



Cyngor Tref
Rhuddlan
Town Council

Rhuddlan Town Council – Minutes of the meeting on the 13th February 2020

Present:

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

1. Apologies

Cllrs Mike Kermode and Ann Davies

1 member of the public was present along with Tim Evans DCC Public Protection, Amy Selby DCC Community Development Officer.

2. Declaration of Interest

Cllr Syd Gaskin reference Planning Application - Item 11b.

Cllrs Arwel Roberts & Andrew Smith reference Rhuddlan Food Festival - Item 14b.

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

None

4. Police Matters

PCSO Roberts had forwarded his report and sent his apologies

There were 81 calls received from 1/01/20 – 31/01/20 for Rhuddlan area . Although high, a very small portion were actually crime related.

January 2020.

- Theft from vehicle (removal of car badge) Morfa Rhuddlan
- Crim damage to vehicle Hylas lane.

- 2 x Criminal damage to picnic area Rhuddlan Library. Local authority CCTV not working at time of incidents. Increased patrols by Rhuddlan NPT
- Robbery – Castlefields. Victim retracting her complaint.
- 1 X Anti-Social Behaviour – KFC.

The Town Clerk to organise a visit to the police call centre. There is a maximum capacity for 15 people for a start time of 6.30pm. Any Member interested in adding please inform the Town Clerk

Members noted the reoccurrence of anti-social behaviour at KFC which is concerning.

5. Environmental Enforcement Agreement

The Mayor welcomed Tim Evans DCC Principal Public Protection Officer who gave a very informative overview of the new Environmental Enforcement contractors and their work.

Tim Evans began by giving a short resume of the background to why there was a new enforcement contractor who commenced work on December 3rd 2019. He then explained the new principle of enforcement which is predominantly education rather than confrontation. Especially with local schools up to year 7 and in collaboration with Keep Wales Tidy.

The method of working and their patrol areas were highlighted, along with the change of uniform, and officer numbers in the team. This is a no cost contract for DCC, the contractor receiving all monies raised by fines. Tim Evans stated that if there was an event in Rhuddlan the Town Council could request officers' presence by e-mailing him.

Cllr Syd Gaskin asked if the officers were enforcing car parks and on street parking regulations. Tim answered that this was a different team of officers which he also managed.

Cllr Mike Elgin enquired as to how the referral scheme operated. This is called the C360 system and you can report any environmental issue on line or by phoning 01824 706101

Cllr Andrew Smith commented that improvements were visible during the previous contract and was pleased to see a new referral system in place. He hoped it would be an easy system. Adding that dog fouling seems to be far more of a problem now the previous contract has lapsed for a while. Tim agreed but answered that cigarette butts were by far the most offences dealt with.

Cllr Gareth Rowlands was glad to see that enforcement had commenced again and was keen to see the education principle put into practice. He asked if the Town Council poo bags and dispensers could be given freely during school educational visits. Tim answered that this had not worked well previously and was not keen to see it repeated at this stage.

The Assistant Town Clerk commented on the recently erected signs along the DCC coastline announcing that dogs had to be kept on a lead on the promenade. The signs are too small and high up on the posts for people to see and read. Especially for older people. Tim agreed and explained why this was so, adding that he is getting some more signs purchased. He also

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informed Members that County Councillors are involved in a working group for each Area Member Group.

Clwyd Avenue was agreed as a "hot spot" in Rhuddlan.

Cllr Arwel Roberts thanked Tim for his presentation

6. Town Plan

The Mayor welcomed Amy Selby, DCC Community Development Officer who gave an informative overview of creating a town plan.

Historically, town plans had been completed by DCC Economic Development officers back in 2012/13. There is more of a focus on community resilience now, and Amy has an enabling role to provide the tools for Rhuddlan TC to create their own town plan. This will give a structure, accountability, and good evidence for grant funders. It could be very descriptive or bullet point style with targets and realistic timescales. Amy then highlighted the Community Planning website and other online assistance adding that she may be able to arrange a networking session with other communities in Denbighshire who have already created a town plan. Perhaps providing themed workshops for our town and offering a link to other services we might need to facilitate our town plan. Perhaps Rhuddlan could set up a sub group of the town council as Llanfair DC have done. **Resolved.**

Members will be invited to participate in the sub group if they wish. It will be chaired by the Mayor. Date to be circulated later by Town Clerk.

Amy then informed Members of several grant funders and how they operated including the eligible geographical areas and the fact that she sat on several of the grant decision panels.

Cllr Gareth Rowlands asked why a Rhuddlan community organisation had failed in a recent Bilbo Bank windfarm application. Amy had no feedback to give as to why but will try to find out.

Cllr Andrew Smith noted that some funders were using a good simple approach to application whilst others seem to be more challenging and asked if there was any assistance to be given. Amy answered that DVSC had provided this previously but not any longer and she was hoping to take on this role.

Cllr Charlotte Frobisher enquired about what was eligible for funding particularly repeat projects year on year. Amy said that applicants cannot claim for the same project repeatedly but the same applicant can apply year on year for different projects. She also informed Members of the difference between revenue and capital funding as well as geographical boundaries for various grant funders. She highlighted some that Rhuddlan are within.

Cllr Arwel Roberts pointed out that a grant for the Nature Reserve had not been completed and wondered if a different project could be used for this grant such as a sensory garden. Amy was positive that it could but asked that Garry Davies from Countryside Services be involved with any change.

Cllr Andrew Smith queried the Section 106 commuted sums money for the Tirionfa housing project in Rhuddlan. Amy explained that this was a Planning Department issue. Developers discuss the details that can be enforced on them with planners such as highway improvements, affordable housing provision, or open spaces. She herself only deals with the offsite open space commuted sums.

Cllr Arwel Roberts thanked Amy for her very useful presentation.

7. Minutes – 16th January 2020.

The Minutes need to record that Cllr Charlotte Frobisher had sent apologies that she would not be attending the meeting.

Under Matters Arising, Item h), Cllr Syd Gaskin pointed out that the minutes should state that the power washing had removed **some** of the pointing not all, and that the area was between the entrance & exit of Abbey Court not Tree Tops.

P96 – the Town Clerk's report should record that the Mayors Charity Event is on February 15th, not 2nd.

Subject to these amendments the minutes were proposed by Cllr Andrew Smith seconded by Cllr Syd Gaskin as a true record and signed.

Matters Arising

- a. **Website Studio** – this was progressing well.
- b. **Tourist Video** - The Town Clerk had spoken to the organisers of RhuddFest who are creating a video of their event and will forward a link once completed. Tracey Kerfoot of Castell Beats is forwarding some photos for inclusion. The Director of RhuddFest suggested that we try and get a suitable person for a voice over for the tourist video.
Resolved
- c. **Dog Waste Bag Dispensers** – The Town Clerk has received a quote for the town council logo to be placed on the dispensers which is more expensive but cheaper the more you order and wanted to know what Members wanted to do. There then followed a discussion on the amount to be ordered, where they might be given out and to whom. Cllr Bleddyn Williams suggesting the library. Cllr Frobisher suggested local businesses. All were happy to see the promotion of the Town Council by this project but had concerns about how bags could be distributed to Rhuddlan residents only. They could be provided on street posts, at events, in the school, and via the wooden dispensers.
Resolved to order 500 with the logo printed on them.
- d. **Repeat Prescriptions** – The Town Clerk had received a reply from Darren Thomas BCHUB apologising for not attending the meeting and listing 5 points of information about repeat prescriptions which was read out. Cllr Andrew Smith commented on what appears a bizarre set of facts from the Primary & Community Care Officer as the information at the GP surgery still shows 5 days so it's not the same timescale. There are too many barriers for this service.

Cllr Reg Davies highlighted another issue to do with turning up at the Rhuddlan Surgery without an appointment when feeling ill. It appears that the receptionist has a list (out of patients view) that records the GP's priorities to be seen straight away. When

travelling to the Prestatyn Surgery without an appointment you can be seen straight away. So, what's on the list? and why is it in Rhuddlan but not in Prestatyn?

Resolved to write and ask Darren Thomas to attend the next meeting to address this issue and the repeat prescription timescale dilemma.

- e. **Welcome Sign** – The Town Clerk has requested a meeting with Peter Lea a DCC officer about the various highway issues including the welcome sign, car park business reimbursement scheme, and a more meaningful pedestrian crossing survey
- f. **Power Washing** – DCC can provide this service for Rhuddlan and the Town Clerk is waiting for a cost for this service. Expected after April.
- g. **Electric Car Charger** – the Town Clerk had been in discussion with a supplier who can't provide a fast charger but passed on contacts of suppliers who could.
Cllr Andrew Smith suggested trying a company called Polar. **Resolved to wait for a DCC decision on supplying a charger.**
- h. **New Cemetery** – the Town Clerk had been to a potential site with the Mayor off the bypass under Tan yr Eglwys but needed a post code for the site to progress. Cllr Rowlands suggested using a nearby bungalow post code which he will give to the Town Clerk. **Resolved.** Cllr Rowlands will also provide a Google Earth shot to the town clerk. **Resolved.**

There then followed a discussion on a UK Government scheme whereby 100-year-old burials are to be exhumed to enable graves to be dug deeper and used again for the original and new burials. Cllr Andrew Smith has heard that there is no more room for burials in Rhyl so Rhuddlan and Prestatyn cemeteries will be used and therefore filled up rapidly. Cllr Gareth Rowlands pointed out that if we are to have our own cemetery, we need to ensure that it will be for Rhuddlan Town residents only.

- i. **Prosperity Building** – The asking price for the freehold is £310,000 and the rental value is £15,000 per annum. Cllr Gareth Rowlands recalled the town council wanting to buy this property for a museum several years ago and suggested that the Town Clerk seeks a meeting with DCC Museum Officer to investigate such a project. He will provide the contact for the Museum Officer. **Resolved.**

Cllr Reg Davies recalled that there are many Rhuddlan artefacts held in Cardiff and that this property has a walk in safe that the artefacts can be safely stored in.

- j. **Hearing aid clinic** – Cllr Reg Davies wondered if this a walk-in clinic. No other Member knew but suggested he reviews the poster in the library.
- k. **Community Matters** – the Christmas light by the carpet shop has been removed. Cllr Arwel Roberts reported that the meeting with NRW to examine tree planting on the bund was cancelled.

NRW have confirmed that they do have a key for the river bank gate but as they are not the land owner they cannot provide one for us. We need to ask the land owner. The land is not registered. Cllr Andrew Smith proposed that we write to NRW again for a justification of their decision when we can't discover the land owner. **Resolved.**

Aldi were not being helpful in providing information about the free taxi phone so the Town Clerk has written to ALDI Customer Services with a request to install a free taxi phone in Rhuddlan. Cllr Syd Gaskin said that he would call into ALDI in Prestatyn to talk to the Manager about the free taxi phone that they have in store.

- l. **Library SLA Review** – to be held on Friday February 28th.
- m. **Bus Shelter Cleaning** – to commence on Tuesday 18th February

- n. **CCTV Partnership** – are applying for £50,000 annually through Prestatyn Town Council who are leading on behalf of the participating town councils. A letter of support from each town council is required for the application. **Resolved.**
- o. **Coed y Brain** – The Town Clerk confirmed that the application to the Welsh Government had been sent. They had asked for further clarification on hire charges. **Members resolved to say we have an expectation to receive £1,000 in the first year.**
The Town Clerk also requested that to support any grant applications for the building Town Council would need to get evidence from other groups who would use Coed y Brian in the future.
In a response from DCC Planning the Town Council, has been advised to instruct a planning agent to act on their behalf for the change of planning. **Resolved.**
- p. **Admirals Field** – Dragons FC have mentioned that the goal posts need fixing and are asking permission to do that at their expense. **Resolved.**
Members also noted that the Vicarage Lane goal posts also need fixing and Town Council will reimburse the costs of this site fixing if Dragons FC would take it on. **Resolved.**

8. Correspondence from:

8a. The Mayor.

Cllr Arwel Roberts presented his report.

- Cadeirio pwyllgor tref - hyfforddiant i aelodau 9/01/2020
Chaired a training session for members 9/01/20
- Cadeirio sesiwn yng nghwmni Arfon Jones -Comisiynydd yr Heddlu Gogledd Cymru nifer o'r cyhoedd yn bresennol. 14/01/2020
- Chair a meeting where Arfon Jones North Wales Police Commissioner was invited to. Members of the public present . 14/1/2020
- Noson Sgodyn a Sglodion yn y Rhyl. 07/02/2020
- Fish and Chips night in Rhyl 07/02/2020
- Cyfarfod gwerthuso swydd y Clerc. 10/02/2020
- Meeting to discuss the Clerk's appraisal . 10/02/2020
- Diolch i'r Clerc a'r Cyn Faer y Cynghorydd Gareth Rowlands am eu presenoldeb
- Thanks to the Clerk and Cllr Gareth Rowlands ex-Mayor for their presence.

The report was accepted

8b. The Deputy Mayor

None given

8c. The Town Clerk

The report was accepted

Cllr Mike Elgin has agreed to represent Rhuddlan Town Council at the DCC Destination Partnership meeting.

The Town Clerk gave her thanks to Cllr Syd Gaskin for checking the defibrillators.

The Town Clerk reminded Members of the Mayors Charity Dinner on Saturday.

8d. DCC & Conwy Public Services Board – A letter had been received asking for representatives from Town Councils from each County to attend this board. There were no nominees.

8e. Ingrid Unsworth - The Town Clerk had received correspondence from a concerned resident about the unadopted road between Prices Road/Hylas Lane/Castle Street. This matter was discussed at a previous Town Council meeting held on 12th November 2019.

The Town Council Minute recorded that the matter should be referred to DCC to see if they might be able to progress it. They answered that DCC was not in a position to do so. Adding that residents themselves approach local companies for assistance.

Cllr Gareth Rowlands repeated the fact that this was private land and its maintenance is the responsibility of all the houses that surround it. He was not aware of who the private owner was. Adding that many years ago our local Assembly Member attempted to make it a safe route to school project with no success.

If Denbighshire and the AM can't progress this, his advice was not to become involved.

Cllr Reg Davies agreed echoing the fact that it is not the Town Council's responsibility.
Resolved.

9. County Council Members Report

County Councillor Report - Cllr Arwel Roberts

- **Addysg/Education.**

Ysgol y Castell :- involved in the promotion of one of the staff to be deputy headteacher part time. Will be present on the 12th of February in a course for Governors in Bryn Elan High School in Colwyn Bay.

Have been asked to be a panel advisor in a dispute in one of schools to the South of the County regarding Governors of the school.

There are changes about to happen with regard to the two Cylch Meithrin in the area one is in Rhuddlan and the other in Rhyl. Finances have been given by the Welsh Government to build a modern Centre for one Cylch in the near future in Ysgol Dewi Sant. As a Member of the Rhuddlan Cylch Meithrin Committee I have been invited to a meeting to discuss this arrangement.

- **Dementia Group/Grŵp Dementia.**

The group is still well supported in the Sit and Fit Sessions which are now held alternatively in either the Community Centre or Ebenezer Chapel Hall. Next session will be in the latter on Monday the 17th, of February 1 pm onwards. The trainer arrives at 1:30 pm. The Musical Memories session are held fortnightly in the Library – the next session being Tuesday the 18th of February again 1pm start. Through the diligence of Cllr Mike Kermode(Sec) the Library has now a trolley for keeping chairs. Both activities are available to anyone because they are helpful to stop DEMENTIA.

Please note that the group have arranged a Coffee Morning in the Community Centre Saturday the 29th of February 10am – come along to hear about the pirates who have a connection with Rhuddlan. Speaker John Overton and a chance to speak

to Dai Thomas and other members of Rhuddlan History Society. Thanks to Cllr Mike Elgin for his assistance.

The management group of the Rhuddlan Nature Reserve are in support of setting a Sensory Garden Area to persons with disabilities such as hearing problems which can be caused by Dementia. This is an ongoing project and the members of the Committee are really supportive and Denbighshire Countryside Officers similarly.

- **Y Warchodfa Natur.**

The Nature Reserve is the best for different species of Dragonflies in Denbighshire the Countryside Officers are in the process of improving their habitat allowing people and children to have better access to one particular pond especially – this project and the Sensory Garden Project is dependent on grants.

You may be aware that the reserve can be a focus for vandalism at times e.g car set on fire (police involvement) and the throwing of an informaton board to the side. This matter was resolved by one of the public - very grateful to him or her. Dog feaces does occur there at times, I try my very best to place a supply of dog muck bags in the three dispensers on the site. The countryside officers have two more wooden dispensers to be placed in the reserve. Hopefully the other two are in place somewhere in the town.

- **News regarding the Elwy area.**

The new Denbighshire Enforcement Team are now in place – Tim Wynne Evans will be give more details in the meeting on the 13th every area will have a representative on the working group. I will be the Elwy Mag Rep. They will be working with schools and Keep Wales Tidy.

Very grateful to Gareth Roberts officer for Built Environment and Public Protection Services for his quick action with regard to the shed near to Saint Mary's Church parking area.

Denbighshire are willing to rent moveable apparatus for use within communities e.g generators, microphones etc from Rhyl Pavilion. This new initiative will be available after May 2020.

Information was given by highways officer Peter Lee regarding the traffic lights from the bridge to the Morfa roundabout. I also requested that the speed limit could be lessened to fifty miles an hour along the bypass.

- **Youth facilities.**

No solution as yet for the use of Ebeneser chapel hall – still waiting a decision from the Youth leader Manager. Health and Safety is the problem.

- **The Car Parks**

Having spoken to Mike Jones there is very slow progress with regard to Vicarage Lane Car Park. The health board is the main problem Denbighshire officers find the process very frustrating.

He has informed our clerk that he is ready to meet both County Councillors and businesses within the town to facilitate a rebate for parking. More information from our clerk.

Information regarding a crossing Rhyl Road Access to Admiral's Field. A survey has occurred – informing how many persons cross the road at a particular time of the day. I'm still waiting for the result – I was given an oral response "Not many persons cross the road". My response is that it wasn't done at busy times of the day such as Sunday and Saturday mornings.

Still waiting for a response regarding new welcoming signs and their placing. Again our clerk will have better news hopefully.

- **Floods over the weekend.**

Sunday was a busy day for myself – walked towards HTM to inspect the Pont Robyn stream and culvert. Reported the fact that one property was in danger of being flooded. Luckily this didn't happen but the County brought sand bags to the owner – sheds and a garage had water in them. Monday I visited the area again and have evidence how water was nearly over the Clwyd bank on the Conwy side. Flood wardens like myself should never place themselves in danger, I'm always aware of this. Thanks to other flood wardens Cllr Andy Smith and others.

The report was accepted

10. Budget/Finance Matters

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

The payments were approved

b. As recommended by the DCC Internal Report 2018/19, The Town Clerk presented a written procedure of Financial Tasks that she performs. This is to assist with service continuity should the Town Clerk be unavailable for a prolonged period of time. The procedure was adopted by Members and will be placed on the Council's website.

11. Planning Applications for comment:

a. 44/2020/0017 – Crown reduction to Eucalyptus tree in the conservation area.

No Comment

b. 44/2020/0033 – Crown reduction to Maple tree which is covered by a Tree Preservation Order.

No Comment

c. 44/2020/0075 Norton, Dyserth Road. Erection of Extension and alterations to dwelling.

A.R.

No Comment

12. Declarations of Interest – Members were asked to review their Declarations of Interest on the adopted form which were distributed by Town Clerk.

13. Community Matters

Cllr Bleddyn Williams commented that Bryn Castell residents were concerned about a camper van regularly parking on Pen Wylfa site. Members had no update on the matter and so Cllr Arwel Roberts and Cllr Williams will meet on site to pass on any comments to DCC.

The Town Clerk had been approached by a community member to enquire if the Wesleyan Chapel in Gwindy Street was still standing. Members confirmed that it was but it was now a Presbyterian Church

14. 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

a. Positive Action for Strokes.

The Town Clerk informed the Members that this group meet at the Community Centre every week and are applying for £250 towards restocking their crafts materials. and their Easter lunch.

Cllr Gareth Rowlands was supportive of the craft materials element but wondered if we should be supporting an Easter lunch party.

Cllr Charlotte Frobisher had past experience of volunteering at such party events and noted that they were very important for people who, for one reason or another, cannot normally go out and socialise in this manner.

Cllr Andrew Smith proposed and Cllr Frobisher seconded that £250 be granted but only for the craft materials element. **Resolved.**

b. Gwledd Fest Food & Craft Festival.

Cllrs Arwel Roberts and Andrew Smith declared an interest and left the Chamber. Cllr Gareth Smith Chairs the discussion. Gwledd Fest Food & Craft Festival will be the 6th event and requires around £5,000 each year to hold. It was reported that it is almost breaking even but will require £1,000 this year to stage.

Cllr Gareth Rowlands proposed and Cllr Syd Gaskin seconded to grant £1,000 again. **Resolved.**

Cllr Gareth Smith vacated the Chair and Cllrs Roberts and Andrew Smith were re-admitted to the Chamber.

c. Ysgol y Castell PTA.

Cllrs Arwel Roberts and Mike Elgin declared an interest and left the Chamber.
Cllr Gareth Smith Chaired the discussion.

The PTA organise the Castell Beats family music festival annually to raise funds for the school and local charities and require £1,000 for the stage costs.

Cllr Andrew Smith explained that 90% of the profit goes to the school funds.

Cllr Gareth Rowlands added that the stage was required to actually put the event on.

Cllr Syd Gaskin queried the Charity element of the application.

Cllr Charlotte Frobisher said she had attended the event previously and if there is no stage the event cannot proceed.

It was proposed by Cllr Gareth Rowlands and seconded by Cllr Andrew Smith that the £1,000 be granted from the Youth Grants budget line. **Resolved.**

15. Date of Next Meeting – Thursday March 12th at 7pm.

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

Date.....*February 2020*.....