



Cyngor Tref
Rhuddlan
Town Council

Rhuddlan Town Council – Minutes of the meeting on the 16th January 2020

Present:

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

1. Apologies

Cllr Gareth Rowlands
Cllr Charlotte Frobisher
1 member of the public was present along with PCSO Philip Roberts

2. Declaration of Interest

None

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

None

4. Police Matters

PCSO Roberts had forwarded his report

There were 158 calls received from 1/11/19 – 31/12/19 for Rhuddlan area. Although high, a very small portion were actually crime related.

November 2019

- *Criminal damage to vehicle Hylas lane*
- *2 shoplifting Co-op*
- *Criminal damage to vehicle Clos Y Berllan*
- *Criminal damage to vacant property Rhyl Rd*
- *Anti-Social Behaviour Parliament St*
- *Theft from vehicle Vicarage Lane.*

- *Theft from vehicle Cross St*

December 2019

- *ASB egg throwing Grenville Ave*
- *3 x ASB KFC reports.*
- *Theft from vehicle Marsh Rd*
- *1 Shoplifting CO OP*
- *Fraud Spar.*

He commented that although there was a high volume of reports there was a small proportion of actual crimes, and that the Anti-Social Behaviour at KFC were perpetrated by the same youths.

Cllr Bleddyn Williams added that Table Table had experienced Anti-Social Behaviour too but had not reported this to police. PCSO Roberts said to inform them to report such Anti-Social Behaviour in the future or it will not be recorded and acted upon.

It was mentioned that Anti-Social Behaviour had occurred at or near the library recently but again it was not reported.

Cllr Arwel Roberts adding that the library staff would not be there on some occasions so each group using the library should be informed to report such activity to the police

Cllr Arwel Roberts reported that a recent meeting with Inspector James Keene and the Police Crime Commissioner had gone very well He thanked PCSO Roberts for his attendance tonight and his continued good work in Rhuddlan. Cllr Roberts also invited PCSO Roberts to attend a meeting at Divisional HQ, St Asaph with the PCC.

5. Minutes – 12th December 2019.

Cllr Mike Kermode wished that the second line on the top of page 80 should read “people living with dementia” instead of the word “sufferers”.

Cllr Ann Davies wished to amend on page 85 her remark about potholes in Bryn Hafod. She was being specific about Bryn Hafod and not in general around Rhuddlan.

Cllr Mike Elgin stated that he too had declared an interest in Item13a, on page 89 “Request for Financial Assistance” for the Dementia Group and had left the Chamber with the other Councillors.

A typo was pointed out on the same Item 13a in that “id” should read “if”

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

Matters Arising

- Website Studio** – the Town Clerk had met with the company and the date for the completion of the modernisation work is late March and they had agreed to a Notice clause of 2 months within the maintenance contract if not proving successful.
- Police Matters** – Cllr Arwel Roberts reminded Councillors of a member of the public being present at the December meeting enquiring about an alleged body under the golf club floor. Cllr Roberts had approached the golf club and informed them of this happening who were upset by the man’s action and that the police have been informed.

Cllr Roberts added his thanks to the Town Clerk for organising the Audience with the Police & Crime Commissioner meeting.

- c. **Tourist Video** - The Town Clerk had forwarded the Members ideas for inclusion in the video to DCC's tourist department and asked if any Members had clips of the Re-enactment or food festival events. Cllr Elgin suggested CADW for the re-enactment and suggested that perhaps a montage of still photos could be created for the food festival. Members also suggested that the Town Clerk contact Tracey Kerfoot for Castell Beats and Pete Kenway for the Rhuddfest for some clips for inclusion too.
- d. **Dog Waste Bag Dispensers** – The Town Clerk has discovered that Rhuddlan TC logo can be printed on the dog waste bags and is awaiting a quote for this.
Cllr Arwel Roberts reported that he had given 1 x wooden dispenser to Ms Furneaux, 2 to Gary Davies of DCC for the nature reserve, and 1 to the allotment society.
- e. **Repeat Prescriptions** – Cllr Andrew Smith reported that the surgery has a notice informing patients that the repeat prescription service takes 2 days and the Prestatyn surgery says 5 days. So, Town Council needs to write and formally point this out.
Cllr Syd Gaskin added that there is an on line system too and has had no problem with it. Cllr Smith responded that is what he uses, but the notice is confusing.
The Town Clerk had written to Darren Thomas from BCHUB to attend our next meeting but he is on holiday so will be invited to our February meeting.
- f. **Deputy Mayors Chain** – Cllr Arwel Roberts, Mayor presented the chain to the Deputy Mayor Cllr Gareth Smith who was reminded that he only wears it when representing the Town Council in place of the Mayor. If the Mayor is present then the Mayor wears his official chain and the Deputy does not.
- g. **Welcome Sign** – The Town Clerk had written to Mike Jones who had still not responded with a date for a meeting.
- h. **Power Washing** – Cllr Syd Gaskin had noticed that the original contractor had removed some of the pointing from the pavement slabs where they had worked between the entrance and exit of Abbey Court.
Cllr Mike Elgin said that the pavement is the responsibility of DCC and they should be informed.
Cllr Ann Davies had noticed a new jet washer that DCC had been using in Rhyl recently.
Cllr Arwel Roberts will ask Tony Ward to inspect the issue and ask about the new jet washer. **Resolved.**
- i. **Fresh Air Gym** – almost finished.
- j. **Christmas Tree** – Cllr Arwel Roberts again thanked Cllr Reg Davies for his help on this item.
- k. **Business Breakfast** – Cllr Mike Kermode will send an e-mail to all with the details and date.
- l. **Town Plan** – Cllr Arwel Roberts asked the Members to be prepared with some ideas for the town plan meeting with Amy Selby from DCC.
- m. **Christmas Carols around the tree** – Cllr Arwel Roberts thanked Cllr Andrew Smith for his organising Rhyl Marching Band.
- n. **Youth Club** – Cllr Ann Davies reported that DCC have still not been to investigate the flooring issue.

Cllr Mike Kermode stated that the Sit & Fit group will be using Ebenezer hall on Monday 20th January between 1pm-2.30pm so it will be open if DCC want to visit then and see the issues.

- o. **Electric Car Charger** – the Town Clerk had been in discussion with a supplier and this is still ongoing at present.

Cllr Andrew Smith noted that anyone purchasing a new electric car can apply for a grant towards a charger form the UK Government.

- p. **New Cemetery** – the Town Clerk had been given a contact by DCC for the Flintshire Cemetery office and a cemetery development booklet. Adding that Members consider asking Just Solutions to assist with the feasibility study.

Cllr Mike Kermode noted that Just Solutions are more skilled in consultation survey work and not site feasibility studies so depending on what the Town Council wants we should consider alternatives.

Cllr Arwel Roberts added that he had met with Rhyl Town Clerk recently on another matter and asked that the Town Clerk forward Tony Ward's e-mail to him as Rhyl will be needing more cemetery room in the future too.

Cllr Reg Davies stated that he had planning permission for a cemetery site 11 years ago and that ground investigations are required down to 30 feet to understand the water table issues.

- q. **Prosperity Building** – Cllr Syd Gaskin had seen a for sale or rent sign in the window along with a telephone number for enquiries. Cllr Mike Kermode proposed and Cllr Reg Davies seconded that the Council make enquiries about a potential sale.
Resolved.

- r. **VE Day Celebrations** – Cllr Mike Kermode gave an update on progress thus far. This included the choir being booked, a session of role playing, involvement of the History Society, the Town Women's Guild, and Rhyl Marching Band. The price on entrance to be £6 for adults and £3 for children, with any proceeds being shared between the Mayors Charity and the choir's charity

- s. **Hearing aid clinic** - poster has been placed in the library window.

- t. **Community Matters**

- The Town Clerk reported that the lights had now been removed but Cllr Mike Kermode has seen one remaining by the carpet shop. Town Clerk will investigate.
- Cllr Ann Davies reported that the flickering bridge light had been fixed.
- Cllr Arwel Roberts reported that there is a meeting soon to examine the bund area tree planting.
- The Town Clerk has sent a letter to Natural Resources Wales office in Buckley, Flintshire requesting a key to the river bank gate for canoe access.
- The Town Clerk has written to Aldi asking for a free taxi phone to be installed in the shop.
- Cllr Arwel Roberts has taken a picture of the burnt out shed and sent it to DCC Public Protection. He also thanked Cllr Reg Davies for removing the debris from the shed which had been blown onto the church car park.

6. Correspondence from:

6a. The Mayor.

Cllr Arwel Roberts presented his report

Rhagfyr/December 2019.

<i>13ddeg o Rhagfyr</i>	<i>Carol Service in Treffynnon / Holywell</i>
<i>14ddeg o Rhagfyr</i>	<i>Concert to raise finances for Vale of Clwyd Mind - Rhyl Town Hall.</i>
<i>Excellent night.</i>	
<i>17eg o Rhagfyr</i>	<i>Singing around the Christmas tree, good to see more people this year.</i>
<i>18fed o Rhagfyr</i>	<i>Special dinner organised by the Stroke Club in the Community Centre.</i>
<i>19eg o Rhagfyr</i>	<i>Special dinner organised by the luncheon club, again in the Community Centre</i>

Ionawr/January 2020

Ionawr 14ddeg *Library - the Crime & Police Commissioner for North Wales.*

The report was accepted

6b. The Deputy Mayor

None given

6c. The Town Clerk

The report was accepted

The Town Clerk reminded members of forthcoming events:

- February 15th Mayor's Charity Evening – Rhuddlan Golf Club
- March 14th Mayor's Fish & Chips Charity Evening
- April 5th Mayor's Civic Sunday – Ebeneser @ 10.30 a.m.
- May 8th Victory in Europe (V.E.) Day – Rhuddlan Community Centre

6d. DCC Rhuddlan Library – A review of the Service Level Agreement is due to take place shortly and Cllrs Ann Davies, Arwel Roberts, and Mike Kermode all offered to assist with the review. The correspondence also discussed the libraries concern about the number of key holders. Cllr Kermode was happy to help with the situation by being a key holder occasionally but wanted to discuss the role with Mathew Baker from the library. The Town Clerk offered to return her key.

6e. Crime Prevention Charity OWL - The Town Clerk had received correspondence asking for a £350 donation towards their work by January 28th 2020. They are based in Flintshire and their website says they operate in Flintshire and Wrexham. **Resolved to invite OWL to a future meeting to inform Members of their activities.**

7. County Council Members Report

County Councillor Report - Cllr Arwel Roberts

- a. *Still waiting from the Youth Department regarding the opening of a youth centre in the town -Ebenezer Chapel Hall on Friday nights.*
- b. *Reported that gullies and grids are really full of general rubbish areas such as Princes Road, Vicarage Lane to name a few.*
- c. *County are in the process of moving vulnerable persons from their places of work such as the Bont and Popty. Have been involved as the Denbighshire Disabilities Champion.*
- d. *Represented businesses in town regarding the bridge was closed over the weekend the 10th to the 12th. Some businesses have perishable goods and they were not warned by the subcontractor for Scottish Power beforehand. They placed signs in the town informing the public was closed but didn't inform them that businesses were open as usual. I will send the answer given to me by Head of Highways to the clerk and the response from one of the businesses.*

The report was accepted

County Councillor Report – Cllr Ann Davies

- a. *Bed blocking issues*
Information has been requested on the number of beds being blocked by people who would otherwise have been discharged, if better support was available in the community.
- b. *Pentre Lane*
Works which involved road closure in Pentre Lane was due to be completed this week, unfortunately this has been delayed and the road will remain closed whilst further work takes place. Pentre Lane will then be resurfaced.
- c. *Maes Y Bryn*
Due to the amount of pot holes identified, I have highlighted the urgent need to resurface Maes y Bryn.
- d. *Housing Needs*
As Rhuddlan has a high percentage of residents over 80, at the Housing Workshop this week, I have reiterated the need for bungalows to be built, extra care housing facilities and sheltered housing.
- e. *Bridge closure*
Due to emergency electrical work, the bridge in Rhuddlan had to be closed last weekend. While we understand the concerns of local businesses, some of whom I visited on Saturday, we have to think of the importance of resolving this issue for all the residents.
Scottish Power have been asked to give some more background to this, particularly the late communications.
- f. *St Kentigern*
As a trustee I was delighted to attend the launch of the new facilities at St Kentigern Hospice in St Asaph. This new facility will now provide 15 in-patient beds. As you are

all aware, this facility would not be possible without the fundraising and donations in the community and the work of the volunteers. Public open days are being arranged to showcase this much needed facility.

g. Bryn Hafod

I have raised concerns regarding the unsatisfactory standard of the road following the recent roadworks on Bryn Hafod. I am now waiting for a response from Highways Officers.

The report was accepted

8. 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 £30,717 precept had arrived in the account.

9. Planning Applications for comment:

None received

10. Standing Orders

The Town Clerk had presented the Council's Standing Orders for renewal by the Council and for the information of the new Councillors.

11. Bus Shelter Cleaning

The Town Clerk presented a quote from the bus shelter cleaners for the 11 shelters in Rhuddlan. There were 3 options of the work that could be carried out involving cleaning and different levels of refurbishment. There is a budget of £1500 for such cleaning and Members discussed the options. Cllr Mike Kermode remarked that although we have £1500 allocated this can be increased if Members agreed. Cllr Kermode proposed setting a budget of £3500 for all the refurbishments and cleaning in this financial year and then have a reduced sum to pay next year. Cllr Mike Elgin seconded the proposal. **Resolved.**

12. Precept Meeting January 9th 2020

The minutes had been circulated and the Members had no corrections to make. Cllr Andrew Smith proposed their acceptance as a true record, and Cllr Mike Kermode seconded. **The Minutes were accepted**

Cllr Kermode reminded the Town Clerk that a press release is required to inform Rhuddlan residents of the good community work and projects that the Council had managed to deliver this year alongside the precept information.

13. Community Matters

Cllr Syd Gaskin had spoken to the CCTV Partnership and was hopeful that all cameras would be updated soon and be operating correctly. This was for the Partnership in

general, not just Rhuddlan. Cllr Gaskin also explained the new reporting system that the police use for review of CCTV footage by the Partnership

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** – Coed y Brain Community Facility.

The Town Clerk informed the Members of the current situation and asked “What Next?”. We are still waiting for a letter of support from DCC for the Public Works Loan Board, and some indication from Prys, Jones, and Booth as to the shelf life of the building once purchased. Would Members like to appoint an architect to look at any building refurbishment we might want and/or restructuring of the inside space.

Cllr Mike Kermode commented that we now need to understand how we want to adopt the building for community use. Council is aware of Dragons FC needs but what of the wider community needs?

Perhaps public toilets entered only from the building for users, or open for public use, requiring secure shuttering of some type. There are still road issues, catering & cleaning, and we already aware of the remedial works required from the survey undertaken.

Cllr Mike Elgin agreed that there is a lot to be decided.

Cllr Arwel Roberts asked Cllr Ann Davies to enquire with Paul Mead, Planning, if approval for change of use is required and if so, how this is facilitated.

Cllr Ann Davies will speak with Paul Mead.

Cllr Syd Gaskin was wondering what we would change the use to. Would it be a community facility, public toilet, changing rooms, kitchen, and meeting room?

The Town Clerk pointed out that there were complications when considering catering for teas & coffees for those inside using the centre, or for sale to all in general outside of the building.

Resolved to buy the property first then plan the details of use afterwards.

15. Date of Next Meeting – Thursday February 13th at 7pm.

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

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