



Cyngor Tref
Rhuddlan
Town Council

Rhuddlan Town Council – Minutes of the meeting on the 12th November 2019

Present:

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

1. Apologies

Cllr Gareth Smith Deputy Mayor, Cllr Gareth Rowlands, Cllr Mike Elgin

3 members of the public were present along with PCSO Phil Roberts

2. Declaration of Interest

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

Cllr Ann Davies reference Planning Applications – Item 11.

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

Cllr Arwel Roberts reported that none had been received

4. Police Matters

PCSO Phil Roberts presented his report which had been pre-circulated to members.

Crimes reported for the month of October 2019:

- Shoplifting – Spar
- Burglary other than dwelling – Parc Tirionfa
- Shoplifting – CO OP
- Criminal damage – Llys Pen y Ffordd
- Burglary – Cwrt y Gwindy
- Shoplifting – Aldi

A.R

PCSO Roberts said that the 78 calls for the Rhuddlan area were mainly about non-crime incidents e.g. debris on the road. The actual crime incidents recorded were regarded as very low but concerning for those who were the victims of the crimes.

PCSO Roberts invited members to attend an Environmental Visual Audit to be held in either January or February 2020. This will investigate issues such as potholes, overgrown hedges, abandoned vehicle, and broken street lights. **Cllr Syd Gaskin volunteered his name for this. The Town Clerk who will inform PCSO Roberts.**

Cllr Mike Kermode congratulated PCSO on the recent event at Sainsbury's, and asked if there was anything to report on the 4 burglaries reported last month. PCSO Roberts answered that one perpetrator had been apprehended and sentenced to a 3-year custodial sentence. Adding that there had been an increase of burglaries of and from cars and this was due to using key fob scanners where cars did not have key operated locks.

Cllr Arwel Roberts reminded PCSO Roberts that the first Rhuddlan Youth Club meeting was to be held on Friday 15th November at 4pm, and that he hoped the police would have a presence.

Cllr Ann Davies had been at a meeting with the Chief Inspector in Ruthin who had reported on the fact that the scene of some burglaries are attended immediately but some took a longer time and asked why this was. PCSO Roberts answered that if the report included evidence that can be dealt with immediately then the police will respond quickly e.g. CCTV coverage of the crime. If the nature of the report is such that the burglary had only been noticed and reported a day or two after, then the response would be longer.

Cllr Syd Gaskin adding that it's the keyless cars that are affected by the fob scanners which can read the fob system and replicate it electronically to gain access and start the engine.

Cllr Arwel Roberts was concerned about the Chief Inspector's meeting reporting on the issue of County Lines where dealers are targeting vulnerable people and young children to deal their drugs. PCSO Roberts agreed that it is a strategic problem across North Wales but there have been no reports of this type of activity in Rhuddlan.

5. Minutes – 10th October 2019.

Cllr Mike Kermode noted that the last paragraph on P66 which referred to the Coedy Brain item needs amending. The minutes showed that as the project is complicated and large in work-stream, the members had agreed to pay overtime for the Town Clerk. It needed amending to include the Assistant Town Clerk too.

Subject to this amendment the minutes were accepted as a true record and signed.

Matters Arising

- a. **Tourist Video** – the Town Clerk had only received one idea from the members as to what Rhuddlan attractions could be included in any future video. **It was resolved that the Town Clerk will list a few suggestions and circulate for Members to consider.**
- b. **Destination Partnership Representative** – Cllr Mike Elgin volunteered his service as the representative of Rhuddlan and **the members so resolved.**
- c. **Dog Waste Bag Dispensers** – the bag dispensers suggested by DCC were expensive but Cllr Arwel Roberts had been given 4 wooden dispensers and wanted members opinion as to where to place them. **It was resolved that 1 be given to the Community Group, 1 to the Nature Reserve, and 2 to be installed at Admiral's Field.** In the meantime, Cllr Roberts will investigate further the dispensers seen in Ystradgynlais.
- d. **Repeat Prescriptions** – The Town Clerk had received a reply from Darren Thomas from BCHUB stating that the medicines manager from the Rhuddlan surgery had been on annual leave which caused the issue and that they believed it was an isolated occurrence and it should not happen again.
Cllr Arwel Roberts invited a member of the public to inform the Council of her recent repeat prescription difficulty. Her prescription was presented at the chemist on Monday morning and by Friday morning it was not available. It arrived late Friday afternoon. The problem was not with the Rhuddlan chemist but somewhere within its journey from the chemist to the Prestatyn surgery.
Cllr Ann Davies had met with the local chemist and surgery and had been told that there is a doctor available every day so improvements should be seen.
Cllr Andrew Smith echoed the fact that the surgery is revising its timetable so as to provide every day coverage and feels that there is a better focus on Rhuddlan surgery service.
- e. **Police Matters** - The Town Clerk had written to the Police & Crime Commissioner and the CCTV Partnership in reference to the number of burglaries reported at the last meeting but as yet had no reply.
- f. **CCTV Partnership** – Cllr Arwel Roberts in the absence of Cllr Gareth Rowlands informed the members that CCTV Partnership have a key to the concrete bunker at the MUGA so as to access the power supply to the camera".
- g. **Deputy Mayors Chain** – it had arrived but without a closing mechanism affixed to it. Town Clerk will re-box and sent it back to be sorted. The supplier had recognised it was their mistake.
- h. **Scarecrow Festival** – Cllr Arwel Roberts commented on the success of this school PTA pilot project and that he hoped they would be continuing it again next year.

- i. **Library Prices** – the Town Clerk had received a copy of the library prices of hire. Cllr Mike Kermode commented that he was happy with them and other members agreed.
- j. **Admirals Field** – Cllr Arwel Roberts and the Town Clerk had met with Mrs Roberts in reference to the issue of dog fouling on the field which seemed to have eased the situation. Mrs Roberts was concerned on the subject of cutting down the willow tree but was informed that due to H&S issues with the tree and its branches, it required this action. The Town Clerk reported that the tree specialist will be carrying out the work imminently.
- k. **Welcome Sign** – Cllr Arwel Roberts informed the members that he had spoken with Mike Jones in Highways on revamping the existing sign by the Table Table restaurant or relocating it on Abergele Road approach into Rhuddlan by the HTM Business Park. Cllr Mike Kermode suggested that the Council ask to remove the Table Table sign and provide one by the HTM Business Park and one on the St Asaph dual carriage way approach into Rhuddlan.
Cllr Mike Kermode proposed his suggestion, Cllr Reg Davies seconded it and it was resolved. Members agreed to follow this up in the new year.
- l. **Ffordd Rhyl Crossing** – awaiting Mike Jones DCC to reply to Town Clerk.
- m. **Reminiscence Garden** – The dementia friendly group had applied to the Town Council for financial assistance for this project and is placed on the agenda as a Part 2 item. Cllr Kermode noted that due to the declaration of interest of several members on this item it will not be quorate. This to be re-submitted to the next Town Council meeting.
- n. **Power Washing** – the Town Clerk informed members that this should be happening this week. Cllr Reg Davies confirmed that he had seen the machine in operation today
- o. **Fresh Air Gym fence** – the order has been sent and this should be installed in December.
- p. **Cleaning Edward 1st Inscription** – the Town Clerk required members to agree where the plaque should be positioned. It was suggested to go on the existing “No Loading at any time” sign. Cllr Mike Kermode suggested asking permission from DCC Highways section. **Members resolved to investigate this option.**
- q. **Christmas Tree - The Town Clerk is to write to Prosperity site to gain permission for the tree this year.**
- r. **Terms of Reference** – the draft Terms of Reference are done and the subcommittee will meet on December 5th to approve.
- s. **Remembrance Sunday** – The Council wished to send thanks to Roy Price for his invaluable contribution towards a well organised event. The poppies will be removed after one month. Cllr Reg Davies was disappointed that the Journal had not seen fit to

include Rhuddlan's excellent event. The Town Clerk informed members that she had sent information to the Daily Post and the Journal on the Monday.

- t. **Business Breakfast** – Members discussed holding another breakfast meeting in February. Cllr Mike Kermode had noted that DVSC is running a series of business events and suggested we partner with them to hold one in Rhuddlan. **Resolved.**
- u. **Brown Tourist Sign** – **Resolved that Cllr Ann Davies is to represent the Council on this item.**
- v. **Town Plan** – The Town Clerk had met with Amy Selby for assistance in writing a draft town plan. **Resolved to invite Amy to a Town Council meeting.** A discussion between members then took place on the potential of a one-way system along Hylas Lane and its inclusion in the town plan.
- w. **Library Corner** – The Town Clerk had received a reply from DCC confirming they own the land and will report this back to Cllr Gareth Rowlands who raised the item at the last meeting.
- x. **Bowls Club** – Cllr Arwel Roberts will be presenting the grant of £2150 this weekend.

6. Correspondence from:

7a. The Mayor.

Cllr Arwel Roberts presented his report:

- Have been busy regarding preparations for Sunday Remembrance Service. Thursday the 10th of October and Friday the 8th of November.
- The breakfast for business was successful. Jim Jones gave an inspiring speech and Cllr Mike Kermode on behalf of the Dementia group - Saturday the 12th of October.
- Monday the 14th of October. Present in the Sit and Fit session in the Community Centre and then to have information as Mayor from a Youth Worker regarding how they intend to support the town's youngsters. This was a meeting in the library my fellow county councillor was also present.
- On the 15th visited County Hall in Rhuthun with the clerk. Night meeting regarding information by the County officers and some of the Cabinet members.
- 16th opened a new florist shop in the High Street called the Little Flower Monger.
- 17th - present to enhance the use of the Welsh language. An excellent presentation in the Hoptimist by a young author who has a book called "Mudferwi" launched.
- 22nd - one of nearly 20 residents who were present in the Defibrillator training.
- Also present in the Music Memories session in the library.
- 23rd another meeting in the library present this time also was Cllr Kermode, representative from Ebenezer Chapel, town assistant clerk and one youth worker.
- 28th Sit and Keep Fit session.
- 29th Chaired a meeting of the Dementia Friendly Rhuddlan Group.

- 1st of November - many thanks to Cllr B Williams, Cllr A Smith and Cllr M Kermode for their assistance whilst placing the poppies on different posts in our town.
- 5th of November - Music Memories in the library.
- 7th of November - the Clerk and myself met residents in Admiral's Field regarding exercising dogs on the field.
- 8th of November. Luncheon Club. Another meeting with youth worker.
- Saturday the 9th of November two events the same time. One in the Community Centre the other in Ebenezer Chapel. The chapel has been in existence for 200 years. The Dementia Group had a Rock n Roll session organised in the Community Centre.
- Monday the 11th - Sit and Keep Fit Session.

The report was accepted

6b. The Deputy Mayor - No report given

6c. The Town Clerk

The Town Clerk gave an overview of activities / meeting attended for the month

The following forthcoming events were listed:

- Christmas Lights Switch On – Tuesday, 2nd December @ 3.45 p.m.
- Christmas Carols Around the Tree – Tuesday, 17th December @ 6.30 p.m.
- An audience with the Police & Crime Commissioner – Tuesday, January 14th @ 7 p.m.
- Pengwern College was seeking permission to hold its annual Christmas Gnomes Hunt. **Permission granted.**
- Councillors Code of Conduct training – Thursday, January 9th @ 6 p.m.

The report was accepted

6d. Marsh Road Works - The Town Clerk had received a reply from DCC regarding the Marsh Road works and a copy attached to the meeting documents. The original brief did not include a pedestrian pavement, the No Waiting signs were removed in accordance with traffic regulations, and the yellow lines were installed as per the traffic order. Following Members discussion, the Council **resolved to write again** as they are not happy with the situation; this road is extremely busy in the summer months.

6e. Parking in Castle Street – A copy of an email received by Roy Price regarding the parking of specific single vehicle was discussed. It was noted that DCC recommendation was to report the issue to 101. Cllr Andrew Smith agreed that reporting this to the police was the best form of action as they have powers to deal with it. Cllr Ann Davies said that the police had already been informed. Cllr Mike Kermode proposed that the Council write to the police and it was **resolved to do so**.

6f. DCC Planning Compliance Charter was circulated for consultation purposes. **Resolved to accept the Charter**

6g. Denbighshire & Flintshire Archive Project briefing was circulated for consultation purposes. Cllr Arwel Roberts informed members that the Ruthin Goal will remain open.

6h. Environmental Enforcement agreement between DCC and District Enforcement Ltd was signed on 11 October and details circulated. Cllr Mike Kermode suggested that the Council write to Tim Wynne-Evans to attend a future meeting with a representative of the new team. **Resolved**

6i. Gypsy & Traveller Site. Cllr Arwel Roberts wanted to bring to the attention of the Council that the Mayor of St Asaph had emailed Rhuddlan Mayor asking if he would object to the residential site at Greenacre's Farm, St Asaph. The consultation period ended on November 5th and as the Council did not meet till November 12th Cllr Roberts declined to comment due to this dateline and his requirement to remain impartial as the Mayor.

Cllr Andrew Smith commented that there is a lot of anxiety not only from residents but also many businesses that had been encouraged to locate to this area. He asked if there had been a public meeting held on this item.

Cllr Reg Davies reported he had attended the public meeting and there was a box for people's comments which had been removed by persons unknown.

Cllr Syd Gaskin stated that he was from a traveller's family and was proud of his heritage.

Cllr Arwel Roberts explained that the St Asaph site was a permanent residential site and that a transient site had still to be sought and suggestions have been Rhualt or Denbigh.

Resolved to record in the Minutes that no decision was taken by Rhuddlan Town Council

6j. Unadopted road between Princes Road and Hylas Lane/Castle Street.

The Council had received from a member of the public an email regarding the above. Cllr Ann Davies had lived in the area and the residents had previously collectively paid to tarmac the area. They had tried to get DCC to rectify it but they will not as it is not their responsibility as it's unadopted. Cllr Davies stated that a builder once donated some tarmac to the area.

Cllr Mike Kermode noted that the area is a problem and that some of the ideas put forward by the email were interesting as a way forward. He proposed that the Council should refer to DCC supporting the ideas suggested. Cllr Arwel Roberts agreed and wanted the ideas being put in the correspondence to DCC. Cllr Andrew Smith seconded the proposal and **all voted in favour.**

Cllr Ann Davies wished to record her abstaining from the vote.

7. County Council Members Report

County Councillor Report – Cllr Arwel Roberts

- a. *It's nearly happening yes - next Friday 15th of November in Ebenezer Chapel Hall, year 6 and 7 will be invited to a youth club session. Good work by Claire Cunnah youth coordinator - met the leaders with my fellow county councillor and the Chapel caretaker tonight - 8th of November.*
- b. *The 10th of October. Present in School Standards meeting in St Brigid's School Dinbych.*
- c. *11th of October Strategic Planning Group. Discussing the proposed new Local Development Plan for Denbighshire. There are now 60 more candidate sites placed for Denbighshire to decide upon.*
- d. *15th of October. Denbighshire Full Council Meeting. One matter discussed was the Welsh Government National Development Plan. 2020 - 2040 - consultation draft. In the meeting I proposed that this draft should make the Welsh Language and culture paramount in its plan. Local communities in Denbighshire should be enhanced with regard to the language and culture. It's disappointing that the Welsh Government didn't include an individual policy on the Welsh Language in the framework. The motion was passed by all councillors present except six.*
- e. *16th of October - present in the annual meeting of Menter Iaith Sir Ddinbych. Meeting held in Bodelwyddan.*
- f. *18th of October - present of the management committee of the Nature Reserve. Also, present Councillors Rowlands and Kermode.*
- g. *23rd of October - present in the Climate Change and Ecological Emergency Working Group.*
- h. *30th of October - present in the Cooperate Parenting Group.*
- i. *1st of November - invited to Rhyl to assist with the arrangements for an event in Eirianfa Dinbych.*
- j. *On the 16th of November there is a conference on disabilities in the above venue.*
- k. *4th of November - invited by officer Allan Roberts to receive an executive summary on a review of DCC Work opportunities and day activities services. This is because of my post as disabilities champion.*

No Members had questions and the report was accepted

County Councillor Report - Cllr Ann Davies

- a. Rhuddlan Youth Club
After many years of supporting the need for a Youth Club in Rhuddlan, this has now come to fruition.
The Ebeneser Chapel have kindly agreed to accommodate this Youth Club in the Chapel Hall.
The sessions will start on 15th November, currently the timings will be 4-6pm, but this will be confirmed. These sessions are for 10-14-year olds and will be run by 3 DCC Senior Youth Workers, who come highly recommended.
- b. Environmental enforcement contract (dog fouling and littering)
DCC have entered into an agreement with District Enforcement Ltd to tackle problems with littering, dog fouling and other environmental crime in the county.

They will be working predominantly in areas where key issues have been identified and they will be highly visible in our communities in their green uniforms. Their main task is the engage with communities through educational activities and enforcement where relevant. They include visits to schools and community groups, as well as assisting the Council with regular campaigns. The contract will be managed by Tim Wynne-Evans who works within the Public Protection Section of the Council.

They will also be attending the Elwy Area Group meeting to present on the service that they will provide the Council.

c. *Carers Rights Day*

For Carers who feel they need additional information and support, a Carers Rights Day will be held on 21st November at Morfa Hall in Rhyl, 10am - 3pm, lunch included, all welcome.

d. *Young Carers*

Following reports in the media about a young carer being refused access to a supermarket to buy food for her disabled parent, I raised the issue with the Head of Social Service. I have been told that the Deputy Minister for Health and Social Services has stated that her aim is to develop Young Carers national identification card (ID). This will help prevent such problems experienced by this young carer and others in future.

e. *Meliden Road*

Following the road traffic accident outside the golf club on Meliden Road in Rhuddlan, I have requested a meeting with the Road Safety Manager to discuss traffic calming measures in this area.

No Members had question and the report was accepted

8. Provision of a New Cemetery

Cllr Arwel Roberts had uncovered a report from DCC written in 2004 which identifies two possible locations for a cemetery along with costings. The report was circulated prior to the meeting for consideration at this evenings meeting. In addition, the meeting heard that the current cemetery will be filled in 10 years and DCC will not provide a new one as there are others nearby.

Cllr Arwel Roberts suggested that the previous report be forwarded to Tony Ward to review it.

Cllr Andrew Smith remembered the item being bought up previously and wished to see this being progressed and followed up sooner rather than later.

Cllr Arwel Roberts noted that Cllr Gareth Rowlands had been considering another parcel of land in Rhuddlan but as he was not available this evening its position could not be revealed.

Cllr Ann Davies wondered if land by the current cemetery and old orchard was viable.

Resolved to add this potential location to Tony Ward along with the 2004 report for review.

9. Code of Conduct

The Town Clerk asked Members if there were any amendments required on the Code of Conduct which is submitted to the Town Council on an annual basis.

Resolved to accept the policy

10. Budget/Finance Matters

a. The Town Clerk presented the list of payments due for Members approval and explained the reversal payment listed to Scottish Power as the monthly payment has increased. Two more payments were added that were not on the list are due, namely the Bowls Club grant of £2150 and the Poppy Appeal Wreath payment of £40.

The payments were approved

b. The Town Clerk had forgotten the Members Allowance Form for 2019/20. This will be distributed at the next meeting. Cllr Mike Kermode proposed that the Minutes should record the Members who accepted the allowance once paid. **Resolved**

11. Planning Applications for comment:

i) 44/2019/0875 Display of replacement signage, Kings Head, High Street.

There were no objections.

ii) 44/2019/0910 Play Area Design. Land East of Tirionfa, Rhuddlan.

Cllr Ann Davies declared an interest but wanted to report to members that there was no provision for disabled play equipment.

Resolved that there were no objections but commenting that there was no disabled play equipment provision in the design

iii) 44/2019/0870 Lawful Development Certificate, Abbey Farm Caravan Park.

It was noted that this is an annual application

There were no objections.

12. Community Matters

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

i) Cllr Mike Kermode noticed that Bryn Hafod Road was being dug up and wondered why this was. Could it be that the rising water main is in Bryn Hafod for the Tirionfa development? Cllr Ann Davies confirmed it was as this was in the plans

ii) Cllr Mike Kermode had received comments from some residents regarding the annual carol singing around the Christmas tree which has become poorly attended and hoped that the Council could look at ways of increasing attendances.

Cllr Charlotte Frobisher suggested asking the school choir. It was reported that they do attend the Christmas lights switch on. **Resolved to invite the school choir to the carol singing.**

Cllr Kermode suggested inviting the Rotary Father Christmas float on the night of the carol singing event. **Resolved to invite them and provide a £100 donation.**

Cllr Arwel Roberts asked that the carol singing event be placed on the Council webpages.

The Town Clerk will place a banner advertising the event by the site of the Christmas tree.

The lights switch on is December 2nd @ 3.45 p.m. and the Carol Singing is December 17th @ 6.30 p.m.

- iii) Cllr Bleddyn Williams suggested investigating having an electric car charging point in Rhuddlan to enforce a green tourist facility.

Cllr Andrew Smith said that there were two charging points at the Talardy Hotel but had not been commissioned yet for some reason.

Cllr Mike Kermode suggested placing one within the library area and investigate a price. **Resolved.** Cllr Arwel Roberts will contact the DCC officer responsible for such matters

- iv) Cllr Reg Davies reported a bad pothole on Gwindy Street and one on the bridge. Cllr Arwel Roberts had previously reported these, but will report it again.

- v) Cllr Charlotte Frobisher had noticed a blown down tree by her house and wished it reported to DCC. Cllr Ann Davies said someone had been there this morning to deal with it.

- vi) Cllr Ann Davies had received some concerns about the new recycling scheme that DCC are piloting, especially from those who cannot move their bins themselves but also collecting data on what is put in the bins?

Cllr Kermode commented that he thought the new scheme was not a good one.

Cllr Frobisher had observed a similar scheme in Conwy CC

Cllr Arwel Roberts will ask Tony Ward for his comments on the issues raised

Cllr Andrew Smith wanted the Town Council Members to record their view on the new scheme. All present wished to remain with the current scheme except Cllr Syd Gaskin who is not affected by the new scheme. It was recorded that the elderly and those with dementia will suffer from the new scheme.

- vii) Cllr Syd Gaskin wished to record the Council's thanks to Roy Price for the Remembrance Sunday organisation.

- viii) Cllr Arwel Roberts announced a supper and bowls event at the Frith Indoor Bowling facility on November 19th at a cost of £12 each in aid of the Eisteddfod.

Arwel Roberts
A.R

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, and Andrew Smith the meeting was not quorate and so **no decision could be made.**

b. Coed y Brain

The Town Clerk had received correspondence from Jones & Redfearn regarding a cost for the whole or half the garden, and an estimate received for essential repairs to the building from a builder.

Cllr Mike Kermode suggested that Members consider the two pieces of correspondence together to ease the negotiations. As this will be a community facility for all, then having the whole garden appears attractive so include the building repairs estimate into the negotiations.

Cllr Frobisher argued that the potential purchase could trigger a higher rate of stamp duty depending on certain criteria and costs.

Cllr Reg Davies said that if we could agree a reduction in the price, we might be sorry at a later date if we did not purchase the garden now.

Cllr Andrew Smith proposed that that Council negotiates a reduction equal to the essential building repair costs. Thereafter negotiate purchasing the garden at a reduced price with the potential increased stamp duty in mind.

Cllr Mike Kermode added that the Town Clerk be given some discretion on the negotiation. For example, offering £2k for the garden moving to a maximum offer of £5k.

Cllr Ann Davies seconded the proposal and all voted in favour.

13. Date of Next Meeting – Thursday December 12th at 6pm in the library.

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

Date.....*November 2019*.....