



Rhuddlan Town Council – Minutes of the Coed y Brain Meeting 28th July 2020

Virtual Meeting during the Covid 19 Restrictions

Present:

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

Ingrid Unsworth, a member of the public was present for the meeting.

1. Apologies

Cllr Charlotte Frobisher

2. Declaration of Interest

None

3. Urgent Matters

The Mayor, Cllr Arwel Roberts, informed members that there were 3 urgent matters that wished to be discussed.

- a. An email from Brent Vogelsberger complaining about excessive speed in Rhuddlan and asking that the Go Safe van be positioned in the town to catch and deter further speeding offences. He has already written to North Wales Police about this issue on 16th July and had no reply.

Cllr Mike Kermode was glad to see that a letter had been sent to NWP. Rhuddlan Town Council has no powers in this matter but suggested that Members write and urge NWP to take this action.

Cllr Gareth Rowlands informed those present that the Town Council had asked for surveys over the years and was pleased to see the letter to NWP and that Council should follow it up with NWP.

Cllr Ann Davies asked if Gareth Smith was still utilising the volunteer speed camera scheme, and if Ingrid Unsworth was involved too?

Cllr Mike Elgin had noted the provision of speed ramps along Pendyffryn Road in Prestatyn and suggested that they were a good method of slowing down speeding vehicles. But was this what Members wanted for Rhuddlan?

Cllr Andrew Smith questioned if speed ramps were effective but felt that the Go Safe van was a much better option. He suggested writing a letter of support and asking for the Go Safe van to be positioned in the town.

Cllr Mike Kermode proposed and Cllr Andrew Smith seconded writing to the NWP coping in the resident, to combat excessive speed by the use of the Go Safe van.

Resolved.

- b. The Mayor informed the Members that he, Cllr Gareth Rowlands, and the Clerk had met with Gareth Jones, Keep Wales Tidy, to discuss the suitability of the Local Places for Nature grant. He asked Cllr Rowlands to lead on this matter.

Cllr Rowlands reminded the Members that the grant was not what we had thought it was going to be. It was a box with a trellis and flowers and not suitable for the Admiral's Field site. Gareth Jones agreed.

Cllr Mike Kermode pointed out that environmental improvements to Admiral's Field were included in the Town Plan. Suggesting that particularly tree planting by the long concrete wall near the cemetery would be advantageous.

Cllr Gareth Rowlands stated that the Admiral's Field was still a potential project via this grant and discussions with Gareth Jones were ongoing. Potentially tree planting maybe an option.

Cllr Ann Davies had spoken to Emlyn Jones, DCC Head of Environmental Services and Jowell DCC Biodiversity Officer and reported that trees and wildflowers support was available.

Cllr Arwel Roberts agreed that support from the Woodland Trust was available too, and there would be no problem for applying for trees.

- c. Cllr Ann Davies had a resident contact her about Victory in Japan (VJ) Day celebrations in Rhuddlan, and wanted to know what the town council would do to support any events. Cllr Davies listed events that might be supported. This included, ringing of church bells, illuminating the Castle, street procession, wreath laying by the Mayor, and involvement by Rev Brian Jones in some capacity as the Vicar was unavailable.

Cllr Andrew Smith had been in contact with the British Legion about the Remembrance Sunday 2020, and they had cancelled their procession this year due to the Covid 19 situation. He therefore was not in agreement with a procession or a gathering of people for wreath laying but happy to support the other listed events.

Cllr Gareth Rowlands said he was happy for a small Council deputation for a wreath laying event, observing social distancing but not for a procession. Adding it would be unwise to do this during the restrictions.

Cllr Reg Davies offered for his family members to perform the bell ringing so as to ease the Covid restrictions situation by remaining in a family bubble.

Cllr Ann Davies remarked that other Town Council meetings had been held with a small number of Councillors present and could not see why the Mayor, Rev Brian Jones and she could not perform the wreath laying ceremony observing social distancing.

Cllr Mike Kermode reminded Members that in our March meeting Council had agreed to cancel all events during Covid 19 restrictions. Adding that if the British Legion were not holding a procession for Remembrance Sunday then we should follow their example.

Cllr Arwel Roberts thanked Cllr Davies for the offer of ringing the bells for this event and asked all Members if they were happy for this. **Resolved.**

Cllr Roberts then asked if Members would support lighting up the church & Castle in red for the event. He thought that there would be a cost to changing the Castle colour from blue to red and asked the Town Clerk to investigate this. **Resolved.**

Cllr Ann Davies suggested that the Castle maintenance man receive a small payment for his work. **Resolved.**

Mayor Wreath laying was supported. **Resolved.**

Members considered that residents decorating their houses was entirely up to each individual household but Council could place a poster on the noticeboard for this action to encourage residents' participation. **Resolved.**

Cllr Andrew Smith wondered if we might meet the parish magazine deadline for such a poster. No, it was too late.

Cllr Arwel Roberts in summing up the agreed events above, mentioned that residents having garden parties in their own properties observing social distancing was ok. But what about a procession.

Cllr Andrew Smith proposed, seconded by Cllr Kermode that the procession could **not** be supported. **Resolved.** Cllr Ann Davies abstained from the vote.

At this juncture Ingrid Unsworth, a participating member of the public elected to leave the virtual meeting as she only wanted to hear about the VJ Day plans.

4. Planning Application – 44/2020/0536. 17 Maes Ffyddlon. Erection of single-story extension to side of existing dwelling.

Cllr Ann Davies Declared an Interest.

The Town Clerk had received a planning application for an extension to an existing property in Maes Fyddlon. And asked Members if they would like to consider any comments due to the summer recess and deadline for comments.

Cllr Andrew Smith reported he was having difficulty opening this and other planning applications. He didn't know why.

The Town Clerk offered to e-mail each Member by the end of the week with a deadline for any response to DCC. **Resolved.**

5. Coed y Brain – To consider the proposed Options and agree a way forward.

Cllr Arwel Roberts informed Members that Mr Jinks, Consultant Architect, had been to site and drawn up Option 1. Cllrs Gareth Rowlands and Mike Kermode had amended and produced Option 2. More latterly Cllr Rowlands had amended and produced Option 3.

Cllr Syd Gaskin preferred Option 3 but had some comments on the possible restrictions of opening doors.

Cllr Mike Kermode also preferred Option 3 but suggested removal of the internal storage space.

Cllr Charlotte Frobisher had given her apologies and had written to the Town Clerk to state that her preferred option was Option 2 as it was more inclusive with the single unisex toilets and changing facilities.

Cllr Ann Davies enquired if the doors were fire doors, and preferred Option 2 because of storage & kitchen provision. The Town Clerk answered that they were fire doors.

Cllr Gareth Rowlands preferred Option 3 adding that if you have not visited the site it was difficult to understand the internal space open to us to utilise. He mentioned the importance of using the space efficiently by providing concertina doors between rooms, and the toilet design meant that there was no need to remove walls.

Cllr Mike Kermode added that storage could be within cupboards instead of building into the space a designated area.

Cllr Gareth Rowlands noted that Option 3 provided for storage to be included or provided outside due to lots of outside space.

Cllr Andrew Smith proposed Option 3 which was seconded by Cllr Syd Gaskin & Cllr Reg Davies.

Cllr Mike Kermode proposed an amendment in that the storage in Option 3 be removed and the disabled toilets be repositioned for better wheelchair access. The amendment was seconded by Cllr Gareth Rowlands.

Cllr Ann Davies was concerned about the disabled toilet access being a struggle. Cllr Kermode pointing out that some toilet provision had access from inside and some outside.

Resolved Option 3 with amendments by Cllr Kermode, seconded by Cllr Rowlands.

Cllr Mike Kermode proposed that Cllr Gareth Rowlands becomes the Council's lead member for the project so as to support our Clerk in its progress through change of use, and planning. Cllr Bleddyn Williams seconded. **Resolved.**

6. Date of Next Meeting – Thursday 10th September at 7pm