin proposed the asking price is paid and the Council go ahead with the repairs with the assistance of grant applications.

Cllr Reg Davies seconded the proposal. **Resolved that the original offer of £125,000 remains and that £2.500 be paid for the additional piece of garden, thereby making the new offer of £127,500 for Coed y Brain.**

Cllr Gareth Rowlands abstained from voting but asked Members to consider that only 3 years ago the Town Council wanted to provide a changing room on the site at an estimated cost of £250,000. He advised that Dragons FC had offered help with the building repairs and grant applications, adding that a Clerk of Works would be required if applying to Gwynt y Mor.

Cllr Mike Kermode said that now the Council had agreed to purchase the property we should include a contingency sum and funding for any grant applications. He suggested a sum of £50,000.

Cllr Mike Elgin seconded and it was **resolved**.

**16. Date of Next Meeting - Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January at 7pm**

Signed.....*Arwel Roberts*.....Cllr Arwel Roberts (Mayor)

Date.....*January 2020*.....