



Cyngor Tref
Rhuddlan
Town Council

**Annual General Meeting
Thursday 14th May 2020**

Virtual Meeting during Covid 19 Restrictions – Minutes

Present Cllr Arwel Roberts (Mayor)

Cllr Mike Elgin (Acting Deputy Mayor)

Cllr Reg Davies

Cllr Gareth Rowlands

Cllr Bleddyn Williams

Cllr Charlotte Frobisher

Cllr Ann Davies

Cllr Syd Gaskin

Cllr Mike Kermode

Cllr Andrew Smith

Town Clerk

Clerical Assistant/Minute Clerk

The Mayor welcomed all to this virtual meeting which will proceed following government guidance. He added his thanks to Cllr Gareth Rowlands who had agreed to host this evenings meeting and had diligently arranged it. Although members of the public could be invited to join in this meeting and the Council following the guidance as to how that could be facilitated, there were no members of the public who had taken up the invitation.

1. Apologies

None

2. Future Meetings

It was necessary for the Town Council to consider and agree how future meetings will take place during the Covid 19 lockdown. The Town Clerk had circulated some factors for discussion.

- a) Using Zoom as a suitable platform for meetings – following a trial virtual meeting held on April 20th Cllr Syd Gaskin proposed that Zoom was suitable. **Resolved.**
- b) Cllr Gareth Rowlands to host Zoom meetings – **Resolved**, with a condition that if Cllr Rowlands is unavailable then Cllr Mike Kermode could act as a substitute host.

- c) Members of the Public Inclusion – the Members **unanimously agreed** that the public were to be included in meetings but not for Part 2 items, which will be the subject of a second Zoom meeting. As per the Welsh Government guidance, notification of such meetings to be advertised on the Town Council Noticeboard, within the correct timeline, and members of the public must provide identification and contact details beforehand so as to receive an invitation via Zoom.

Cllr Mike Kermode said that the Welsh Government regulations say that the requirement for Council's meetings to be open to the public has been suspended until 2021 but that each council can make its own decision on this. The Town Council has always been keen to involve the public in its meetings and it was proposed that the Town Council continue to do this but on the basis that they need to ask for individual invitations to the Zoom meeting.

- d) Submission of name, email address, and phone number by those who are not Town Council Members or staff – **Agreed.**
- e) Procedures for those with IT equipment – Not required as all Members can now access IT equipment. Those without having borrowed family relative's equipment.
- f) These resolutions and agreements will now be drafted into a procedure for the Town Council to adopt.

3. Appointment of Mayor

In accordance with Welsh Government advice that no elections are to take place until 2021, Cllr Gareth Rowlands proposed that Cllr Arwel Roberts be invited to continue as Mayor for another year. This was seconded by Cllr Syd Gaskin and all voted in favour. **Resolved.**

4. Appointment of Deputy Mayor

Cllr Andrew Smith proposed that the acting Deputy Mayor Cllr Mike Elgin be appointed as Deputy Mayor for 2020/21. This was seconded by Cllr Bleddyn Williams. In the absence of any other nominations all voted in favour. **Resolved.**

5. Mayor's Report 2019/20

Amser i werthuso/ Time to evaluate. Amser i fyfyrrio/Time to contemplate. Amser i ystyried/ Time to consider.

Mae'n ffraind fod yn Faer ac rwyf wedi cymryd y dyletswyddau o ddifri. It is an honour to be the Mayor and I have followed the Mayor's duties diligently.

I have tried to be fair and considerate to all residents and Councillors and officers. We may not have the same priorities but I have tried to listen to all points of views, ideas and concerns. PARCH/Respect.

Few points looking at the year.

- 1) *The use of the Library has been enhanced – the Dementia Group – singing sessions fortnightly. I have really enjoyed singing with persons who are living with Dementia and other ailments. The use of the Community Centre and Ebeneser Chapel Hall – again arranged by the Dementia Group (Cllr Mike Kermode you are a star) using the venues alternatively for Sit and Fit. These venues are very important for the town as St Mary's Church is. We should enhance the use of these three venues in the future.*
- 2) *One disappointment for me during the year is the fact that the plans for a meeting place for the town's youth to meet. It nearly happened, the County Youth Services were nervous at the last moment, but the lockdown has stopped a decision. We must remind them and reflect our strong support for such facility.*
- 3) *Raising money. Clic Sergeant - £400. The Urdd National Eisteddfod within Denbighshire, Local Appeal Committee. - £440. Vale of Clwyd Mind - £300. Local person who suffered very young because of a stroke – Luke Davies - £300 (He is now living with just one lung.) Local Cylch Ti a Fi - £300. Concerts, Raffles, Dinner in the Golf Club with Local Harpist Morwen Blythin, Fish and Chips night, Coffee Mornings. Due to the Covic-19 two arranged events had to be cancelled. Our Mayor's Civic Sunday – April the 5th. The V.E Celebration – May the 8th. (the raffle was drawn on the night – thanks to zoom – witnessed by Cllr Rowlands, Cllr Elgin, the Clerk and the Mayor and Mayoress.)*
- 4) *Attending other occasions arranged by other Mayors has been a pleasure. Penmaenmawr, Colwyn Bay, Abergel, Towyn and Kinmel Bay, Rhyl, Prestatyn, Treffynnon, Caerwys, Dinbych and Llanelwy. Also arranged meetings by Denbighshire Officers for the Chair of the County and one concert arranged in Bangor by the Police Commissioner. All these occasions request a donation to good Causes. The Mayor and Mayoress are very pleased that a Financial Element is presented to us. We have money left from this element and therefore we have presented two donations to two good Causes – Treasure Chest (Breast Cancer) – my brother has lost two wives because of this ailment. Also, a donation to help the Community Centre to purchase new security cameras.*
- 5) *Chairing Town Council meetings has been an interesting experience. Some issues could be a challenge but we have agreed a consensus in the end. Two town Councillors resigned because of personal reasons. We have two new Councillors – young and keen – good luck to them in the future Charlotte and Bleddyn. The meeting with the police commissioner in the Library was interesting and was worth organising – thanks to our Clerk. We should enhance our connection with the police further, the same applies to the business community, our county and our school.*
- 6) *My hope was that Coed y Brain would have been brought by the Town Council before the end of May, possibly not. Could we have this project in place before the end of August (a Building for a toilet facility, community area and changing room)? This will work well with the Green Gym we have in Admirals Field. Soon our Library will open again and there is possibility that the Council will have to support the facility further financially.*

- 7) *The support that I have been given by my wife within in the community during this year has been very valuable. It has been a pleasure to work with you all, I mention Cllr Gaskin who has been checking the defibrillators within the Town. The officers Sian Mai Jones and Paul Smith have been very supportive, very professional in their commitment to their work and town. Diolch yn fawr Sian a Paul.*
- 8) *To finish we are facing desperate times. The lockdown will end but will not go away soon. Let's face the next year and years to come together and allow the town recover and improve in all aspects.*

The Report was accepted.

Cllr Gareth Rowlands as the longest serving Member of the Council wished on behalf of all the Members to thank Cllr Arwel Roberts as Mayor for 2019/20. He has shown a tireless energy for the role and was looking forward to the next 12 months as Cllr Roberts being Mayor again.

6. Appointments to Internal Committees & Working Groups

- a) **Information/website Committee** – currently Cllrs Gareth Rowlands, Mike Kermode, and Andrew Smith. Cllr Mike Kermode suggested that Cllrs Bledwyn Williams, and Charlotte Frobisher should be added to the committee. **Resolved.**
- b) **Personnel Committee** – the general format is that the immediate past mayor should sit on this committee but obviously we don't have an immediate past Mayor this year. **It was agreed that the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, and Cllrs Gareth Rowlands, Mike Kermode (as advisor) make up the membership this year.**

7. Appointments to External Bodies

- a) **Denbighshire CCTV Partnership** – currently Cllrs Syd Gaskin and Gareth Rowlands. Cllr Gaskin was happy to remain a member, and Cllr Rowlands expressed an invite to anyone else who would like to replace him but would continue if necessary. Cllr Mike Kermode was proposed and all voted in favour. **Resolved.**
- b) **Rhuddlan Community Association** – The Mayor Cllr Arwel Roberts will continue for 2020/21. **Resolved.**
- c) **Ysgol y Castell Governors** – currently held by Cllr Mike Elgin who expressed a wish to step down and nominations were invited. Cllr Andrew Smith was asked if he would return as a governor which he confirmed he would. **Resolved.**
- d) **Rhuddlan Nature Reserve** – Cllr Syd Gaskin proposed Cllr Gareth Rowlands, seconded by Cllr Mike Kermode. All voted in favour. **Resolved.**
- e) **Denbighshire Tourism Partnership** – currently Cllr Mike Elgin who was prepared to continue for 2020/21 in this representative role. **Resolved.**
- f) **Flood Wardens Group** – Cllr Arwel Roberts wished to step down as Chair of this group and noted that Cllrs Andrew Smith & Reg Davies are current members. Cllr Mike Elgin was asked if he would like to join and chair the group, which he would. Cllr Gareth Rowlands pointed out to the Members that the flood

wardens' group themselves decide who are members, and who is Chair.
Resolved.

8. Cheque Signatories.

Resolved to be Cllrs Arwel Roberts, Gareth Rowlands, Ann Davies, Andrew Smith,
and Reg Davies.

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

Date.....*July 2020*.....